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WEEK OF OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 3, 2010

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Ads from both sides continue to saturate the media.

THE RACE FOR YOUR NEXT GOVERNOR IS STILL ...

NECK & NECK

ALEX SINK AND RICK SCOTT FIGHT TO DEFINE THEMSELVES AND FLORIDA'S FUTURE

BY BILL CORNWELL

bcornwell@floridaweekly.com

Claude Kirk remembers when Florida's Republican Party was little more than a collection of hoity-toity, cuff link-wearing fat cats who caucused at the country club and cared more about the cocktail party than the Tea Party.

Now 84 years old and living a contented and cantankerous retirement in West Palm Beach, Mr. Kirk remains a voluble observer of all things political in the Sunshine State, including this year's race for governor. In 1966, he won election as Florida's first Republican governor since Reconstruction. Abrasive, unpredictable and often confounding, Mr. Kirk was notable primarily for his flamboyance and for a rock-ribbed con-

SEE GOVERNOR, A8 ▶



Alex Sink, left, and Rick Scott battle for votes Nov. 2.

City budget main issue for Gardens council candidates

BY C.B. HANIF

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Term limits, the city budget and potential cuts in services are among the issues for Palm Beach Gardens residents in the Nov. 2 special election for Seat 5 on the city council.

None of the three candidates — Gary Gomoll, Ken Menard and Marcie Tinsley — has previously served in elected office, but each offers varied involvement on city concerns.

The election is required to complete the three-year term of Jody Barnett, who left in July following her sudden resignation. For a full term, which pays \$25,270 a year, the winner would face voters again in the city's regular March election.



GOMOLL



MENARD



TINSLEY

Retired banker Gomoll stressed that he has lived in Palm Beach Gardens for 27 years, is not tied to any political faction, developer or special interest group and is not taking contributions. "I am funding this all by myself because I want to serve the community," he said.

Similarly, "I think I have the most experience," said computer business owner

Menard, vice chairman of the budget oversight committee, a council advisory board. "I've been volunteering with the city of Palm Beach Gardens for the past two and a half years. This is my third budget that I've done with the city. I've been involved with the civilian police academy with the city. I've attended every city council meeting for the past two years, with the exception of when Jody Barnett accused the city manager of wrongdoing for the affair he was having" with an employee.

Tinsley emphasized her "knowledge of ordinances and resolutions, which will help me understand many of the issues

SEE COUNCIL, A11 ▶

INSIDE



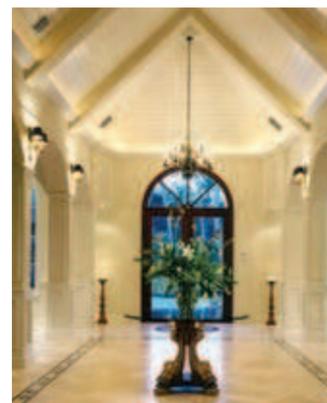
Epic drama

The world premiere of "Cane" is Oct. 29 at the Kravis. C1 ▶



Gardens Society

See who's out and about in Palm Beach County. C13 & 14 ▶



Hot properties

On Jupiter Island, it's not just the house — it's the lifestyle. B1 ▶



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COMMENTARY

Tillman was real American hero



Our post 9/11 invasion of that sovereign nation? I opposed it. Strongly.

Iraq had done nothing worse to us than tolerate the dictator we propped up for them, unlike the Iranians who had evicted the shah we gave them. Each case started another cycle for which our citizens — and theirs — are still paying.

But in Iraq, we senselessly have sacrificed countless innocents — in order to save them — and arrogantly ordered our own dear servicemen and women into harm's way. Like most good, brave soldiers, they obeyed.

So did Pat Tillman. Yet to say that he was different is the height of understatement. Tillman had been a charismatic 25-year-old professional football defensive back with a reputation as a bruising tackler. Upon completing his Arizona Cardinals contract with its half-million dollar salary, he passed up a nearly \$4 million extension to join the Army Rangers, with his brother Kevin, and fight in the Middle East.

Disillusioned upon seeing more clearly through the fog of war in Iraq, he could have opted out. A back-channel deal would have returned him to his football life, with fame and other trappings rivaling Elvis Presley's.

