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WEEK OF SEPT. 25-OCT. 1, 2014

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TESTING

ON TRIAL

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

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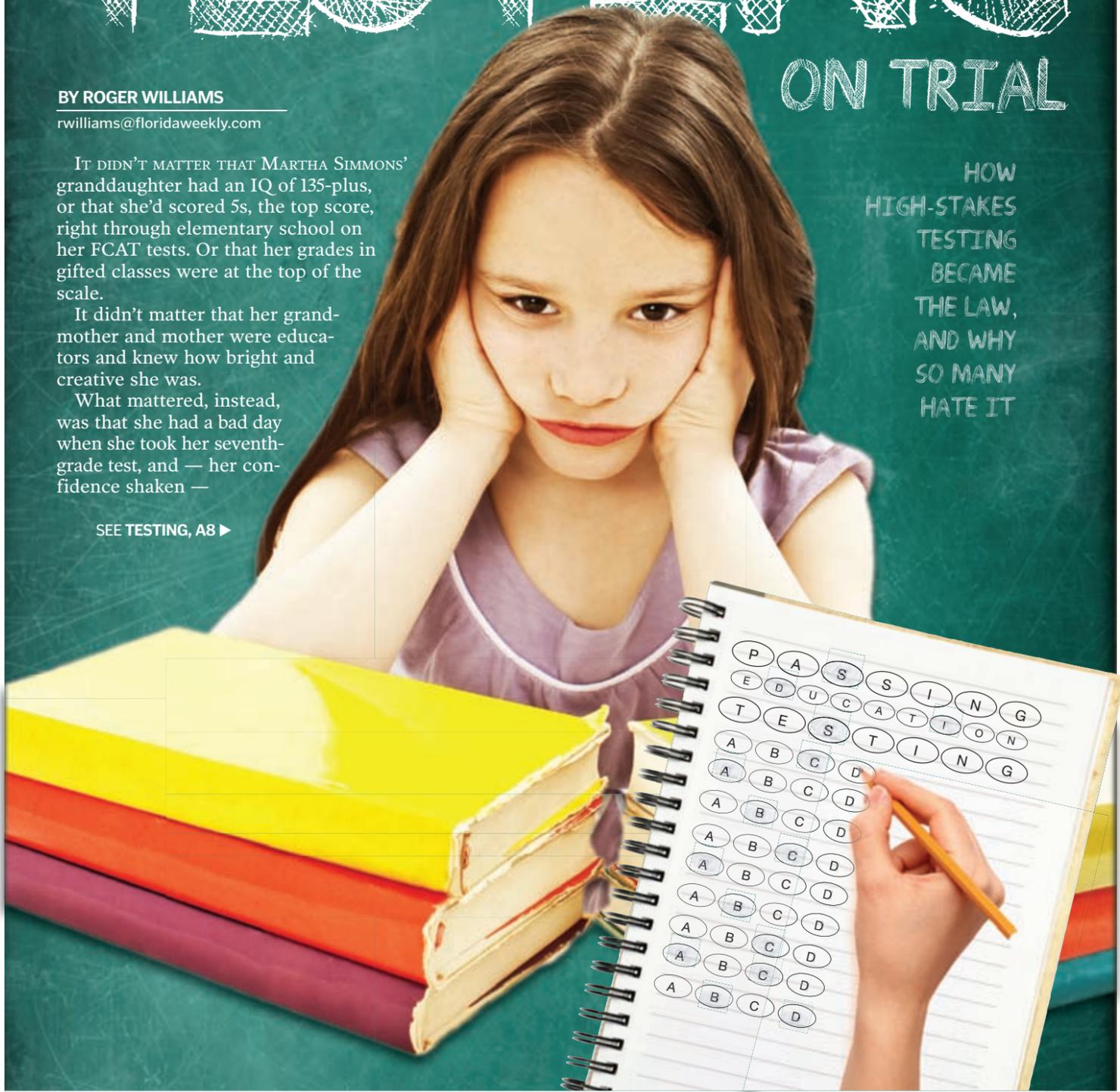
IT DIDN'T MATTER THAT MARTHA SIMMONS' granddaughter had an IQ of 135-plus, or that she'd scored 5s, the top score, right through elementary school on her FCAT tests. Or that her grades in gifted classes were at the top of the scale.

It didn't matter that her grandmother and mother were educators and knew how bright and creative she was.

What mattered, instead, was that she had a bad day when she took her seventh-grade test, and — her confidence shaken —

SEE TESTING, A8 ►

HOW
HIGH-STAKES
TESTING
BECAME
THE LAW,
AND WHY
SO MANY
HATE IT



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Songwriter fest

Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach host two weekends of music. **C1** ►



Bubbly and sweets

'Champagne & Chocolate' at Shula's, and more Society photos. **C24-25** ►



Small biz boost

Lending on the rise. **B1** ►



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The antiques world is reeling from federal restrictions on the sale of ivory

BY SCOTT SIMMONS

ssimmons@floridaweekly.com

For centuries, ivory has been a hot commodity in the antiques world.

But new regulations may change that.

Before the days of plastics and other modern marvels, ivory was the material of choice for everything from the mundane to

the magnificent.

Piano keys were covered in ivory. Violin keys and bow tips? Ivory.

The material, frequently harvested from elephants that were killed solely for their tusks, also found its way into jewelry and was carved into exquisite works

of art in Europe and Asia.

But an executive order signed last year by President Barack Obama commits the United States to boost efforts to combat wildlife trafficking.

The order, which took effect Feb. 25, puts in place a nearly



SEE IVORY, A26 ►

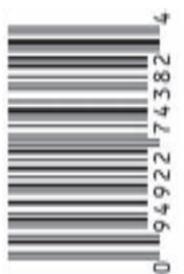
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EVERY 10 MINUTES ON **2 NEWS TODAY**



COMMENTARY

The business of high-stakes testing



rogerWILLIAMS

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The stakes are high these days. If 8-year-old third graders score too low on Florida's standardized tests — designed, manufactured and graded based on a “common core” of information by corporate giants in the business of test-making — they get held back.

If high-school students don't hit the testing-company mark they don't get a diploma, no matter how high their grade point averages. And if students in any grade don't reach a certain test level, a new teacher can be fired within a day or two — with no “due process” requiring a school board to prove why the teacher should be fired.

Gov. Rick Scott, who embraces this system of “accountability,” put the kibosh on that due process in 2011.

But it's not entirely Gov. Scott's fault. He inherited this system of “accountability” from Gov. Charlie Crist, who picked up its banner from Gov. Jeb Bush, who helped create the system with his brother, former Texas governor and President George W. Bush, who signed it into federal law almost 13 short years ago as the “No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.”

On that day, contemporary education was born.

Under Republican governors, a Republican-dominated legislature, and both Republican and Democratic presidents, Florida education is no longer about students, first.

Instead, it's about money.

And the money began to flow as soon as President Bush opened the federal spigot to the trough, with late Democratic Sen. Ted Kennedy and Republican Sen. John Boehner both grinning at his side.

While his brother, Jeb, became known as “the education governor” by pushing accountability and digital education, which are key components of “No Child,” his brother Neil dipped into the trough for himself. He did it with his company, Ignite! Inc., a producer of software designed to help students take standardized tests.

Strong Bush-family allies and friends, including many prominent business leaders invited to be part of the process, also got richer because of it, according to university researchers and such publications as *The New York Times*.

William Bennett, for example, secretary of education under President Ronald Reagan and a Bush crony, brought K12 Inc., his for-profit digital and charter school enterprise, in for millions, along with such luminaries and Bush pals as Harold McGraw III of the textbook company McGraw-Hill.

As *The New York Times* put it after a 2011 investigation, “a portrait emerges of a company that tries to squeeze profits from public school dollars by raising enrollment, increasing teacher workload, and lowering standards.”

There are many others. Some have close ties to Jeb's unofficial lobbying agencies, the nonprofit Digital Learning Council, and the nonprofit Foundation for Excellence in Education, which champions both “accountability” and “standards.”

As Florida education pundit Bob Sikes notes, “Even (if) Jeb Bush's intentions are

pure, he well knows he's serving as a rain-maker for billionaires, hedge-fund managers and corporations. He also knows that his national school reform is done on their behalf.”

The same can be said of Gov. Scott.

Jeb got help from President Obama and then-Gov. Charlie Crist, too. Mr. Obama fine-tuned “No Child” with “Race to the Top,” part of the 2009 Stimulus package. Gov. Crist backed it to the hilt, a system that creates a “common core” of information requiring students to be measured by testing companies. Those companies consistently earned between \$1.3 and \$5.2 billion in the U.S. each year through the first decade of the 21st century, according to Professor Karen Grady, a researcher at Sonoma State University.

In effect, public education has been quietly privatized — like prisons, like child welfare agencies in Florida — at huge taxpayer expense.

In Florida alone, FCAT tests and others in language arts, in writing, in mathematics, in Algebra I and Geometry and Algebra 2 and Science, all cost taxpayers more than \$30 each, every time a student takes a test, according to the state Department of Education. There are roughly 1.2 million students in Florida. That adds up.

Remarkably, President Bush's “No Child” act required Florida educators to bring their students up to a 100 percent passing rate in reading and mathematics by 2014, which now seems almost laughable. According to state figures, in the last three years that rate has never climbed above 57 percent.

That means either teachers are pitiful, or — and this is the reality, because teachers are not pitiful — testing companies build in a failure rate that guarantees continuing

profits for them.

So how did we get into this pickle? It's not complicated, really.

It began with a man named Sandy Kress, a Bush friend and the chief architect of “No Child Left Behind.”

When Mr. Kress, a Democrat and formerly president of the Dallas School Board, crafted “No Child,” in effect he ran a long siphon into the vast taxpayer tank.

Not long after, he left the White House and joined a Washington, D.C. lobbying firm sucking from the other end of that siphon. His firm represents the interests of a company called Pearson Education inside the beltway — Pearson, the largest producer of tests and test evaluations in the world, the company claims, and the maker of Florida's FCAT and others.

Within two or three years, Mr. Kress personally had made \$4 million as a lobbyist, reporters discovered, and by 2010 Pearson's profits jumped 31 percent as the company made hundreds of millions of dollars, both here and in other states.

That was the year after Pearson flew Gov. Crist's education secretary, Eric Smith, to Helsinki, along with the education secretaries in at least 10 other states, who junketed both to Europe and to bikini-bright Brazil.

Is there any end to this?

Apparently not. Just recently, Pearson has been joined at the taxpayer trough by AIR — the Washington-based American Institutes for Research, yet another hugely profitable nonprofit.

In Florida alone, AIR won a \$220 million contract to provide the newest version of an FCAT test, known as the Florida Standard Assessments test, to all Florida students beginning next year. ■

Making your Master Bedroom your Sleep Sanctuary:

Margaret H. from Estero writes:

“My husband and I need your help! We are tired of waking up feeling fatigued and worn out. We both toss and turn all night long and average less than 4 hours of sleep per night. An internet search adds to the confusion with so many conflicting advice. What do you recommend?”

Thank you Margaret for your email, let's start with the basics. All of us are equipped with a circadian clock that regulates many important functions in our brain and body including sleep. We tend to take sleep for granted and many of us don't give it a second thought. The feeling is that we'll fall asleep and recharge our bodies “automatically” every night. Nothing can be further from the truth.

We need to prepare ourselves as well as our sleeping environment for a GREAT night's slumber.

1. Set a reasonable bedtime and stick to it. I require and enjoy 8 hours of sleep nightly and my day starts very early so I am in bed at around 9:00PM and up refreshed, recharged and ready to rumble at around

5:00AM. The important habit here is consistency.

2. No caffeine, alcohol or other stimulants 5-6 hours before bedtime. Many are aware of caffeine but think that alcohol (a nightcap) will help them sleep. Wrong! Alcohol is ultimately a depressant and inhibits the recharging **command center**, AKA the brain, from directing vital activity taking place while we sleep. This aftermath to the consumption of alcohol is called a hangover, which, unfortunately, many of us have experienced.

3. No electronic distractions in the bedroom. That means no TV, cell phone, computer or radio. Research has proven on several occasions that folks who continually fall asleep to the drone of a TV, radio or “sleep machine” actually experience a less restful night's sleep.

4. Bedroom must be cool. I recommend that you reduce bedroom temperature by 2 degrees for a better night's rest. Wear loose clothing to avoid restriction of blood flow.

5. Pillow — Please do not overlook the importance of a comfortable, supporting pillow. The right pillow will keep your head and spine aligned, resulting in a reduction in flip-flopping, AKA tossing and turning.



6. If you or your mate are light sleepers, be sure that the mattress you are sleeping on is “couple friendly.” The right mattress will not transfer motion across the mattress surface. When one person gets in and out of bed, the other is not disturbed.

7. Dark and quiet — keep your bedroom dark.

Many of us need to visit the restroom during the night. Use night lights to guide your way. Avoid turning lights on since bright lights tend to wake the brain up quickly, thereby disturbing your otherwise amazing snooze.

8. Establish a secure environment. For many, that can simply mean closing the bedroom door. Feng shui followers include closing the bedroom door as part of the sleep space “balance.”

9. Sleep surface — the mattress you are sleeping on has a lot of influence over the quality of sleep you enjoy. A worn or too firm a mattress will result in aches and pains in the morning. Not to mention the grumpiness you'll experience all day. Not very good! Considering that we spend a third of our life sleeping, we deserve a good, supporting mattress. Consider this — by the time you reach 50 you would have spent over 16 years on a mattress. That is 16 non-stop, day and night years. Pretty amazing fact.

Margaret, I hope this information is helpful. Please email me your questions. I respond to all my emails in a timely fashion.



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GUEST OPINION

A tribute to a journalistic great



billCORNWELL

Special to Florida Weekly

Bob Sherrill died last month in a nursing home in Tallahassee at the age of 89. According to the accounts I have received, his passing was peaceful. If that be the case, dying was the only thing Bob did peacefully.

I firmly believe that Bob — whose stories appeared under the byline of Robert Sherrill — was his generation's H.L. Mencken. I never shared that observation with him, for he doubtlessly would have scolded me harshly — and profanely — for daring to make such a grandiose comparison. Bob was a man of no pretense.

I'd wager that most readers of this column probably have no idea who Bob Sherrill was or why he was so important to American journalism. Editors and other writers knew his acidic prose well — as did the innumerable politicians he eviscerated in print — but the wider public was largely unaware, for reasons I have never understood. His work appeared in the most influential and respected publications. He authored more than two dozen articles for *The New York Times Magazine* alone — including one in 1974 that systematically destroyed every alibi and excuse that Sen. Edward Kennedy put forth concerning his behavior on the night he drove his automobile off that bridge on Chappaquiddick Island in Massachusetts, killing his young female passenger in the process. Bob turned that magazine piece into a book ("The Last Kennedy") that probably gained the most widespread attention of anything he produced.

Bob also wrote for *The Washington Post*, *Esquire*, *Playboy*, *Harper's*, *The Atlantic*

and other periodicals and newspapers too numerous to list here. Bob was best known, though, his for his work at *The Nation* — perhaps the most doggedly liberal publication in the United States. Based in Washington, Bob turned his sights on every politician who dared to offend his populist sensibilities and standards. Liberal, conservative, it made no difference.

Before Bob acquired his national reputation, he had established a formidable one here in Florida — first at the *Miami Herald* and later at the *St. Petersburg Times* (now the *Tampa Bay Times*). In 1964, Bob, who was working for the *Herald*, was a participant in one of the most legendary incidents in Florida's journalistic history. Bob's reporting was a persistent annoyance to then-Gov. C. Farris Bryant. One day, aboard a campaign train, an aide to the governor decided that he had had enough of Bob and his work. In the course of a heated exchange, the aide made the mistake of laying a hand on Bob, who responded by breaking the poor guy's jaw. Years later, when Bob was reporting from Washington for *The Nation*, the Nixon administration — which wanted no part of his fierce scrutiny — used that incident on the Florida train as a pretext to deny him a White House press pass. It was deemed that Bob represented a "physical threat" to the president.

My association with Bob began in 1976. I was a 27-year-old reporter for the *Birmingham Post-Herald* in Alabama. I had a story that I was certain was deserving of national attention, but I had no idea how to gain such notice. Years earlier, I had read Bob's brilliant book, "Gothic Politics in the Deep South." After that, I had devoured everything he wrote. One day, emboldened by youth and stupidity, I obtained Bob's home telephone number in Washington and rang him up. I

knew he had a reputation for being cantankerous, gruff and intimidating. But I made the call anyway; I had nothing to lose. Bob answered, and I described my story in a torrent of rushed words.

"I like it," Bob said, to my amazement.

We talked for another hour. He gave me a list — complete with telephone numbers — of powerful editors in New York and Washington. Call them and drop my name, he said.

On the strength of Bob's name, each editor accepted my call. But no one wanted to take a look at the story, much less publish it.

Thoroughly demoralized by the string of rejections, I reported back to Bob.

"Those unthinking bastards," he said.

Once again, Bob had a plan, which was this: "Call Blair Clark (then-editor of *The Nation*). Tell him what the story is about. Also tell him that if he does not buy this story, I will travel to New York and piss in the gasoline tank of that expensive motorcycle he just bought. You tell him that, and if you don't have the guts to tell him that, don't ever call me again."

I called Blair Clark, outlined my story and conveyed Bob's threat. *The Nation* bought and ran the piece. Bob sent me a letter after the story appeared. "I am jealous," he wrote, "because I wish I had written it."

What a guy.

Bob and his first wife, Mary, who died in 1994, moved from Washington to Tallahassee sometime in the 1980s, and I finally met him in person in 1991 or thereabouts. He was exceptionally kind and caring, as was the delightful Mary.

I was surprised that *The Nation*, in its appreciation of Bob and his work, used RIP. Rest in peace doesn't suit Bob Sherrill. Like Mencken, he was a dogged and determined disturber of the peace, and that is how I shall remember him. ■

When the minimum becomes the maximum



leslieLILLY

lilly15@gmail.com

It may be a surprise to learn that Birmingham, Ala., was once on track to be the poster child for the "New South" in the era following the Civil War. It could have become Atlanta before Atlanta became Atlanta. Southern leaders prophesied the region would rise up from the ruin of its agrarian past; and Birmingham emerged as its symbolic candidate, the South's first industrial city.

Optimism ran high. Coal, iron and limestone was the fuel of the city's ascent toward greatness. But alas, it was not to be.

Alabama was entrenched in old habits, a legacy of sharecropping and tenant farming obliterated a progressive vision that might have saved it from itself.

So wrote Ralph McGill, a syndicated columnist and an anti-segregationist editor and publisher for *The Atlantic Constitution*, in the 1964 forward to his book, "The South and the Southerner." I mentioned his memoir in an earlier column. It chronicles a turbulent time in the South from the perspective of a Southerner. He was well equipped to reflect on the implications, then and for the future, of the choices the South's elected leaders were making at the time.

More than 50 years of accumulated hindsight have proven him right about the long-term costs of political wrongdoing. Birmingham did not become an economic lighthouse and the state competes for dead last with Mississippi on almost every measure of economic and social well-being. That's because demagogic politicians fought to preserve the racial status quo, confounding prog-

ress toward alleviating poverty and ending decades of economic stagnation. The region's poverty and isolation from the nation's mainstream was self-inflicted, thought McGill. He said, "The people of the South have suffered much, but most of it has been piled on their backs by their own leaders."

It is a timely remembrance. Economic and social burdens are being heaped upon low- and middle-income families in this state, courtesy of the conservative majority in today's Florida's Legislature.

They refuse to raise the state's minimum wage, trapping millions of the working poor in poverty; they deny expansion of Medicaid and affordable healthcare to millions of uninsured; and they thwart meaningful advances of comprehensive immigration reform, sentencing millions to live in the shadows.

Their approach to governance is a repeat out of the playbook of Southern politicians in McGill's time. They, too, lost no sleep in defending the status quo of benefit to the few, at the expense of the many, incurring incalculable costs to us all.

McGill was a sharp critic of such injustice, also decrying the brand of industrialization hawked by the region's leaders as the means to accomplish the imagined ideal of the "New South," a vision first promulgated by one of McGill's predecessors, Henry Grady.

Grady preached the gospel of an aggressive campaign to woo new capital investment to the South. Bankers and entrepreneurs took up his cause, pitching the attractions of the region's business climate, aka its poverty wages, low taxes and its compliant and disenfranchised workforce. If this sounds familiar, it should. It is a theme with political resonance among the conservatives dominant in Florida's own legislature and the South more generally, the oppressive aspects of the policies' intent seldom transparent.

An "excellent" business climate means for them extolling many of the same old characteristics that drafted millions of Southern workers into an army of working poor, where they remain, generations later, in the low wage jobs that predominate in Southern states.

The perpetuation of their draconian policies now exerts its gravitational pull upon the middle class, drawing them into the vortex of the economic decline affecting all but wealthy Americans.

Robert Trigaux, a business columnist for the *Tampa Bay Times*, wrote of this earlier this year, warning that the vast majority of Floridians are losing income while the rich get even richer; and the economic disparities are continuing to widen, with profound, long-term consequences for Florida's economy. The benefits of raising the minimum wage would be an important counter balance to this trend in Florida because the state is second only to Texas in the large number of people working for minimum wage in its biggest industries: tourism, agriculture, services and construction.

A recent Rutgers University study reports Americans are faltering in their belief that job opportunities will be better for the next generation than those they experienced.

Their growing pessimism is a rising barometer on the economic dystopia that those elected to lead must address. When the minimum becomes the maximum, it is time to change.

McGill was right: The failure of leadership in governance comes with a terrible price, born by those who unjustly bear the cost.

We are at that intersection again. It is time for the Florida Legislature to do the right thing for the families of this state: expand Medicaid, raise the minimum wage and support comprehensive immigration reform. ■

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Registration open for Collier County STEM Conference

The fourth annual STEM Conference hosted by Collier County Public Schools is set for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, at Golden Gate High School. Local students, parents and community members are invited. Admission is free.

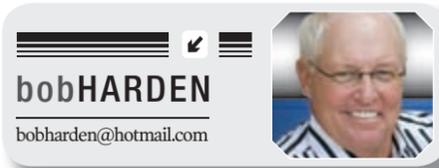
Attendees will be able to choose from more than 30 breakout sessions about various aspects of science, technology, engineering and math career tracks.

Opening keynote speaker is Cindy Moss, Ph.D., director of global STEM for Discovery Education. The closing keynote speaker is Patti Duncan, manager of instructional implementation for Discovery Education. Ms. Duncan has written STEM camp modules, created "STEMtastic Saturday" student events and helped create content for the Siemens STEM Institute.

For the complete schedule and to sign up for the Collier County Public Schools STEM Conference, go to collierschools.com. For more information, email Traci Kohler at kohlet@collierschools.com. ■

PROFILES IN PARADISE

NAACP president says the struggle continues



In May 1975, approximately 60 people from the African-American community in Naples signed their names to a petition to form a local chapter of the National Association of Colored People. The group's first challenge was to investigate cases of police brutality against African-American residents here on the Paradise Coast. Later the group fought against substandard housing and led the move to build the George Washington Carver Apartments. The NAACP was also instrumental in opening doors for minorities in local banks.

The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. Harold Weeks has been active in the association for more than 30 years and has served as the local chapter's president since 2008.

Mr. Weeks retired as captain of the fire department in Brockton, Mass. After spending several winters in Naples, he retired here in October 2003 and immediately became involved in the local NAACP. In his capacity as president, he works with diverse groups and organizations in a collaborative effort for community and individual empowerment.

The Collier County NAACP has introduced the ACT-SO program (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific

Olympics), a yearlong enrichment program to recruit, stimulate and encourage high academics and cultural achievement among high school students. The program relies on the dedication and commitment of community and business leaders who volunteer as mentors and coaches to promote academic and artistic excellence.

The NAACP also initiated a pre-collegiate summer camp, held for the first time this past June, to improve student skills in mathematics and to expose students to real-world math and its applications in STEM career fields.

Mr. Weeks grew up in Milton, Mass., where he attended and graduated from Milton High School in 1954. After high school he attended Massasoit Community College and earned a degree in fire science before going to work for the Brockton Fire Department.

This year he was awarded the James V. Mudd Fellowship Award by the Leadership Collier Foundation. The award was created to honor former County Manager Jim Mudd for his outstanding leadership in the public service arena and to enhance his legacy of leadership and stewardship. The fellowship was established to provide funded scholarships and distinctive recognition to participants in Leadership Collier Foundation programs.

Mr. Weeks was also named a 2014 Man of Distinction by the Education Foundation of Collier County-Champions For Learning in recognition of his outstanding commitment and service to the children of Collier County.

Though he appreciates the honors give him, Mr. Weeks says, "The struggle continues." ■

Talking points with Harold Weeks

Mentor: Civil rights attorney Hilbert Bradley.

Something your mother was always right about: Being a good person will always prevail.

First job: Delivering newspapers.

What would you be doing if you weren't doing this? Fishing and boating.

Guilty pleasures: Spending money.

One thing on your bucket list: Living to 100.

Skill or talent you wish you had: I wish I were an artist.

Advice for your grandkids: Love your grandfather.

Something that's been on your mind: Success for the ACT-SO and STEM kids of the local NAACP.

What makes you laugh? Morbid humor, Bubba the Love Sponge.

Last book read: "Three Sisters Ponds: My journey from street cop to FBI special agent from Baltimore to Lockerbie, Pakistan and beyond," by Phillip Reid.

Something you'll never understand: Women.

What the Paradise Coast really needs: Diversity and equality for all.






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TESTING

From page 1

another bad day when she took her eighth grade test. Her Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test or FCAT scores dropped to a 2.

No matter what else the compelling evidence of her portfolio suggested, her teachers removed her from a classroom trajectory that challenged and pleased her, and forced her into remedial classes that did not. The state's "accountability" requirements necessitated that action.

In effect, says Mrs. Simmons, her granddaughter was punished for two or three years because she had two or three bad days.

The FCAT was just one of many tests she and every other public or charter school student in Florida (about 1.2 million kids) have to take each year, including so-called End of Course tests in five subjects.

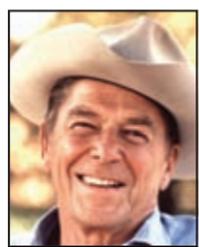
There are good reasons for those tests, say those who have promoted them aggressively over time, including former Gov. Jeb Bush.

Mr. Bush has taken his Foundation for Excellence in Education, a school-reform vehicle, on the road to other states, convincing a number of them to adopt his data-driven education policies established in the Sunshine State. Those include holding back third graders who do not pass state-mandated reading tests and withholding diplomas from students who can't pass the 10th-grade test.

The business of testing — the writing and selling of tests by private companies — is worth billions of dollars in the United States, and hundreds of millions in Florida alone, if not more. Some of the beneficiaries of the movement have been Mr. Bush's colleagues, and even his brother Neil, who created a testing software company in Texas.

"The idea of testing is not to be harsh or hurt people, it's to assure that kids that are on one track that dooms them for failure for the rest of their life get a chance to be able to dream big dreams and have the capacity to fulfill them," he told National Public Radio two years ago.

The Bush-era reforms have defined and redirected a history of tests that dates back decades, at least to President Ronald Reagan's 1983 policies, in which he took on "A Nation at Risk," says Dr.



REAGAN

Jeff McCullers, director of grants and program development for Lee County Public Schools.

That year in Florida, a landmark court case called "Debra P. versus Turlington" gave state officials the right to withhold diplomas from

students who couldn't pass a standard test, even if evidence suggested that an "achievement gap" existed between black students, who were mostly poor, and white students who weren't.

With that case, Florida ultimately marched into the 21st century.

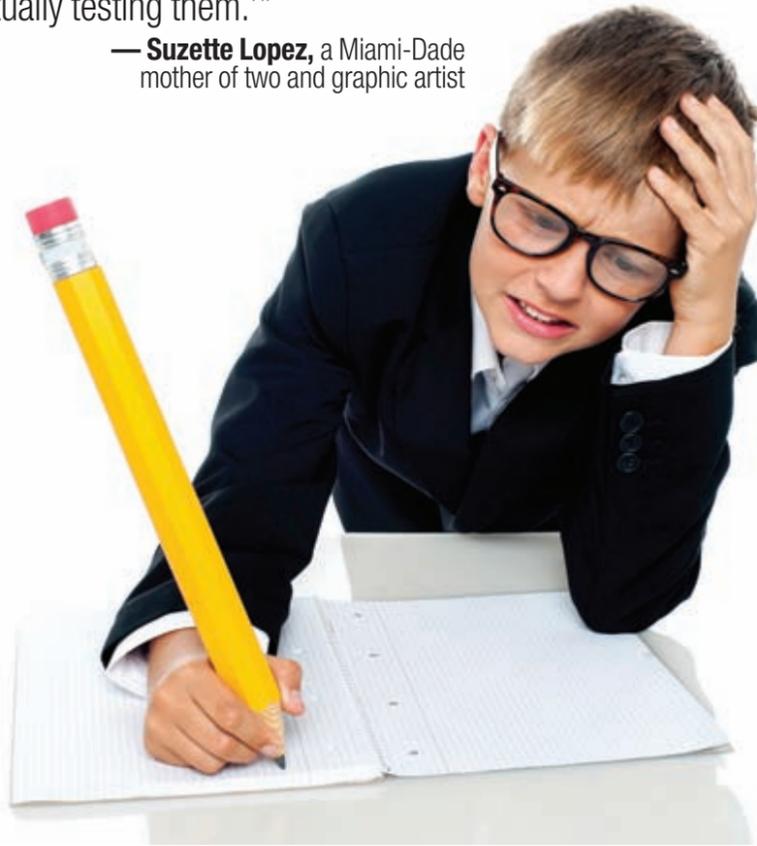
"The apotheosis of the education accountability movement may have been the enactment of the federal 'No Child Left Behind Act of 2001,' which was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2002," explains Dr. McCullers.

"The law mandated that 100 percent of students in the U.S. would perform at grade level on state tests in reading, writing and mathematics by the end of the 2013-2014 school year."

What happened, instead, is something entirely different and much less promising. Here, *Florida Weekly* takes a look at where we've been, and where we are.

"Common Core just isn't working. My issue is, 'You're pigeonholing my children based on data that is, number one, flawed, and number two, not actually testing them.'"

— **Suzette Lopez**, a Miami-Dade mother of two and graphic artist



In the 21st century

Tests and standards seem to keep reforming themselves with new tests and different standards almost as regularly as Florida weather reforms itself, educators and critics acknowledge.

"No Child Left Behind" policies continued with President Barack Obama's fine-tuning of that focus, in a relatively minor part of the stimulus plan aimed at education — a strategy the president called, "Race to the Top."

The testing companies, meanwhile, including Pearson Education, said to be the largest in the world, and American Institutes of Research, which has sold a new test to Florida for use beginning next year, have benefited hugely from the "accountability" requirements of former Governors Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist, and current Gov. Rick Scott.

They've devised an increasing number of tests that they sell to state education officials, whose direction — especially under Gov. Scott — has been to privatize the business of education, according to critics, who come from both conservative and liberal viewpoints.

These tests are no longer used just to measure student progress — and as far as that goes, significant research indicates that they may measure a student's ability to take a test as much as they measure student knowledge and skill.

Now, in addition, the tests are also used to judge teachers and schools, and to hold them "accountable."

Unfortunately, according to the American Statistical Association, research shows that teachers have an effect on no more than 14 percent of the variability in test scores, and as little as 1 percent.

But the stakes for both students and teachers, not to mention the cost of tests, are high.

"In 2011 when Gov. Scott signed the Student Success Act, it increased the stakes," says Dr. Kathi Gundlach, president of the Palm Beach County Teachers' Association.



GUNDLACH

"It tied teachers' salaries and job security to the value-added model (of judging their ability), which is not statistically sound. The formula is very scary. We are looking for the link that will explain the formula, but as one statistician said, 'There is a lot of noise in the formula. This means there is a great deal of room for error.'"

Among other things, the value-added

model looks at a teacher's record based in large part on how well his or her students do on the state-mandated FCAT tests — tests being traded out in the coming year for another set called FSA, the Florida Standard Assessments tests.

As things now stand, teachers will continue to be graded on the basis of these student tests, just as they were when Mrs. Simmons' granddaughter failed in the seventh grade.

Although the young lady did well in End of Course tests and others, she soon found herself in remedial high school reading — even though she earned straight As in Advanced Reading all the way through elementary and middle school.

That experience is common throughout the state, and frustration among educators and parents has reached a boiling point in recent weeks. Local school officials in many counties are looking for alternatives to the current system of heavy-dosage test taking and "accountability," backed by an unofficial corps of knowledgeable gadflies who want those experiences for children to end.