Instead he chose to fulfill the remaining half of his three-year military commitment. Because that's who he was.

By now most people know of Cpl. Pat

Tillman's April 22, 2004 death after his redeployment to Afghanistan — and of the subsequent cover-up of the friendly fire tragedy. And the official attempts to turn it all into a propaganda coup.

It hit too close for me. From ballyhooed enlistment, to the admission of his death by fratricide, to the cover-up revelations, I had tried to tune it out. I didn't trust the hype and counter-hype from our news organizations that had helped cheerlead our nation into the immoral, economy wrecking, dehumanizing Iraq disaster.

Thankfully, Tillman's family couldn't tune it out. So it was hard to miss his mother's painstaking push for the truth. Or his father's outrage at the efforts to deceive not only them, but a whole nation.

Thus it was in quest of a reliable picture that I reported to the PGA Cinemas the other day, for a screening of "The Pat Tillman story." I came away with admiration for this All-American family, and its elder son.

This was a man who had requested to be seen like any other soldier; who despite being hounded for media interviews had refused to speak publicly about his choice to leave football.

His military colleagues said they expected Tillman to be your general depiction of "your jock, your meathead, not very intelligent." One wondered, "Why the hell is somebody leaving an NFL contract to come to this hellhole and deal with this kind of nonsense?"

What they found was the real deal: an outgoing, family oriented human being, looking to do good. Who once was found reading the Book of Mormon, but said he wasn't reli-

gious, but was a respecter of all religions.

"Pat had that something," said one of his Army buddies. "He wasn't at all what I expected to find. He didn't seem like this tough, knucklehead guy. He was interested in Emerson and Chomsky, and he seemed very just, open. It didn't matter who you were, where you were from or what you were into. Pat always wanted to find what you were about. And he would ask a million questions."

This was a man who married his high school sweetheart, Marie, who he first met in the same soccer league at age 4. Soon after he was killed, casualty assistance officers tried to compel her to sign off on a funeral at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors — "which was not what his wishes were," said the film's narrator. "During basic training, Pat had a premonition that if he died, he might be used as a public relations stunt. So he'd smuggled a copy of his final wishes home to Marie."

"I really had to kind of push back on them," she said. "They were just sort of proceeding as if this was the way things were going to happen, probably thinking that I was so grief-stricken that I would just go along with it."

This all was rendered more ironic given the name on a campaign sign I had seen on the way to the movie, at the corner of PGA and RCA boulevards. And worse, another I saw on a van upon leaving, over on Military Trail, proclaiming "A True American Hero."

The ads were for Allen West, GOP candidate for the Palm Beach-Broward congressional District 22. It is he you may have seen on incumbent Ron Klein's TV spots, saying: "You must be well-informed and well-armed because this government

that we have now is a tyrannical government." The former Lt. Col. West avoided a court-martial, but was fined \$5,000, following a military hearing over abusing an Iraqi detainee. In a sign that one person's right-wing extremist is another's war hero, West's campaign is the better financed, evidenced by ... his ubiquitous signs. So rather than a Pat Tillman, we have one of the best heroes money can buy, proving that eternal vigilance still is part of the price of our liberty.

Said Mary "Dannie" Tillman, mother of the er, "other" hero: "I think they just thought if they spun the story and we found out, we'd just keep it quiet, because we wouldn't want to diminish his heroism or anything like that. But, you know, nobody questions Pat's heroics. He was always heroic. What they said happened didn't happen. They made up a story. And so, you have to set the record straight."

Again, this hits real close for me. But we can't let such abuses destroy our faith in authority, any more than those Bible-totin' cross burning fellers should destroy a sincere Christian's faith. The agnostic Pat Tillman lived as proof that our nation's founders got it more right than many folks in other nations even dream. ■

— My gratitude for all the kindness from those of you who were readers of more than two decades of my editorials and columns for The Palm Beach Post. I'm still rooting for my friends there. But for those who have wanted more of my offerings, welcome. I'm going to love sharing on the issues and goings-on in our community, if not our galaxy. Thanks for joining me on this latest journey.