Making it personal

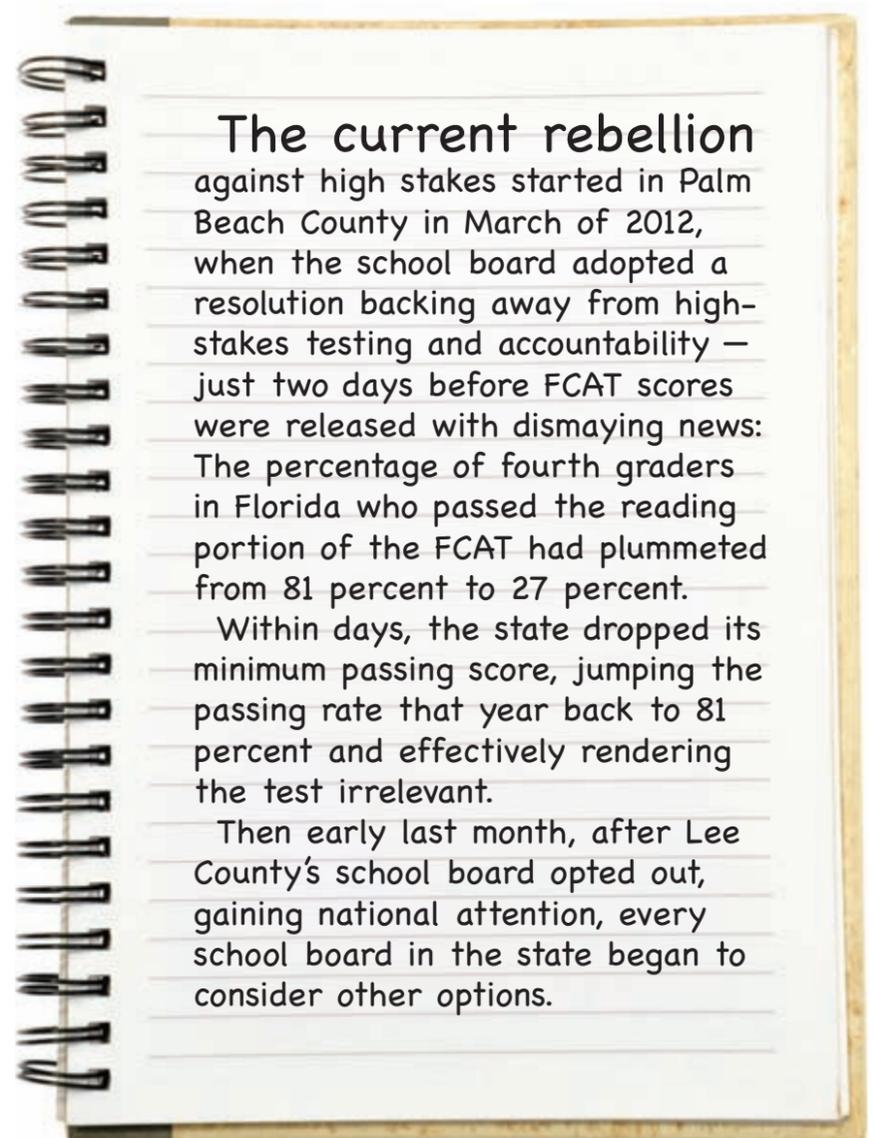
Nowadays, about one in five third graders fail to reach the fourth grade with their classmates, because they haven't passed the "high-stakes" exam that state officials require them to take, says Kathleen Jasper, a former teacher and education activist, and the founder of the increasingly influential blog, ConversationED.



JASPER

Ms. Jasper, by no means a conservative, has found herself on the Glenn Beck show more than once, agreeing with that conservative icon and entertainer of the right that contemporary education is in trouble.

"Jasper believes that the education system is sucking the souls out of our children, and the testing that supposedly measures merit and success is actually just a money-making scheme," says Mr. Beck in an online introduction to one show.



The current rebellion against high stakes started in Palm Beach County in March of 2012, when the school board adopted a resolution backing away from high-stakes testing and accountability — just two days before FCAT scores were released with dismay news: The percentage of fourth graders in Florida who passed the reading portion of the FCAT had plummeted from 81 percent to 27 percent.

Within days, the state dropped its minimum passing score, jumping the passing rate that year back to 81 percent and effectively rendering the test irrelevant.

Then early last month, after Lee County's school board opted out, gaining national attention, every school board in the state began to consider other options.

Which is pretty much the case, she confirms, in a conversation with *Florida Weekly*.

"I want you to imagine," she says, making it personal, "a little third-grader crying because she's just learned she can't go on in school."

Such students are delayed a year, not only in Florida but also in a number of states that have adopted the policy. The reasoning, shaped in large part by former Gov. Jeb Bush, is that these students will be given a chance to catch up and move forward in life. But researchers at Arizona State University following kids who were held back in third grade discovered something else, they reported: they discovered that those students are more likely to drop out of school in the future.

When failure to pass the third grade FCAT test happened to the granddaughter of Mary Fischer, who now sits on the Lee County School Board, the girl's confidence and her happiness were so shaken that she became an unwilling student, a person who hated school, and



FISCHER

eventually a young teenage mother who finally dropped out, Mrs. Fischer recalls.

But the granddaughters of both Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Fischer eventually emerged from years of struggle to regain their own

footings. Mrs. Fischer's granddaughter graduated and began to raise a warmly loved child in a family of learning-centric adults, she says. And Mrs. Simmons' granddaughter scored her way back into more challenging and rewarding high-school classes — but through other tests, not the FCAT.

"The irony of 'No Child Left Behind,'" says Mrs. Fischer, "is that more children are getting left behind."

And one of them was her granddaughter.

The state education tree

Failing to pass the third grade test is one thing, but failing to pass the 10th grade test — the other high-stakes benchmark — is another.

Although all students take these tests each year, those who fail the 10th grade test, in which they're given more than one chance at bat, will keep them from earning a high-school diploma, no matter what their grade averages or achievements.

Students do not shoulder those high stakes alone. Each year, the tests are also high-stakes for teachers and school principals, whose salaries and in some cases whose jobs depend on how well students do.

The result, as September of a new school year unfolds, has been a strong public backlash, both about "accountability" as it's now defined, and about a set of standards that tests are supposed to measure, called "Common Core," which has recently been revised to become the Florida State Standards.

The two trunks of the education-reform tree — Common Core and the high-stakes testing or accountability — are sometimes confused by unhappy parents, who nevertheless have the right notion: that something has to change, says Dr. Nancy Graham, superintendent of Lee County public schools.

Although Dr. Graham is focusing on the weaknesses in high-stakes testing, she says, others question common core itself.

"Common Core just isn't working," says Suzette Lopez, a Miami-Dade mother of two and graphic artist who began to do research on the issue when her oldest child, with high-



LOPEZ

performance autism, needed help getting into gifted programs.

"You have to look at assessment and Common Core as the same package," she insists. "It's the fuel of data. They need data. They want data. They refer to each Common Core standard as a data point. So they want every state and every child to be at the same data point."

"My issue is, 'You're pigeonholing my children based on data that is, number one, flawed, and number two, not actually testing them.'"

Lee County, as it turns out, is at the epicenter of the statewide debate, since its school board, led by Mrs. Fischer who cast the first vote, took the lead in Florida and agreed recently to "opt out" of the state testing program. But that lasted for only a few days, gaining national attention, before the board voted to opt back in — again, led in part by Mrs. Fischer.

Stacey Chadwick Brown, a therapist

Core or the newly named version of that, Florida State Standards, or some other prescribed body of knowledge that is not developed and designed merely to allow data collectors to mine them for data.

Megan Just, a mother of public school children, is a former high school teacher who now works in college administration while pursuing a Ph.D. in educational measurement or psychometry, she says.

"When you have an education system where the content is broad but not deep — so a mile wide and an inch deep — you're going to be forced into a metrics looking at things at the knowledge level, and not the critical thinking level we want as a nation."

"Parents are upset that tests are being linked to high stakes, and upset because we so frequently test people — and what happens is, we get measurement error. I've sat in testing rooms and watched

state board of education last week decided not to administer tests to kindergartners — for the most part because the computer systems children are required to use have not been working properly. A state law requires that computer systems everywhere for all these tests, known as "the infrastructure," be load tested and functional before the tests are administered.

Other than that single concession by state officials, however, very little has changed in the testing environment, Mrs. Simmons concludes.

But the issue is so volatile, that some school leaders are reluctant even to talk about it — at least not last week, as school boards and county administrators reviewed their options and the public outcry remained heated.

"Our review of the issue today has raised more questions we need to answer," wrote Greg Turchetta, executive director of communications for Col-



and educator at Florida SouthWestern State College, was at that meeting since she has children in public school.

She watched as people began to argue and shout.

"I heard one suggestion that this could be a reality television show because there were so many wacky things happening," she recalls.

"At one point they had to take a break because people were hurling insults and yelling so much. One of the school board members called his wife and was explaining what all was happening and talking about Mary Fischer. Fortunately his microphone was still on and so everyone got to hear that."

"Another time Mary Fischer said that she was not going to be bullied by the noisy people there, and that she has spent her whole life advocating for children and she would continue to do so."

"Then someone yelled, 'screw you!' Mayhem. Bizarreness. Ignorance. So the school board looks wishy-washy, and the public looks like lunatics and bullies. School boards all over the nation are watching us to see how this pans out."

But Mrs. Fischer and other board members had discovered in the interim between votes how severe the consequences of opting out without a plan could be: state monies and high school diplomas for seniors were suddenly at risk.

Common Core and accountability

"There are several issues," explains Dr. Graham. "One is the high stakes related to (the assessments), and the other is standards."

Most if not all feel that some standards are essential, whether Common

kids decide to discriminate color in answers. They do it in patterns and zig-zags and Christmas tree shapes, because they are so desensitized and deadened."

Lee's Dr. Graham puts it this way: "The state has created an accountability system which is a good model. But it's punitive rather than diagnostic. That's where we all part ways. What we have to do is a process. We begin by dissecting each issue. I'll start with the high-stakes portion — that's the part that is hurting children. That's what I care about. We're hurting our kids."

No one, least of all Dr. Graham, is proposing that standards or accountability be thrown out.

Unfortunately, however, "the state's accountability system suggests that all children should learn at the same rate. The way the formula is driven, if they don't get to where the formula says they should, those children are made to feel less than successful, even when they've made fabulous gains."

Touchy issues

From the view of teachers — Mrs. Simmons, for example, who recently retired after a 46-year career in public education — "This testing is very much overdone. And it's not just state testing, it's all the other testing that goes with it."

By the end of her career, "I was spending 20 percent of my time checking my little reading groups — my kindergartners. They had to be checked individually, the ones who weren't yet ready for school, with computer-designed tests. My job was to get them on grade level by the end of the year, in reading."

Reacting in part to those concerns, the

lier County schools, headed by Superintendent Kamela Patton.

Dr. Patton had been asked by *Florida Weekly* to share her opinions and direction both in writing and by phone, but declined, via Mr. Turchetta. "We will not be able to discuss this at this time. I will send out a media invite when we are ready," he said.

History then and now

The current rebellion against high stakes started in Palm Beach County in March of 2012, when the school board adopted a resolution backing away from high-stakes testing and accountability — just two days before FCAT scores were released with dismaying news: The percentage of fourth graders in Florida who passed the reading portion of the FCAT had plummeted from 81 percent to 27 percent.

Within days, the state dropped its minimum passing score, jumping the passing rate that year back to 81 percent and effectively rendering the test irrelevant.

Then early last month, after Lee County's school board opted out, gaining national attention, every school board in the state began to consider other options.

History now plays a significant role in their decision-making, and for some, that history can date back decades.

When Martha Simmons began teaching first grade in 1966, things were a little different. Young students took naps in the middle of the day, hard-bound primers were the tools used to teach

TESTING

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them how to read, and students were given a single standardized test at the beginning of the year and one at the end — a total of four or five hours of annual testing to determine their progress in reading and math.

That happened across the country as well as in Florida, and in those days, people who began teaching were more likely to stay with the profession.

Now, many teachers leave the profession before they reach the five-year mark, statistics show, driven out in part by frustrations over how they're judged, and how they can or can't teach their students, they say.

The new system creates a talent deficit in the profession, since studies show that teachers only begin to become proficient at the art of teaching after three to five years, and to reach their fullest potential in the classroom only after about 15 years.

The old system, meanwhile, produced such famous names as the late Steve Jobs (a product of public schools) and Bill Gates (privately schooled), or such writers as Malcolm Gladwell (English schools), points out Meg Just.

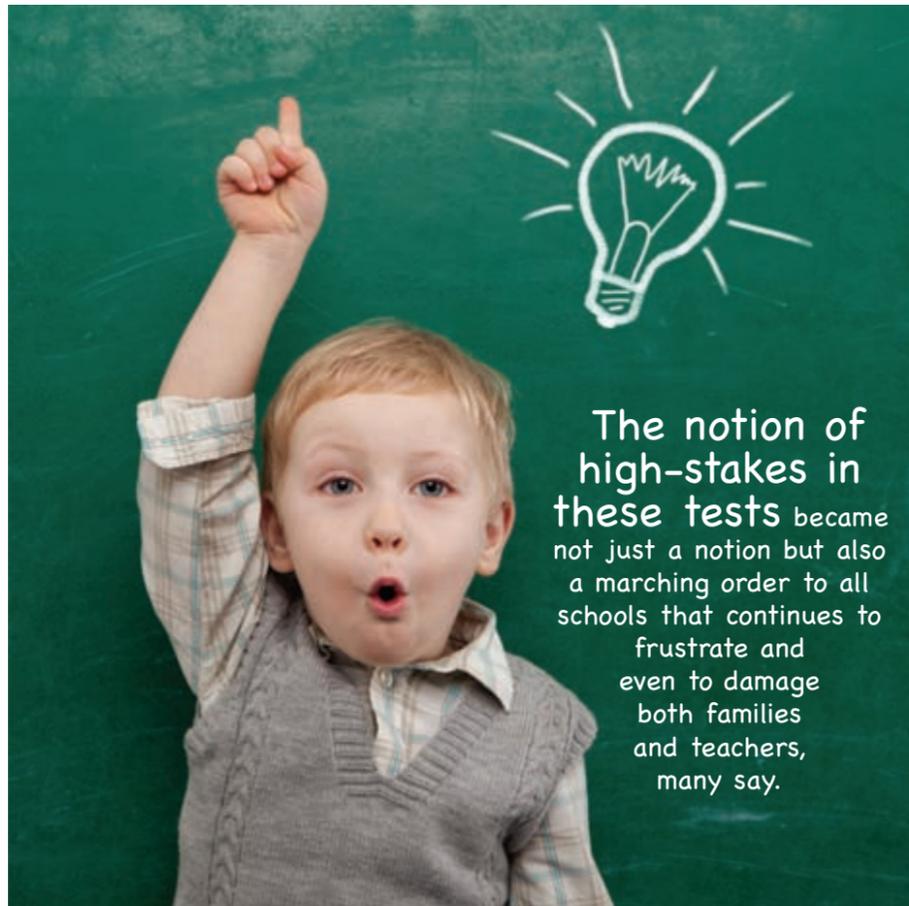
But now for more than a decade in Florida — ever since President George W. Bush created the “No Child Left Behind” policies that his brother, then Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, relied on to build new accountability standards for students, teachers and schools — the state and its 67 school districts have established an elaborate and expensive model of testing.

Testing companies such as Pearson and the recently hired American Institutes for Research, which now has a six-year, \$220 million contract with the state to introduce a test that will replace the FCAT 2.0 starting in 2015, have proven to be effective lobbyists in Tallahassee, school administrators and others say.

“From a money perspective and the issues of the business community, people want to know, ‘Are the students ready to become the next employees?’ And next: ‘How does our school system stack up with others?’ for both their own children and employees,” says Marshall Bower, president and CEO of the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, a business-oriented agency.

“So the issue, always the issue in so many things, of follow the money, means looking at what is going on with influence that the testing companies may have with legislators. Or with the school boards, but that's not the case here. State standardized tests are set by the state legislature. I know there is influence based on people running for office — nowadays it costs a lot to campaign, so they accept money from various organizations that gain influence.”

That intuitive local-business savvy reflects a larger and demonstrable reality: The education business in Florida and the United States, built on the model of Common Core and accountability, is a several-billion-dollar annual affair, with the Florida pie worth hundreds of mil-



The notion of high-stakes in these tests became not just a notion but also a marching order to all schools that continues to frustrate and even to damage both families and teachers, many say.

lions, alone.

And the newest arrival on the Florida accountability scene, AIR or the American Institutes for Research, bills itself as “one of the world's largest behavioral and social science research and evaluation organizations.” AIR is a non-profit agency that supports and benefits from many of the goals of No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top. It's headed by President and CEO David Myers, whose salary is \$567,000.

Footing the bill

Such companies (and there are others) are ultimately the beneficiaries of taxpayer largess, since taxpayers cover the costs of each test for each child: listed by the Florida Department of Education as \$14.58 per test (that will drop to \$11.37 next year), or \$36.17 per student (dropping to \$34.23, says the FDOE).

is this: if it's a model or a new test, count on it to change before long, and cost a great deal of money.

For example, the FCAT became the FCAT 2.0, which is now becoming the AIR's FSA test. The old standards became the Common Core standards, which were renamed earlier this year as “the Florida Standards,” when state officials decided to alter the calculus portion and add a cursive writing standard.

Unfortunately, says Kathleen Jasper, while very few disagree that students ought to emerge from schools with a certain body of knowledge common in the culture and competitive in the country and the world, and that they should be tested to measure how they stack up, the current system is not only unfair to students and teachers, it isn't working. And now there are many disagreements about how and why.



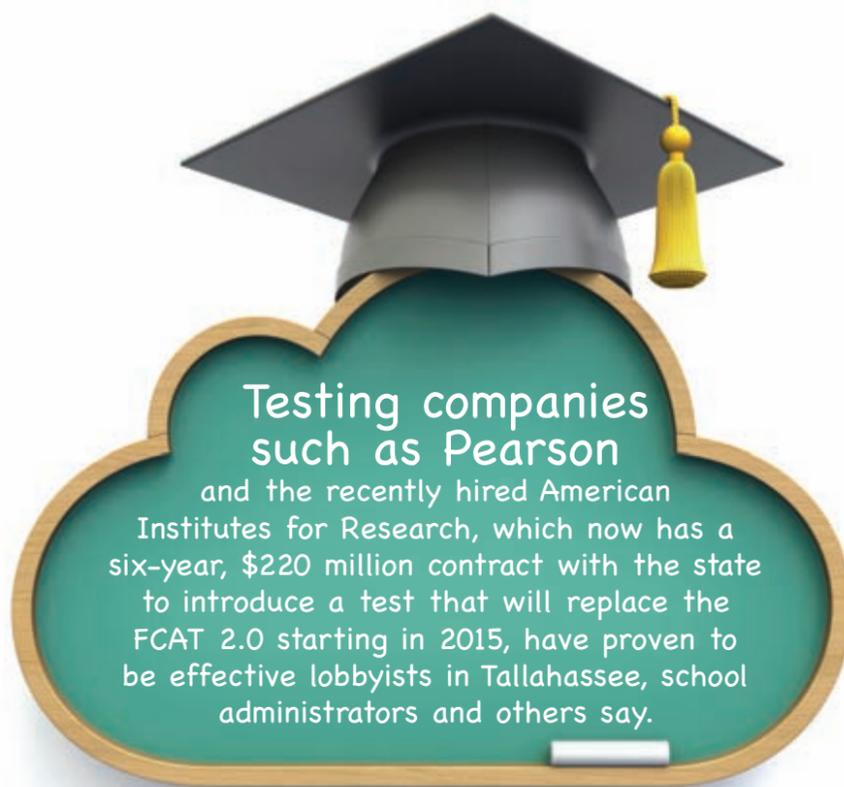
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GATES



BOWER



Testing companies such as Pearson

and the recently hired American Institutes for Research, which now has a six-year, \$220 million contract with the state to introduce a test that will replace the FCAT 2.0 starting in 2015, have proven to be effective lobbyists in Tallahassee, school administrators and others say.

Put another way, school districts such as Palm Beach County, with 185,000 students, or Lee County, with 85,000, or Collier or Charlotte counties, with 45,000 and 27,000 students, respectively, all must find ways to pay that cost, every year — a cost which jumps every time a student retakes a test.

The lesson of more than a decade of aggressive educational reform, therefore — at least according to many teachers —

“All we've done for the last 15 years is (focus) on the standards and the assessments of those standards,” she explains. “However, the needle hasn't moved.”

State Department of Education figures show that only 57 percent of third graders have been able to pass the reading test, at best, between 2011 and the current year. For the last decade or more, 30 to 40 percent of students have failed each year, at least, in reading tests. The

numbers are similarly discomfiting in other subjects such as algebra, at most levels and in most years, she says.

Those numbers are at odds, however, with former Gov. Bush's insistence that “more students are reading, writing and doing math and science on or above grade level,” and “Florida's third through 10th grade students are outscoring 60 – 70 percent of their peers in all other states in both reading and math.”

Those comments appear on his Foundation for Excellence in Education website.

The notion of high-stakes in these tests became not just a notion but also a marching order to all schools that continues to frustrate and even to damage both families and teachers, many say.

Not only can students be held back or prevented from graduating even if they pass their courses, but the salaries and now the careers of teachers coming into the system are threatened. Under Gov. Scott's program for improvement in education, new teachers now have to work under annual contracts that allow administrators to fire them without the due process teachers formerly had. The test scores of their students judge them all. And their schools are likewise held accountable for those scores, with a potential loss of resources and opportunities if the scores don't measure up.

Along with all that, says Kathleen Jasper, students also have to take the manufactured EOC or End of Course exams — not only in reading but also in algebra, geometry, U.S. history and biology, among others.

“So now you go from two or three tests if you include writing, to seven or eight tests. And they're more expensive,” she says. “So now you have extra tests costing extra money and you have all these kids retaking them, sometimes they retake two or three tests and the cost more than triples. It's like an exponent, especially if you count time as money — how much time teachers spend on these tests — and the infrastructure we have to buy from other companies to take the tests.”

The new AIR test, for example, is designed to be used most efficiently on Google's chromebook, which probably bodes well for sales.

“These tests are killing us,” Ms. Jasper concludes.

Worse yet, say critics of the newest test, the FSA tests designed by AIR and set to replace the FCATS, may not work for Florida students at all.

That's because the testing company field-tested them in Utah, where the student demographics are entirely different, at a cost to taxpayers of \$5.4 million.

“Right there the validity and value of this test is in question,” says Ms. Jasper. “Because the sample calculation is wrong. It doesn't match. And demographics matters. Our Latino and poor population, black or white, is a lot higher than theirs. Utah is 71 percent opulent. Our poverty hovers between 50, 60, or 70 percent in many counties. Poor kids don't do as well. They don't do well on high stakes.

“Nobody understands how detrimental this is.”

Apparently, not even the testing company, AIR, based in Washington, D.C.

Asked by telephone why AIR field-tested a Florida test in Utah, Larry McQuillan, the director of public affairs, didn't know.

“All this is doing is creating a starting point,” he said. “I'll need somebody else to explain it. This is over my head, but it's not radical.”

He followed up with an email: “I'm told that the Florida Department of Education can help elaborate on the Utah field test,” he wrote.

Juan Copa, the deputy commissioner of accountability, research and measurement for the state Department of Education, did not return telephone queries placed to his office last week asking for an explanation. ■

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

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New frontiers in American vacuousness

The WE cable network disclosed in August that it had ordered a nine-episode adaptation of a British series, "Sex Box," in which a couple enters a large opaque chamber on stage and has intercourse. The pair, pre- and post-coitally, are clothed and seated before a panel of probably D-List celebrities, and will respond to questions and comment on

their feelings and techniques (likely enduring praise and criticisms about their "work"). The series will debut sometime in 2015. (However, as the Daily Beast website pointed out, it might also be true that still, in 2015, even a split-second's glimpse of a female nipple on any broadcast TV show would create a national scandal.)

Unclear on the concept

■ New Orleans Juvenile Court Judge Yolanda King, already indicted for falsifying her home address in her 2013 campaign for office, was spotted by a *Times-Picayune* reporter on Aug. 20 filing three registration papers for the Nov. 4 election in which she swore (under oath) to three different addresses — two of which appeared to be clearly erroneous. Her lawyer told the newspaper that the judge, who was suspended by the Louisiana Supreme Court following her indictment, had merely "misinterpreted" the instructions.

■ As part of a nationwide distribution of surplus military equipment, 10 Texas school districts eagerly acquired a total

of 64 M-16 rifles, 18 M-14s, 25 automatic pistols and magazines capable of holding 4,500 rounds of ammunition. District officials referred generally to the need to protect against school attacks such as the notorious incidents in Colorado and Connecticut, but a local Houston area police chief, seeking to reassure a nervous public, promised that the equipment would be used only by tactically trained officers and that, otherwise, would be locked in the department's armory. A critic of the program told KHOU-TV that statistically, the typical active-shooter school situation lasts 12 minutes, hardly enough time to get to the armory and load up.

Fine points of the law

■ In July, a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit in Detroit, ruling on a judicial corruption complaint, managed to describe the actions of a Michigan state judge, "Hon." Wade McCree, as "often reprehensible" — in that he had been carrying on a romantic affair with a woman involved in a child custody case he was judging. (The woman, of course, received favorable rulings.) However, the Court of Appeals judges told the unlucky father that Judge McCree cannot be sued because judges are generally immune from lawsuit.

■ Nick Olivas, 24, is a rare American. At age 14 (an age that, in Arizona, makes him legally incapable of consenting to sex), he fathered a daughter with a 20-year-old woman — paternity that he learned of only two years ago. The mother filed against Mr. Olivas for child support that now totals \$15,000. Mr. Olivas is rare in that most states exempt rape victims from child-

support orders — except that, since he never made a police report of the incident, Arizona Child Support Services will not exempt him, and instead has obtained an order garnisheeing his wages at \$380 a month.

■ According to legal scholars consulted by the Associated Press, it is conceivable that Nicole Diggs, of Yonkers, N.Y., even if convicted of negligent homicide in the upcoming trial in the death of her severely disabled 8-year-old daughter, could nevertheless inherit the remains of the child's \$2 million trust fund originally established for her care. Evidence is strong that Ms. Diggs had neglected the child's hygiene and diet for stretches at a time and over trusted her less-caring new husband with the girl's well-being, but New York law uniquely still allows, in principle, a convicted mother to inherit from the child as long as she did not "intentionally" harm her. ■

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Expert offers presentations for nonprofit professionals

The Center for Nonprofit Excellence at Hodges University holds its next workshop from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, in the Science & Technology Building on the university's Naples campus, 2647 Northbrooke Drive. The morning will consist of two presentations by Scott Janney, senior consultant at plannedgiving.com and executive director of the Atlantic-Care Foundation:

■ "Start with their Dreams and the Gifts will Follow" - Research shows that high net worth individuals expect fundraisers to understand their personal motivations and professional advisors to demonstrate expertise in gifting techniques. This session combines the important work of helping donors envision reaching their philanthropic goals with major and planned giving techniques. Which techniques help

donors discover their dreams, and which charitable tactics help them fund the dream? For instance, can a cash gift, combined with a gift through a will, trust or life insurance, bring the dream to fruition?

■ "How to Reach Comprehensive and Capital Campaign Goals with Planned Gifts" - While some development professionals and gift-planning specialists see a capital campaign as a reason to put gift planning on the back shelf, more charities are realizing the numerous ways to incorporate philanthropic planning into campaigns. The best results come when planning giving goals are considered from the beginning of a capital campaign.

Registration is \$35. To sign up or for more information, call 598-6284 or email cne@hodges.edu. ■



Young men invited to MOVE conference

The Florida Diversity Council holds its third annual Men of Vision and Excellence conference on Saturday, Oct. 25, at Hodges University in Naples. Known as MOVE, the conference addresses the issues young men ages 14-25 face in contemporary society: completing high school and college; preparing for and excelling in the workplace; branding oneself and becoming leaders in the community. Sessions are designed to create an environment that invites young men, professionals and mentors to engage in dialogue regarding relevant issues and topics.

This year's workshops include "Giving Back," "Financial Planning," "Going to College," "Positive Relationship Building" and "Harnessing Technology & Social Media." Panelists include executive men

from local companies such as 21st Century Oncology, Bloomin' Brands, Hodges University, Lee Memorial Health System and The News-Press Media Group.

Luncheon keynote speaker is Mandell Crawley, managing director



and head of national business development for Morgan Stanley. Mentor/student roundtable discussions will give young attendees the opportunity to meet with male professionals from across the state to discuss college and career plans.

MOVE conference sponsors include Morgan Stanley, Hodges University, Bloomin' Brands, Walmart and Lee Pitts Live. For registration and more information, visit floridadiversitycouncil.org. ■



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Arthrex champions Naples Equestrian Challenge with major new financial commitments

Naples Equestrian Challenge announces that Arthrex has become its Champion Sponsor with a generous three-year financial commitment to NEC's existing programs and events as well as a substantial donation to NEC's Barn Raising Capital Campaign that will fund its much-needed expansion.

"We are proud to support and partner with Naples Equestrian Challenge as the organization's mission aligns well with Arthrex's overall commitment to the health and well-being of our community," says Lisa Gardiner, Arthrex spokeswoman and a member of the Arthrex Charitable Committee.

Arthrex already helps further NEC's mission through Arthrex Vet Systems, which manufactures treatments for conditions that often affect NEC's therapy horses, such as arthritis and soft tissue injuries. For the last few years, a representative of Arthrex has regularly visited NEC to administer the Arthrex ACP and IRAP II injections to the NEC therapy horses that need them.

"Without Arthrex's commitment to and compassion for NEC's therapy



horses, NEC would never be in a position to afford these highly beneficial treatments," says Kim Minarich, NEC executive director.

The injections ensure that the therapy horses can comfortably carry out their work with special-needs riders. The ACP treatment delivers a high concentration of plasma-rich platelets to soft tissue injury sites, increasing the amount of growth factors that help the injury heal. The IRAP II blocks one of the major inflammatory substances the body releases in the event of injury or arthritis.

"Having Arthrex as a Champion Sponsor goes above and beyond the critical support they already provide," Ms. Minarich says. "We couldn't be more grateful."

About NEC

Established in 1995, Naples Equestrian Challenge is dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults with special needs through therapeutic riding and other equine-related programs. Through donations and sponsorships, the organization is able to provide this vital therapy to more than 500 people each year, regardless of their ability to pay. For more information, visit naplesequestrianchallenge.org.

About Arthrex

With headquarters in North Naples, Arthrex is a privately held, global medical device company and leader in new product development and medical education in orthopedics. The company pioneered the field of arthroscopy and has developed more than 8,000 products and surgical procedures to advance minimally invasive orthopedics worldwide. ■

Gift will help Salvation Army purchase toys

For the second year in a row, the Elizabeth Kay Galeana Charitable Foundation has gifted \$40,000 to The Salvation Army of Collier County. The funding will help purchase toys for this year's Christmas Cheer program.



Alongside The Salvation Army, volunteers from the United States Marine Corps will distribute the gifts to area children.

The Elizabeth Kay Galeana Charitable Foundation was founded by the Galeana family in memory of their daughter.

With offices in Naples and Immokalee, The Salvation Army has been serving Collier County since 1981. More than 47,000 residents are assisted annually. For more information, go to salvationarmynaples.org. ■

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A day to celebrate places where rivers meet the sea

The Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is one of 28 reserves in the United States where rivers meet the sea. Together, they celebrate National Estuarine Research Reserve Day on Saturday, Sept. 27, to help raise awareness of the importance of their unique habitat.

Estuarine reserves are protected for long-term research, water-quality monitoring, education and coastal stewardship. Reserve staff work with local communities and regional groups to address natural resource management issues, such as non-point source pollution, climate change, habitat restoration and invasive species.

Reserves also provide long-term water quality monitoring as well as opportunities for scientists and graduate students to conduct research in a "living laboratory."

The celebration at Rookery Bay includes staff-narrated boat tours, introductory 30-minute kayaking trips, free standup paddleboarding on Henderson Creek and a marine critter touch tank and other live animal presentations in the Environmental Learning Center.

Smokey Bear will also be on site, as



Standup paddleboarders on Henderson Creek in the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Reserve.

will the reserve's fire truck and staff to explain the prescribed burn program and give hose demonstrations.

The learning center will have an exhibit of works by renowned marine life artist Guy Harvey, and a representative from the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation will introduce "Tiger Shark Express," a documentary based on five years of expeditions and research led by Mr. Harvey across the Atlantic Ocean to study tiger sharks and unravel their "ocean of mystery." Screenings begin every hour on the quarter hour, from 10:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

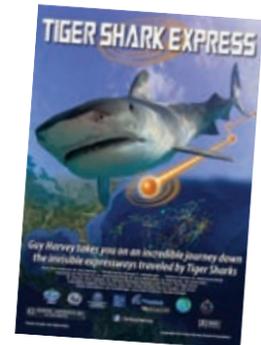
At 2 p.m., Collier County Commissioners Donna Fiala will present a cash award from Coastal American Partnership to 6-year-old Arundhati Sharma, one of 20 young artists whose works have been chosen for a nationwide traveling exhibit as winners in the third annual North American Ocean Art Contest. Arundhati is a student at Six Mile Cypress Elementary School. Her winning drawing is titled "Down in the Bubbly Blue."

The National Estuarine Research Reserve Day celebration will also have games and crafts, including face paint-

ing and fish printing, and behind-the-scenes tours of the learning center science labs.

The Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center is at 300 Tower Road, off Collier Boulevard on the way to Marco Island. The celebration takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free. Event sponsors include Old Naples Surf Shop, Everglades Area Tours, Conservancy of Southwest Florida and the Marco Island Shell Club.

For more information, call 530-5977 or visit rookerybay.org ■



A screening of the documentary "Tiger Shark Express" begins every hour on the quarter hour, from 10:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 27, as part of Rookery Bay's celebration of National Estuarine Research Reserve Day.

Reserve seeks a few good volunteers

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is recruiting 10 to 15 new volunteers to help in its mission to protect and preserve 110,000 acres of local coastal lands and waters.

"We are especially looking for people who wish to share their passion for the environment by providing daily programs on topics such as manatees, sharks and shells," says Donna Young, visitor ser-

vices and volunteer coordinator. Other tasks include feeding the aquarium fish and explaining the touch tank to visitors in the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center and leading guided walks on the reserve's Snail Trail.

Volunteers can also assist with special events, workshops and art gallery receptions, help staff at the front desk and assist the Friends of Rookery Bay

in maintaining the merchandise in the Palmetto Patch Nature Store. The center also has a Florida-friendly garden in need of volunteers to help with maintenance.

Year-round resident volunteers are needed. Shifts are flexible and hours vary per position. Training is provided.

For more information, call Ms. Young at 530-5974 or email volunteer@rookerybay.org. ■



A Rookery Bay naturalist leads a boat tour.



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Everglades National Park crocodile count is a good sign

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

A record number of American crocodile hatchlings have been counted in the Everglades National Park this summer — a positive development for the threatened species, University of Florida scientists say.

The American crocodile was listed as a federally endangered species in 1975, and while reclassified as threatened in 2007, the species still faces problems from habitat loss and environmental changes.

Frank Mazzotti, a UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences professor, has monitored the South Florida crocodile population since 1978. This summer, he and his team of researchers caught, marked and released 962 hatchlings within the confines

of the national park. Last year's total was 554.

The total American crocodile hatchlings in Florida this year came to 1,447, up from last year's 1,006. The number includes those found in the park, in Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Key Largo and at the FPL Turkey Point power plant site.

Although Mr. Mazzotti cautions that the numbers aren't proof that ecosystem restoration efforts are working, he says he believes the correlation suggests they are.

The coastline of Everglades National Park, prime habitat for the American crocodile, was largely untouched by humans until the early 20th century. A network of canals dug to drain water from the marshes to make the area suitable for agriculture and residential development triggered environmental



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / COURTESY PHOTO
Crocodile hatchlings in Everglades National Park.

changes, such as increased inland salinity. And crocodiles, which are extremely sensitive to environmental changes such as salinity and water levels, suffered. High salinity

stresses hatchling crocodiles directly, and high salinity and high water levels limit availability of prey.

Restoration plans to plug coastal canals in the national park aim to prevent saltwater intrusion and freshwater losses to tide.

“What we hope is the lesson is that ecosystem restoration efforts can work,” Mr. Mazzotti says. “If the signal is correct here, we can monitor that improvement by looking at ecological responses — and crocodiles make good indicators.”

Crocodiles, as a species, are some 200 million years old. They can live for decades, can survive long periods without food and can eat almost anything. They have complex social relationships and are known to be quick learners. ■

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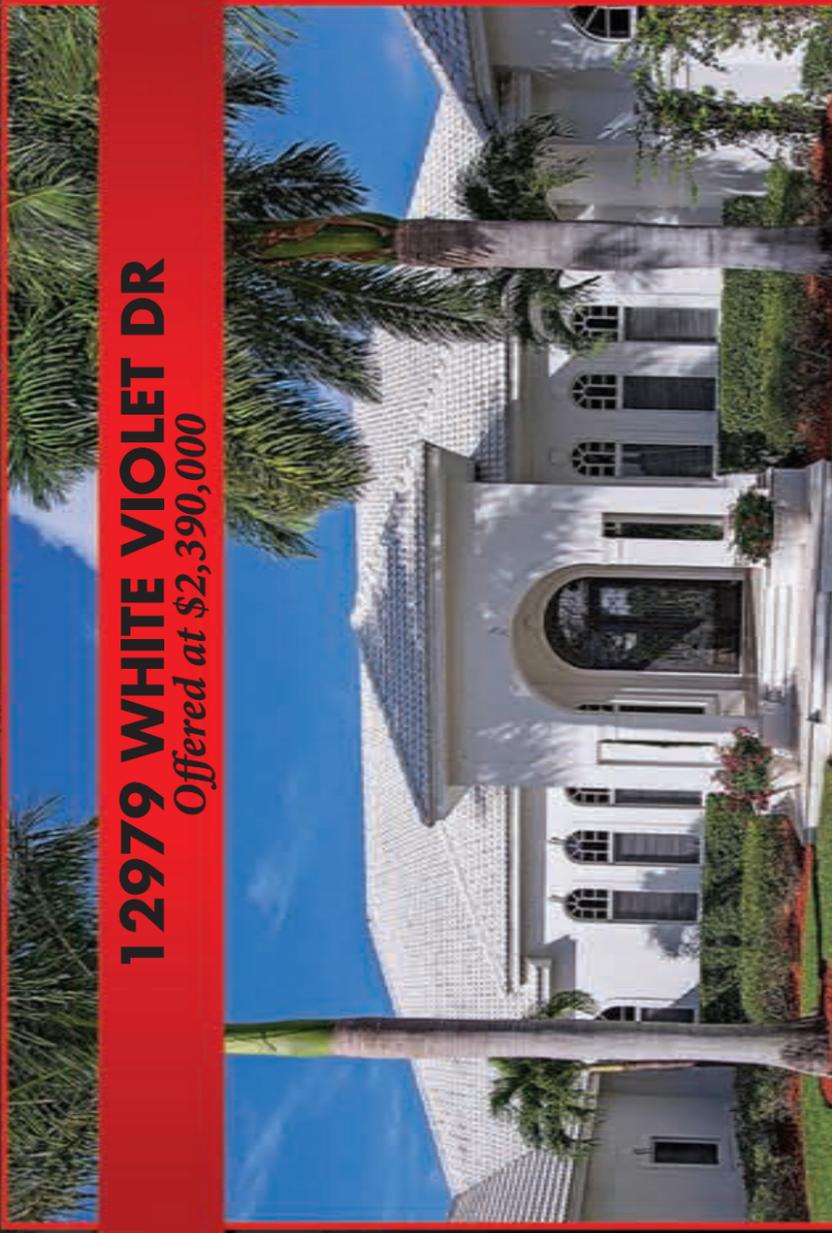
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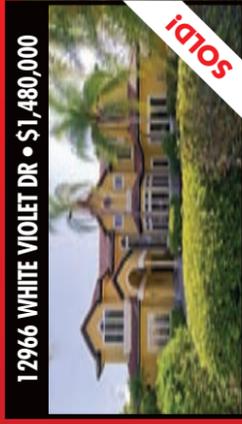
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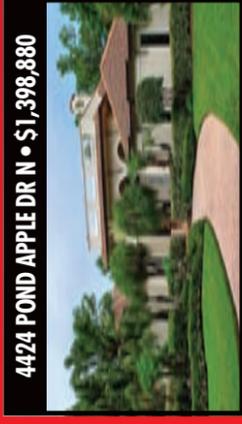
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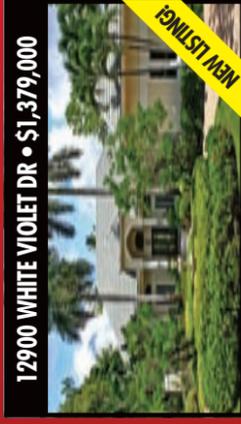
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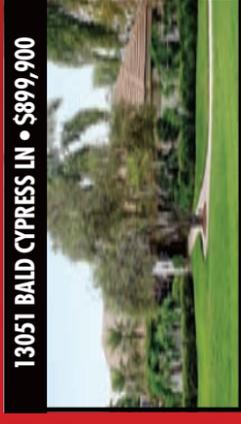
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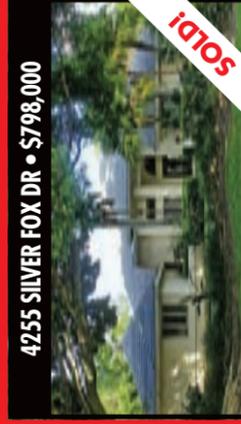
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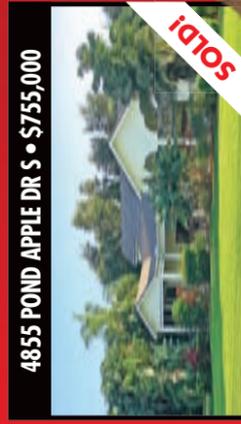
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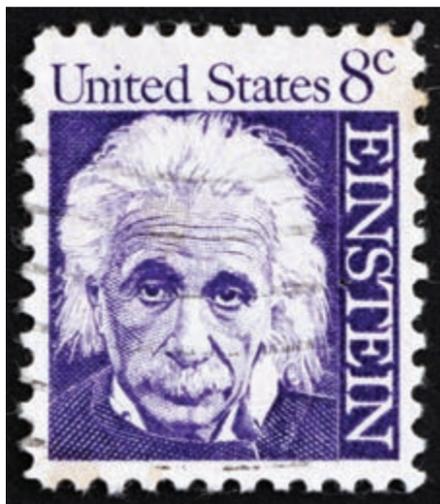
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CLUB NOTES

■ The **Naples Press Club** invites members and the working press to happy hour from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, at the Rusty Bucket in Mercato. Appetizers are provided and there is a cash bar.

■ The **Collier County Stamp Club** meets from 7-9 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Naples Airport



Office Building, 200 Aviation Drive. On Sept. 25, guest speaker Page Berry will present "Washington and Franklin Stamps Simplified." Stamp trading will follow the program. All stamp enthusiasts are welcome. For more information, call 348-9845.

■ Members of the **Naples IOWA Club** invite University of Iowa Hawkeyes fans to join them at Weekend Willie's to watch the football game against Purdue. Kickoff is at noon Saturday, Sept. 27.

■ **Ohio State University** alums and fans are welcome to join the Naples Buckeyes alumni club for OSU football at the following locations in Naples on every game day: Bokamper's Sports Bar and Grille, Stevie Tomato's Sports Page, Harold's Place at the Gulfcoast Inn and Gatsby's Pizza. The Sept. 27 game against Cincinnati starts at 6 p.m.

The Naples Buckeyes also invite fellow alumni to happy hour from 5-6:30 p.m. at rotating locations on the third Thursday of every month. The Oct. 16 location is Bellasera Hotel. RSVP by calling Sue Goldsberry at 405-7068 or emailing suegold181@aol.com. For more information about the club, visit naples-buckeyes.com.

■ The **Naples chapter of Ikebana International** welcomes members and guests to its first meeting of the new season at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, at Moorings Presbyterian Church, 791 Harbour

Drive. Guest speaker Kathy LaDuke, an instructor from the St. Petersburg chapter, will lead a workshop in the ichiyo technique of Ikebana that emphasizes arrangements using Japanese papers that complement the décor of the environment where they will be displayed. Participants should bring materials to create a small arrangement as well as scissors and wire clippers.

Reservations are required and can be made by emailing Carol Brocklesby at wcartstream@centurylink.net. Payment of \$5 will be collected at the door. For more information, visit ikebananaples.com.

■ The **Naples Civitan Club** meets at noon on the first Wednesday of every month at Perkins on Pine Ridge Road. The next meeting is Oct. 1. The service club focuses on assisting people with developmental disabilities. The club sponsors the Challenger Little League baseball team and welcomes new participants in that youth program.



The Civitan International Research Center in Birmingham, Ala., works toward finding the cause, cure and better treatments of brain disorders including autism, Alzheimer's disease and Down syndrome. For more information about the local club, call 774-2623 or email naplescivitan@aol.com

■ The **Marco Island Lions Club** meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, at Vandy's on East Elkcam Circle. Visiting Lions and guests are welcome. For more information, call Joe Bartucci at 970-2039.

■ The **Naples Orchid Society** invites members and guests to hear orchid expert Jim Roberts, the owner of Florida Sun Orchids in Myakka City, discuss orchid hybridizing at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2, at Moorings Presbyterian Church, 791 Harbour Drive. Plants from Mr. Roberts' nursery will be available for purchase. At 6 p.m., society member Bill Overton will present a workshop on growing phalaenopsis orchids. Members are encouraged to bring orchids from home to be judged

at 7 p.m. and also to bring orchids for donation to the society's annual orchid sale that takes place Saturday, Nov. 8.

Admission to the meeting is free. For more information about the Naples Orchid Society, visit naplesorchidsociety.org.

■ **Pilot Club of Naples/Naples Pilot Foundation** meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Perkins, 3585 Pine Ridge Road in Naples. The next meeting is Oct. 9. Pilot International focuses its charitable and educational efforts on brain-related disorders and disabilities, including traumatic brain injuries, dementia and autism. Guests and new members are always welcome at meetings. Reservations are not required. Attendees order from the menu and pay for their meals. For more information, call Sue Lester 289-8268.

■ **Gamma Phi Beta** alumnae are invited to join the Summer Lunch Bunch on the second Monday of the month. The next meeting is Oct. 13. For location and reservations, call Lynne Nordhoff at 594-8420 or email lynnecnordhoff@gmail.com.

■ The **Genealogical Society of Collier County** welcomes members and guests to its meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, at Moorings Presbyterian Church, 791 Harbour Drive. A brief



business meeting will be followed by "Decoding Florida's Cemeteries," a program by Melissa Timo of FGCU and the Florida Public Archaeology Network. On Nov. 11, guest speakers Nancy Pointer and Carl Foust will discuss using iPads and tablets for genealogy research. Refreshments are served after each program.

Admission is free, and reservations

are not required. For more information about the club and its activities, visit thegscc.org.

■ **Naples Nites Lions Club** meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at Perkins on Pine Ridge Road at Interstate-75. The next meetings are Oct. 14 and 28. All current and former Lions are welcome. For more information, call Dan Sams at 352-2827.

■ The **Naples chapter of PFLAG, Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays**, a support, education and advocacy group for families with gay or transgender members, meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting is Oct. 16. Call 963-4670 for location.

■ The **Democratic Women's Club of Collier County** welcomes members and guests to its meetings from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of the month in the Walden Oaks Professional Center, 6710 Lone Oak Blvd. The next meeting is Oct. 18. For more information, email dwcpräsident@gmail.com.

■ The Naples base of the **U.S. Submarine Veterans (USSVI)** meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the American Legion Post 303, 27678 Imperial Shores Blvd. in Bonita Springs. The next meeting is Oct. 28. Membership is open to active duty and retired submariners who have earned the Qualified in Submarines designation. The local USSVI base commander is John Dykhuis of Naples. For more information, visit ussvi.org/base/naples.asp.

■ The **Naples Alumnae Club of Kappa Kappa Gamma** welcomes all alumnae in Naples, Bonita Springs and Marco Island to another season of activities. For the schedule of meetings and activities and more information, call 293-2468.

■ **Naples Newcomers Club** welcomes women who have moved to the area within the past five years. In addition to a monthly luncheon, members get together to explore Naples and to enjoy a variety of interests, from books to bridge and mah-jongg to gourmet cooking and conversations over coffee. A coffee for prospective new members takes place on the first Thursday of each month. For more information, call 298-4083 or visit naplesnewcomers.com.

— Email club news to Cindy Pierce at cpierce@floridaweekly.com.



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GET OUT FOR A GOOD CAUSE

■ The ninth annual **Walk for the Way** to benefit United Way of Collier County steps out at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at North Collier Regional Park. Check-in begins at 8 a.m. Suggested donation is \$10 per family or team.

The 2.5-mile, family-friendly walk benefits the United Way and its 31 partner agencies. For more information, visit unitewayofcolliercounty.org.

The United Way Run for the Way 5K precedes the Walk for the Way with a start time of 7:30 a.m. For more information, visit [Gulf Coast Runners at gcrunner.org](http://GulfCoastRunners.org).

■ The **Moe's Corporate Run** to benefit The Shelter for Abused Women & Children takes place Thursday evening, Oct. 2. The 3-mile course begins at Moe's Southwest Grill at Immokalee Road and U.S. 41. The run/walk is not chip timed. Participation is open to all employees and family of local corporations, businesses, government offices and institutions. Each company can enter an unlimited number of participants, and all levels of runners and walkers are welcome. The team with the most participants will get a burrito lunch delivered to its office. For more information, call 434-9786 or visit gcrunners.org.



■ The second annual **Marco Island Kiwanis Family 5K run/walk** takes place Saturday morning, Oct. 4, starting and ending at Tigertail Beach. Advance registration is \$20 for adults, \$15 for ages 12 and younger; race-day registration is \$25 and \$20. All proceeds benefit Project Eliminate to end maternal and neonatal tetanus. Sign up at runsignup.com.

■ The annual golf tournament to benefit the **Foundation for the Developmentally Disabled** takes place Saturday, Oct. 4, at Vasari Country Club in Bonita Springs. Registration for the four-person scramble is \$90 per person and includes lunch. For more information, call 594-9007.

■ The second annual **Kiwanis Stride Away Through Hideaway Family 5K** takes place Saturday morning, Oct. 4, at the Hideaway on Marco Island. All proceeds will benefit Eliminate Maternal/Neonatal Tetanus. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, call Diana Dohm at 259-1405.

■ The second annual **Golf Tournament for the Arts** to benefit the Marco Island Center for the Arts takes place Saturday, Oct. 4, at Island Country Club. Lunch before the game is included in the \$125 registration fee. For more information, call 394-4221.

■ The 23rd annual **FGCU Founders Cup**, a fundraiser for the Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation, tees off with a buffet lunch at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 10, at Pelican's Nest Golf Club in Bonita Springs. Awards and a buffet dinner follow the competition. For registration or more information, call Lindsey Touchette at 590-1016.

■ The sixth annual **First Florida Integrity Bank Charity Golf Tournament** takes place Saturday, Oct. 11, with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. at the Hideout Golf Club. Continental breakfast and lunch are included in the registration fee. For more information, call Heather Tice at 325-3750.

■ The **Freedom Waters Foundation** hosts its annual Heels & Reels fishing event from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Naples Boat Club. More than two dozen teen girls will be paired with experienced female anglers.

Volunteers and sponsors are needed. For more information, call Debbie Hanson at 233-4930.

■ The 18th annual **Naples Kids Fishing Clinic**, a photo catch-and-release event, takes place Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Naples City Pier. Registration is from 9 a.m. to noon. Participants must be accompanied by an adult. The clinic is presented by the Marine Industries Association of Collier County and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. For more information, call Tiffany Sawyer at 682-0900 or Rebecca Lucas at (850) 617-9639.

■ The **Red Sox Foundation** holds its third annual Swings For The Sox golf tournament Friday, Oct. 17, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. Proceeds will support the Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida and The Immokalee Foundation. The tournament Tee-Off Party takes place from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, at JetBlue Park at Fenway South in south Fort Myers. Registration is \$250 per person, with foursome packages beginning at \$800. Non-player admission to the Tee-Off Party is \$50 (\$25 for ages 12 and younger). For

more information, call 226-4783 or email redsoxgolf@redsox.com.

■ The 10th annual **Gulfshore Playhouse** charity golf tournament tees off Monday, Oct. 20, at TwinEagles, beginning with lunch on the green and ending with a buffet dinner and awards ceremony. Cost is \$300 per golfer. Each registrant also receives two tickets to a performance of Katori Hall's "The Mountaintop" Sunday evening, Oct. 19, at The Norris Center. To sign up, call Gulfshore Playhouse at 261-7529.

■ The 2014 **RedSnook Catch and Release Charity Tournament** takes place Friday-Sunday, Oct. 24-26, to benefit water quality protection efforts and game fish research conducted by Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

For the full schedule and registration details, visit conservancy.org/redsnook.

■ The **Naples North Rotary Club** sponsors the Sunset & Suds 5K fun run starting at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24. The course begins at the corner of Vanderbilt Beach Road and Gulf Shores Drive and ends near the Turtle Club, ending up on the beach with paella, island music and cold beer. Proceeds will provide essentials for the women and children at the Shelter for Abused Women & Children. For more information, visit facebook.com/sunsetandsuds5k.

■ **Miracle Limbs-Courage** in Motion benefits from the Frank Rostron Golf Invitational set for Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 24-25, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. For more information, visit miraclelimbs.org. ■

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Keep an eye on the road for traffic cops

Here's where Collier County Sheriff's Office traffic enforcement deputies will be posted the week of Sept. 29-Oct. 3:

Monday, Sept. 29

- Golden Gate Parkway and Collier Boulevard: Red-light running
- Airport-Pulling Road and U.S. 41 East: Aggressive driving
- Estey Avenue at East Naples Middle School: Aggressive driving

Tuesday, Sept. 30

- Old 41 Road and U.S. 41 North: Speeding
- Cougar Drive at Barron Collier High School: Speeding
- Industrial Boulevard and Radio Road: Red-light running

Wednesday, Oct. 1

- Collier and Golden Gate boulevards: Red-light running
- Santa Barbara Boulevard at Calusa Park Elementary: Speeding
- Golden Gate Parkway and Livingston Road: Speeding

Thursday, Oct. 2

- 41st Street S.W. and 23rd Place S.W.: Stop-sign running
- Devonshire Boulevard and Radio Road: Speeding
- Immokalee Road at Gulf Coast High School: Aggressive driving

Friday, Oct. 3

- Vineyards Boulevard at Vineyards Elementary: Speeding
- Vanderbilt Beach and Livingston roads: Speeding
- Immokalee and Airport-Pulling roads: Red-light running ■



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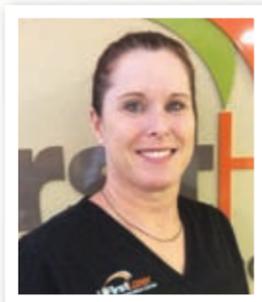
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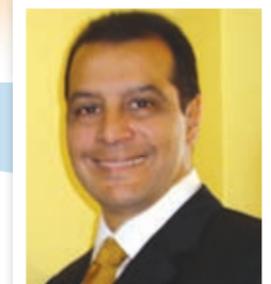
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Meditation will honor Kathy Spalding

Shangri-La Springs will have a group meditation honoring the life of Naples artist Kathy Spalding, who died from cancer at age 62 on Sept. 17, from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1. Ms. Spalding's sculptures are featured in the exhibit "Flight" that closes Oct. 1 at the organic wellness and experiential learning center. All are welcome to join the silent meditation, which will be led by JoAnn Lawrence.

Shangri-La Springs is at 27750 Old 41 Road in Bonita Springs. For more information, call 949-0749 or visit shangrilasprings.com. ■

Planned Parenthood invites texts from curious teens

Planned Parenthood of Collier County has introduced a text-messaging service to provide information about sex, relationships, birth control, sexually transmitted infections and other concerns.

"In Case You're Curious" is a free educational tool that offers quick, confidential answers to personal questions. It's simple to use: Text PPCC to 57890; once a confirmation text is received, questions can be texted anytime with responses promised within 24 hours.

"Being able to provide solid information to teens and others through a channel that's comfortable to them has the potential to prevent teen pregnancies and encourage healthy choices," says Stephanie Marshall, president and



Planned Parenthood of Collier County

CEO of the Collier County affiliate. "We know teenagers are curious about their bodies and share lots of myths and half-truths among themselves. Trained health educators respond to ICYC texts with medically accurate information that is easy to understand."

Planned Parenthood has posted sample ICYC questions and answers on Instagram at instagram.com/incaseyourecurious.

The service is free, but standard mes-

sage and data rates may apply. ICYC cannot provide diagnoses or medical advice, and text messages are never a substitute for seeing a doctor. Planned Parenthood may be obliged to report information about abuse, rape, incest or neglect to appropriate authorities.

An affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Planned Parenthood of Collier County provides preventive health care, including well-women exams, breast and cervical cancer screenings, and HIV and STI testing and treatment at its health centers in Naples and 1425 Creech Road and in Immokalee at 419 N. First St. For more information, call 262-0301 or visit plannedparenthood.org/collier-county. ■



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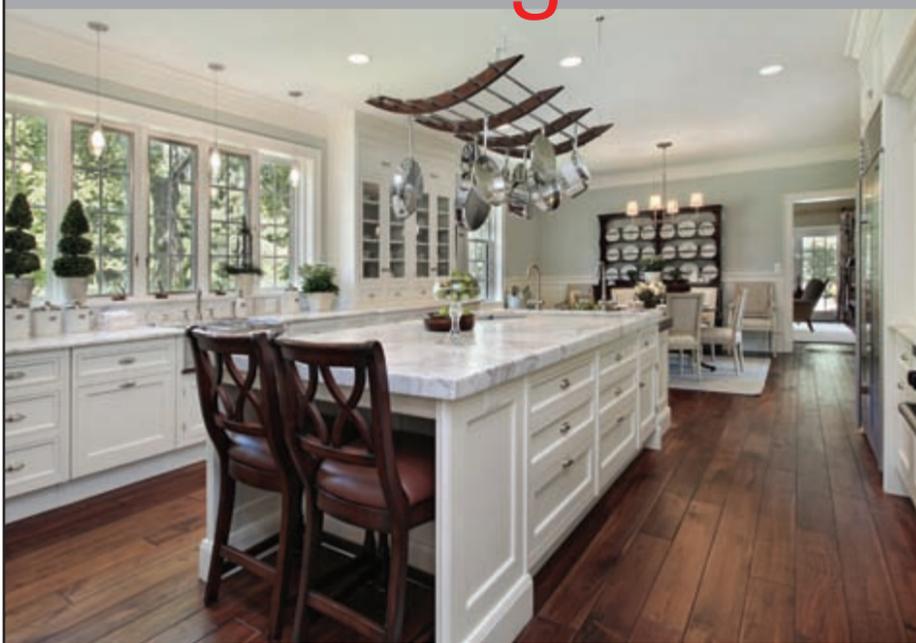
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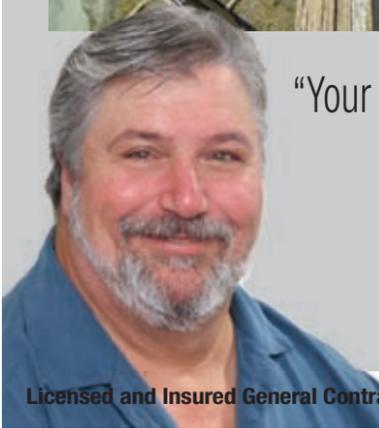
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Presented by: Naples North Rotary Club Foundation

Friday, October 24, 2014

6:00 PM

Registration = \$25

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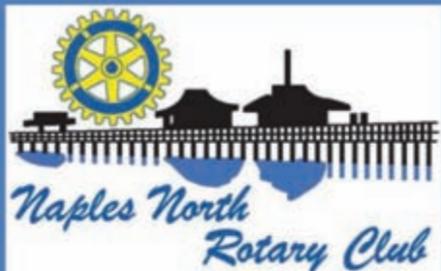
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*Must be at least 21 years of age to consume alcoholic beverages. Registration entitles participants of legal drinking age to 2 beverages. Updated: 8/6/2014 3:53 PM

Partnership formed with goal to reduce drug overdose calls

United by a common goal to reduce local drug overdose calls, the North Naples Fire Control and Rescue District and Drug Free Collier have partnered in a new satellite office at 6495 Taylor Road, inside the NNFD Fire Prevention Bureau.

Drug Free Collier tracks data, identifies trends and develops strategies to reduce teen substance abuse in Collier County. For first responders who are on emergency calls, this information could prove invaluable.

Last year, NNFD responded to 35 drug overdose calls, more than one third of

which involved children. That number is expected to increase based on overdose calls to date within the district.

“Finding common ground is critical to helping us find solutions,” says Melanie Black, Drug Free Collier executive director. “We cannot do this alone and we are extremely grateful for this generous support.”

Fire Chief Orly Stolts says the new partnership aligns with the department mission to provide a healthier and safer community.

For more information, call Drug Free Collier at 377-0535 or NNFD at 597-3222. ■

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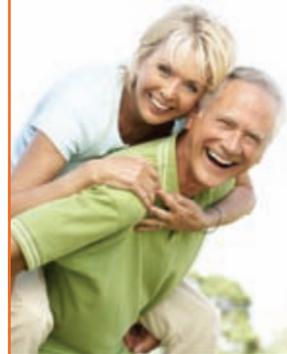
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LEE MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM

"It has affected every one of my collectors ... Netsukes, all the Continental ivories, which are exquisite, are totally worthless right now."

— Kathleen Pica, auctioneer and owner of Auctions Neapolitan in Naples

IVORY

From page 1

complete ban on commercial elephant ivory trade, which has an estimated \$500 million national market.

Why?

Environmentally, the numbers are heartbreaking.

According to the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Africa's elephant population, which once numbered in the millions, has plunged to fewer than 500,000 as poachers kill tens of thousands each year to harvest their tusks to fill an international demand for ivory.

The pachyderms, once hunted for food and sport, were harvested in small numbers, the tusks removed and meat used to feed villages.

Everyone agrees that the elephants need protection.

But antiques dealers across the country say what amounts to a near ban on sales of ivory cripples a key part of their industry.

"The thing it really affected were our Asian works of art sales. That's what it really affected," said Chris Reimann, director of finance for Leslie Hindman Auctioneers of Chicago, which has operations in Naples and Palm Beach. "That was like a flash, like oh, my God, what are we going to do?"

The company's response?

"We said we're not selling any ivory. Some auction houses pulled it, some sold it," he said.

So, if a potential client brings Mr. Reimann a piece of ivory?

"If you were to come in with an ivory carving, we just simply don't take it. The ivory we had in house, we're giving it back to consignors," he said.

Most people understand the need to protect elephants.

"The law is for a great cause," he said. "But the law is just so convoluted, so how do you be in conformance with this law?"

That confusion seems to be industry-wide.



PICA

"It has affected every one of my collectors," said Kathleen Pica, auctioneer and owner of Auctions Neapolitan in Naples. "Netsukes, all the Continental ivories, which are exquisite, are totally worthless right now."

That isn't entirely the case, according to the United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

"I would dispute that claim. I don't think these collections have been turned to worthless," said Craig Hoover, chief of the wildlife trade and conservation branch at the FWS. "I think for the most part auction houses are waiting to see how this shakes out. They're certainly seeking clarity in the documentation."



HOOVER

There was room for interpretation in the announcement, and all is not set in stone yet — there will be opportunities for community input, he said.

"Because we announced the action in February, a lot of people interpreted that as, 'Oh, there is a ban. We would fully enforce the elephant import moratorium put in force in 1989. We have allowed certain activities to continue.'"

The order was revised May 15 so that ivory as part of a musical instrument, a



COURTESY PHOTO

Jewelry slated for the ivory crush.



GAVIN SHIRE / USFWS

Elephants are being slaughtered for ivory and other parts at unprecedented rates.

traveling exhibition, or as part of a household move or inheritance, that had been bought or sold prior to Feb. 25 could be imported or exported. Prior to the revision, the order was more stringent; these items could not have been bought or sold after Feb. 26, 1976 — "a common sense revision," the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service called it, that will allow musicians to import their instrument containing elephant ivory and will allow for the import of museum specimens and certain other items not intended for sale.

There is a complete prohibition on commercial imports, regardless of the age of the item, but "the Endangered Species Act has a provision for antiques," Mr. Hoover said.

And that's where things can get dicey.

"The seller will have to demonstrate that it's antique, just like hawksbill turtle shells," he said. "It's the most complicated part of wildlife law."

Ms. Pica contends it should be easier for dealers and collectors alike.

"There are things that they're not poaching to make these things. They're not reproducible. The requirements that they have are not doable for most people," she said.

That was one change that has impact on the world of antiques.

"We would fully enforce the Endangered Species Act definition of an antique that it had to be 100 years or older,"

Mr. Hoover said. There also is language with requirements for documentation for modification or repair of items since 1973; if the object was imported after 1983, it had to come through a port that allows works created from endangered species.

That involves documenting the original purchase, sometimes decades ago by ancestors long dead.

"You don't think to keep a dated receipt so I can hang onto this for my heirs," Ms. Pica said, adding collectors "often have paid substantial inheritance taxes on these things, too."

Two young bagpipers from New Hampshire made headlines in August when the pipes they had taken for performances in Canada were confiscated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials at a Vermont border crossing.

They dismantled the pipes, leaving only the ivory components with customs officials, The Associated Press reported. It was only after contacting New Hampshire's congressional delegation and gathering more than 3,000 signatures on an online petition that the boys got their pipes back. The kicker: They had to pay \$576 in extra fees because they took the pipes across the border at a "non-designated crossing."

Part of the problem was of the boys' own making, FWS says.

Never mind that one set had been in the family for nearly 80 years.

"An important piece of that particular story is that they chose not to go through a port where they were told they could pass through," Mr. Hoover said, acknowledging that understanding the regulations can be difficult. "There is increasing awareness, not only on the industry side, but also on the enforcement side, certainly with our own people."

Not only is it expensive to go through it per item, but it's not easy.

That's why the Leslie Hindman company took decisive action.

"It's one of those things, I ran into Leslie's office and said, 'What do we do?'" the auction house's Mr. Reimann said. "People literally were previewing three hours before the auction started. We turned the lights out and said we're not selling ivory."

More than \$200,000 of ivory was to be auctioned at that March sale that was canceled in Chicago.

In Palm Beach County, catalogs for companies such as Bruce Kodner Galleries were listing ivory objects for a Sept. 14 sale.

Melanie Hill, whose company, Kofski Antiques of Palm Beach has been in business 75 years, said simply that Kofski had put all of its ivory away pending clarification of what could be sold. Gilbert Guerin of D&G Antiques in West Palm Beach said he asked his dealers to pull ivory objects from the showroom. Why risk being fined and having objects confiscated?

Sonny Kimball of Absolute Antiques in North Palm Beach predicted that the ban would have minimal impact on the prices of costlier items.

"The expensive stuff will always have value, but the lower end and mediocre stuff that has always been hard to sell and doesn't create a market will be harder to sell," he said.

And a middle-class collector — someone who collects \$100 and \$200 items — cannot afford the paperwork and appraisals to have objects authenticated.

So much for cashing in on Grandma's ivory bracelets.

"It has not affected the upper class in a way because they can afford to pay for the documentation for those \$15,000, \$20,000 items," he said.

The unfortunately reality, he said, is that it's easy to make new ivory look centuries old.

Ms. Pica thought otherwise.

“Even if they stain them and they polish them and they do different polychroming techniques, there are still savvy collectors who can know it,” she said.

Regardless, many auction companies are not taking any chances.

“Skinner pulled all their ivory and I know Rago did,” Mr. Reimann said of other auction houses. “If it’s an antique, you can sell it, but are we confident that what we’re selling is over 100 years old? Why jump through hoops?”

That begs a question: Does FWS has agents stationed at antiques shows and auctions?

“Congress gives us all the pieces of legislation and we have to figure out how to apply all of them,” the agency’s Mr. Hoover said.

So there is some discretion.