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OPINION

The Texas model



richLOWRY

Special to Florida Weekly

Texas already looms large in its own imagination. Its elevated self-image didn't need this: More than half of the net new jobs in the U.S. during the past 12 months were created in the Lone Star State.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 214,000 net new jobs were created in the United States from August 2009 to August 2010. Texas created 119,000 jobs during the same period. If every state in the country performed as well, we'd have created about 1.5 million jobs nationally during the past year, and maybe "stimulus" wouldn't be such a dirty word.

What does Austin know that Washington doesn't? At its simplest: Don't overtax and spend, keep regulations to a minimum, avoid letting unions and trial lawyers run riot, and display an enormous neon sign saying, "Open for Business."

At bottom, the struggle between national Republicans and Democrats is over whether the country will adopt a version of the Texas model, or of

the Michigan, New York or California model. Will government allow the private sector to thrive, or stifle growth with its hyperactivity and favoritism for anti-business interests?

It's not as though Texas has been exempt from the Great Recession. Its unemployment rate is 8.3 percent — high, if beneath the national rate of 9.6. It faces a recession-driven shortfall of roughly \$15 billion for its next two-year budget, a significant challenge to its low-tax ways. But it has weathered the storm better than the nation and its mammoth competitor to the West. During the past 12 months, California nearly canceled out Texas' job creation all by itself, losing 112,000 net jobs. Its unemployment rate is above 12 percent.

Texas is a model of governmental restraint. In 2008, state and local expenditures were 25.5 percent of GDP in California, 22.8 in the U.S., and 17.3 in Texas. Back in 1987, levels of spending were roughly similar in these places. The recessions of 1991 and 2001 spiked spending everywhere, but each time Texas fought to bring it down to pre-recession levels.

Less spending means fewer taxes. Texas doesn't have an income tax — in contrast to California's highly progressive income tax — and it is among the 10

lowest tax states in the country. Its regulatory burden is low across the board, and it's a right-to-work state that enacted significant tort reform.

It is true that Texas enjoys bountiful oil and natural gas reserves, but its attitude toward those resources is what's most important — "if you got 'em, use 'em." If only the Obama administration's Department of the Interior agreed.

In Texas in recent decades, the watchwords have been prudence and stability in the course of nurturing a pro-business environment, while California has undergone a self-immolation that President Barack Obama wants to replay nationally. Joel Kotkin writes of California in the *City Journal*, "During the second half of the 20th century, the state shifted from an older progressivism, which emphasized infrastructure investment and business growth, to a newer version, which views the private sector much the way the Huns viewed a city — as something to be sacked and plundered."

With predictable results. For policymakers wanting to restart the American jobs machine, forget the Alamo. Keep in mind the Texas model. ■

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

GUEST OPINION

When banks are the robbers



amyGOODMAN

Special to Florida Weekly

The big banks that caused the collapse of the global finance market, and received tens of billions of dollars in taxpayer-funded bailouts, have likely been engaging in wholesale fraud against homeowners and the courts. But in a promising development this week, attorneys general from all 50 states announced a bipartisan joint investigation into foreclosure fraud.

Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, GMAC and other big mortgage lenders recently suspended most foreclosure proceedings, following revelations that thousands of their foreclosures were being conducted like "foreclosure mills," with tens of thousands of legal documents signed by low-level staffers with little or no knowledge of what they were signing.

Then the Obama administration signaled that it was not supporting a foreclosure moratorium. Not long after, Bank of America announced it was restarting its foreclosure operations. GMAC followed suit, and others will likely join in. So much for the voluntary moratorium.

GMAC Mortgage engaged in mass document processing, dubbed "robo-signing." In several cases, GMAC Mortgage filed documents with courts that were signed by Jeffrey Stephan. Mr. Stephan presided over a staff of 12 in suburban Philadelphia. Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray filed a lawsuit against GMAC Mortgage, Stephan and the bank that owns GMAC, Ally Financial (itself a subsidiary of General Motors).

According to one report, Mr. Stephan

received 10,000 mortgage foreclosure documents to process in one month. Based on an eight-hour workday, he would have had to read, verify and sign, in the presence of a notary, about one document per minute. He admitted to signing documents without reading them or checking the facts about homeowners said to be in default. And Mr. Stephan was just one of many "robo-signers."