“Our area of emphasis is on big commercial dealers, especially those who are engaging in illegal activities that are threatening elephants in the wild,” he said, citing a Philadelphia case in which a dealer was smuggling fresh-kill items as old elephant ivory.

Under the rules, sellers of African elephant ivory will need to prove the ivory was legally acquired prior to Feb. 26, 1976 — the date the African elephant was listed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES.

“It is extremely difficult to differentiate legally acquired ivory, such as ivory imported in the 1970s, from ivory derived from elephant poaching,” the FWS notes on its website. “Our criminal investigations and anti-smuggling efforts have shown clearly that legal ivory trade can serve as a cover for illegal trade.”

Trafficking in animal parts like rhino horn and ivory is a multibillion-dollar industry facilitated by some of the world’s most notorious criminal organizations,



KATE MIYAMOTO / USFWS

Confiscated ivory slated for crush.

and the same militant groups that have committed atrocities against humankind also are heavily implicated in poaching, the International Fund for Animal Welfare reports, citing (like the Lord’s Resistance Army in Uganda, al-Shabaab in Somalia and Boko Haram in Nigeria. The bulk of that ivory goes to burgeoning markets in Asia — mostly Thailand and China.

Some dealers contend the ban will increase poaching.

“When you make something completely illegal, you create a larger black market,

you create a larger demand,” said Mr. Kimball, the North Palm Beach dealer. “It may drive the price up.”

Ms. Pica, of Auctions Neapolitan, agreed.

“I’m sure there will be a black market. I mean, they’re not going to stop those people. It’s like every other illegal thing that is traded, taking it out of the public and putting it underground,” she said.

She laments the curbing of the ivory market.

“Pretty much every good estate has

them,” she said. “Ivory canes, ivory components, ivory figurines of all types for many generations, and, poof, their value is gone.”

That’s led to a new trend.

“I’ve seen on eBay that a lot of bone has suddenly come to the market,” she said of unscrupulous dealers marketing their ivory pieces as bone. “But we’re supposed to know better.”

Regardless, she’s steering clear.

“I don’t want to get anything on us or get anything on our consignors.” ■

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HEALTHY LIVING

Mayo affiliation continues to benefit NCH patients

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In celebration of our two-year affiliation with Mayo Clinic and to plan for the future, I made a trip to the Mayo campus in Jacksonville along with my NCH colleagues Chief of Staff Kevin Cooper, Chief Strategy Officer Mike Riley and Dr. David Lamon.

Our visit began with a review of eConsult, where any exclusive NCH medical staff member can obtain a "virtual consultation" with a Mayo specialist, usually without a patient having to travel. A patient's electronic medical records are gathered and transmitted to the appropriate Mayo expert in a process that is helping a growing number of patients with difficult diagnostic or therapeutic problems. Most often, our Mayo colleagues confirm the care we are providing.

Another Internet vehicle, AskMayo-Expert, explains how Mayo approaches various clinical situations. (Think of a map or outline to diagnose or treat an illness.) In July, we had 149 searches on topics ranging from chronic daily headaches to Clostridium difficile to Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. We plan to encourage the use of this knowledge base to all of our clinicians, including nurses, as part of our electronic medical record.

We're also increasing our "culture-sharing" effort with Mayo. Recently, four Mayo physicians shared with the NCH Physician Group their passion for effective communication. Later this month we have invited all of the hospitalists, Emergency Room physicians, anesthesiologists, pathologists and the NCH Physician Group to a Mayo seminar focusing on the added value of collaboration.

Mayo Clinic Care Network now has 30 affiliate health care systems. We are learning from each other and sharing best practices. NCH Chief Nursing Officer Michele Thoman participates with others in similar positions, as do I. Next up, in October, are sessions for chief

SEE WEISS, A29 ►

Survey says adult Floridians concerned about ability to care for aging parents

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

A clear majority of Florida adults are deeply concerned about their ability to help aging parents face the increasing challenges of age-related decline, according to a recent statewide poll commissioned by the Florida Health Care Association and conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research.

The poll was conducted in conjunction with FHCA's 60th anniversary and the association's launch of eldercareflorida.com, a website to assist adults and their aging parents as they explore long-term care options.

"As Florida begins to feel the impact of aging Baby Boomers, it's important we identify the needs and concerns of those who will be responsible for their care," Joe Mitchell, president of FHCA, says.

The Mason-Dixon poll shows clearly that as they consider the potential challenges of aging parents and an aging population, most Floridians are nervous about their ability to help meet parents' needs, apprehensive about the strain those needs might place on their own lives and families, and anxious for Florida to provide enough options as their parents advance in age.

According to the poll:

■ Almost three out of five adults (58 percent) say they are concerned about their ability to care for the physical health of an aging parent.

■ More than two-thirds (67 percent) are concerned about their ability to care for the diminishing mental capabilities of an aging parent.

■ Almost half (48 percent) are concerned that the needs of a parent will place a financial strain in their own lives.

■ More than two-thirds (67 percent) are concerned that their parents' needs will create an emotional strain in their own lives.

■ Only about one-third are very confident of their ability to personally meet the needs of an aging parent, whether that parent remained in his or her own home (33 percent) or moved into the adult child's home (35 percent).

The poll offers insights into the attitudes of the so-called "sandwich" generation, working-age adults who have children of their own but also must help with the care of their own parents. The survey found that more than one in three adult Floridians (36 percent) who have family members in assisted living also have children under the age of 18, creating added stress to deal with two generations that require additional time and care to meet their needs.

The survey results also indicate that an overwhelming majority of Floridians (93 percent) consider it important for Florida to have a strong system of assisted living facilities and skilled nursing facilities (also referred to as nursing homes) to meet the state's growing long-term care demands. Additionally, 71 percent said

they would be very supportive if a parent who needs daily medical and living care makes the decision to live in a skilled nursing or assisted living community.

Florida has the highest median age in the nation, with more than one in five Floridians over the age of 65. This large senior population creates numerous important challenges for the Sunshine State, particularly when coupled with such concerns as a shortage of geriatric specialists; increasing rates of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias; limited transportation options for aging Floridians; and the rise of two-career families leaving no one home to care for needy loved ones.

The new website, eldercareflorida.com, offers details of various care options available to aging Floridians, as well as information for dealing with such issues of aging as memory loss, depression and falls. The site also provides a forum for Floridians to share their experiences with others who may be contemplating the same choices. ■

— *Founded in 1954, FHCA represents more than 500 long-term care facilities in Florida. Its mission is to advance the quality of services, image, professional development and financial stability of its members so as to assist them in continuously improving the quality of care they provide for Florida's growing elder population. For more information about the association, visit fhca.org.*

DLC celebrates National Recovery Month

The David Lawrence Center celebrates the 25th annual National Recovery Month with "Join the Voices for Recovery: Speak Up, Reach Out" Thursday, Sept. 25, at New Hope Community Center, 7676 Davis Blvd. All are welcome.

The program starts at 5 p.m. and will include the presentation of this year's Recovery Month awards to:

■ **The PAWS Assistance Dogs program** - PAWS brings its pups to train with DLC residents before the canines are placed with disabled veterans. The puppies practice healthy socialization and therapy skills while the center's clients experience firsthand the numerous benefits of pet therapy. Participants also learn strategies for behavior modification that can help them as they learn to man-

age their recovery.

■ **Vivian Parziale** - Ms. Parziale is being honored for her leadership in the David Lawrence Center Alumni Association and for her efforts as a recovery community volunteer.

■ **Master Officer Bill Gonsalves** - A 28-year veteran with the Naples Police Department, Mr. Gonsalves has a passion for helping those with a mental health and/or substance abuse diagnosis. He also serves on the board of the National Alliance for Mental Illness.

■ **Gulf Coast Runners** - The runners club partnered with the Young Executives of the David Lawrence Center this year for the Beach Bum 5K Run and for the past five years has given participants in Collier County's drug court program

the opportunity to volunteer at GCR events as part of their community service work.

The Recovery Month awards celebration includes dinner sponsored by St. Matthew's House, the David Lawrence Center Alumni Association and the David Lawrence Center Young Executives. Entertainment will be by students from the Lely High School Drug Free Collier CORE Society. Several local organizations will be on hand with information about their programs and services for those in recovery.

Attendance is free, but donations are appreciated and will be accepted at the event or in advance. For reservations, call 354-1434 or email Emily Naranjo at emilyn@dlcmhc.com. ■

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Multiple Locations for Convenient Care

Group can help adolescents learn how to make positive choices

Registration is open for teens ages 14-18 to enroll in Making Positive Choices, a psycho-educational program offered by the David Lawrence Center for adolescents who are experiencing difficulties making choices that support a healthy lifestyle, whether they're having problems with their peers, disregarding rules or experimenting with substance use.

Participants learn the value of good health and positive decision making as

well as how to recognize risk-taking and substance abuse, improve family communication, build healthy relationships and manage stress, anger and other emotions.

The group meets in eight sessions from 3:30-5 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, starting Oct. 29, at David Lawrence Center's satellite services office at 2806 Horseshoe Drive. Registration is \$62. To sign up or for more information, call 263-4013. ■

Park Royal Hospital holds job fair

Park Royal Behavioral Health Services and Hospital in Fort Myers holds a job fair from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 27. Full- and part-time positions are open for advanced registered nurse practitioners, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified addiction counselors, mental health technicians and certified nursing assistants. Full-time and part-

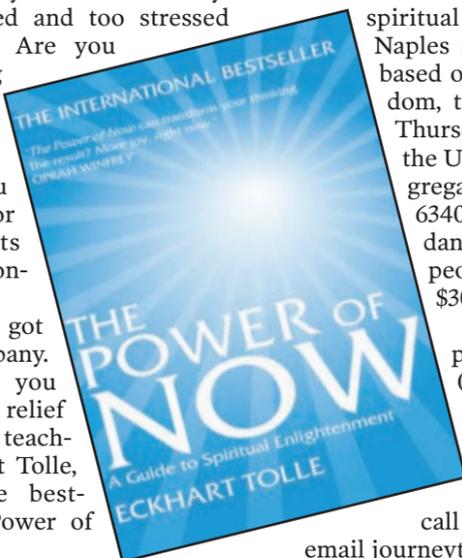
time positions are available.

Interested applicants should bring a resume and can complete an application at the job fair. Qualified candidates will be interviewed on the spot. The hospital is at 9241 Park Royal Drive near Health-Park off Summerlin Road in south Fort Myers. Those who cannot attend can email their resume to jobs@parkroyal-hospital.com. ■

Sessions based on teachings of Eckhart Tolle begin Oct. 16

Do you find yourself constantly distracted, frazzled and too stressed to enjoy life? Are you squandering the present moment worrying about past events you cannot undo or future events beyond your control?

If so, you've got a lot of company. And perhaps you can find some relief in the spiritual teachings of Eckhart Tolle, author of the best-selling "The Power of Now."



"Guided to Presence," a six-week spiritual intensive facilitated by Naples resident Linda Allen and based on Mr. Tolle's ancient wisdom, takes place from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 16-Nov. 20, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples, 6340 Napa Woods Way. Attendance is limited to the first 40 people who sign up. Cost is \$30 for the series.

Send a check made payable to Donna Carty (include your name, phone number and email address) to 1725 Supreme Court, Naples 34110. For more information, call Ms. Carty at 784-7734 or email journeytopresence@gmail.com. ■

WEISS

From page 28

medical officers and chief operating officers. In addition, Mayo Jacksonville has just been awarded the first Comprehensive Stroke Program for Florida from the Joint Commission. We look forward to a program with Mayo about standardizing care to improve outcomes for all victims of stroke. Robin McCarl-Galbavy, our director of surgical nursing, and neurointerventional radiologist Mazen AbuAwad will represent NCH at that program.

Finally, we are exploring cooperation on graduate medical education assis-

tance and also the possibility of having senior Mayo surgical residents rotating with NCH Physician Group surgeons. Our Mayo affiliation is strong and growing. The more we can do together, the better we will all be able to help our patients live longer, happier and healthier lives.

In a recent Straight Talk, I incorrectly said NCH was the only system in Collier and Lee counties to be accredited by the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care for chest pain with percutaneous intervention. While NCH is the only system in Collier County to be so recognized, Lee Memorial Health System's Health-Park Medical Center in Lee County is also accredited. ■

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

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PET TALES

Keep 'em home

Shelters come up with creative solutions to help pets who might otherwise be given up

BY KIM CAMPBELL THORNTON
Universal Uclick

The woman's dog lived outdoors at the end of a chain, with only a doghouse for shelter. He had some serious medical issues. Neighbors complained to the city that the dog was neglected. When officers responded, they confiscated the dog and gave the owner citations totaling more than \$800. But the officers took an extra step. They called the Jacksonville Humane Society in Florida to ask if the shelter would work with the owner, saying, "We think she really loves this dog; she just doesn't have the resources."

Their instincts were right on, says JHS Executive Director Denise Deisler. "The woman dearly loved her dog, but she'd never received any information about what might be proper care for a dog and why he might be better off in the house than in the backyard."

The owner agreed to work with JHS, which provided the dog's medical treatment, and all charges and fines were dropped. They provided the owner with a crate and a bed and bowls, and she moved the dog into her house.

"This woman now has a more appropriate relationship with her dog; the dog is now healthy, and he's not sitting in a shelter," Ms. Deisler says. "A dog who's been in a backyard his whole life is not typically the first dog who gets adopted."

Imagine if your local shelter could keep up to half of the pets brought to them in



When animal shelters can help pets stay with their families, as more organizations are attempting to do, everybody wins.

their current homes. Jacksonville is just one place where that's happening. Ms. Deisler and shelter executives like her are passionate about retention: keeping pets in homes by removing barriers that might otherwise land them in the shelter. Instead of just accepting pets brought in for surrender, they offer practical assistance and advice.

Take medical care. Many people surrender animals because they can't afford needed veterinary care.

"We have incredible luck with keeping animals out of the shelter by offering medical care," Ms. Deisler says. "My stance is that if they surrender to a shelter, we're going to end up paying for medical care anyway. Why not pay for it and let them go back home?"

Other retention efforts include boarding dogs for people who are temporarily homeless or are seeking crisis shelter for

domestic violence. They're able to offer that service by partnering with a local boarding facility and exchanging publicity for its boarding services. They may pay the pet deposit on rental housing if lack of it is the only thing preventing a person from keeping a pet.

The Humane Society of Boulder Valley in Colorado is one of a number of shelters that offer training classes and behavior advice to people whose relationship with a pet is faltering because of behavioral issues. Its full-service veterinary clinic has a subsidized program for people whose income might not permit them to afford treatment for a pet. Some shelters have low-cost or free spay/neuter programs or pet-food pantries to help out people who may have lost a job and are struggling to feed a pet.

"If finances are an issue, then we have some opportunities to ensure that that relationship can stay intact," says BVHS CEO Lisa Pedersen.

All of those programs help to keep pets in homes when behavior problems or finances might otherwise dictate that they be given up to the shelter. The goal is to work with individuals to find an answer to whatever challenges they might be facing with their pets.

"For us, it's almost anything goes," Ms. Deisler says. "If you really love your pet and want to keep your pet, we will do whatever we need to do to keep that pet with the people who love him. We're not judgmental." ■

Pets of the Week



>> **Bangor** is a neutered 3-year-old Siamese/domestic shorthair mix who has a loving temperament and beautiful blue eyes.



>> **Hop-Along Cassidy** is a sweet little neutered, 5-year-old Brussels Griffon/Shih Tzu mix who gets along just fine, even though it's missing a back leg.



>> **Meeshu** is a declawed and neutered 4-year-old tabby who has a great personality.



>> **Pretty Paisley** is a happy 4-year-old fox terrier mix. She's spayed and she loves to go on walks.

To adopt or foster a pet

This week's adoptable pets are from **Brooke's Legacy Animal Rescue**, an all-volunteer, foster home rescue organization. For more information, call 434-7480, email Admin@BrookesLegacyAnimalRescue.org or visit brookeslegacyanimalrescue.com.

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Wishing it really felt like fall? Just fake it



STEPHANIE DAVIS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

A typical fall scene in Southwest Florida, taken in September 2013.

Due to the fact that I'm still (mostly) housebound, recovering from knee surgery, instead of being out and about, my world is relegated to what I see online and watch on TV — and this could get a girl confused about seasons. Regardless of advertisements on television or pictures on Facebook showing trees with orange and red leaves, however, I refuse to fall victim to the Southwest Florida fantasy that it's actually fall. It's hard not to fall for "fall" — it's everywhere — but don't be fooled; as a friend reminded me recently, it's "NOTumn" (decidedly not autumn).

Don't get me wrong. NOTumn is a sort of a season around these parts — but it isn't fall, or anything even resembling it. It's that time from the start of September until the last day of hurricane season (Nov. 1) when, while folks in most of the rest of the United States transition from summer to winter by donning sweaters, raking leaves and decorating their porches in oranges, golds, and umbers, we immerse ourselves in pumpkin-flavored products in an effort to convince ourselves that we are one with the rest of the country. We try not to notice that it's still very hot and insanely humid. We tell ourselves

that there's a BIG DIFFERENCE in the heat since August (when really, two to three degrees isn't much of a difference, especially when heat stroke remains a very real worry).

It's still uncomfortably hot. The AC continues to blow full blast, and our hair still looks bad. That's why the tourists and the snowbirds aren't here yet — they're enjoying actual fall in real life.

But again, the TV tells me fall has arrived (despite the fact that when I walk any distance outside, I can feel the sweat trickling down my back).

I'm reminded that Dairy Queen now has the Pumpkin Pie Blizzard for FALL! Steak and Shake has the FALL favorite: Caramel Apple Milkshake! The people

who make Peeps don't care that it's not Easter; they're ready for FALL with Pumpkin Peeps! And, of course, that purveyor of all things pumpkin and Fall, Starbucks celebrates NOTumn earlier and earlier every year. I wouldn't be surprised if, next year, they just chucked all sense of seasons and brought back the Pumpkin Spice Latte in June. And why not? For a season not known for gift-giving, it seems Fall is majorly marketable, because when it comes to anything pumpkinized we grab our wallets with glee.

Perhaps, at least for those of us in the subtropics, it's because we're hoping to make our fall less faux.

I call it Fake It 'Til You Make It fall.

So drink your Shock Top Pumpkin Beer while a couple of Pumpkin Oreos (they debut in stores this week) before lighting your Spiced Pumpkin Yankee Candle and slipping into a tub filled with Pumpkin Cupcake Bubble Bath. And if you regularly post inspirational quotes along the lines of "My Favorite Color is Autumn" and eat enough Publix Pumpkin Pie Limited Edition Ice Cream (which, by the way, is DELICIOUS), it won't matter that it's 89 degrees outside and smells not like caramel apples, but more like wet dog.

I finally ventured out to a festive event the other night when it was especially hot and humid, and ran into one of my most fashionable girlfriends who looked fabulous in jeans and boots. Meanwhile, I was fanning myself and considering escaping to the ladies room to remove my bra for some relief. I complimented my friend on looking lovely and added (referring to her boots), "You want it to be fall, but it's not — you can't fake fall here."

I guess I'm getting testy. That's what five months of heat will do to a person. Maybe I should give up trying to live in the here and now faux fall and go get an organic pumpkin facial, paint my nails orange and buy a pair of Uggs and some stock in Starbucks. After all, 'tis the season ... ■

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

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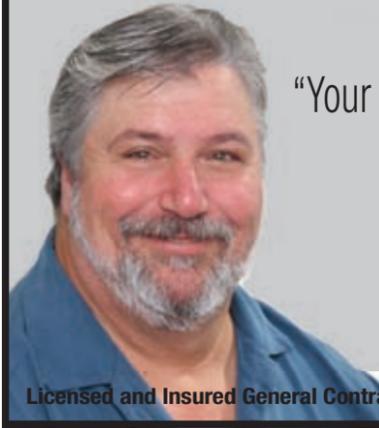
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BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE

WEEK OF SEPT. 25-OCT. 1, 2014

A GUIDE TO THE LOCAL BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE INDUSTRIES

“Without question, small business makes the world go round, in my opinion ... it’s who you see at the ballfield; it’s who you see in your communities wherever you go and it’s hard-working people.”

— **David Call**, Fifth Third Bank (South Florida) regional president and CEO



CRA program encourages entrepreneurs to step out

BY EVAN WILLIAMS

ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

What a difference \$150,000 makes. For Monique and Robert Wensch, two young chiropractors from Lehigh Acres, being able to acquire that money meant the difference between pursuing their dream of running their own practice or not. A married couple both in their mid 30s, they welcomed their first clients to Peak Performance Chiropractic after being approved for a small business loan last year.

They weren’t the only ones to get a



boost from lending institutions recently. Banks loaned more money to community businesses in 2013 than they have since 2009. Retail and service-oriented businesses like mom-and-pop shops, neighborhood dry cleaners or burgeoning law practices — officially defined by the federal government as those that gross \$1 million or less per year — are receiving more money as a

EVAN WILLIAMS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Monique and Robert Wensch opened Peak Performance Chiropractic in Lehigh Acres in July after being approved for a \$150,000 loan.

SEE APPROVED, B3 ▶

INSIDE



Leadership Collier kickoff

Welcoming the class of 2015, and more Networking photos. **B6-7** ▶



On the Move

Who’s going where, doing what on the local business scene. **B5** ▶



House Hunting

A Cape Marco condo for a cool \$1.6 million. **B8** ▶

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MONEY & INVESTING

Know your demographic trends when investing



of property values in Pennsylvania and North Dakota (where fracking has bid up farm/ranch land values). Like technology, invention birthed new resource trends that were not knowable 20 years ago, the days when “peak oil” was the resource theme.

Another notable trend is demographics, the quantifiable statistical description of a population. But unlike technology and resource discovery/scarcity, demography has knowable future trends; the very nature of birthing and aging makes demography predictable and allows projections of a population’s behaviors well into the future in a country and within a region of that country. Demography is not concerned about trends in behavior of individuals. It focuses on trends in behavior of groups of people and makes generalizations about that behavior (e.g., the group behavior of 80-year-olds is sedentary even though some 80-year-old individuals participate in triathalons).

Changing trends in population can be a basis for investing. For instance, older people need more hospital care, medicines, retirement facilities; they migrate to warmer climates; they generally seek more income-producing investments than growth/capital gains investments; etc.

Yes, demographics can change but low fertility levels are a death knell to a country. For example, while China has recently reversed its one-child policy, it is questionable whether it will do any

demographic good. “Fertility trends have the turning radius of a battleship, not a go-kart. And the further fertility drops, the more unbendable the downward trend becomes. It is difficult to change direction from a (fertility) rate of 1.75. Below a sustained rate of 1.50, there are no examples of a country returning to replacement level,” said Jonathan Last in his book “What to expect when no one is expecting.” China has a fertility rate of 1.55, “even lower in urban areas. It’s an extremely low 0.7 percent in Shanghai. Continuing urbanization will continue to push down the overall fertility rate.” (The American Enterprise Institute, Nov. 15, 2013, “Why China’s one-child policy reversal comes too late to boost its economy.”)

World demographics are summarized in a recent Pew Research Center’s study, “10 Projections for the Global population in 2050”

- “The number of people 65 and older is projected to triple by mid-century, from 531 million in 2010 to 1.5 billion in 2050. In the U.S., the population of seniors is expected to slightly more than double, from 41 to 86 million.

- By 2050, the majority of people in Japan, South Korea and Germany is expected to be older than 50.

- Africa’s population is projected to increase the most and make up a greater share of the global population by 2050.

- India’s population is expected to

increase by 400 million by 2050. Its projected population of 1.6 billion will be almost equal to the populations of the U.S. and China combined. China is projected to add only 25 million residents.

- The populations of Japan, Russia and Germany are expected to decrease by more than 10 percent by 2050. For Japan, this means a loss of 19 million residents; for Russia, 23 million; and for Germany, 10 million.”

Now what to do investment-wise with these projections? It’s hard to envision long-term bright futures for several countries (Japan, Russia, German, China, South Korea). It’s hard to see how drug stores, hospitals, elective surgeries (such as joint replacement) in the U.S. will not continue to grow. It’s hard to see how real estate will not escalate in warmer climates. Remember that demographics is a slowly ticking clock but it surely is ticking.

A future column will cover Florida’s projected demographics as the expected growth in the population over 65 is staggering. Florida’s aging population is accentuated by the migration of aging northerners to this warmer climate. ■

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

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APPROVED

From page 1

result of the Community Reinvestment Act.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, a business that makes \$7 million or less could qualify as “small” for loan purposes. CRA loans are special, created in an effort to promote lending to the smallest of small businesses. The CRA requires most banks (those valued at \$1.186 billion or more) to report loans to businesses that make \$1 million or less.

In Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties combined, banks in 2013 loaned \$283.5 million to folks in that category, the most current report based on CRA data shows. That’s close to 19 percent, or \$44.3 million more than the year before. There has been an uptick each year since 2009, when the CRA-reported loans hit a low point, after soaring to pre-recession highs in 2006 and 2007 — in some cases more than twice the value being loaned now.

Banks have seen and helped push the trend upward on into 2014. As of the end of August, all commercial loans at Fifth Third Bank (South Florida) are

up 15 percent over the last year, said David Call, its regional president and CEO. He attributes that to the bank’s own “primary focus” on small business growth throughout the state in the last year, rising consumer confidence, and



CALL

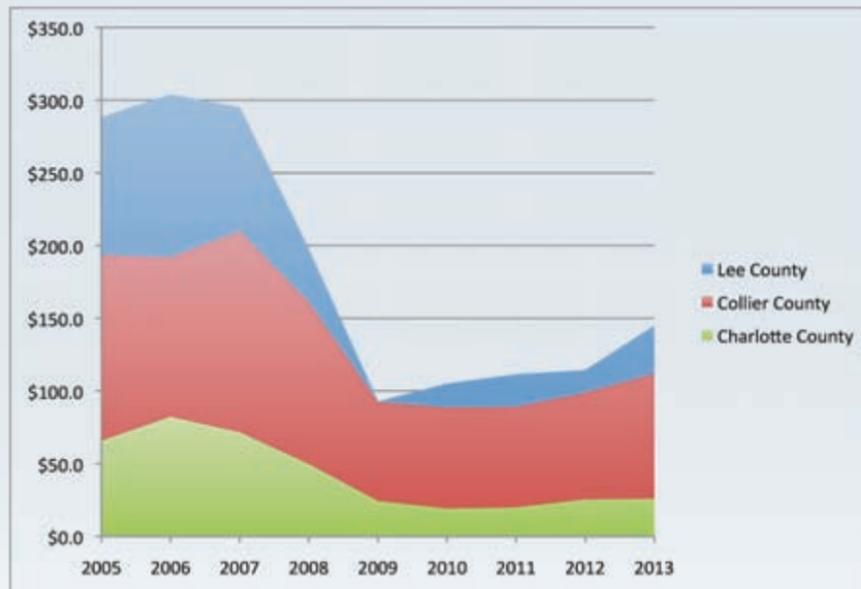
home values stabilizing.

“Without question, small business makes the world go round, in my opinion,” Mr. Call said. “The big corporate business we do is great — we like that as well — but small business, it’s who you see at the ballfield; it’s who you see in your communities wherever you go and it’s hard-working people.”

The rising number and dollar value of loans in part reflects “refinancing loans,” owners looking to lock in lower rates on old loans in anticipation of a federal interest rate increase, said Lori Buhs, a Collier County-based business banker with IBERIABANK who approves loans of anywhere from \$50,000 to \$2 million.

But more recently, business owners are borrowing for growth and expansion, she added, “a lot of it related to the housing and construction industry in Southwest Florida. So we’ve certainly seen an uptick in those types of loans...”

Small business commercial lending (millions)



EVAN WILLIAMS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Robert and Monique Wensch spent months putting together a business plan and filing paperwork before they were approved for a loan that allowed them to open their business.

“They’ve weathered the storm personally and professionally and starting to need to borrow again because they are growing.”



GORDLEY

Banks have devoted employees of their own to handle lending as the demand increased in recent years. IBERIA launched a small-business banking unit 2½ years ago that

included hiring Ms. Buhs, said David Gordley, market president for Southwest Florida.

“IBERIABANK I think understands the fact that we only do as well the community does,” he said. “If you have small businesses that are creating jobs and helping to drive the local economy it’s important to the community that those folks have the opportunity and the capital to thrive.”

Thriving may mean creating jobs such as a paralegal or dental assistant or in the case of the Wensches’ practice

in the know

Loans for small, community businesses: those with a gross annual revenue of \$1 million or less

Based on the dollar amount of the loans, that is about 37 percent of all loans in the United States that banks were required to report through the Community Reinvestment Act in 2013, the latest year for which numbers are available.

Collier County

- >> 2005 5,775 loans; \$193.4 million
- >> 2006 6,897 loans; \$191.9 million
- >> 2007 7,916 loans; \$209.7 million
- >> 2008 4,151 loans; \$160.9 million
- >> 2009 1,524 loans; \$92.4 million
- >> 2010 1,672 loans; \$88.6 million
- >> 2011 2,937 loans; \$89 million
- >> 2012 3,435 loans; \$98.7 million
- >> 2013 4,198 loans; \$111.8 million
- >> Change: \$13.1 million or 13.28 percent

Top 5 lenders by dollar amount, 2013

- >> Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. 400 loans; \$13.9 million
- >> American Express, FSB, 1,751 loans; \$12.8 million
- >> First Citizens Bank & Trust Co., 60 loans; \$11.6 million
- >> Regions Bank, 11 loans; \$7.5 million
- >> Fifth Third Bank, Ohio 161 loans; \$6.3 million

in Lehigh, a full-time receptionist.

Steps to a loan

Getting a loan is not necessarily easy. The process took more than six months for the Wensches, even with guidance from the Small Business Development Center at Florida Gulf Coast University. The SBDC helped the couple devise a business plan with realistic financial projections and the number of patients needed to offset start-up costs.

A detailed, comprehensive plan is the most common thing loan applicants need to work on, said Mr. Call of Fifth Third Bank (South Florida). “They’re working hard and their business plan is usually in their mind rather than thought out in a big way.”

The Wensches’ student loan debt also made getting a loan more difficult as well. They were initially turned down until an advisor with the SBDC helped explain their business plan to the underwriter at Celtic Bank, who then approved it. They also spent \$45,000 of their own money to build out their office space, since the loan would not cover that. It stills looks and smells brand new.

After they finally received the money in June, they used it to purchase equipment such as an x-ray machine, just in time to open in July. ■

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Scary Stats

Tax and retirement statistics in America are rarely cheery. For starters, in WalletHub's 2014 Tax Fairness survey, more than 80 percent of respondents found the current U.S. tax code "complex" or "extremely complex."

They're right. The National Taxpayer Advocate's 2012 report to Congress pointed out that the tax code approached 4 million words, with about 4,680 changes made to it since 2001. The thought of preparing a tax return is daunting to many, and as of 2012, 59 percent of taxpayers paid professionals to prepare their returns.

Meanwhile, according to the Federal Reserve's Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2013, "Thirty-one percent of non-retired respondents reported having no retirement savings or pension," while 25 percent had done no retirement planning at all. Of those who have planned, 25 percent didn't know how they will pay their expenses in retirement.

That's scary stuff. One way many can help pay for retirement is through tax-advantaged plans at work, such as 401(k)s. But a recent Bureau of Labor

Statistics survey found that only 65 percent of employees in private industry had access to retirement plans at work, and of those, only 75 percent used them.

Worse still, per a Plan Sponsor Council of America study, the average employee contribution to 401(k)s and profit-sharing plans in 2012 was 6.8 percent. That's a lot better than nothing, but for many folks it won't be enough to live well off in retirement. (You can contribute more than \$17,000 to a 401(k) in 2014, and \$5,500 to an IRA — plus an extra \$1,000 for those 50 and up.)

Meanwhile, many taxpayers don't know whether a tax deduction or tax credit is more valuable. A deduction permits you to reduce your taxable income so that you pay less in taxes. A credit, meanwhile, reduces your tax bill dollar-for-dollar. A \$1,000 credit lops a full \$1,000 off your tax bill.

Become savvier — and probably richer — by visiting our Tax Center at taxes.fool.com. Visit fool.com/retirement, too, for more guidance. ■

My Dumbest Investment

Contrary Thinking

My dumbest investment? Investing all of my 403(b) retirement-plan contributions, along with my employer's matching dollars, in an S&P 500 index fund from day one of full-time employment. It was literally a no-brainer, so that's "dumb" in the ironic sense.

My "best" investment was investing in a company named Enron. You may have heard of it. I lost a mere 99.9 percent of my money on that one. But I learned a very valuable lesson in hubris and the value of diversification, so it was actually a very good thing when all was said and done.

— Mike, Ann Arbor, Mich.

The Fool Responds: That's great thinking. Many smart people with seemingly smart investing strategies underperform the overall stock market, while anyone can easily earn the market's return via simple broad-market index funds.

You're right about Enron, too, as some of our best lessons are learned the hard way. Interestingly, and sadly, a lot of Enron employees lost most of their savings because they'd invested their retirement-plan money in company stock. That's putting too many eggs in one basket. The S&P 500 offers diversification, encompassing 500 companies. ■



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](mailto:TheMotleyFool@fool.com) c/o My Dumbest Investment. Got one that worked? Submit to My Smartest Investment. If we print yours, you'll win a Fool's cap!

Last week's trivia answer

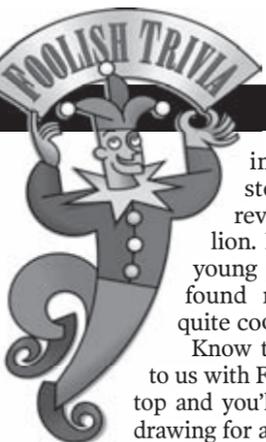
I trace my roots back to 1918, when a 22-year-old started renting out a dozen Model T Fords in Chicago. Today I'm one of the world's largest car-rental companies, with more than 10,000 locations in the U.S. and about 150 nations. I was bought by General Motors in 1926 and have been owned by RCA and Ford. In the 1950s, I expanded into Europe and was sold to another company, getting my current name. I own the Thrifty, Dollar and Firefly brands, and the vehicle leasing and fleet management leader Donlen Corp., too. Who am I? (Answer: Hertz) ■



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.

Name That Company

I came to life in 1962 in Scranton, Pennsylvania, as the Thrift D Discount Center. I took my current name in 1968 and am now a top U.S. drugstore chain, with more than 4,500 locations in 31 states. I bought the Brooks and Eckerd drugstore chains in 2007, making me the largest drugstore chain on the East Coast. I have had a long-running partnership with GNC and house its "stores-within-stores." I've redesigned many locations



into "Wellness" stores. My annual revenue tops \$25 billion. In the 1980s, many young people might have found my ticker symbol quite cool. 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

Ford Has More Fuel in the Tank

Ford Motor Co. (NYSE: F) is firing on lots of cylinders, with a dramatic turnaround in North America pushing the stock up nearly tenfold from its early 2009 lows.

It has plenty of short-term business catalysts: a slew of new vehicle launches in its money-driving North American market, significantly lower debt and pension obligations, Europe's economic recovery, and potential dividend increases. Over the longer term, it can also benefit substantially from international expansion and a turnaround for its Lincoln brand.

Sales in India are modest, but they recently grew by 27 percent, year over year. Ford is surging in the world's largest automotive market, China, too, with

sales through July rising 33 percent year over year and 15 new models debuting by the end of next year. Ford expects its Asia-Pacific region to account for nearly 40 percent of company revenues by the end of the decade — compared to under 10 percent today — and it's investing billions to expand there.

Meanwhile, Europe recently delivered a profit after losing billions in the past few years, and Ford plans to introduce 25 new models there in the next five years.

Ford is a stable, well-run company with a strong balance sheet, competitive products and big opportunities to increase profits overseas. It recently yielded 2.9 percent. (The Motley Fool has recommended Ford and owns shares of it.) ■

BUSINESS MEETINGS

■ The **Collier Building Industry Association** hosts the 2014 Sand Dollar Awards dinner and celebration Saturday, Sept. 27, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. For more information, call 436-6100 or visit cbia.net.

■ The **Council for Hispanic Business Professionals** holds its sixth annual Latin Night gala Saturday, Sept. 27, at Wyndemere Country Club. This year's beneficiary is Grace Place for Children & Families. Tickets for \$75 are available at chbpnaples.org.

■ The **Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce** hosts a speed networking event from 7:30-9 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, at the Marco Island Historical Museum. \$5 at the door. Attendance is

limited to the first 30 chamber members who make reservations by calling 394-7549 or emailing donna@marcoislandchamber.org.

■ The **Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce** holds its next Wake Up Naples for members and guests from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, at the Hilton Naples. \$20 for members, \$25 for others. Sign up at napleschamber.org/events.

■ The **Leadership Collier Alumni Association** hosts "Naples Works! Opportunity Happens!" with Dudley Goodlette, Michael Wynn and County Commissioner Georgia Hiller from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, at the Professional Development Center, 615 Third Ave. S. Leadership Collier alumni

and those interested in learning about leadership programs are welcome. \$15 for alumni, \$20 for others. Sign up by Oct. 1 at napleschamber.org/events.

■ 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 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 **Above Board Chamber** meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13, at the Hilton Naples. \$25 for members, \$30 for others in advance; \$28 and \$33 at the door. Registration required at aboveboardchamber.com.

■ The **Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce** holds its next Business After Five networking event from 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15, at Erin's Isle at Hibiscus Golf Club. \$5 for chamber members, \$10 for others. For more information, call 394-7549 or visit marcoislandchamber.org. ■

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

ON THE MOVE

Awards & Recognition

The Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce was named Chamber of Commerce of the Year at the Florida Association of Chamber Professionals during the association's recent annual meeting. Christine Ross, president and CEO of the chamber, was named Executive of the Year.

Board Appointments

Todd Gates has been elected to the Disabled Veterans Insurance Careers operating board. A resident of Southwest Florida since 1984, Mr. Gates was the subcontractor project management for The Ritz-Carlton Naples, The Registry Resort (now the Waldorf Astoria Naples) and The Philharmonic Center of the Arts (now Artis—Naples). In 1993 he founded GATES, which specializes in construction management, general contracting and design build with offices in Florida and Panama.



GATES

Prentiss Higgins and John Passidomo have joined the board of directors at Jewish Family & Community Services. Mr. Higgins retired as the chairman and CEO of Phytochem Technologies, and brings more than three decades of visionary business research and development experience to JFCS. He graduated from Milton Academy in Milton, Mass., and from Harvard University before earning an MBA from Amos Tuck School of Business Administration. Mr. Passidomo has practiced law in Collier County since 1979. Board certified as a specialist in real estate law, he is a former president of the Collier County Bar Association. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Boston College and his law degree from Stetson University College of Law.



HIGGINS



PASSIDOMO

Attorney Laird Lile has been appointed by Gov. Rick Scott to the Second District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission for a term ending in July 2018. An elected member of the Board

of Governors for The Florida Bar, Mr. Lile is past chair of the bar's 9,000-member Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section. He was appointed by the chief justice to a second three-year term on the Supreme Court's Florida Courts Technology Commission, which is overseeing the technological overhaul of the state's courts.



LILE

Catering

Melanie Seibold has joined SMH Catering, a social enterprise of St. Matthew's House, as marketing manager. Ms. Seibold has more than two decades of experience in marketing, sales, event planning and catering management. Her career highlights include owning and managing two catering operations, as well as most recently working at Whole Foods Market in Naples as a catering specialist. In her new position, she will help build relationships with businesses, organizations and individuals to increase exposure of SMH Catering and the mission of St. Matthew's House throughout Southwest Florida.



SEIBOLD

Health Care

Bhavin Patel, D.O., has joined the staff of Lee Memorial Health System's Lee Physician Group-Cardiology. Dr. Patel earned his medical degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed an internal medicine internship and residency at Drexel University College of Medicine in Hahnemann, Pa. He also completed a cardiovascular disease fellowship at Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Brown Mills, N.J. He is board certified in internal medicine by the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine. He is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the American College of Cardiology, the American Society of Echocardiography, the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology and The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions.



PATEL

Dr. Patel will see patients in Fort Myers and Bonita Springs.

Dr. Emily Williams has joined the David Lawrence Center as part-time staff psychiatrist in children's medical services. Dr. Williams is board certified in general psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Davidson College in Davidson, N.C., a master's of public health degree from the University of Texas School of Public Health and a doctorate from Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, N.C. She completed her child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship as well as her general psychiatry residency at Palmetto Health and University of South Carolina, where she was named Resident of the Year. She is a member of the Florida Medical Association, the American Academy of Children Adolescent Psychiatry and the American Psychiatric Association.



WILLIAMS

Higher Education

Paul Bova has been named senior director of development for the Florida South-Western State College Foundation. He previously worked as principal gifts officer for Norwich University in Northfield, Vt. He earned a bachelor's degree from Norwich University.



BOVA

Media

Sydney Monahan has joined ITZ Studios in Naples as an associate producer responsible for production and casting on all ITZ projects in addition to signing and booking new studio clients. Ms. Monahan has worked at Sirius XM on "The Opie and Anthony Show" in New York City. In Southwest Florida, she has worked at the former 99X radio station as well as at KROCK, The Link and 93X.



MONAHAN

Nonprofit Organizations

Robin Goldstone Garcia has joined Lighthouse of Collier Center for Blindness and Vision Loss as executive director. Ms. Garcia has previously worked in the software industry and as a financial advisor. She graduated from the State University of New York College at Oswego with a double major in business administration and psychology.



GOLDSTONE GARCIA

Travel

Direct Travel Inc. has acquired Hurley Travel Experts of Portland, Me., and Naples. ■

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(Ref #002090)

FOR SALE - 9,836 SF retail center on .42± acres. High visibility location on Fowler St., close to Downtown Ft Myers. Multi tenants. Zoned C-1, City water & sewer. \$289,900



(Ref #002148)

FOR SALE - 12 unit efficiency motel on Palm Beach Blvd. 3,376± SF, full median cut, includes commercial lot in rear. Units have small fridge/microwave. \$299,000



(Ref #002308)

FOR SALE - 22,000± SF commercial bldg. on 2.55 acs in N. Ft. Myers. 110'x200' clear span, ten 5-ton AC units, 16' eaves. Plenty of parking, ideal for church. \$1.5M



(Ref #002321)

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NETWORKING

Bonita chamber networking lunch at Carrabba's Italian Grill



Michelle Spitzer, Dr. Richard Gilbert and Rob Sowers



Kelley Denny, Connie Troop and Zuleila Lugo



Megan Goulette, Alan Gaunt and Lacy Gilbert

COURTESY PHOTOS

Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt hosts Bonita chamber at new office



Alan Gaunt and Scott Duval



Bob DiPesa, Edye Button, George Ghanem and Rose Ghanem



Joel Whittenhall, Arden McCurdy and G. Donald Thomson, Esq.



Pam Fultz and Richard Mancini



Christine Ross and Nancy Near

COURTESY PHOTOS

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

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NETWORKING

Kicking off the 2015 class of Leadership Collier



Emily Budd and Melissa Blazier



Jennifer Novakovich and Paul Drucker



Judson White, Allison Lyburner, Ann White and John White



Louise Stewart and Suzanne Kappert



Michael Giusto and Marsette Giusto



Mike Timmerman, Russell Burland and Katy Esquivel



Allison Christensen, Soren Christensen and Anne Frazier



Deb Scott, Rochelle Jackson and Tracey Scott



Orly Stolts and Paul Garrah



Dr. Debi Strand, Sean Lux and Sue Huff



John Cox and Barbara Berry

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TIM GIBBONS / FLORIDA WEEKLY



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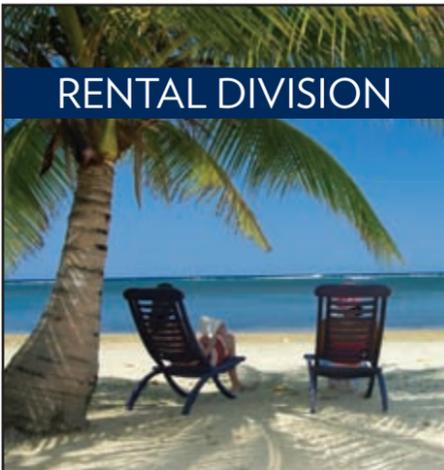
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REAL ESTATE

WEEK OF SEPT. 25-OCT. 1, 2014

A GUIDE TO THE LOCAL REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY

B8



RENTAL DIVISION

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NAPLES

Quail Run | Verandas

2BR/2BA 1st floor renovated residence.
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Cypress Glen Village

3BR/2.5BA townhouse with carpet and wood
flooring. Unfurnished. \$1,500

Heron Point

3BR/2.5BA + den home with open, airy feeling.
Unfurnished. \$3,000

Pelican Isle | Residences

3BR/3BA 9th floor condominium with view of
Gulf and Bay. Unfurnished. \$4,000

Old Naples

2BR/1BA guest house with great floor plan. Walk
to beach and shopping. Unfurnished. \$3,500

Fiddler's Creek

3BR/3.5BA beautifully furnished home with
membership available. Furnished. \$6,500

FORT MYERS, ESTERO & BONITA SPRINGS

Shadow Wood Preserve | Bay Woods

2BR/2BA + den residence with upgrades galore
and over 1,900 sq ft. Unfurnished. \$1,400

Coconut Point | Rapallo

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upgrades and great amenities.
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Bonita Bay | Vistas

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House Hunting:



COURTESY PHOTOS

930 Cape Marco Marco Island

Luxury condominium residences like this one with direct beach views in Tampico in Cape Marco rarely come on the market. This unit has three bedrooms and three full baths in 2,700 square feet of living space. There is deeded parking for two cars under the building. Residents and their guests have a private boardwalk to the beach and can also enjoy Cape Marco's fitness center, tennis courts and sauna.

Realtor Tom Walsh of Engel & Völkers has the listing for \$1.6 million. For more information, call 250-9386 or email senwalsh@gmail.com. ■

— Send your listings and high-resolution photos to househunting@floridaweekly.com.

By the numbers: NABOR report shows inventory down

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

"We can't sell what's not there." That was the reaction from several brokers as they studied the newest numbers from the Naples Area Board of Realtors, which tracks home listings and sales within Collier County (excluding Marco Island).

The August report indicated overall inventory dropped 20 percent in the \$300,000 and below price category this year compared to August 2013. The

median price in this price category rose 13 percent as a result. Pending and closed sales dropped double digits in the same price segment.

Low inventory was also a strong factor in the decrease of pending and closed sales activity in the Naples beach area condominium market. This much-sought after location experienced a 28 percent decrease in available inventory, from 571 condominiums in August 2013 to 409 in August 2014. The low inventory contributed to the 31 per-

cent decrease in pending sales and 23 percent decrease in closed sales of condominiums in this area. The median closed price in this area increased 7 percent, from \$495,000 in the 12 months ending August 2013 to \$530,000 in the 12 months ending August 2014.

"I thought we had seen the top of this economic cycle a year ago," Cindy Carroll of the real estate appraisal and consultancy firm Carroll & Carroll says

SEE NABOR, B16 ►

IL CORSO

AT
TALIS PARK



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Roger Stening 239.770.4707

SEA CHASE



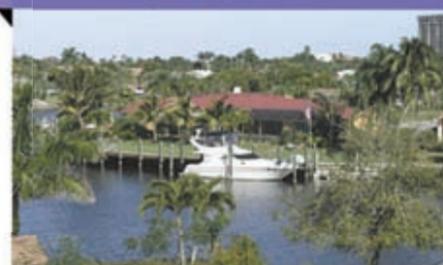
Vanderbilt Beach
• Rarely Available 3BR Southside End Unit
• Expansive, Direct Gulf & Bay Views
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PARKSIDE OFF 5TH



Olde Naples
• 3BR + Office Nook and 3BA
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• 6 Bedroom and 4.5 Bathroom Pool Home
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Bonita Beach Club
• Fantastic Gulf & Bay Views
• Beautiful Remodeled Condo w/ Granite Kitchen
• \$549,900 MLS 214004861
Frank Dekevich 239.877.4193

SPANISH WELLS



Bonita Springs
• Meticulously Maintained Rutenberg Home
• 3 Bedroom, 2 Full Bath, Solar Heated Pool
• \$449,000 MLS 214039125
The Boeglin Team-Jim Griffith 239.322.2409

LAUREL LAKES



Naples
• Peaceful Lake View, 3BR + Den, 2.5BA, 2,545 S.F. w/Loft
• Built in 2005, Wood Floors, Granite, S.S. Appliances
• \$394,900 MLS 214033882
Linda Ramsey 239.405.3054

VANDERBILT LAKES



Estate Section
• Oversized Private Corner Lot
• 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bath, + Den
• \$379,000 MLS 214028916
Sue Ellen Mathers 239.877.2726

CEDAR CREEK



Beautiful Single Family Home
• 4 Bedrooms & 2 Bathrooms
• 10 Minutes to Gulf Beaches
• \$369,900 MLS 214036049
Darlene Rice 239.325.3537

ROOKERY POINTE



Estero
• Three Bedrooms + Den
• Plantation Shutters Throughout
• \$325,000 MLS 214049064
Mike Fagan, The Fagan Team 239.272.4946

PARADISE VILLAGE



Bonita Springs
• Canal Front Building Lot w/ Dock
• Direct Gulf Access
• \$295,000 MLS 214008189
The Bordner Team 239.989.8829

COPPERLEAF AT THE BROOKS



Sago Pointe at The Brooks
• Turnkey Furnished
• Bundled Golf Included
• \$250,000 MLS 214032070
Bette Pitzer 239.560.2627

BONITA GOLF CLUB



Bonita Springs
• Beautifully Maintained 3/2 with High Ceilings
• Close to Coconut Point, Under 10 mi. to Bonita Beach
• \$230,000 MLS 214042516
Loretta Young's Team Lavita 239.784.1984

BAYWOODS

Baywoods
 • Stunning Custom Harwick Home
 • Spillover Spa & Lagoon Pool w/ Waterfall
 • \$2,799,000 MLS 213511014
 Dru & Greg Martinovich 239.564.5717

SHADOW WOOD AT THE BROOKS

Orchid Ridge
 • 3 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, Executive Study
 • 230 Ft Panoramic Water & Golf View Overlooking #8 South
 • \$1,990,000 MLS 214008804
 Greg Lewis, The Lewis Team 239.287.1158

GOLF, LAKE & SUNSET VIEWS

Quail West
 • 4 Bedrooms + Den, 4 Full Bathrooms
 • Gourmet Kitchen, Custom Cabinetry
 • \$1,875,000 MLS 214029817
 The Taranto Team 239.572.3078

PELICAN BAY

Montenero
 • Panoramic Golf and Bay Views
 • 2,675 Sq. Ft. Under Air, 2BR + Den, 2.5BA
 • \$1,795,000 MLS 214029326
 Jennifer Nicolai & Steve Suddeth 239.333.3455

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Pine Ridge
 • Spacious 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath Pool Home
 • Long Lake Views, High Ceilings & 3 Car Garage
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MOORINGS

Regency Towers
 • 3BR, 3BA condominium Situated on the Beach
 • Westerly View of The Gulf for Beautiful Sunsets
 • \$1,295,000 MLS 214048750
 Steve Suddeth & Ben Maltese 239.784.0693

PREMIUM LOCATION

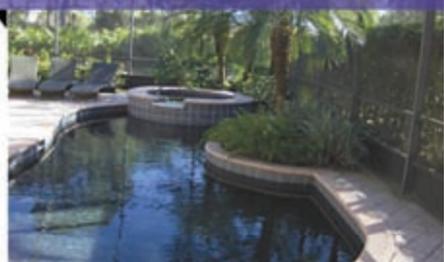
The Dunes
 • Panoramic Gulf & Bay Views
 • 3 Spacious Bedrooms, 3 Full & 1 Half Baths
 • \$1,150,000 MLS 214008797
 The Taranto Team 239.572.0066

SHADOW WOOD AT THE BROOKS

Banyan Cove
 • 3 Bedrooms + Den, 3.5 Baths
 • Very Private Lake Lot
 • \$1,125,000 MLS 214023936
 Gary Ryan 239.273.6796

SHADOW WOOD AT THE BROOKS

Ginger Pointe
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 • Golf & Lake Views, Formal Dining Room, Great Room
 • \$752,000 MLS 214037591
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 • Beautiful Lake & Golf Course Views
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 The Taranto Team 239.572.3078

GREAT MID-TOWN LOCATION

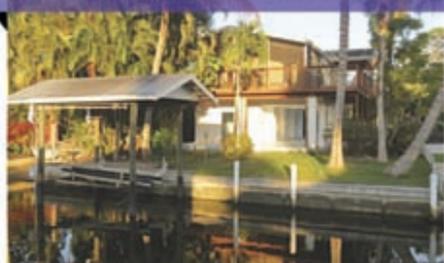
Naples
 • Remodeled Pool Home
 • 3 Bedrooms + Den, 2 Bathrooms
 • \$495,000 MLS 213511124
 Liz Appling 239.272.7201

STERLING OAKS

Sanctuary Pointe
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THE MOORINGS

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IMPERIAL SHORES

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 • 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths w/2 Car Garage
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- Bonita Bay MLS# 212006433
- \$1,999,000
- 4 Bed/ 4 Bath
- High Rise
- Views of South West Florida Coastline

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- Vineyards MLS# 214027205
- \$995,000
- 4 Bed/ 3 Bath
- Single Family
- Shows Like a Model With upgrades

NAPLES



- Park Shore MLS# 213504264
- \$800,000
- 2 + Den/ 2 Bath
- High Rise
- Spectacular Views of the Gulf and Pool

BONITA SPRINGS



- Plumbago Pointe MLS# 214026373
- \$799,000
- 3 Bed/3 Bath
- Single Family
- Surrounded By Preserve Areas

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- Vineyards MLS# 214046593
- \$785,000
- 3 + Den/3 Bath
- Low Rise
- Exceptional Penthouse Overlooking Lake

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- Oakes Estates MLS# 214038565
- \$739,000
- 3 Bed/2 Bath
- Single Family
- 2.25 Acres of Lush Landscaped Yard

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- Vineyards MLS# 212033613
- \$725,000
- 3 Bed/4 Bath
- Low Rise
- Wide Lake and Golf Course Views

NAPLES



- Park Shore MLS# 214031249
- \$607,000
- 3 Bed/3 Bath
- Villa Attached
- Wonderful Spacious Great Room

NAPLES



- Vineyards MLS# 213001053
- \$550,000
- 3 Bed/4 Bath
- Single Family
- Large Pool and Outdoor Kitchen

NAPLES



- Beach Walk MLS# 214028257
- \$535,000
- 2 Bed/2 Bath
- Villa Attached
- Stunning Long Lake View

NAPLES



- The Quarry MLS# 214041787
- \$535,000
- 4 Bed/2 Bath
- Single Family
- Heated Salt Water Pool and Spa

NAPLES



- Pelican Bay MLS# 214045848
- \$519,900
- 2 Bed/2 Bath
- Low Rise
- Turnkey Ready for Immediate Occupancy

NAPLES



- Vanderbilt Towers MLS# 214036499
- \$499,900
- 3 Bed/2 Bath
- High Rise
- Fourth Floor Corner Property

NAPLES



- Moorings MLS# 214031777
- \$450,000
- 2 Bed/ 2Bath
- Low Rise
- Completely Renovated!

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- Naples Bay Resort MLS# 212034464
- \$449,000
- 2 Bed/2 Bath
- Low Rise
- Overlooks Canal and Marina

BONITA SPRINGS



- Imperial Shores MLS# 214037371
- \$449,000
- 3 Bed/2 Bath
- Single Family
- Investment Opportunity in Bonita Beach

BONITA SPRINGS



- Spanish Wells MLS# 214016287
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- Single Family
- Amazing Golf Course View



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- 2 Bed/2 Bath
- Low Rise
- Delightful Views of Gulf

NAPLES



- Pebblebrooke Lakes MLS# 214036069
- \$369,000
- 4 Bed/3 Bath
- Single Family
- Exceptionally Large Master Suite

NAPLES



- Vineyards MLS# 214006192
- \$359,000
- 3 Bed/3 Bath
- Low Rise
- Tastefully Decorated and Recently Remodeled

NAPLES



- Artesia MLS# 214041903
- \$333,500
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- Beautiful Pool/ Spa Home

NAPLES



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- \$319,900
- 4 Bed/2 Bath
- Single Family
- Beautifully Landscaped Front Yard

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- \$309,900
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- Single Family
- Beautiful Lakefront Home

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- Mustang Villas MLS# 214043360
- \$310,000
- 3 Bed/2 Bath
- Villa Attached
- Newly Renovated

NAPLES



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- \$249,000
- 3 Bed/2 Bath
- Single Family
- Tastefully Decorated and Well Cared For

NAPLES



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- 3 Bed/2 Bath
- Low Rise
- Overlooks Peaceful Golf Course

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NAPLES



- Glades Country Club MLS# 214022223
- \$237,000
- 2 Bed/2 Bath
- Low Rise
- Newly Remodeled Kitchen

BONITA SPRINGS



- Worthington MLS# 214026533
- \$219,900
- 2 Bed/2 Bath
- Low Rise
- Spectacular View of Golf Course and Lake

NAPLES



- The Strand MLS# 214051283
- \$219,000
- 2 Bed/2 Bath
- Low Rise
- Wonderful Floor Plan

CAPE CORAL



- Cape Coral MLS# 214039912
- \$192,000
- 3 Bed/2 Bath
- Single Family
- Large Master Retreat

BONITA SPRINGS



- Bonita Springs MLS# 214036819
- \$179,900
- 3 Bed/1 Bath
- Single Family
- Home Completely Renovated

NAPLES



- Quail Creek Village MLS# 214050385
- \$179,900
- 3 + Den/ 2 Bath
- Low Rise
- Lanai Has Beautiful Sunset View

NAPLES



- Pinewoods MLS# 214042156
- \$164,900
- 2 Bed/2 Bath
- Low Rise
- Great Location in Center of Town

NAPLES



- Glades Country Club MLS# 214041748
- \$159,900
- 3 Bed/2 Bath
- Low Rise
- Newly Remodeled Kitchen



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Home sites released in Il Corso at Talis Park

BY KEVIN CAFFREY
Special to Florida Weekly

As homebuyers continue to gravitate to the village lifestyle of Il Corso at Talis Park, 12 home sites have been released for construction, all within a short walk or bike ride of the Grand Piazza that includes Talis Park's great lawn as well as the fitness, spa and dining venues in the Vyne House clubhouse.

Il Corso is an enclave of 30 detached villas ranging from 2,530 square feet to 3,638 square feet. Seven one- and two-story designs by Stofft Cooney Architects are available for construction by Distinctive Communities. Three- and four-bedrooms plans in a Spanish eclectic motif are priced from \$1 million and include water views, island kitchens, multiple storage areas and outdoor living areas with heated swimming pools.

Six end-user and furnished model residences are under construction in Il Corso. Two completed models have sold and remain available for viewing. The release of the 12 home sites is expected to stimulate additional construction activity as homebuyers take advantage of the limited opportunity to enjoy the Il Corso lifestyle.

The Il Corso models under construction will showcase Distinctive's Communities' Berolina II and Catania II floor plans. Completion of both models is anticipated by spring 2015.

The two-story Berolina II has three bedrooms and three baths in 3,315 square feet. The great room and first-floor master suite open to an outdoor living area with a summer kitchen that includes a gas grill and refrigerator. The upstairs of the Berolina II presents a guest retreat that includes a bedroom with a private bath and a spacious optional lounge that provides a place for relaxing, reading and watching television. Base price of the Berolina II is \$1,145,000. Pricing of the furnished model will be determined as construction progresses.

The two-story Catania II has three bedrooms plus a study, four full bathrooms and a garage with golf-cart storage. There are 3,198 square feet under air. The outdoor living area features a covered lanai, an optional outdoor kitchen with a natural gas grill and refrigerator, a pool with a spa, and a sitting area, all of which overlook Il Corso's hallmark water views. The master suite includes two walk-in closets. Two full guest suites with private baths and walk-in closets are upstairs along with a loft. The great room of the Catania II model will have a cathedral crossed-beam ceiling. Base price of the Catania

II is \$1,150,000. As with the Berolina II, pricing of the furnished model will be determined as construction progresses.

Open now for viewing

Distinctive Communities' completed Deana and Catania models are open for viewing in Il Corso. Both models feature interiors by Ficarra Design Associates.

The two-story Deana has 3,278 square feet and includes two bedrooms, a study or third bedroom, three baths, an island kitchen, dining area, a second-floor sitting area and guest suite, a private outdoor living area with a covered lanai, pool and spa, and a two-car garage plus golf cart storage. The upstairs guest suite includes a large bedroom, a bath with his-and-her sinks and a spacious living room. The Deana model also includes an outdoor living area featuring a kitchen with a gas grille and under-counter refrigerator, a dining area, a stepping-stone path over the pool, a "wet wall" feature on the back of the spa and a large pool deck.

The Deana's transitional-coastal design includes planked wood flooring finished in variations of taupe and grey. Off whites and spa blues mixed with taupe, light sea glass greens and coral accents are featured in a light coastal color palette. A vaulted beamed ceiling contributes to the open feeling in the great room, kitchen and dining area. The kitchen features an island with barstool seating, white cabinetry with a grey wash, granite countertops, under-cabinet halogen lighting and a wave tile backsplash.

The two-story, 3,109-square-foot Catania model has three bedrooms, four baths, a study, great room, dining area, island kitchen and a two-car garage with golf cart storage. The outdoor living area features a covered lanai, an outdoor kitchen with a natural gas grill and refrigerator, a sitting area with a natural gas fire pit and a rectangular pool with a spa.

The color palette blends navies, grays, off-whites and browns against dark wood tones. Ceiling details throughout the model include double-step tray ceilings in the foyer, main hallway and great room. The island kitchen includes Pompeii quartz countertops, perimeter cabinetry with a light gray finish, stainless steel Viking appliances, a walk-in pantry and a dropped-ceiling detail over the island.

The entrance to Talis Park is on Livingston Road just north of Immokalee Road. Stop by the sales center at 16980 Livingston Road or visit talispark.com for more information. ■



The Berolina II has three bedrooms and three baths in 3,315 square feet of living area.



The Catania II has three bedrooms plus a study/fourth bedroom and four full baths in 3,198 square feet under air.



The neighborhood of Il Corso at Talis Park is within a short walk or bike ride of the community's Grand Piazza.



The great room of the Catania model that is open for viewing in Il Corso at Talis Park.



The kitchen/dining are of the Deana model in Il Corso.



Joanne Ciesielski
239.287.6732



ILLUSTRATED PROPERTIES

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\$439,750

Village Walk offers the whole package you're looking for! This 3BR/2BA+den home has a custom saltwater pool with Southern exposure and 18-inch tile throughout. Village Walk is an amenity-rich community with a full-time activities director, on-site restaurant, 6 Har-Tru tennis courts, bocce courts, miles of paved walking paths, gym, library and more. See it today!

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NABOR

From page 8

about the unpredictable activity in certain areas within Collier County. "For example," she adds, "in Pelican Bay there is a three-month inventory of single-family homes for sale, but if you are looking to buy a Crayton Road area condo in the \$2 million to \$3 million range, you'd better be ready with a checkbook because there are only two listings."

Brenda Fioretti of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Realty points out that the report also shows financed sales have increased 30 percent since NABOR starting tracking overall cash versus conventional (financed) sales in January 2013.

The NABOR August 2014 report provides comparisons of single-family home and condominium sales (via the Southwest Florida MLS), price ranges and geographic segmentation and includes an overall market summary. Here are some of the findings:

■ Overall pending sales decreased 11 percent, from 890 homes in August 2013 to 795 homes in August 2014.



■ Overall closed sales decreased 2 percent, from 9,798 homes in the 12 months ending August 2013 to 9,613 homes in the 12 months ending August 2014.

■ The overall median closed price increased 14 percent, from \$228,000 in the 12 months ending August 2013 to \$260,000 in the 12 months ending August 2014.

■ Overall inventory decreased 8 percent, from 3,875 in August 2013 to 3,579 in August 2014.

■ Average days on market were 83 for August 2014.

■ Inventory for single-family homes increased 1 percent, from 1,894 homes in August 2013 to 1,904 homes in August 2014. The largest increase was in the \$300,000 to \$500,000 category, which saw a 12 percent increase.

The August report reflects inconsistent activity across all geographic areas, making it difficult to predict whether the low inventory will continue to affect pending and closed sales moving forward. Additionally, another factor not tracked in the report but one that impacts pending homes sales is new construction, which continues to swell in the area. The rising inventory of newly constructed homes will not help those buyers looking for homes in the under \$300,000 price category, however, because there are few available.

"This is a very diverse market with a diminishing inventory in the reasonably priced housing sector," says NABOR President Pat Pitocchi, corporate trainer at Downing-Frye Realty. "The increase in median closed price continues to be driven by the under \$300,000 market, which comprises nearly 65 percent of existing home inventory," she says, adding the under \$300,000 price segment's overall median closed price increased 13 percent in August, while all other price categories moved slightly up or down. "It's the only area of the market whose median closed price behavior is predictable."

View the entire report at naplesarea.com. ■

REAL ESTATE NEWSMAKERS

Mark Young been promoted to market manager for IBERIABANK Mortgage in Collier County. Mr. Young joined IBERIABANK Mortgage in 2011 as vice president and senior loan officer. In his new role, he will oversee a team of mortgage professionals in Naples and Marco Island. He was awarded the Five Star Mortgage Professional designation for a third year in 2014. He is a member of the Mortgage Bankers Association of America chapters for Florida and Southwest Florida, the National and Florida associations of Realtors and the Naples Area Board of Realtors.

Top producers for August at the Fifth Avenue office of Royal Shell Real Estate were: Top team listing producer, **The Fischer Group**; top individual listing producer, **Liz Appling**; Top sales producer team, **The Taranto Team**; and top individual sales producer, **Starr Mier**.