Recall that GM received \$51 billion in taxpayer bailouts; its subsidiary, GMAC, received \$16.3 billion; and Ally Financial subsidiary GMAC Mortgage received \$1.5 billion as an "incentive payment for home loan modification."

So you as a taxpayer may have bailed out a bank that is fraudulently foreclosing on you. What recourse do you have?

Back in February 2009, Ohio Rep. Marcy Kaptur advised homeowners to force lenders to "produce the note." People facing foreclosure were being taken to court while the bank alleging default couldn't even prove it owned the mortgage. The mortgage document often had been lost in the tangled web of financial wheeling and dealing. Rep. Kaptur told me: "Millions and millions of families are getting foreclosure notices. They don't have proper legal representation ... possession is nine-tenths of the law; therefore, stay in your property."

If you stay in your home, your mortgage lender may break in. Nancy Jacobini of Orange County, Fla., was inside her home when she heard an intruder. Thinking she was being burglarized, she called 911. Police determined the intruder was actually someone sent by JPMorgan Chase to change the locks. And Ms. Jacobini wasn't even in foreclosure!

Most banks that suspended foreclosure efforts only did so in 23 states — because it is only in those 23 states that courts actually adjudicate over fore-

closure proceedings. One judge who oversees foreclosures is New York State Supreme Court Justice Arthur Schack. He has made national headlines for rejecting dozens of foreclosure filings. He told "Democracy Now!" news hour, "My job is to do justice ... we run into numerous problems with assignments of mortgages, questionable affidavits of merit and just sloppy paperwork in general."

Bruce Marks runs NACA, a national nonprofit that helps people avoid foreclosure. He told me: "When President Obama was running for president, he said one of the first things he'll do is put a moratorium on foreclosures. He never did. He never backed bankruptcy reform so people could have the right to go in front of a bankruptcy judge."

He went on: "And where is President Obama? When he says, 'Well, you know, we don't want to upset the market,' what is good about a market when someone is foreclosed on and ... you've got a vacant building? We have to have a national moratorium to give ourselves a window of opportunity to restructure mortgages ... to look at homeowners as people, not as a commodity to make money."

According to RealtyTrac, banks repossessed 102,134 properties in September, a home roughly every 30 seconds. Every 30 seconds, banks — many that received funds from the Bush administration's TARP, and that may be using fraudulent practices — foreclose on an American family's dream of home ownership. Meanwhile, GMAC Mortgage has reported increased profits for the first half of 2010. ■

— Amy Goodman is host of "Democracy Now!," a daily TV/radio news hour. She is author of "Breaking the Sound Barrier," recently released in paperback and now a *New York Times* best-seller.

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15 MINUTES

Secluded forest bestows respite to humans, home to ancient creature

BY TIM NORRIS

tnorris@floridaweekly.com

Into the woods, shadows are reaching, crossing, blending.

The creature is in there. Moving. Or waiting.

Near dusk in Frenchman's Forest, a quick left off Prosperity Farms north of PGA Boulevard, another world unfolds. It is not a realm of supermarkets or strip malls or schools or laptops or ear buds or the buzz and bleat and drone of traffic, driving to-and-from.

This might be the world of the Brothers Grimm. The haunted woods. Their fairy tales, all too often, do not turn out well.

It might also be, more immediately for those jaded by the repetition of the every day, a place to explore. A place to discover. To be surprised. To step away. To change attitude by changing latitude.

Shed the grid. Embrace the carapace.

Near dusk, the last hard rays of sun are tangling and fading in the cabbage palms and saw palmetto and slash pine. Just beyond, in strand swamp, sunlight will linger last on the crowns of pond cypress, more than 100 feet high. Around the cypress knees, knobs on spreading roots that support the tree, are swamp things lurking in shadows?

The creature... There is a lagoon, but it is not the Black one from the '50s horror movie. It's a salton pool first dug by a developer, now husbanding mangrove along the shoreline, emceed by a pier and gazebo where visitors can stand



TIM NORRIS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

It's the creature from Frenchman's Forest ... the endangered gopher tortoise.

and gaze.