Top producers for August at the Park Shore office of Royal Shell Real Estate were: Top listing and top sales producer team, **The Boeglin Team**; top individual listing producer, **Pam Olsen**; and top individual sales producer, **Linda Sanfilippo**. ■

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Unit #4404	Olé–San Benito	2/2	1,501 sq. ft.	\$229,220
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Lot #20	Victoria Grande - SALE PENDING	4/4.5	3,897 sq. ft.	\$1,594,190

QUAIL WEST – NAPLES From the \$700s
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Lot #31	Escala–Palmhurst	3/3.5	2,822 sq. ft.	\$978,265
Lot #5	La Caille–Avarone Furnished Model	3/3.5	3,249 sq. ft.	\$1,375,000
Lot #J79	Estate Homes–Capistrano Furnished Model/Leaseback Available	4/5.5	5,401 sq. ft.	\$3,495,000
Lot #J115	Estate Homes–Brighton Furnished Model/Leaseback Available	4/5.5	6,325 sq. ft.	\$4,495,000

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Lot #31	Wicklow–Greenbriar II Furnished Model/Leaseback Available	3/4	2,949 sq. ft.	\$1,154,220
Lot #57	Hedgestone–Muirfield IV Furnished Model/Leaseback Available	4/4.5	3,333 sq. ft.	\$1,405,000

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Open Houses are Sunday 1-4, unless otherwise marked

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3 • BAY FOREST - NAPLES WALK • 15191 Cedarwood Lane #2704 • \$490,000 • PSIR • Dominic Panozzo • 239.821.9321

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4 • BANYAN WOODS - RESERVE II • 5050 Blauvelt Way #202 • \$525,000 • PSIR • Pat Duggan • 239.216.1980

5 • PELICAN MARSH - SEVILLE • 1845 Seville Boulevard #622 • \$539,000 • PSIR • Roya Nouhi • 239.290.9111

6 • BRENDISI AT MEDITERRA • 29140 Brendisi Way #201 • \$584,000 • John R Wood Properties • Emily K. Bua & Tade Bua-Bell • 239.595.0097

7 • FIDDLER'S CREEK - MENAGGIO • 9279 Menaggio Court #201 • \$588,000 • PSIR • Michelle Thomas • 239.860.7176

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

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10 • WILSHIRE LAKES • 3937 Deep Passage Way • \$649,000 • PSIR • Patrick O'Connor • 239.293.9411

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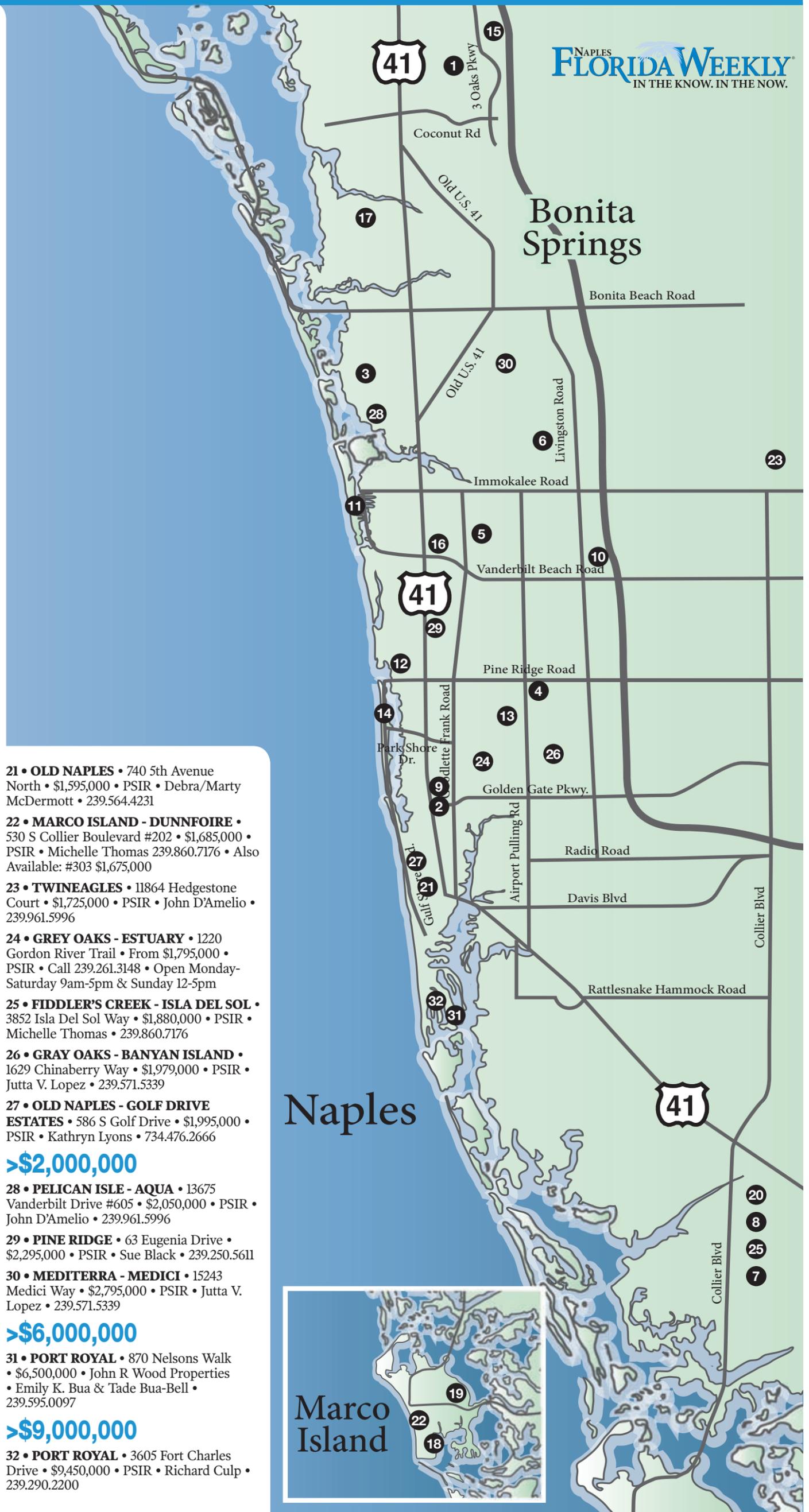
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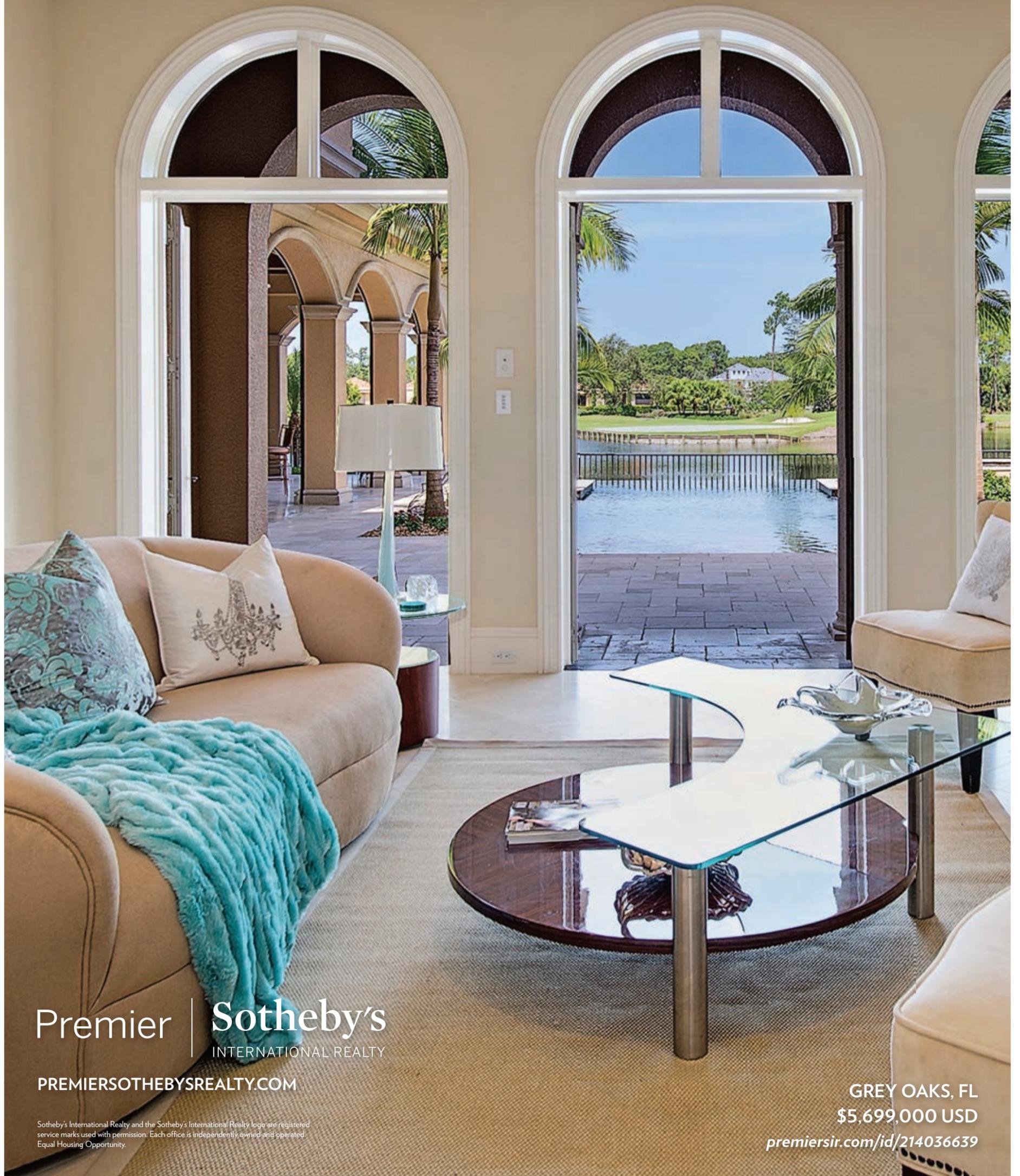
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF SEPT. 25-OCT. 1, 2014

A GUIDE TO THE LOCAL ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE



INSIDE: WHERE TO ATTEND TO THE ISLAND HOPPER SONGWRITER FEST / C4



In celebration of the

song

The inaugural Island Hopper Songwriter Fest comes to Captiva and Fort Myers Beach

BY NANCY STETSON
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

AT ITS PURIST ESSENCE, A SONG IS VOICE, lyrics and melody.

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"That's the way it's always been for me, just me and my guitar," says singer/songwriter Kristian Bush of the multi-platinum, Grammy Award-winning band Sugarland. "That's where (my songs)

SEE SONG, C4 ▶

▲ Musician Kristian Bush will perform at the Island Hopper Songwriter Fest.

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| INSIDE |



The Downton example

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FGCU, TheatreZone collaborate for 'Godspell'

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

"Godspell" comes to FGCU Oct. 2-5 in a collaboration between the university's Bower School of Music & the Arts and TheatreZone of Naples.

Based on the gospel accounts of Matthew and Luke as retold by playwright John Michael Tebelak and composer/lyrist Stephen Schwartz (of "Pippin" and "Wicked" fame), the story focuses on the life of Jesus Christ and his earliest followers and features songs in styles

ranging from pop to vaudeville. The original production of "Godspell" premiered off-Broadway in 1971; a revival ran in 2011-12 on Broadway.

Mark Danni, producing artistic director at TheatreZone, has assembled a cast of Actors Equity Association professional actors and FGCU students for this production.

Equity actors include Alex Jorth as Jesus, returning to TheatreZone after his debut performance as the Frankie in last

year's "Forever Plaid," and TheatreZone audience favorite Gerritt VanderMeer (and FGCU faculty member) as Judas and John the Baptist and the announcer of the coming messiah. Carolann Sanita-VanderMeer (another FGCU faculty member) plays one of the disciples. TheatreZone patrons will remember Ms. Sanita-VanderMeer for her role as Tracy Lord in "High Society."

SEE GODSPELL, C19 ▶

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SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

If we've lost respect, who's at fault?



On a recent slow night, I watched an episode of "Downton Abbey," the one where Lady Mary, still grieving, storms out of the dining room during a family dinner. The two men at the table — Lady Mary's father and brother-in-law — stood as soon as she stood, their chairs scraping against the floor in a racket of decorum. It was nearly acrobatic, the way the two men leapt up in almost the same instant. Where, I thought, have those days gone?

Funnily enough, just a few days later I received a letter from my friend Ben about this very thing.

"In the 19th century," Ben wrote, "when women walked into the room, men stood up. When they left the room, the men stood again. As late as the 20th century, men removed their hats when in the presence of a woman. This was the behavior of respect."

Now, he says, the idea of respect has become antiquated. There's no more standing, no more tipping of hats. And that, he argues, is a shame.

I don't disagree. But I want to know who's to blame. Is it the men, for refusing to behave appropriately in a lady's presence? Or is the women, for failing to act like ladies?

Ben says it's partly because women have tried to level themselves with men, especially in terms of their sexuality. "Why would women want to wear tattoos and act like men?" he asks. "I think that hurts women."

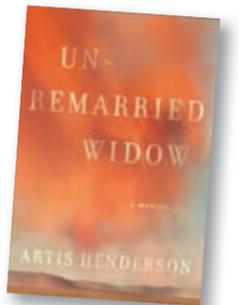
He's not far off the mark, but I think there's another explanation. I witnessed it recently, at a dinner with a mixed group of men and women. A young woman sat to my right and next to her, a man of about 25 — although *man* is a loose term. He struck me as more of a boy, the kind who wears his hair long and unkempt, who boasts about having holes in his sweater, who brings his guitar to a dinner party and then pretends to be modest about playing. The young woman was clearly dazzled.

Frankly, the young man should have been dazzled by her. She was lovely, dark haired and dark eyed, with a creamy complexion and the kind of figure you'd kill for. She had travelled halfway around the world by herself, from her hometown in Australia first to London and then to the South of France. Yet she spent the entire evening detailing her faults to the boy next to her, how she has no sense of direction, how she can't make up her mind, how she's dismal in the kitchen and awful behind the wheel. By the end of the night, I thought I'd scream if I heard one more self-deprecating slur.

At the end of his letter, my friend Ben made this declaration: "Let's bring back standing up and removing hats."

I agree with him. But first we need to bring back something else: the steeliness of character displayed by the women on "Downton." After all, men in those days didn't give respect simply because it was requested. Back then, it was earned. ■

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



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ISLAND HOPPER

Songwriter Fest

The first annual Island Hopper Songwriter Fest brings nationally acclaimed singer-songwriters to the islands of Captiva and Fort Myers Beach over two weekends this fall. With dozens of free shows, experience the voices, back stories, and personalities of these artists in intimate island settings.

View full schedule at IslandHopperFest.com



SONG

From page 1

start; they don't start decorated, they start bare-bones."

Of course, that's typically not the way you hear Mr. Bush on a CD or iPod, or even in concert. "If a song is not terrible with me and my guitar, it's even better when you add stuff," he says.

Mr. Bush performs at 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, at Nervous Nellie's on Fort Myers Beach as part of the inaugural Island Hopper Songwriter Fest. Admission is free.

The festival takes place over two weekends (Sept. 26-28 and Oct. 3-5) on Captiva Island and Fort Myers Beach, respectively, with more than 40 nationally acclaimed songwriters participating.

Capturing the song

Formerly one half of the duo Billy Pilgrim, Mr. Bush formed Sugarland in 2002 with Kristen Hall and Jennifer Nettles. Before they had released their first album, the trio opened for Vince Gill at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers. In 2006, the band became a duo, with Ms. Nettles and Mr. Bush.

Over the years, Sugarland has produced hits including "Baby Girl," "Stuck Like Glue," "Something More," "Down in Mississippi (Up to No Good)," "Want To," "Settlin'" and "Already Gone." They've sold more than 14 million records.

In 2012, the band went on hiatus, and Ms. Nettles released a solo album, "That Girl." Mr. Bush's solo album, "Southern Gravity," is set to come out, though the label doesn't have an exact date yet. The first single from it was released this summer and is receiving airplay. "Trailer Hitch" talks about reexamining our desire to amass more and more possessions.

As the chorus says, in part, "I don't know why, know why/Everybody wants to die rich/Diamonds, champagne/Make your way down that list/...You can't take it with you when you go/I've never seen a hearse with a trailer hitch."

Mr. Bush filmed a music video for it in Chicago one afternoon, standing on Michigan Avenue near the Chicago River, playing his guitar. He placed \$1 bills in his open guitar case and wrote a chalk message on the sidewalk telling passers-by to take one.

"It was one of those rare moments; for half a day and 500 bucks (the cost of the video), the total essence of the song was captured," he says, adding they gave away \$300.

The video is a lyric video, with the words to the song appearing onscreen.

"We knew we needed a real video," he says, adding filming just recently finished.

The premise: "There's a zombie apocalypse ... and as the survival kits get handed out, all they hand me is a guitar," he says.

But as he begins playing and singing, "All the zombies are lulled into happiness, and they start dancing. They are the ones who can testify that you can't take it with you," he says.

Celebrating the songwriter

Mr. Bush's Fort Myers Beach performance is just one of scores of concerts that will take place during the festival, which was developed as a way to bring people to the area during the slower months of September and October, says Nancy MacPhee, program manager of product development for the Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau.

"We have long known that Lee County is known for inspiring artists, whether they be visual artists, writers or songwriters," Ms. MacPhee says, noting that



COURTESY PHOTO

Clockwise from above: Ruth Collins, Caleb Hawkins and Andi Zack will perform at the Inaugural Island Hopper Songwriter Fest.

there have been other songwriter festivals in the area in the past.

The Island Hopper festival is starting small, she adds, and the hope is for it to expand in future years.

"It's really an amazing thing. I'm so glad that this is happening," Mr. Bush says. "It's a beginning. Once you do it once, you have to keep doing it ... Celebrating the songwriter is a wonderful thing to be doing ..."

Mr. Bush is a frequent participant in the Country Music Association's Songwriters Series, traveling around the country and overseas to raise awareness of the artform.

His appearance at Nervous Nellie's will be "just me and my guitar," he says. "The songs you may know from the radio, you may not know I was a writer on; you get to find out. Some people may not be aware that I wrote on every single Sugarland song and produced the records." At Nervous Nellie's, he adds, the audience will hear how those songs sounded "in the beginning, not the polished piece at the end."

Creativity on steroids

He'll play some songs from his forthcoming album, too.

"All of those songs exist now, and you get to hear them before they come out," he says. "That's the second part of the puzzle that's super fun."

Over the past couple years, in a burst of creativity, he's written more than 300 songs.

Typically, he'd write one a month, but when Sugarland went on hiatus, he discovered himself writing 10 to 15 songs a month, sometimes more. Part of the reason for this productivity, he explains, is that, "Finally we had parked the bus. I'd been on tour for nine or 10 years

straight."

He also feels his relationship with an Atlanta engineer, Tom Tapley, helped. Mr. Tapley has worked on Bruce Springsteen records after The Boss recorded "The Rising" and on Pearl Jam records.

"He was a top-shelf engineer," he says. "He ended up working in my studio. Then we stopped renting it out and kept it just for me. I started writing all these songs, and we were able to record them within a day or so of when I was writing them. Sometimes we recorded one a day."

It was the ideal engineer-artist relationship, he says.

"As I was writing something, he'd start to put microphones around me, and he'd call people and magically, there's a drummer, a piano player. It was a great kind of creative space that happened for almost two years straight."

There were other factors, too, to this creativity-on-steroids.

"Permission (to write) is one," he says. "Time is another. And then I think there's a feedback loop when you do anything you enjoy ... and you just keep on doing it."

He also says it's important not to judge yourself.

"Don't be very self-important," he says. "It's not about me. I like to write songs for the radio. I want people to hear these songs. I like to use songs as a way to connect to people so there's a little less loneliness."

"It gets deeper. You spin a lyric and a melody so it hits your heart. When it does, there's nothing like it. It just really feels like magic. I think the songwriting process is the one where you stay out of the way of it being about you, and (make it) about the life around you, where we all meet. Not what makes us different,

but what makes us all the same."

There's no telling what might happen at a concert now.

"I have no band, so nobody has to follow me," he says. "Anything's game, including (performing) a song I might have written that day ..."

"A song can change everything," he says. "I fundamentally believe that my life is better with a soundtrack. I'm doing my best to keep the music coming." ■

in the know

The Inaugural Island Hopper Songwriter Fest

>> **When:** Sept. 26-28 on Captiva Island, Oct. 3-5 on Fort Myers Beach

>> **Cost:** Most events are free

>> **Info:** 338-3599 or fortmyers-sanibel.com/island-hopper/schedules/

Special events

Reservations for the following special events can be made online at fortmyers-sanibel.com/island-hopper.

>> **Cowboy Jack Clement Tribute** with Austin Church, Brent Moyer and Joe Sun – 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at the Captiva Community House. Admission is a donation to the BMI Foundation. Reservations required, pay at the door.

>> **Songwriters George Ducas and Jeff Cohen** perform at Robert Rauschenberg's home and studio – 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at 1559 Laika Lane, Captiva. Free, but attendance is limited and tickets are required. Admission to this event is closed.

>> **Brunch with musicians Whiskey Rose, Billy Altman and Billy Montana** – 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28, at the Old Captiva House at Tween Waters Inn, Captiva. Cost is \$32.95.

>> **Lunch with local songwriters Gary Hannan and Sonia Leigh** – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, at the Pink Shell Resort on Fort Myers Beach. \$29.95.

>> **Performance by Thompson Square** – 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, at Salty Sam's Waterfront Adventures at Parrot Key, 2500 Main St., Fort Myers Beach. Free, but tickets required.



COURTESY PHOTO

Derek Perry as Leo Joseph-Connell and Janina Birtolo as his 91-year-old grandmother. The two are unlikely roommates in "4,000 Miles."

Pair of unlikely roommates at the center of '4,000 Miles'

Let's Put On A Show Productions presents the Southwest Florida premier of Amy Herzog's "4,000 Miles" Oct. 3-18 at the Golden Gate Community Center. The dramatic comedy, which is recommended for adults and older teenage audiences, ran Off-Broadway in 2011 and again in 2012 and was a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for drama.

After 21-year-old Leo (Derek Perry) suffers a major loss while on a cross-country bike trip, he seeks solace from his feisty 91-year-old grandmother, Vera (Janina Birtolo), in her New York City apartment. Over the course of one month, the unlikely roommates infuriate and bewilder one another but never lose their unquestioning love as they discover new ways to learn and grow together.

The playwright has said she used her grandmother's "words, habits and history" to fashion the character of Vera.

In addition to Mr. Perry and Ms. Birtolo, the cast is comprised of Erica Dale Wagner as Bec and Samantha Nguyen as Amanda. Anna Segreto directs. Scott Lilly is the producer, Kevin Moriarty is artistic director and Tony Fernandez is stage manager. ■

in the know

'4,000 Miles'

- >>Who: Let's Put On A Show Productions
- >>When: Select dates Oct. 3-18
- >>Where: The Golden Gate Community Center
- >>Tickets: \$22
- >>Info: 398-9192 or letsputonashowproductions.com



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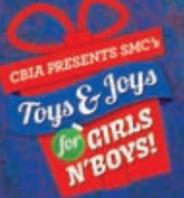
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*Discounts are available on October 2 only. Contact merchants for details and hours. Mention "Mercato Event" to receive discount.

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

THEATER

The Bald Soprano – By Ghostbird Theatre Company on select dates through Sept. 28 at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, Fort Myers. 333-1933 or sbdac.com.

Noises Off – By The Naples Players through Oct. 18 at the Sugden Community Theatre. 263-7990 or naplesplayers.org. See story on page C1.

Those Were the Days – Through Oct. 4 on the main stage at the Broadway Palm Theatre, Fort Myers. 278-4422 or broadwaypalm.com.

Better Late – Through Nov. 1 in the Off Broadway Palm Theatre at the Broadway Palm Theatre, Fort Myers. 278-4422 or broadwaypalm.com.

ONGOING EXHIBITS

Digital Photos – Works by members of the Naples DPI-SIG photography club are on display through September at the Naples Regional Library. Free. 650 Central Ave.

Extraction & Deficit – Works by Ecuadoran artist Cesar Aguilera at The Naples Depot Museum through Oct. 31. 252-8476 or colliermuseums.org.

Art of the Everglades – “Never No More: Southwest Florida” by Rob Storter through Oct. 31 at Marco Island Historical Museum. 180 S. Heathwood Drive, Marco Island. 642-1440 or colliermuseums.com.

Black & White and Shades of Gray – At the Center for Visual Arts Bonita Springs through Sept. 18. 495-8989 or artcenterbonita.org.

THURSDAY 9-25

Clicquot on the Clock – Imbibe in bubbly sold by the glass for the price of the hour (\$5 from 5-6 p.m., etc.) at Naples Flatbread & Wine Bar in Mercato.

Wine on the Water – Join the experts from Decanted for sunset, wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres aboard the Naples Princess from 6-8 p.m. \$60 for the two-hour cruise. Reservations required. 649-2275 or naplesprincesscruises.com.

Read and Sing Along – It's karaoke night from 7-10 p.m. at Chrissy's Tavern & Bistro. 3340 Tamiami Trail E. 775-0101 or chrissystavern.com.

Jazz at Alto – The Dan Heck Trio performs from 8-10 p.m. at Alto Live Jazz Kitchen. 492 Bayfront Place. 261-2586 or altonaples.com.

Open Mic – Frankie Colt hosts open mic night starting at 9 p.m. at South Street City Oven & Grill. 1410 Pine Ridge Road. 435-9333 or southstreetnaples.com.

FRIDAY 9-26

Here's to Beers – Naples Beach Brewery hosts a tasting and tour from 4-8 p.m. \$15 includes 2 ounces of each beer brewed followed by two 12-ounce pours. naplesbeachbrewery.com.

Welcome to the Weekend – Say TGIF with \$5 flutes of Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label (\$25 for Le Grand Dame) from 5-7 p.m. at the Waldorf Astoria Naples. Live entertainment. 475 Seagate Drive. 597-3232.



“Camera USA: National Photography Exhibition,” an exhibit of 46 photographs taken around the country, closes Friday, Sept. 26, at The von Liebig Art Center. The show includes “One with Nature,” above, by Tohnia Alexander of Clinton, Wash. Art center hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission, donations welcome. 585 Park St. 262-6517 or naplesart.org.

Guitar Man – Tom DesRochers entertains from 6-9 p.m. at Capers Kitchen & Bar. 2460 Vanderbilt Beach Road. 293-2675 or caperskitchen.com.

Strumming Along – David Gerald plays guitar from 7-10 p.m. at Chrissy's Tavern & Bistro. 3340 Tamiami Trail E. 775-0101 or chrissystavern.com.

Live Music – Tessa & Jae perform Motown, jazz, R&B, light pop and even a little bit of country from 7-10 p.m. at Agave Bar & Grill. 2380 Vanderbilt Beach Road. 598-3473.

All That Jazz – The Stu Shelton Trio performs from 8-10 p.m. at Alto Live Jazz Kitchen. 492 Bayfront Place. 261-2586 or altonaples.com.

Craving Fashion – The second annual fashion show to benefit Make-A-Wish of Southern Florida takes place from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Waterside Shops. More than 30 area restaurants will serve tastes of their specialties. \$50 for food; cash bar. cravingfashion2014.eventbrite.com.

Hey, Bartender – Shula's hosts celebrity bartender night featuring members of the undefeated 1972 Miami Dolphins from 6-8 p.m. Proceeds benefit The United Way of Collier County. \$25 admission includes one drink, appetizers and reduced drink prices. Reservations required. 659-3176.

SATURDAY 9-27

National Museum Day – The Naples Depot Museum celebrates the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum Day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities include face painting, rock climbing and educational programs for adults and children. 262-6525 or colliermuseums.com.

More for Museum Day – The Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida offers free admission to all visitors from 1-4 p.m. as part of National Museum Day. 4760 Tamiami Trail N. 263-9200 or holocaustmuseumsfw.org.

Magic Carpet Concert – Members of the woodwind section of the Naples Philharmonic explain and demonstrate their instruments for young audiences at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Artis—Naples. 597-1900 or artisnaples.org.

Farmers Market – Stock up on fresh produce, flowers, baked goods, cheese, pasta, coffee, doggy treats and more at the Third Street South Farmers Market from 7:30-11:30 a.m. in the parking lot behind Tommy Bahama's on Third Street South.

Dixieland Jazz – The Naples Jazzmasters perform from 1-3 p.m. at The Norris Center. Sponsored by the Naples Jazz Society. Free. 254-9674.

It Takes Two – Pablo Repun Tango hosts a class for beginners from 7-8 p.m. followed by milonga for everyone. Bring your own wine; snacks provided. \$15. 1673 Pine Ridge Road. 738-4184 or pablrepuntango.com.

The Jazz Men – Dan Miller and the Lew Del Gatto Quintet play smooth jazz from 8-10 p.m. at Alto Live Jazz Kitchen. 492 Bayfront Place. 261-2586 or altonaples.com.

Good and Bad – The Good Bad Kids perform a rough, rowdy mixture of old and new folk rock, bluegrass, rockabilly and Americana tunes from 9-11:45 p.m. at Agave Bar & Grill. 2380 Vanderbilt Beach Road. 598-3473.

The Wholtones – Enjoy music by The Wholtones from 9:30 p.m. to midnight at South Street City Oven Bar & Grill. 1410 Pine Ridge Road. 435-9333 or southstreetnaples.com.

SUNDAY 9-28

Fresh Goods – The Collier Boulevard Farmers Market takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 11725 Collier Blvd. 206-4339.

French Film – Francois Truffaut's 1962 drama/romance “Jules & Jim,” following decades of a love triangle concerning two friends and one impulsive woman, opens the Renaissance Academy fall foreign film series at the Naples Center of FGCU from 2-5 p.m. \$5 for RA members, \$6 for others. Reservations required. 1010 Fifth Ave. S. 434-4737. See story on page C13.

Music Man – John Mameli takes the stage from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Chrissy's Tavern & Bistro. 3340 Tamiami Trail E. 775-0101 or chrissystavern.com.

All That Jazz – Bob Zottolo and Stu Shelton jazz things up from 7-10 p.m. at Alto Live Jazz Kitchen. 492 Bayfront Place. 261-2586 or altonaples.com.

Reggae Sunday – Innasense takes the stage at 9:30 p.m. at South Street City Oven & Grill. 1410 Pine Ridge Road. 435-9333 or southstreetnaples.com.

MONDAY 9-29

All That Jazz – Join Jebry & Friends for a jazz jam from 6-9 p.m. at Fred's Food, Fun and Spirits. 431-7928 or fredsdiner.com.

Play Your Cards Right – It's bingo night starting at 7 p.m. at the Naples English Pub. 5047 Tamiami Trail E. 775-3727 or thenaplesenglishpub.com.

TUESDAY 9-30

Local History – Docents with the Naples Historical Society lead tours of Historic Palm Cottage from 1-4 p.m. today-Saturday. \$10, free for NHS members. 137 12th Ave. S. 261-8164 or napleshistoricalscociety.org.

Panther Program – Conservancy naturalist Michelle Reed presents “Panthers in Peril: A Whisker Away from Extinction?” at 2 p.m. at Headquarters Library. 2385 Orange Blossom Drive. Free, but registration required. 593-0334 or collierlibrary.org.

More Jazz – Stu Shelton entertains from 7 to 10 p.m. at Alto Live Jazz Kitchen. 492 Bayfront Place. 261-2586 or altonaples.com.

Tango Tuesdays – Step up for intermediate and advanced tango class from 8-9 p.m. at Pablo Repun Tango. \$15. 1673 Pine Ridge Road. 738-4184 or pablrepuntango.com.

Sing Along – It's karaoke night from 9 p.m. to midnight at South Street City Oven Grill. 1410 Pine Ridge Road. 435-9333 or southstreetnaples.com.

WEDNESDAY 10-1

Old Naples Walking Tour – Enjoy a guided walking tour of Old Naples led by a docent from the Naples Historical Society. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Historic Palm Cottage. 137 12th Ave. S. Reservations required. 261-8164.

Farmers Market – Whole Foods in Mercato starts its weekly farmers market from 4-8 p.m. Oct. 1 on the sidewalk in front of the store.

Five for \$5 – Enjoy five selected wines or five selected cocktails for \$5 each from 4-7 p.m. tonight and Oct. 2-3 at Shula's at the Hilton Naples. 430-4999 or shulasnaples.com.

Jazz at Alto – The Rich Howard Duo performs from 7-10 p.m. at Alto Live Jazz Kitchen. 492 Bayfront Place. 261-2586 or altonaples.com.

COMING UP

Guess Who? – Catch a free screening of the 1967 classic “Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?” starring Sidney Poitier, Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracey, at 2 p.m. Oct. 2 at Naples Regional Library. 108 minutes. 650 Central Ave. Registration required. 262-4130 or collierlibrary.org.

Aliens Among Us – Conservancy naturalist Jennifer Bobka presents a program about non-native plants, insects, reptiles, fish, mammals, amphibians and birds that call Florida home, threatening numerous species that are native to the Sunshine State, at 2 p.m. Oct. 2 at South Regional Library. 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway. Free, but registration required. 252-7542 or collierlibrary.org.

Bliss! – The public is invited to enjoy fashion, food and cocktails at the launch of Bliss: A Traveling Boutique from 5-9 p.m. Oct. 2 at DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Naples. 12200 Tamiami Trail N. RSVP by emailing bliss@blissatravelingboutique.com.

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Music at Mercato – The Wholtones perform from 6-9 p.m. Oct. 2 on the lawn across from MASA at Mercato. Free. Proceeds from Naples Beach Brewery's outdoor bar will benefit the Collier Building Industry Association's Toys & Joys for Girls & Boys toy drive.

Godspell – TheatreZone and the FGCU Bower School of Music join forces for "Godspell" at the FGCU Theatre Lab. Performances at 8 p.m. Oct. 2-3, 2 and 8 p.m. Oct. 4, and 7:30 p.m. Oct. 5. \$40-\$45. (888) 966-3352 or theatrezone-florida.com.

Foreign Film – See "I Served the King of England" (Czech Republic, 2008) at 2 p.m. Oct. 3 at South Regional Library. The movie looks at the glamorous life at an old-world Prague hotel and one young waiter's ambition to rise in the ranks. 133 minutes. French with English subtitles. Free. 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway. Registration required. 252-7542 or collierlibrary.org.

Purple Party – The NextGen group that supports The Shelter for Abused Women & Children holds its annual Purple Party wine tasting from 6-7:30 p.m. Oct. 3 at Ridgway Bar & Grill. \$50 (stay for dinner and Ridgway will donate a portion of your bill to The Shelter). 775-3862, ext. 224, or naplesshelter.org.

4,000 Miles – Let's Put on a Show Productions presents "4,000 Miles," a dramatic comedy by Ann Herzog that was a 2013 Pulitzer Prize finalist, Oct. 3-18 at the Golden Gate Community Center. 398-9192 or letsputonashowproductions.com.

Blessing of the Animals – Avow holds its annual Blessing of the Animals service at 9 a.m. Oct. 4. All are welcome. 1095 Whippoorwill Lane. RSVP to Deborah Jonsson, 649-3689.

Ahoy! – The annual boat show sponsored by the Marine Industry Association of Collier County takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 4-5 at the Naples City Dock in Crayton Cove. Free. 682-0900 or miacc.org.

The Mountaintop – Gulfshore Playhouse opens its new season with playwright Katori Hall in "The Mountaintop," a one-man show about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Oct. 4-19 at The Norris Center. (866) 811-4111 or gulfshoreplayhouse.org.

Get Glammed Up – Wine Loft of Naples in Mercato hosts Hollywood Glam Night as a send-off to summer from 8 p.m. until closing Oct. 4. Entertainment by the Ramos Brothers and a Best Dressed Starlet contest. 598-5601.

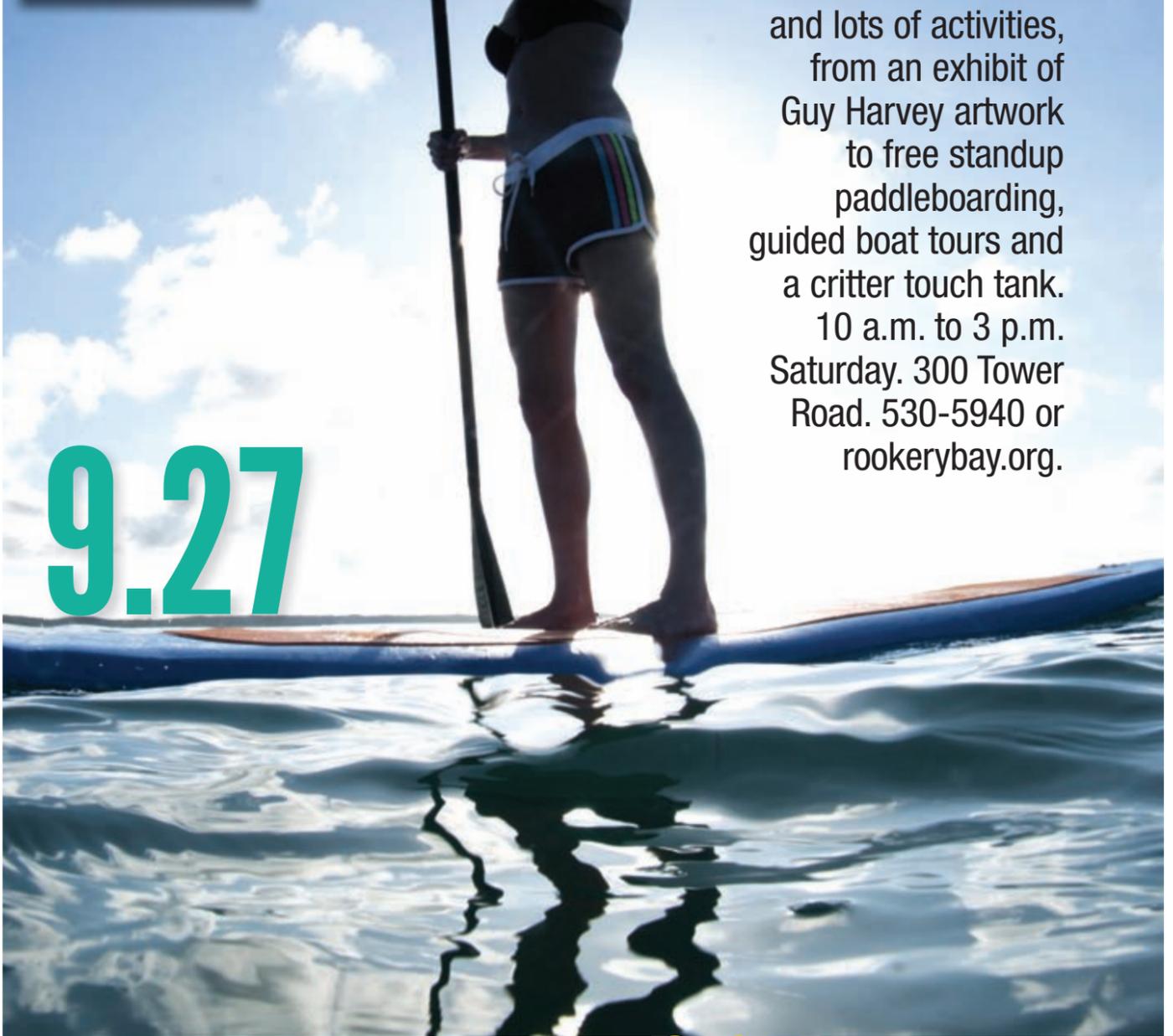
Bloody Mary Sunday – Sip while you shop at Waterside Shops from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays starting Oct. 5, when the pavilion turns into a Bloody Mary Bar for the afternoon.

Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story – Oct. 9-Nov. 15 at the Broadway Palm Theatre, Fort Myers. 278-4422 or broadwaypalm.com.

MacBeth – The Metropolitan Opera "Live in HD" series begins a new season with a screening of "MacBeth" beginning at 12:55 p.m. Oct. 11 at the Hollywood Stadium 20 in Naples and the Coconut Point 16 in Estero. metopera.org/hdlive.

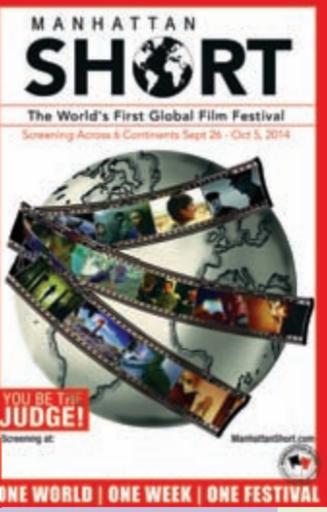
Hot Stuff – The annual Jerry Adams Chili Cookoff to benefit the Marco Island Fire & Rescue Foundation takes place from 2-5 p.m. Oct. 11 at CJ's on the Bay. \$10. mifirerescuefoundation@aol.com. ■

— 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.



■ It's **National Estuaries Day**, and at Rookery Bay that means free admission and lots of activities, from an exhibit of Guy Harvey artwork to free standup paddleboarding, guided boat tours and a critter touch tank. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. 300 Tower Road. 530-5940 or rookerybay.org.

■ Silverspot Cinema in Mercato presents the **17th annual Manhattan Short Film Festival**. Screenings are at 1 and 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. 592-0300 or silverspot.net.



9.25 ■ Head to Barbatella from 5-7 p.m. Thursday to **kick off the Third Street South Stiletto Sprint**. Enjoy happy hour specials and an acoustic set by Ben Allen of the Ben Allen Band. Register to run the Oct. 25 sprint and you'll get a free scoop of gelato. 498-0016 or komenswfl.org.



#WIG OUT ■ Wear your craziest wig to **Blue Martini** in Mercato and vie for a free haircut and style at Wild Orchid Salon & Spa. Contest runs from 7:30-11 p.m. Friday.



#GET TRIVIAL ■ It's trivia night starting at 7 p.m. Thursday at the **Naples English Pub**. 5047 Tamiami Trail E. 775-3727 or thenaplesenglishpub.com.



#LAUGH IT UP ■ **DeRay Davis** of "21 Jump Street" and "Entourage" takes the stage at 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday at the Off the Hook Comedy Club at House of Brewz in Gulf Coast Town Center. 389-6901 or offthehookcomedy.com.



ARTS COMMENTARY

Songs about big booty are, well, big



They don't write songs about elbows. Or ankles.

But they sure write songs about butts — booty, junk in the trunk, posteriors, the gluteus maximus — big ones, in particular.

Songwriters seem to love booty as much as pirates do.

And they've been writing a slew of tunes about it, lately.

In "Bang Bang" (with Ariana Grande and Nicki Minaj), Jessie J sings that her romantic rival has "a booty like a Cadillac."

Nicki Minaj samples heavily from Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back" in her latest, "Anaconda." (Truthfully, the best thing about the song is what she nabbed from Six Mix-a-Lot's classic.)

And Jennifer Lopez and Iggy Azalea just released "Booty," with a music video that borders on soft porn.

But what's been getting a lot of play lately is Meghan Trainor's "All About That Bass."

The 20-year-old Ms. Trainor glories in her curves, explaining, "It's all about that bass/no treble," and urges everyone to accept and love how they look, saying, "Every inch of you is perfect/From the bottom to the top."

The melody is a 1950s-sounding tune, complete with handclaps, female back-up singers and even a line about her mother's advice. ("Yeah, my mama she told me don't worry about your size/She says, 'Boys like a little more booty to hold at night.'")

She pays tribute to Sir Mix-a-Lot with her line that, "I won't be no stick figure silicone Barbie doll." (His was that "... silicone parts are made for toys.")

And she also echoes Justin Timberlake's line that he's "bringing sexy back" with her own line declaring, "I'm bringing booty back."

"Yeah, it's pretty clear, I ain't no size two/But I can shake it, shake it/Like I'm supposed to do/'Cause I got that boom boom that all the boys chase/And all the right junk in all the right places."

The music video for the tune is just sheer fun, though a little too pastel for me in places.

There's also a music video on YouTube of her singing the song for the first time publicly, with only guitar accompa-



Meghan Trainor, center, and friends in the "All About That Bass" music video.



Nicki Minaj in "Anaconda."

niment, at an Emily West concert. (Ms. West is the singer who just won second place in NBC's "America's Got Talent.") And she recently sang it on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," with the host and the Roots band all playing children's instruments.

Now parodies "All About That Bass" are starting to pop up, including a fisherman singing about how it's "All About That Bass." (The song is so full of hooks, you can understand why fishermen would be attracted to it.)

Ms. Trainor's song is so much fun, you can't help but crank up the volume. I'm fervently hoping she's not a one-hit



In "Bang Bang," Jessie J sings that her romantic rival has "a booty like a Cadillac."

wonder.

Songs about shaking your butt are nothing new, however.

E.U. (Experience Unlimited) had a hit back in 1988 with "Da' Butt," which was featured in the Spike Lee movie "School Daze." I especially loved the end of the song, when they just named a bunch of

people, singing: "Tanya got a big ol' butt/Theresa got a big ol' butt/Irene got a big ol' butt," concluding with "Little Keisha got a big ol' butt!"

Even country artists got into the act with Trace Adkins singing "Honky Tonk Badonkadonk." (It's the furthest thing from urban music, with lyrics such as, "Shut my mouth, slap your grandma/There outta be a law/Get the sheriff on the phone/Lord have mercy how'd she even get them britches on/That honky tonk Badonkadonk.") It's corny, and comes off as more of a novelty song, but I do give him credit for rhyming "honky tonk" and "badonkadonk.")

During the disco era, KC and the Sunshine Band urged dancers to "Shake, shake, shake/Shake, shake, shake/Shake your booty."

Queen declared "Fat-bottomed girls make the rockin' world go 'round."

And decades before *that*, singers urged us to "Shake your money maker," "Shake what your Mama gave you," and even earlier than that, to "Shake a tail feather."

Perhaps one of the best-known songs about this subject — and a karaoke favorite — is the aforementioned Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back." The 1992 tribute to women's posteriors opens with a line that seems to be the motto of many a songwriter: "I like big butts and I cannot lie."

MTV deemed the song too risqué and even banned it, albeit briefly.

But "Baby Got Back" proved to have staying power. It's been sampled and parodied and referenced by numerous others over the years. (In an episode of "Futurama," it was referred to as "classical music," and on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," clips of NBC Nightly News anchor Brian Williams were edited together to make it appear as if he were reciting the lyrics.)

This summer, Sir Mix-a-Lot performed his song with the Seattle Symphony. Ever since I first viewed it, I've been urging friends to check out the video on YouTube. The fact that a symphony is playing "Baby Got Back" while Sir-Mix-a-Lot raps is alone worth watching. But before he performs, he invites women from the audience to come up on stage with him. And they join him, eagerly. Then it's marvelous mayhem, with Sir Mix-a-Lot rapping, the symphony playing, the audience joining in on the lyrics and the women dancing and shaking all they got.

Watching it, one thing is undeniable: There's nothing like junk in the trunk.

It's a fact, Jack: Baby's got back. ■

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8	4	9	7	5	1	3	6	2
1	3	2	8	9	6	5	7	4
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3	2	5	6	7	4	1	8	9
4	8	6	2	1	9	7	5	3
7	9	1	3	8	5	2	4	6

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Now – October 4

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IN THE OFF BROADWAY PALM: Now – November 1

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October 9 – November 15

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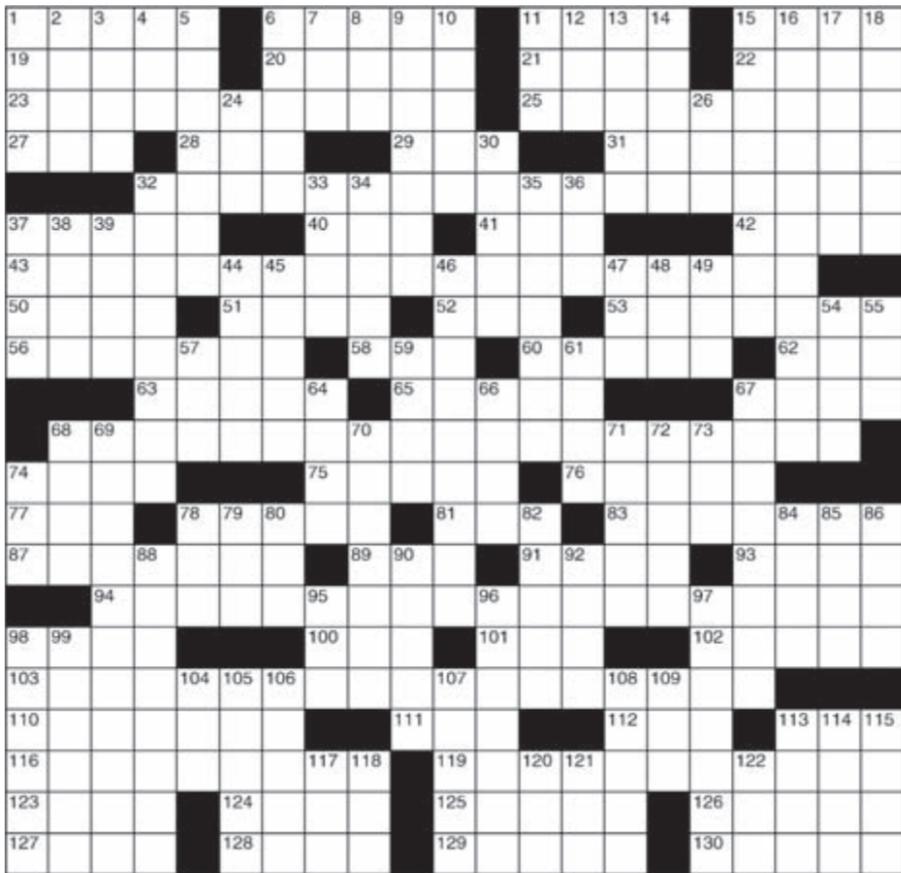
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PUZZLES

SINGER ON THE CIRCUIT



- ACROSS**
- 1 Western resort lake
 - 6 Wear away by rubbing
 - 11 Cottory
 - 15 See 42-Across
 - 19 Splendor
 - 20 Carted off to jail
 - 21 Luminous radiation
 - 22 Et — (plus others)
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 25 Window dressings
 - 27 Send over a phone line
 - 28 "Game of Thrones" ailer
 - 29 — Alamos, New Mexico
 - 31 Disregard
 - 32 Riddle, part 2
 - 37 "The Core" director Jon
 - 40 English miller Sebastian
 - 41 Number of cards in Livy's deck?
 - 42 With 15-Across, comic strip since 1957
 - 43 Riddle, part 3
 - 50 Citizens' rights org.
 - 51 Letters before omegas
 - 52 No longer in the mil., say
 - 53 Perpetually
 - 56 Treatment regimen
 - 58 "... — quilt" (threat ending)
 - 60 "— a Grecian Urn"
 - 62 It often follows "Co."
 - 63 Skater Slutskaya
 - 65 "Ditto"
 - 67 Achieves
 - 68 Riddle, part 4
 - 74 Reiner of film
 - 75 — a limb
 - 76 Admits
 - 77 Close male rel.
 - 78 Fork over
 - 81 How- (handy books)
 - 83 London section
 - 87 Metropolis on Hokkaido
 - 89 Hokkaido, e.g.: Abbr.
 - 91 Cheeky
 - 93 Suit to —
 - 94 Riddle, part 5
 - 98 Judicious
 - 100 Poseidon's realm
 - 101 Ready-fire linkup
 - 102 Total flip-flop
 - 103 End of the riddle
 - 110 Stood in for
 - 111 Secret agent
 - 112 Baby docs
 - 113 In the manner of
 - 116 Outer onion features
 - 119 Riddle's answer
 - 123 Part of many a sweatshirt
 - 124 A party to
 - 125 Singer Baker
 - 126 Jefferson, religionwise
 - 127 Male offspring
 - 128 Kellogg's waffle brand
 - 129 Streisand film of 1983
 - 130 Thrill
 - DOWN**
 - 1 End-of-week cry
 - 2 — Romeo
 - 3 Bamboozle
 - 4 Hockey hero Bobby
 - 5 Mask opening
 - 6 Thief
 - 7 Half a bray
 - 8 "Raggedy" playmate
 - 9 Frequent fly-ball catcher
 - 10 Biblical witch's home
 - 11 Bummed
 - 12 "— Lips Are Sealed"
 - 13 Swiss coin
 - 14 Thin out
 - 15 Bank offerings for autos
 - 16 1989-90 futuristic cop show on Fox
 - 17 — together (assembled)
 - 18 Pie or tart
 - 24 Peacock TV network
 - 26 Self-importance
 - 30 Decipher
 - 32 Subsequent interment
 - 33 Trendy antioxidant berry
 - 34 "That's false"
 - 35 2009-11 crime drama on Fox
 - 36 "Diamond —" (Mae West play)
 - 37 At the drop of —
 - 38 Ratio of fast flight
 - 39 Not engaged
 - 44 — Lederer, a.k.a. Ann Landers
 - 45 "Girlfriend" boy band
 - 46 Pupil of Plato
 - 47 Suffix with phenyl
 - 48 Hopping Aussie critter
 - 49 Bed-and-breakfast
 - 54 Blood type, for short
 - 55 Machines with CPUs
 - 57 Rainbow, e.g.
 - 59 Finn's floater
 - 61 Prima donna
 - 64 Elvis — Presley
 - 66 Italian river
 - 67 Aversion
 - 68 Actress Rue
 - 69 Spread of ideas, e.g.
 - 70 Reviewed, as the books
 - 71 Plainly visible
 - 72 Unwilling
 - 73 Jettas and Golfs, briefly
 - 74 Breakers' radios
 - 78 Jack of "Bamey Miller"
 - 79 Aetna rival, informally
 - 80 Vast stretch
 - 82 Madrid locale
 - 84 Caesar's last reproach
 - 85 Within reach
 - 86 Actress Laura
 - 88 Feigns
 - 90 Pre-Ayatollah rulers
 - 92 Bombeck of home humor
 - 95 Broadband inits.
 - 96 No-brainer
 - 97 Recede
 - 98 Strips cut by scythes
 - 99 Sneeze sound
 - 104 LP replacers
 - 105 Jack of "The Great Dictator"
 - 106 Drawing on
 - 107 "— the Lord my soul to keep"
 - 108 Principled
 - 109 Recede
 - 113 Brunei locale
 - 114 A deadly sin
 - 115 Required bet
 - 117 Holiday drink
 - 118 — -Cat
 - 121 Mel the Giant
 - 122 — Aviv

HOROSCOPES

■ **LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** Getting good legal advice on what your rights actually are is the first step toward resolving that pesky problem so that it doesn't re-emerge at a later date. Good luck.

■ **SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** Longtime relationships work well this week, whether they're personal or professional. It's also a good time to invite new friends and colleagues into your life.

■ **SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** This is a good week to do the research that will help you uncover those irrefutable facts that can back you up on your new venture when you most need it.

■ **CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** Change is an important factor in your aspect this week and could affect something you might have thought was immune to any sort of adjustment or "alteration."

■ **AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** Being asked to share someone's deeply personal confidence might be flattering, but accepting could be unwise. Decline gracefully but firmly.

■ **PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** As wise as you are, you could still be misled by someone who seems to be sincere but might not be. Take more time to assess the situation before making any commitments.

■ **ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** An upcoming trip could create some

problems with your schedule unless you tie up as many loose ends as possible before you head out the door. Ask a friend or colleague to help you.

■ **TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** Being eager to start a new project is fine. However, moving ahead without knowing what actually will be expected of you could cause a problem down the line. Ask some questions.

■ **GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** Getting through some recent challenges in good shape might give you a false sense of security. Don't relax your guard. You need to be prepared for what else could happen.

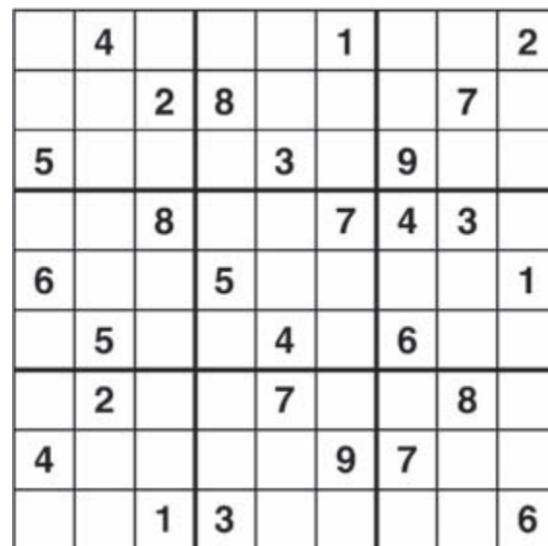
■ **CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Caution is still advised, even though you think you're as prepared as you need to be. Keep in mind that change is in your aspect, and you should expect the unexpected.

■ **LEO (July 23 to August 22)** The Lion's gift of persuasion helps you get your points across, even to some of your most negative naysayers. An old friend might seek you out for some advice.

■ **VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** Being sure of your convictions is fine. But leave some room for dissenting opinions. You might learn something that could help you avoid a possible problem later on.

■ **BORN THIS WEEK:** You like to face challenges that others might try to avoid, and by so doing, you set an example of courage for all. ■

By Linda Thistle



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Puzzle Difficulty this week:



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ Expert

◀ SEE ANSWERS, C9

◀ SEE ANSWERS, C9

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LATEST FILMS

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★★

Is it worth \$10? No

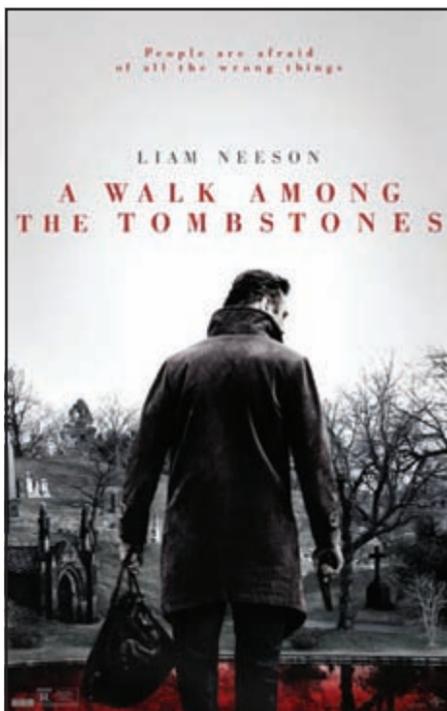
"A Walk Among the Tombstones" opens with Liam Neeson mumbling gruffly to a drug dealer and then going inside a bar for two shots of whisky and a coffee. We presume the coffee is black, because men like Mr. Neeson's Matt Scudder like it that way. Then the bartender is shot, and Scudder is scuddering his way down the road shooting bad guys. After he shoots one in the leg, he walks after the limping fiend, just like Jason or Michael Myers in a horror movie. Finally, and naturally, the bad guy is shot dead.

For fans of Mr. Neeson the badass ("Taken," "The Grey"), there couldn't be a better start. Scudder is tough, fearless, has a way with words and is not to be messed with. Unfortunately, the rest of the movie isn't as enthralling as its beginning.

Eight years after the shooting, it's 1999. Scudder is retired as a detective and working as an unlicensed private eye. Howie (Eric Nelsen), a drug addict Scudder met in AA, asks Scudder to help his brother Kenny (Dan Stevens) get revenge on the guys who kidnapped, raped and murdered Kenny's wife. Scudder demurs but then accepts — because if he didn't, the movie would be about something else.

If you haven't read the Lawrence Block novel on which writer/director Scott Frank ("The Lookout") based the film, at this point you're probably thinking you're in for a taut mystery thriller full of twists and suspense and intrigue. You'd be wrong on all three counts. There are no twists, the intrigue is distracted by the unfocused story, and the suspense could be a lot chair-grippingly better.

Immediately after Scudder takes the case, he starts investigating something that's tangentially connected, which makes us wonder: 1) What the hell is he doing? and 2) Why did he take the case in the first place? It's not for the money or glory. There's no personal vendetta for him. The fact that we're never given an explanation why Scudder takes the case is a major flaw; without a motive, we have a main character determinedly



coursing through a story for no good reason.

The token black character is T.J. (Brian "Astro" Bradley), a homeless teenager who's surprisingly whip-smart, ungrateful and likable. His character is superfluous, but his presence is welcome. The other minorities are all criminals, and the women are helpless victims who need a man to save them. The main villains are white, but mentally unhinged.

Judging solely on casting and characters, this movie reflects the sensibilities of 1950s Hollywood, not the present day.

Yet another sign of mediocrity in "A Walk Among the Tombstones" presents itself when Scudder says Y2K is in "six months," suggesting this is sometime in June in New York City. In the next scene, however, there are leaves all over the ground, it's overcast and everyone is bundled up in a coat. Having lived there, it struck me as November in New York, not June. It's a small thing, but this mishap in attention to detail is indicative of the film's more notable flaws — which, sadly, are plentiful. ■

in the know

>> Lawrence Block has written 17 novels featuring the Matt Scudder character; this film is based on the 10th one, which was released in 1992.

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Dolphin Tale 2 ★★★

(Harry Connick Jr., Nathan Gamble, Ashley Judd) With dolphin Winter not feeling well, teenage Sawyer (Mr. Gamble) struggles with a big life decision as he tries to find Winter a partner. Drama-wise it trips over itself multiple times, which is not good when it's already painfully predictable. Rated PG.

The Identical ★★★

(Blake Rayne, Ashley Judd, Ray Liotta) Identical twins are separated at birth; one (Mr. Rayne) becomes an Elvis-like big time star, while the other (Mr. Rayne again) struggles to escape his father's (Mr. Liotta) pressure to join the ministry. The premise is clever, but Mr. Rayne isn't quite ready for the big time, the singing sounds like an Elvis rip-off and the story has no surprises. Rated PG.

The November Man ★★★

(Pierce Brosnan, Olga Kuryleno, Luke Bracey) An ex-CIA operative (Mr. Brosnan) returns to action when his old flame uncovers dirt on the Russian president-elect. It has all the pieces of a solid espionage thriller, but they don't come together in an entertaining way. Rated R.

If I Stay ★★★

(Chloe Grace Moretz, Mireille Enos, Jamie Blackley) Teenage cello prodigy Mia (Ms. Moretz) is in a horrific car accident and must choose to live or die as we witness flashbacks to her Juilliard audition and growing love for boyfriend

Adam (Mr. Blackley). Although there are some nice moments, the story as a whole is labored and the Mia/Adam relationship doesn't feel real. Rated PG-13.

Sin City: A Dame To Kill For ★★★

(Jessica Alba, Eva Green, Josh Brodin) Four vignettes comprise the action in writer/directors Robert Rodriguez and Frank Miller's sequel to the 2005 sensation "Sin City." None of the four stories titillate, and the film only looks good — not great — in 3D. Rated R.



The Hundred-Foot Journey ★★★1/2

(Helen Mirren, Om Puri, Manish Dayal) The fussy proprietor of a Michelin-starred French restaurant (Ms. Mirren) doesn't take kindly to her new neighbors/competition, a spunky Indian family whose restaurant is right across the street. Like the food on screen, the movie looks fine and is perfectly edible, but it's nothing special. Rated PG.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles ★★★

(Megan Fox, Will Arnett, William Fichtner) Reporter April (Ms. Fox) teams with

four mutated, talking ninja turtles to stop a crime syndicate. This is an entertaining, full origin story with laughs and solid action. Rated PG-13.

Into the Storm ★★★

(Richard Armitage, Sarah Wayne Callies, Matt Walsh) Locals try to survive as a series of tornadoes strike a small midwestern town. Some action scenes are great and others miss the mark. With forgettable characters and rote dialog, this isn't one to run off to. Rated PG-13.

Magic In The Moonlight ★★★1/2

(Colin Firth, Emma Stone, Marcia Gay Harden) A world-renowned magician (Mr. Firth) travels to the south of France to reveal an American psychic (Ms. Stone) as a fraud, but his perspective changes as they spend time together. Ms. Stone's character is underplayed and the story is predictable, but Mr. Firth's snarky charm keeps you laughing. Rated PG-13.

Guardians Of The Galaxy ★★★

(Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista) Unlikely heroes Star-Lord (Mr. Pratt), Gamora (Ms. Saldana), Drax (Mr. Bautista), Groot (voice of Vin Diesel) and Rocket Raccoon (voice of Bradley Cooper) try to stop the villainous Ronan (Lee Pace) from possessing a powerful orb. It's action-packed, hilarious and an out-of-this-world good time. It also fits nicely within the Avengers-driven Marvel Cinematic Universe. Rated PG-13. ■

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Foreign film series starts up at Naples Center of FGCU

The fall series of Sunday-afternoon foreign films at the Naples Center of FGCU starts with a screening and discussion of Francois Truffaut's "Jules & Jim" (France, 1962) from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28. Admission is \$5 for FGCU Renaissance Academy members, \$6 for others.

The series opener tells the story of two men, Jules and Jim, who fall in love with the same woman in Paris before WWI. She loves and marries Jules. After the war, however, they meet again in Germany and she falls in love with Jim. The story follows the three as their relationship evolves through the years. Not rated.

The series continues through Nov. 16. Here's what's coming up in October:

■ **Oct. 5: "The Lunchbox" (India, 2013)** - A mistaken delivery in Mumbai's famously efficient lunchbox delivery system connects a young housewife to an older man in the dusk of his life. Together they build a fantasy world through notes in the lunchbox. Rated PG.

■ **Oct. 12: "Babette's Feast" (Denmark, 1987)** - In a remote 19th century Danish village, two sisters lead a rigid life centered around their father, the local minister, and their church.

Many years later, their father is now deceased, they take in a French refugee named Babette, who agrees to work as their servant. After winning the lottery, Babette wants to repay the sisters for their kindness and offers to cook a French meal for them and their friends on the 100th anniversary of their father's birth. It proves to be an eye-opening experience for everyone. Rated G.

■ **Oct. 19: "Life is Beautiful" (Italy, 1997)** - In 1930s Italy, a carefree Jewish book keeper named Guido starts a fairy-tale life by courting and marrying a lovely woman from a nearby city. Guido and his wife have a son and live happily together until the occupation of Italy by German forces. In an attempt to hold his family together and help his son survive the horrors of a Jewish concentration camp, Guido imagines that the Holocaust is a game and that the grand prize for winning is a tank. Rated PG.

■ **Oct. 26: "The Last Station" (Germany, 2009)** - Set in the last tumultuous years of famed Russian author Leo Tolstoy's life, this film centers on the battle for his soul waged by his wife Sophia Andreyevna and his leading disciple Vladimir Chertkov. Rated R.

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WRITING CHALLENGE

Writing challenge heads into home stretch

The *Florida Weekly* Writing Challenge continues, where we ask readers to submit stories based on our photo prompts. This week, we're featuring a short story inspired by the photo shown here.

Now it's your turn. For the third round of the challenge, we're asking you to use the photo as a starting point for your creative process. We'd like you to come up with a narrative work of fiction of 1,500 words or less. There is no minimum length. No poems, please. Previous entrants are welcome to submit again. Two winners will receive a ticket each to the Sanibel Island Writer's Conference Nov. 6-9. This year's conference will feature keynote speaker Richard Russo along with dozens of other professional writers in a variety of genres.

Florida Weekly will accept your original stories in Word format or pasted into the body of an email until midnight Sunday, Sept. 28. There will be more photo prompts in the months to come. Email your entries to writing@floridaweekly.com and we will print some of the best submissions on these very pages. No "snail mail" copies will be accepted. Be sure to include your name, address and contact information with your submission. The earlier we receive your submission, the better your shot at being printed.

For more information on the Sanibel Island Writers Conference, visit fgcu.edu/siwc. ■





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The art of waiting

By George Cook
Fort Myers

(Note to history: The Spur Burger would go out of business, and Winston would live long enough to mourn its passing.)

The wait would go faster if he were busier, she'd told Winston in the days of childhood leading up to Christmas, or his birthday. He would sit on a stool in the kitchen and watch his mother as she worked. Instead of just waiting, why didn't he find something to do? she'd always ask him.

Now in his 70s, Winston sat in front of the Spur Burger near his condo, taking his senior coffee a sip at a time, waiting. He reminded himself that he'd waited self-consciously for his wife to slip from a coma to her passing. The call had finally come and that was the end of that sad, sad time. He'd been oddly relieved. In her last month his dear wife of a life time had missed the ordeal. He'd gone through it alone, waiting. There was no other family. All through his wife's illness, Winston thought of his mother every day and spoke to her often, almost out loud.

He drank his coffee a little faster and kept the lid off, waiting for it to cool just a bit. Life was like that, Winston told himself: too hot; then just right; then too cold. Like Goldilocks, the trick was to know when it was just right and to ... what? Just to be aware. To be alive. Really alive at that moment and to know it. Not an easy thing, he felt.