Maybe something is gazing back. Maybe several hundred somethings. Hey, over there! What's tha...? Ah, a mourning dove. Is it mourning the last visitor?

Frenchman's Forest Natural Area invites, first of all, attention. A fresh look. Eyes blurred by plasma screens and traffic streams must refocus. No signs here, beyond a warn-and-welcome display at the parking lot and a few trail markers.

No directional arrows or turn lanes, no bright lights or loud music. No gas pedal. No brake. No "gotta."

Getcha? Something might.

The landscape on view is not a bland backdrop. Each tree, each flower, each tuft of scrub along a sinuous concrete path invites a closer view. Deer moss, cactus, gall berry, fetterbush and morning glory start low, and the eye follows up to large leather ferns and the giant airplant and higher pines above. This is the real old Florida, the way the area looked before settlers brought in alien cityscapes and foreign plants.

Alien? A cabbage palm, scorched, bent in a U from root to tomb, looks for all the ersatz world like the neck of another mysterious creature in a scene from *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms* (Warner Brothers, 1953), when the monster is first viewed from the deck of a ship it is about to swamp. That monster neck was rubber.

The creature here lives and breathes, and it doesn't need 20,000 fathoms, or water; it burrows from a few feet to 10 under the sand, and then it plows as far as 50 feet lengthwise underground, creating, among other things, homes for some 250 kinds of cold-blooded slithery and feathery things (toads, frogs, snakes, burrowing owls) and warm furry ones (mice, fox, rabbits). It is, as a brochure and a sign out front say, a "champion digger." Maybe it was Florida's first developer.

It is also endangered, on the international list. Its numbers are dwindling, thanks mostly to habitat lost to developers of the human kind. Don't beasts, when cornered, fight to the death? Usually, these days, it's their own.

Like many cinematic monsters, this one is ancient, latest of a line going back 60 million years. Burrowing into a broad, dry swale between the coastal sand ridges of the Atlantic and pine flatwood ridges holding off the Loxahatchee Slough, this creature has outlasted eons of geologic upheaval, outlasted a hundred hurricanes, a thousand land development schemes, the coming of cattle ranches and dairy farms, canals and roadways, the arrival of rail and highway and housing and all-terrain vehicles, outlasted litter-dumpers and poachers and oh-let's-take-one-homers.

Survived by the skin of its beak. Fewer and fewer show up for viewing.

There! No...that's a gray squirrel. Leaves rustle in a rhythmic line. Green

snake? Eastern racer? Then, nearby, the rhythm changes, something four-footed. A Virginia possum? A southeastern five-lined skink? Not the creatures in question.

Frenchman's Forest is here, newcomers can learn, because the public said yes and government acted. It had been the headwaters of a blackwater creek, former sawgrass and tidal marsh and hammock and then pasture and developments conjured by farmer-developer John Maheu (who called his planned development Prosperity Farms) and then John D. MacArthur, whose holdings were passed to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

To buy just more than 149 acres from the foundation along Prosperity Farms road north of PGA Boulevard, between the Cabana Colony Canal and the Frenchman's Landing development, Palm Beach County dipped into funds from its Environmentally Sensitive Lands Bond Issue Referendum of 1991 (voters said "yes") and then partnered with the City of Palm Beach Gardens to apply for matching funds through the Florida Communities Trust's Preservation 2000 Program. They were shepherded by the Nature Conservancy, who knew in detail how to do it. The price, in 1995, was \$5,676,987. Creatures living in and Homo sapiens wandering into the forest, now, might consider it priceless.

Around a curve, more cabbage palms show scorched trunks. Is this creature the fire-breathing kind?

No, but fire helps save it. Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resources Management conducts controlled burns, here and across a network of "urban islands," parcels of land in the county's 31 natural areas. Burn-offs give the creature, give many creatures, the cycle of soil nutrients, proper plant growth and seed spread that they need to survive.

Pine needles crunch underfoot, and, finally...is it? Right there. There! It's moving!