The Spur Burger was Winston's favorite

stop for coffee in Palm City. Sometimes he would bring the paper and stay through lunch and really enjoy the greasy indulgence of a fast-food cheese burger with salty fries. Oh, damn! The place was a little run down and never crowded, empty except for Winston at odd hours. He liked sitting outside, even in the hot Florida sun. Inside by the window was nice enough, and the kids behind the counter were, to his mind, at once friendly but at the same time ... what? They owed him nothing because of his years. You couldn't assume any authority. They seemed so damned free. They didn't spend a lot of time, as Winston and his friends had, worrying about what adults thought.

Now Dr. Hatt was also much younger than Winston, but she was old school somehow. She called him sir or mister. There's a spot on your right kidney that I don't like, she'd cautioned. I'm going to send you for an MRI. The sonogram doesn't tell us enough. At your age, sir, a loss of kidney function is normal enough, but we'll know more after we get a closer look.

It had been the most logical conversation. Winston laughed to himself: Easy for her to say. The doctor goes on to the next patient. The kidney with its dark spot belongs only to me. The waiting had begun, Winston confessed to his mother.

Years and years ago, almost 60 years, actually, his wife — then his girlfriend — had missed her period, as they used to say, and probably still said. He and his friends dreaded the news as if it were a 25-year prison sentence. You could not just go on with your life — it was over. It was like the big

fear, he recalled. Not a debilitating or deadly illness; not financial ruin; nor even the Russians. No, the big fear for teens in the '50s was a missed period. Talk about being aware that you were alive. And then everything had stopped. Winston remembered the wait. Waiting for the news, whatever it was going to be. He had to laugh at himself for holding off on buying his books for junior college until they knew. Winston finished his coffee and went inside for a refill.

The trouble with irony, Winston told his mother, is that it's so ironic. Would she have thought so? Of course his mother never realized that they'd been waiting for a reluctant period. Don't wait until the last second to buy your books, his mother had told him. And then they never did have any children. His mother had wanted to know why, but there were no good answers.

By 11 in the morning in Southwest Florida, the sun was moving over the roof of the Spur Burger. October is as hot as you'd ever want it to be, Winston felt, but it was never too hot for him. He'd waited years to retire from their careers in upstate New York and to move to Palm City. They'd owned their condo for a while and had come here on vacations many times. Both he and his wife just loved the place. She was the smart one. She was more of a doer and less of a waiter. Impatient, really. They sold their house and moved into an apartment while they were still working, ready to go. They bought the condo and furnished it right away. His wife did it all. Winston had been there and had supported all her ideas and it had been the right thing to do. Mainly, though, he'd been waiting, he realized.

For some reason he'd never asked his wife

if she'd gotten her period. He was 18 and she was 17. Not very old, he felt. He sat with his coffee, letting it cool. She just let him know when she was ready. In the Navy, he had kept a short-timer's calendar on board the USS Walpole, a heavy cruiser out of Norfolk. Every morning before hitting the chow line, he filled in the next box until the picture of a nude girl emerged to let him know the wait was over and he was really out.

Dr. Hatt had said that she would call as soon as she got the MRI results. Winston thought about his offending kidney. His mother would probably have been more optimistic and might have encouraged him to appreciate that God had given him a second kidney, just in case. His wife would have taken charge of his kidney as if it were her own, and moved forward and gotten him through whatever had to be gotten through.

Winston liked waiting, actually. He mulled and ruminated, is what he said of himself. It took a certain amount of time and coffee to do it justice, he liked to think. And of course the Spur Burger was ideal, in its own way. So there it was — a life. It surprised Winston to see himself alive and aware of this very day, in this very place, and to see himself in the center of it all. He loved his mother and his wife. He could not possibly be very sick, if he felt this good.

(Note to history: Winston would die in his sleep and be found by his lady friend, who had a condo in the same building. They would check on each other every day and they would have coffee together.)

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By Dr. Manuel M. Peña

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FLORIDA WRITERS

Debut murder mystery leaves several doors open for a sequel



philJASON

pkjason@comcast.net

■ **“XC 97: The Quest for the Cure”** by Mark Dossey. Book-broker Publishers. 360 pages. Trade paperback, \$15.

Punta Gorda resident Mark Dossey’s debut novel has three interrelated plots.



DOSSEY

First of all, a start-up company based in Newark, N.J., has found a cure for cancer and needs to find a partner/financial backer as soon as possible to support manufacturing and marketing. Of course, it will need FDA approval, and any suitor will need to verify the test results. A trade conference in Atlantic City provides the opportunity to break the good news to the medical industry, and one impressive Swiss company rushes to make an offer that can’t be refused.

The second story line has to do with the murder of the start-up’s founding leader. Integra CEO Victor Allagara is found shot in his home soon after consecutive visits from two women. One of these, it turns out, was his faithful

and loving secretary, Jennifer. Before Jennifer showed up, however, young and sensuous Ally Kendall, Integra’s new marketing director, made a visit. They are two of several suspects under investigation by the Newark police. Of course, any scandal associated with the firm might hamper its ability to find the deep pockets that it needs.

The third piece of action follows the galloping romance between Ally and Stephan, the gorgeous hunk at the head of the Swiss company that’s so keen on Integra. This is a glamorous and exciting romp, though it seems a bit superficial, based almost exclusively on physical attraction. The instant lovers’ feelings for one another are tinged by the leverage Stephan has regarding the future health of Integra. Their frenzied affair takes us to splendid vistas, lavish homes and resorts, and plenty of self-indulgence.

The author keeps us moving back and forth through these three centers of interest. Ally is the linchpin character: a principal actor in representing Integra to the medical community and to possible investors, the main suspect in the murder mystery (though readers know that she is innocent) and the love interest of a successful and handsome young businessman.

In spite of her centrality, there are plenty of scenes without Ally. Many of these focus on the two policemen

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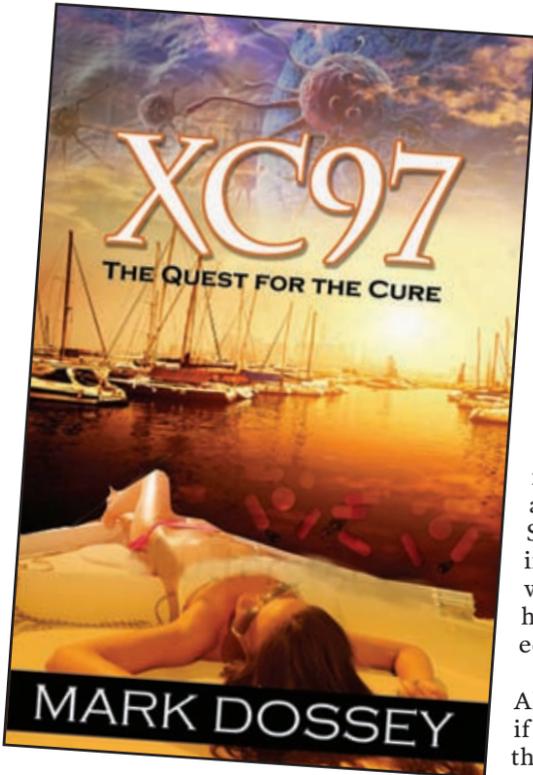
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who assists Ally in many ways as she balances the various parts of her pressured life.

One more area of interest that I found surprisingly engaging is Mr. Dossey's treatment of the business world, especially the part relating to venture capitalism. The author paints the Integra team's preparations for and presentation at the Atlantic City conference with authority and intensity, making us feel exactly what's at stake for the fledgling research outfit and its 20 employees.

"XC 97" ends with the murder mystery resolved but the other areas of interest left hanging. Will Stephan's company make a deal to invest in or absorb Integra? This would mean the positive test results have been substantiated and repeated, and that FDA approval is likely.

And what about Stephan and Ally? Will their relationship survive if Stephan's group does not come through — or even if it does?

Will a sequel come along with the answers to these questions? It would be strange to whet our interest about the outcome of these plot lines and then leave them unresolved. The publisher has suggested to me that a sequel is in the works.

With a brisk pace, terrific scenic detail and a dazzling heroine, "XC 97" has a lot to offer — including hopes for a cancer cure. ■

— 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.

assigned to the case as they chase down clues, await DNA evidence, interview persons of interest and discuss their next moves. Mr. Dossey handles the tension of the investigation and the interplay of the detective team members quite ably.

Several other minor characters are nicely etched. These include the scientific brains of Integra, Jorge Boudin and Albert Tomas; the company's HR executive and father figure, Ralph Wells; Ally's concerned father and her capable lawyer; a brash journalist who is looking for sensational scoop; and the chauffeur of the murdered CEO,

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Opera Naples season tickets on sale now

The 10th anniversary season of Opera Naples opens with Puccini's "La Boheme" at Artis—Naples. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, and at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22. Tickets are \$90, \$120, \$150 and \$165.

The season continues with:

■ **Mozart's "Cosi fan Tutte"** at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, and Saturday, Feb. 7, at ON's David and Cecile Wang Opera Center. Tickets are \$50, \$65, \$80 and \$95 (VIP, limited availability).

■ **"Maria de Buenos Aires"** and **"Tango"** at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 20-21, at the David and Cecile Wang Opera Center. An ill-fated girl named Maria is seduced by the tango and becomes a prostitute. After she dies, she is condemned to walk the streets of Buenos Aires as her shadow. "Tango," a short, one-person opera describing the history of the tango, will precede "Maria de Buenos Aires." Tickets are \$50, \$65, \$80 and \$95 (VIP, limited availability).

■ **"La Tragedie de Carmen,"** presented in partnership with ArtsNaples World Festival at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 1-2, at the David and Cecile Wang Opera Center. Just about everyone knows the story of the gypsy seductress Carmen, who worked in a cigarette factory, seduced one man too many and got death as her reward. This abbreviated Peter Brooks version uses the same music but brings back the visceral realism in Prosper Mérimée's novel not really seen in Georges Bizet's opera. Tickets are \$50 and \$85.

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GODSPELL

From page 1

Daniel Schwab, who has acted in TheatreZone productions including "Little Women," "Grand Hotel" and "110 in the Shade," has also been cast as a disciple. The six other disciples will be played by FGCU theatre students.

TheatreZone's Karen Molnar choreographs the show. FGCU adjunct instructor Robin Frank, who is also the music administrator and chorus master for Opera Naples, serves as musical director and provides piano accompaniment

in the know

'Godspell'

- >> **What:** A collaboration between FGCU and TheatreZone
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while directing the live band comprised of FGCU music students on guitar, bass and drums. ■

'Betrayal' charts a love affair, in reverse

Theatre Conspiracy continues its 21st anniversary season with the winner of the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play, Harold Pinter's "Betrayal." The show opens Friday, Oct. 3, at the Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers and runs through Oct. 18.

This play begins at the end, as a nine-year love affair between a literary agent and his best friend's wife unravels in reverse chronological order. However, hindsight is anything but 20/20 for each of these characters. The stakes are high for two families and three relationships as the playwright explores issues of fidelity, reproduction, friendship, betrayal and unfathomable human behavior.

Emma is married to Robert, a publisher, but has been having an affair with Jerry, a literary agent and Robert's best friend. "Betrayal" begins after the end of the affair, and pursues an intricate, gripping journey back to its beginning. Time is turned upside down as the play charts significant events in reverse.

A ruthless exploration of the complexity of the human heart, "Betrayal" is Mr. Pinter's most accessible work, enthralling and provocatively layered.

Greg Sofranco and Pattie Ford play the lovers, Jerry and Emma, and are joined by James Recca as Emma's husband and Ken Ruisi as the waiter. Rick

Sebastian directs. Tickets are \$22 (\$11 for students). Show time is 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12. Thursdays are buy one ticket, get one half off. Opening night Oct. 3 is pay what you will (you name the ticket price). For tickets or more information, call 936-3239 or go to theatreconspiracy.org .■

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KOVEL: ANTIQUES

Special serving pieces are a great find

BY TERRY AND KIM KOVEL

Is it called a fruit bowl, berry bowl, fruit stand, fruit dish, epergne, basket or bride's basket? A search of 1880s and '90s catalogs of silver and glass tableware manufacturers had similar pieces called by any one of these names. A formal Victorian dinner party served multiple courses with special serving pieces for each one. The many-named stand was used at the end of the meal. A typical dinner had up to nine courses. First was raw oysters, then soup, meat, poultry, salad, dessert, then fruit and perhaps cheese, followed by coffee and tea in the drawing room. The table was cleared between courses and sometimes even fresh tablecloths were used. The bowl with many names often was the centerpiece for the dessert and fruit courses. There were small berry bowls and berry sets that held strawberries or raspberries or similar fruit served with fresh cream and sugar. Elaborate stands that held colored glass bowls probably held fruit like bunches of grapes, or apples that are easier to serve since the bowl and stand would be too heavy to pass around the table. The silver-plated stands were decorated with three dimensional figures, animals, flowers or strange groupings like a cupid driving a chariot pulled by a peacock or the Greek god Poseidon with his spear poised to catch a piece of fruit from the bowl below. The bowls were sometimes

silver but more often were colored art glass like Amberina, Burmese, Peach-blow, Pomona, satin glass, or pressed or cut glass. Because collectors since the 1960s have preferred colored glass, art glass pieces found in stands today often are replacements for the original old clear glass bowls.

An all-original "berry bowl set" on a silver-plated stand with two Burmese bowls decorated with flowers sold recently. The silver stand featured young boys riding on turtles. It sold in 2014 at an Early's Art Glass auction in Milford, Ohio, for \$3,220.

Q: Please tell me the value of a 1939 San Francisco World's Fair lady's compact. It has an image of a tall building on the front.

A: The Golden Gate International Exposition was held on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay in 1939-40. Among the many souvenirs of the fair are several different styles of compacts. The building pictured on your compact is the Expo Tower at the fair's main entrance. Any lady's compact from the fair sells for about \$10-\$20.

Q: I have an antique doll that reads "Dainty Dorothy, Germany" on the tummy. It has yellow hair, a bisque head, open mouth with teeth, and a kid body. It is jointed but is missing a hand. It has shoes and socks and a new dress. The doll is about 21 inches tall. Can you tell me how old it is and what it might

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COURTESY PHOTO
This 19-inch-high fruit stand, sometimes called a berry set, is made of silver-plated metal with Burmese glass bowls. It sold in the spring of 2014 at an Early's Art Glass auction in Milford, Ohio, for \$3,220.

be worth?

A: Dainty Dorothy was a line of dolls sold by Sears, Roebuck & Co. and by T. Eaton Co., a Canadian department store, from 1910 until; at least 1922. Kestner, Simon & Halbig, Armand Marseille, and Gebruder Heubach made bisque heads for the dolls. If you find a manufacturer's mark on the doll's head on the back of the neck, you can identify the maker. Dolls with composition forearms and lower legs were made beginning in 1912. An all composition version was sold by Eaton in 1918. Not having the original dress doesn't affect the value very much but the value of your doll is

lower because it's missing a hand. Your doll is worth \$50 to \$75. ■

— 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.

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- Open Faced Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Served with mashed potatoes and veggies \$9.00
- Baked Stuffed Sole Supreme Topped with a hollandaise sauce with potatoes and veggies \$10.00
- Pan-Seared Tuna Salad Sliced and served over seaweed salad, pickle ginger and wasabi \$14.00
- Lobster Salad Wrap Served with lettuce, tomatoes, and fries \$14.00

DINNER FEATURES (SERVED 4:00-10:00)

- Alaskan King Crab (2lbs) Served with corn on the cob and drawn butter \$47.00
- Pan-Seared Sea Bass Served with olives, tomatoes and basil over \$26.69
- 14oz Sirloin Strip Steak AuPoivre Finished with peppercorn, Cognac sauce with potato and veggie \$26.00
- Grouper Savannah Pan seared grouper topped with peaches sauteed with pecans and peach Schnapps with potato and veggie \$28.00

WEEKLY FEATURES (SERVED ALL DAY)

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- Twin Lazy Man Lobster Two 1 1/4 lb. Maine lobsters taken apart for you and served with drawn butter and corn on the cob. \$28.99
- Fred Flintstone's Tomahawk Steak A 32 oz. bone-in ribeye steak modeled after Fred Flintstone's iconic meal. Served with baked potato and veggie. \$44.99

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THIS WEEK ON WGCU-TV

■ **THURSDAY, SEPT. 25, 10 P.M.**

**Masterpiece Mystery
Sherlock: A Study in Pink**

A modern-day Sherlock Holmes teams up with former Army doctor John Watson to solve a case of serial suicides. Using his deductive skill, Sherlock corners a killer who has mysterious powers over his victims.



"Women in Comedy," Sept. 30

■ **FRIDAY, SEPT. 26, 9 P.M.**

**Live from Lincoln Center
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street**

Relish performances by Emma Thompson and Bryn Terfel in Stephen Sondheim's iconic musical thriller about the eponymous barber who, with his romantically inclined landlady, Mrs. Lovett the pie-maker, seeks vengeance on what he considers a merciless world.



"The Paradise," Sept. 28

■ **SATURDAY, SEPT. 27, 9 P.M.**

As Time Goes By

Their romance spanned 40 years — during most of which they never saw each other — but the widowed Jean and divorced Lionel somehow manage to rekindle a magical lost love.

tric Guitar and Chinese carved jade objects.

■ **SUNDAY, SEPT. 28, 8 P.M.**

**Masterpiece Theatre
The Paradise, Season 2, Part I**

Rejoin the cast of the Victorian-era department store as it struggles to operate without its owner. Follow Moray, Denise and Katherine as they reunite under a new regime.

■ **TUESDAY, SEPT. 30, 9 P.M.**

Makers: Women in Comedy

Track the rise of women in the world of comedy, from '70s sitcoms to today's multifaceted landscape, including Chelsea Handler, Mo'Nique, Sarah Silverman, Lily Tomlin, Carol Burnett, Ellen DeGeneres, Jane Lynch and Kathy Griffin.

■ **MONDAY, SEPT. 29, 9 P.M.**

Antiques Roadshow: Raleigh, N.C.

Highlights include an Arts & Crafts desk and lamp, a Gibson Double 12 Elec-

■ **WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1, 8 P.M.**

Penguins: A Spy in the Huddle

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BY CINDY ELAVSKY

Q: I know it won't start back up until next year, but can you give me any scoop about "Hannibal"?

— Linda F. Galveston, Texas



ANDERSON

A: As we saw in the season-two finale, Gillian Anderson's character, Dr. Bedelia du Maurier, was more than just Hannibal Lector's psychologist — she's his getaway buddy (possibly lover?). Executive producer Bryan Fuller confirmed that Gillian has been bumped up from a recurring character to series regular. He also teased that when the show returns in 2015, it will be one year after Hannibal and Bedelia jetted off to Europe (after the bloodbath that he caused at his house).

Mr. Bryan Fuller told TVLine.com: "The cast and crew of 'Hannibal' are positively giddy to be welcoming Gillian to season three as a series regular. She brings wit, grace and intelligence to every role she embodies. Screenwriting is so much easier when you're inspired by a great actor, and Gillian has filled the 'Hannibal' writers room with wonderful inspiration."

Q: "Banshee" on Cinemex is my all-time favorite TV series. I've watched seasons one and two several times, and have bought the DVDs for both seasons.

Can you please tell me when season three will return?

— John F., Palm Springs, Calif.

A: "Banshee" will return in early 2015. The series — which is executive-produced by one of my favorite authors, Jonathan Tropper, and one of my favorite screenwriters, Alan Ball — centers on Lucas Hood, an ex-con and master thief who tracks down Carrie Hopewell, his former lover and partner in crime, who is now the wife of the Banshee, Pa., prosecutor. Lucas becomes the sheriff of Banshee and continues his criminal activities, even though he's being hunted by the criminals he betrayed years earlier.

A bit of a spoiler: Mr. Tropper revealed that while Proctor remains an important nemesis for Lucas, Chayton will be back in a big way. Also, Dennis O'Hare, whom I loved on "True Blood," will guest-star on one episode.

Q: Will "Cougar Town" be back for another season?

— Carly T., via email

A: The Cul-de-Sac Crew will return to TBS for its sixth and final season in early 2015. Spoiler alert: Brian Van Holt, who plays the hilariously dim-witted Bobby Cobb, will leave the series after the season-six opener. ■

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

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Nannette Staropoli and Jane Bond-Rostron



Paula Iacampo and Tracy Wenkman



Shemane Nugent, Chuck Ardezzone and Sharon DeLaura

COURTESY PHOTOS

St. Ann Knights of Columbus induction ceremony



Seated: Thomas Snyder and Jacqueline Snyder, Teresa Hewitt and Terry Hewitt. Standing: Tom Rzepski and Joe Gutierrez



Nick Giannone and Marina Giannone



Terry Hewitt, Nick Giannone, Frank Farren and Fr. Michael Vannicola



Wylder Brown and Jessie Kierczynski

PEGGY FARRIN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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

SOCIETY

Champagne & Chocolate at Shula's for The United Way



Tom Donahue, Heather Philpot, Kendra Faircloth, Kelsey Baker, Lauren Pettay, Stephanie Scholes, Virginia D'Amore and Zack Tomlinson



Andrew Migmano, Lisa Vinciguerra and Rod Gamdee



Ferial Nijem and Shanna Wilson



Kathy Connelly, Tracy Connelly and Kamela Patton



Palma Frable and Amanda Lee



Steven Sanderson, Linda Amos and Jim Warnken



Teresa Stohs and John Niggleg

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VINO

Some newly released wines and what makes them special



Get ready to start hearing about the touriga grape from Portugal, as more unforgotten wines made from this grape start entering the market.

Although Port from Portugal can be made up of 20 or more grapes, touriga grapes are important because they contribute the flowery essence, the extracted berry flavors and the tannic structure that help define quality ports.

Cedro do Noval 2009 is one I particularly like. Produced by a top Port lodge, Quinto do Noval, that has generations of winemaking experience, this wine with rich flavors and balanced structure pairs well with foods, especially a cheese tray.

Here are some other newcomers worth checking out:

Wines from Languedoc and southern France continue to be great values, and **Mas Belles Eaux Les Coteaux 2009** hits the mark with its rich red color and complex aromas and flavors. This estate owes its name to the fresh water springs that abound on the property. The vines grow halfway up a hillside in well-drained soils, stimulating deep root growth and helping build the rich, complex structure of this wine.

Rosé wines from southern France (the birthplace of rosé wines) are more popular than ever, with imports up more than 40

percent over last year. **Domain de Mourchon** is unusual because it is a Côtes du Rhône rosé, and comes from the village of Seguret, one of the 18 designated villages in the appellation.

Chateau Franc La Rose is a St. Émilion Grand Cru, which places it in the top 82 wines from the district (18 wines are designated premier grand cru, and 64 wines have earned the grand cru appellation). Produced by the Trocard family, winemakers since 1620 in Bordeaux, this wine represents 15 generations of winemaking. Wines from St. Émilion are mostly merlot and tend to be plush and rich, with sweet black fruit. They are accessible much sooner than the Left Bank's more structured, cabernet sauvignon-based wines.

The Frescobaldi family in Italy has a winemaking tradition that started in the 1400s. While replanting some older vineyards a while back, they came across certain vines that had highly impressive fruit due to their age and terroir. They preserved those special vines for **Nipozzano Vecchie Viti Chianti Rufina Reserva**, a special release that celebrates the family's new arrivals.

Wine Picks of the Week:

Cedro do Noval Vinho Regional Duriense 2009 (\$20): Made from 50 percent touriga nacional, 30 percent touriga franca, 10 percent syrah and 10 percent tinta roriz estate-grown grapes. The wine is aged in oak for 18 months. Inky purple in the glass, with a delicate floral nose mixed with red fruits and earth. The palate has complex cherry and dark red fruit flavors



Chateau Franc la Rose



Nipozzano Vecchie Viti Chianti Rufina Reserva

with a balanced finish with good tannins. This wine is best with food and pairs well with many meat dishes as well as cheeses.

Chapoutier Belleruche Côtes du Rhône Rosé 2013 (\$12): This wine has a pretty blush color and fresh, fruity aromas of raspberry and strawberry. The palate shows more red fruits mixed with pear. With a smooth finish, it's great for drinking on its own as well as with snacks and cheeses.

Chateau Franc La Rose Saint Émilion Grand Cru 2010 (\$40): This small producer made just 2,900 cases in 2010, a very good quality year in St. Émilion. A blend of 75 percent merlot and 25 percent cabernet franc grapes, it's rich, dark red in color and medium in body. The nose has a slight floral essence mixed with lavender, flowing into chocolate and dark red fruits on the complex palate. Lots of character



Cedro do Noval

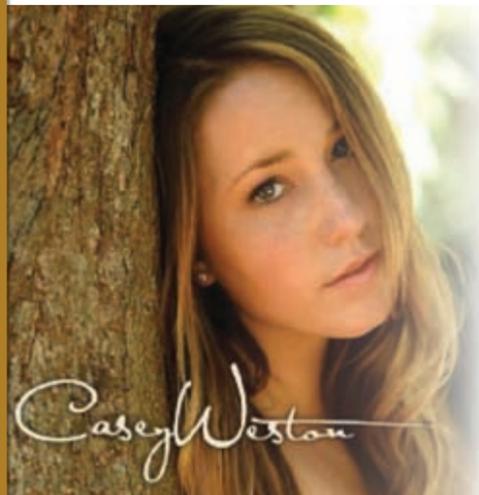
with an elegant, extended finish.

Domain de Mourchon Seguret Côtes du Rhône Villages Rosé 2013 (\$18): Made from 60 percent grenache and 40 percent syrah, this wine is salmon red in color. The nose is mixed berries with strawberries, pears and raspberries on the palate. Medium in body and well balanced, and it has a lemony note on the medium finish.

Mas Belles Eaux Les Coteaux Languedoc France 2009 (\$20): This blend of 70 percent syrah, 20 percent Grenache and 10 percent mourvedre spent 15 months in oak barrels. It has a dark ruby color and an aroma of dark berries mixed with earthy notes. The complex palate is a little lighter than the aroma, opening up with black cherries and black raspberries and ending with some earth and oak. The medium finish is well structured with tannins.

Nipozzano Vecchie Viti Chianti Rufina Reserva 2011 (\$30): Made from 90 percent sangiovese grapes and with the other 10 percent mixed, this chianti is aged in oak for 24 months. Its color is medium red, with cherries and oak on the nose. Medium in body, with flavors of cherries and mixed dark fruit, with a medium length, softer finish. ■

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CUISINE

Brew-Ha-Ha benefits Ronald McDonald House Charities

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Craft beer enthusiasts can raise their glasses to benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida at the third annual Brew-Ha-Ha Craft Beer Festival set for Saturday, Oct. 18, at Mercato.

This year's lineup includes 50 craft beers including those of local breweries. Among the featured brews are: Sweetwater, Green Flash, Southern Tier, Fat Point, 3 Daughters and Naples Beach Brewery.

Gates open at 5 p.m. with unlimited beer tasting until 8 p.m. Purchase tickets in advance for \$30 at rmhcswfl.org or pay \$35 at the gate. Advance ticket holders can enter at 4 p.m. Purchase by Thursday, Oct. 1 for a chance to win a \$500 Mercato Experience Package.

Lawn chairs, blankets and well-behaved pets are welcome. Participating Mercato restaurants will serve menu items for purchase. No coolers or outside food permitted. For more information, call 437-0202 or visit rmhcswfl.org.

D'Amico & Partners launches Lurcat Catering

The company that brought you Campiello, Cafe Lurcat, Masa and D'Amico & Sons now offers Lurcat Catering, which will draw inspiration from all of the company's restaurants.

"We are thrilled to bring our fresh, innovative cuisine into the homes and parties of Naples diners," says Executive Chef Jack Raben, who worked with legendary restaurateur Jean-Georges Vongerichten.

The company will cater events in private homes, public venues and even boats.

Among the array of international dishes available are yellow tomato gazpacho shooters, crab cakes with mustard sauce, beef empanada with cilantro-lime pesto, smoked salmon pizza, fire-roasted vegetable platter, pyramid of fresh crab, shrimp and lobster with trio of sauces and spring roll platter with fresh ginger slaw.

To learn more about Lurcat Catering, visit lurcatcatering.com.

Break the Yom Kippur fast at Stage 62 Deli

Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of atonement, is traditionally observed by prayer

and fasting, followed by a meal shared by family and friends. Naples' Stage 62 Deli is offering a special break-the-fast meal with seatings at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4.

Served family-style, the multi-course spread will have New York-style deli specialties including assorted salads, smoked fishes, cheese blintzes, eggs, made-to-order omelets, vegetables, cheese, orange juice, coffee and desserts.

Owner Steven Goldberg says Stage 62's break-the-fast is intended as "a multi-denominational event that introduces diners of all faiths to a deeply historic and delicious celebration."

Cost is \$32 for adults, \$12 for children 10 and younger, plus tax and gratuity. The deli is at Mercato. Call 597-2800 for reservations.

Grapes & Apes evolves to Naples Grape Escape

What began as a small fundraiser held in a boutique food market then moved to The Naples Zoo as Grapes & Apes is now, in its 10th year, headed to Fifth Avenue South as The Naples Grape Escape. Set for Saturday, Nov. 15, it's sponsored by The Rotary Club of Naples and The Fifth Avenue South Business Improvement District.

Attendees will explore and enjoy six blocks of entertainment, food and drink. Among the 50 premium wines featured will be Caymus, Fog Dog and Nickel & Nickel. There will also be an extensive selection of craft beers available, including local brews.

On Thursday, Friday and Sunday, more than 10 vintner dinners and special parties will take place at Fifth Avenue South locations. Among the offerings: an oyster bash, caviar and vodka tastings and beer dinners. Sponsorships are still available.

For more information, visit napleswine.org.

Chefs event will benefit local children

Get a taste of what it might be like to cruise with three Naples chefs at a benefit event set for 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Yacht Club at Naples Bay Resort.

Chef/owner Charles Mereday of Mereday's Fine Dining, chef/owner Brian Roland of Crave Culinaire and chef/owner Lisa Boet of Chez Boet will serve a variety of small plates while also giving participants a sampling of the cruises to Europe and Asia they have planned for next summer with the Cruising with the Chefs company aboard Oceania's Riviera.

The event is \$145 per person and ben-



MEREDAY



BOET



ROLAND

efits Naples Children & Education Foundation, founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival. The reception begins at 6 p.m., with the chef stations firing up at 6:30 p.m. and the travel presentation starting at 7:15 p.m.

The resort is at 1490 5th Ave. S. For reservations, call Rodney George at Cruising with the Chefs, (877) 313-9009.

Quick bites

■ **Shula's Steak House** hosts celebrity bartender night with Mercury Morris, Charlie Babb, Larry Ball and Larry Little of the undefeated 1972 Miami Dolphins from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26. Admission is \$25, which covers one drink, appetizers, autographs and photo opportunities (bring your camera). There will be a silent auction and reduced drink prices. Proceeds benefit United Way of Collier County. Shula's is at the Hilton Naples, 5111 U.S. 41 N. Call 659-3176.

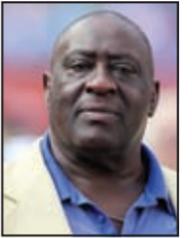
■ **Le Lafayette** Sunday brunch returns Sunday, Sept. 28, with a special opening day price of \$39 per person, which includes a bottle of champagne or wine per couple. (Regular price: \$45.95.) Brunch is served 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the French restaurant at 375 13th Ave. Call 403-7861 for reservations.

■ **Alexander's** opens for its 20th season Thursday, Sept. 25, at 5 p.m. for dinner and at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept.

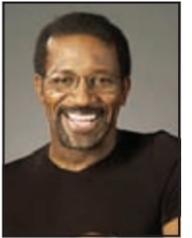
30, for lunch. The restaurant will be closed Sundays and Mondays through October. The first wine tasting of the season, celebrating "Blends from Around the World," starts at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8. On Saturday, Oct. 18, the season's first cooking class will cover "The Foundation of Cooking." Alexander's is at 4077 Tamiami Trail N. Call 262-4999.

■ **Sea Salt** hosts a five-course pairing dinner at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, hosted by Meagan Sacher, Stolichnaya Global Brand Ambassador. Enjoy Tzar Nicouli caviar in a smoked sturgeon cone with cucumber-vodka foam, seared sea scallop with vodka-compressed peach, pumpkin ravioli, cider- and vodka-glazed suckling pig and green tea genoise. Cost is \$95 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Sea Salt is at 1186 Third St. S. Call 434-7258 for reservations. ■

— Email restaurant and food news to cuisine@floridaweekly.com.



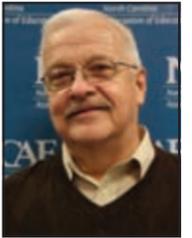
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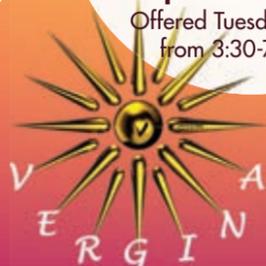
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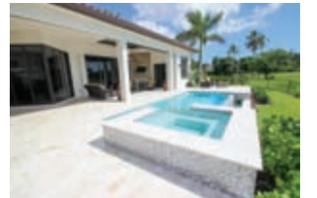
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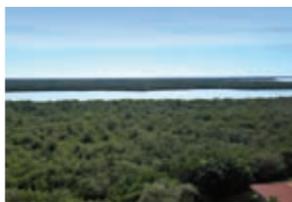
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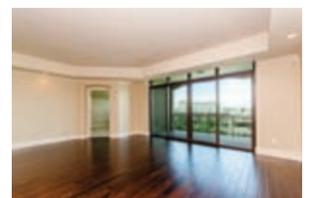
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