Not far off the path, over sand carpeted in pine needles, a boxy terrapin is hauling tail. That's not typical turtle slo-mo! This one scrambles, its wide front feet, flipper-like, pulling its boxy back like a 4-by-4 hauling a double-wide.

Gopherus polyphemus. The gopher tortoise.

People used to pluck them up, take them home and stage races with them. Too often they forgot to bring them back. Some meant well and kept them, unhappily, as pets. Some tried them for food, or target practice. Some ran over them on roads.

Seeing an intruder, this tortoise stops still. It might as well be sculpture. If humans don't take care, don't protect its surroundings, environmentalists warn, its whole species will be pottery. The visitor looks into the eyes of age, takes out a camera, flashes a flash. The gopher tortoise stares, from the archives. It might be young; it could be as old as 60 years.

When the visitor moves a respectful distance, the tortoise heads off, due west amid underbrush, gone in 160 seconds.

On the way out, other animals bid the human an enthused goodbye. They whine near the ear, sneak-attack the flesh. Do gopher tortoises eat mosquitoes? Bats do, and maybe they're here, too. But, please, one rarely seen animal at a time.

The visitor starts up the loud engine and steers from the parking alcove onto Prosperity Farms Road, leaving behind the creature. Who is already home. ■

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Blockbuster • 5440 Military Trail
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Café Sole • 4300 S. US Hwy 1
Camille's Pizza • 711 W. Indiantown Road
Capelli's Hair Salon • 4050 S. US Hwy 1
Carvel Ice Cream • 6230 W. Indiantown Road
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Comfort Inn And Suites • 6752 W. Indiantown Rd.
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Dr. Marvin R. Feldman • 3755 N. Military Trail
Einstein Bagels • 3900 Indiantown Road
Fairfield Inn And Suites • 6748 Indiantown Blvd
Family Dentistry • 6390 W. Indiantown Road
FAU- Jupiter • 5353 Parkside Drive
Food Shack • 103 S. Us. Hwy 1
Gentle Dental • 451 University Blvd.
Gold's Gym • 201 N. Us Hwy 1
Goodyear • 1350 W. Indiantown Road
Hard Exercise Works • 240 W. Indiantown Road
Hong Kong Café • 711 W. Indiantown Road
Ink Slingers Tattoo • 1203 Town Center Dr.
Jon Smith Subs • 5440 Military Trail
Junior's Barber Shop • 451 University Blvd.
Jupiter Auto Spa • 220 Maplewood Drive
Jupiter Dunes Golf Course • 401 N. Highway Ala
Jupiter Farms Dentistry • 10156 Indiantown Road
Jupiter Fitness • 1200 W. Indiantown Road
Jupiter Library System • 705 Military Trail
Jupiter Mailbox Plus • 6230 W. Indiantown Road
Jupiter Reef Club • 1600 S. Highway Ala
Jupiter Research • 875 Military Trail
Jupiter Town Hall • 210 Military Trail
Jupiter Waterfront Inn • 18903 S.E. Federal Highway
Jupiter Yacht Club - Admiral • 400 So. US Hwy 1
Jupiter Yacht Club Marina • 400 So. US Hwy 1
Jupiter Yacht Club- Mariner • 400 So. US Hwy 1
Kilwin's • 201 N. Us. Hwy One
Kozmos Hair • 103 S. Us Hwy 1
La Quinta • 34 Fisherman's Wharf
Lady Of America Fitness • 6743 W. Indiantown Road
Let's Tan • 1155 Main Street
Locals Surf Shop • 4050 Us Hwy 1
Maltz Jupiter Theatre • 1001 East Indiantown Road
Manhattan's Pharmacy And Gift Boutique • 4601 Military Trail
Marina @ The Bluffs • 1320 Tidal Pointe Blvd
Mcdonald's • 5480 Military Trail
Mcdonald's • 181 N. Us Hwy 1
Mcdonald's Jupiter Farms • 10130 W Indiantown Jupiter
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Nature's Way • 1203 Town Center Dr.
Nature's Way • 103 South Us. Hwy 1
Neighborhood Pizza Café • 240 W. Indiantown
Northern PB County Chamber Of Commerce • 800 N US Hwy One
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Publix • 5500 Military Trail
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Roger Dean Stadium • 4751 Main Street
Safe Harbor • 185 E Indiantown Rd
Scripps Research Institute • 130 Scripps Way
Sea Treasures • 18947 S.E. Federal Hwy
Sensations Distinctive Hair • 337 E Indiantown Road
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Capri Condos • 6250 N. Ocean Drive
Connemara Condos • 5420 North Ocean Drive
Dunes Towers • 5480 N. Ocean Dr.
Greater Gator Food Mart • 1245 Blue Heron Blvd
Hilton Singer Island • 3700 North Ocean Drive
Kokonuttz Sportsbar And Grill • 2401 Beach Court
Marriott Ocean Pointe • 71 Ocean Avenue
Mayan Towers South • 125 S. Ocean Avenue
Oasis Singer Island • 3920 N. Ocean Drive
Ocean Tree Condos • 3400 N. Ocean Dr.
Palm Beach Shores Resort • 181 Ocean Avenue
Phoenix Towers Condos • 2800 N. Ocean Dr.

Pizza Lino • 2533 Beach Court
Sea Grape Condos • 5460 N. Ocean Dr.
Singer Island Automotive • 1260 Plaza Circle
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Villa Towers Condos • 3640 N. Ocean Dr.
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Bentley's • 805 Donald Ross Road
Crazy Cuban • 11985 U.S. 1
Dunkin Donuts • 803 Donald Ross Road
Floridian Bank • 14235 Us Hwy One
Hampton Inn- Juno • 13801 US Hwy 1
Holiday Inn • 13950 Us Hwy 1
Juno Beach Café • 13967 Us Hwy 1
Juno Beach Fish House • 13980 U.S. Hwy 1
Juno Beach Health Clinic • 14147 U.S. Hwy One
Nature's Way • 1911 U.S. Hwy 1
Ocean Royale Condominium • 700 Ocean Royale Way
Remax Real Estate • 14050 Us Hwy 1
Running Sports • 813 Donald Ross Road
Subway •
Waterford Retirement Community • 601 Universe Blvd.

North Palm Beach

Big Apple Pizza • 11249 U.S. Hwy 1
Blockbuster • 12175 U.S. 1
Brass Ring • 200 Us.S. Hwy 1
Dixie Ep • 11269 U.S. Highway
One Dollops Ice Cream • 908 Northlake Blvd
Enzo's Pizza • 916 Northlake Blvd
Firestone • 541 Northlake Blvd
Gemini Condo • 355 Golfview Road
Ice Cream And Yogurt Club • 1201 U.S. Hwy 1
La Fogata • 924 Northlake Blvd.
Maria's Italian Ice • 450 Northlake Blvd.
Mcdonald's • 12025 U.S. Hwy 1
Mercedes North Palm Beach • 9275 Alt. Ala
Nature's Way • 420 Us Hwy 1
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Publix • 374 Northlake Blvd.
Sanctuary Cove • 700 Sanctuary Cove Dr.
Dr. Sehaick • 1983 PGA Blvd
Step In Food Store • 800 Northlake Blvd
Vietnamese Express Café • 531 U.S. Hwy 1
Walgreens • 230 U.S. Hwy 1
Wash And Wax World • 537 Northlake Blvd

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Applebee's • 3167 Northlake Blvd.
Barbie's • 935 Florestia Drive
Bay Reach Condos • 1001 Lakeshore Drive
Cardello's Carving Station • 720 Us. Hwy 1
Chick Fil A • 1262 Northlake Blvd
Dockside Restaurant • 766 Northlake Blvd.
Dunkin Donuts • 301 U.S. Hwy 1
Jiffy Lube • 2945 Northlake Blvd
Just In Time/ Eagle Cleaners • 966 Northlake Blvd.
Lake Park Library • 529 Park Avenue
Lake Harbor Marina • 105 Lake Shore Drive
Louis's Coiffures • 1427 10th Street
Mobil 1 Lube Express • 9012 Alt. A1a
Mullinax Ford • 1210 Northlake Blvd.
Muzzio's Bakery • 9339 Alt. A1a
Napleton Auto Park • 3703 Northlake Blvd
North Palm Beach Pain Management • 1411 10th Street
Palm Beach Academy Of Health And Beauty • 1220 10th Street
Postal Express • 962 Northlake Blvd.
Power Smoothie Café • 3176 Northlake Blvd
Pronti's Italian Kitchen • 1440 10th Street
Shamrock Jewelers • 968 Northlake Blvd.
Simply Maria's • 1460 10th Street
Someplace • 1301 10th Street
Twin City Barber Shop • 9339 Alt. A1a
Village Grocery • 9271 Prosperity Farms Road

Lake Worth

Palm Beach State College-Duncan Theatre

West Palm Beach

Academy For Little People • 4639 N. Military Tr.
Garden Walk • 8200 N. Military Trail
Ibis Animal Hospital • 10130 Northlake Blvd.
Ibis Country Club • 8225 Ibis Blvd.
Kravis Center • 701 Okeechobee Blvd
Lexus Of Palm Beach • 5700 Okeechobee Blvd
Mercedes Of Palm Beach • 4000 Okeechobee Blvd
Millenium Salon • 10130 Northlake Blvd
Publix # 651 • 10130 Northlake Blvd.
Reds Bbq- Ibis • 10130 Northlake Blvd

Tequesta

Blowing Rocks Marina • 18487 S.E. Federal Highway
Jupiter Lighthouse Carwash • 1625 North Old Dixie Hwy
Jupiter Pointe Marina • 18701 S.E. Federal Highway
Lighthouse Cove @ Tequesta • 230 Village Blvd.
Park Avenue Bbq • 236 U.S. Hwy 1
Lobster House • 716 N. Us Hwy 1
Publix # 1049 • 502 North Us Hwy 1
Rancho Chico • 686 N Us Hwy 1
Rinaldi's • 233 U.S. Hwy One
Smoke Inn • 241 U.S. Hwy One
Steverino's Long Island Pizza • 131 N. Us Hwy 1
Tequesta Library • 461 Old Dixie Hwy
Tequesta Palms Inn • 220 N. U.S. Hwy 1
Tequesta Terrace • 400 N Us Hwy 1

Riviera Beach

Loggerhead Marina- Blue Heron • 2620 Lake Shore Drive
Newport Cove Marine Center • 255 E. 22nd Court
Woodbine • 9000 Woodbine Trail

GOVERNOR

From page 1

servatism that would find a comfortable home in the Tea Party of today.

On matters of personal style, Mr. Kirk was the sort of politician who would have made Sarah Palin look like a shrinking violet. That he often referred to himself as “one tree-shakin’ son of a bitch” gives you some idea of how he approached the fine art of governance.

Mr. Kirk’s rollicking run as governor ended after just one term when he was defeated in 1970 by Reubin Askew. Mr. Kirk entered the General Election against Mr. Askew, weakened by his lackluster record and a contentious primary challenge mounted at great expense by Jack Eckerd, the drugstore magnate turned politician who died in 2004.

“Jack Eckerd was a precursor of a lot of things,” Mr. Kirk recalls with no trace of affection evident in his voice. “He was convinced that if you had enough money you could buy the governor’s office. Some people think anything’s for sale, I suppose.”

(This evaluation of Mr. Eckerd conveniently sidesteps that Mr. Kirk himself was a wealthy businessman when he ran successfully in 1966. But let’s not quibble; fact-checking Mr. Kirk’s wonderfully baroque yarns is a job best left to someone in need of full-time employment.)

Mr. Kirk’s recollection regarding Mr. Eckerd’s belief in the power of the almighty dollar in the political arena is both timely and instructive as the General Election of 2010 draws nigh. While it is beyond dispute that the evolving Tea Party movement has seized the right wing of the Republican Party and introduced a grass-roots element that was missing in Mr. Kirk’s time, big money still rules in Florida’s GOP, which seems a bit strange since rousting the “elites” is a mantra of many Tea Partiers.

Exhibit A in this regard is Rick Scott, the Republican gubernatorial candidate who already has spent some \$55 million of his vast personal fortune (and he’s not through writing checks to his campaign, either) in pursuit of a job that pays about \$130,000 annually. (Consider this: Should Mr. Scott prevail, he must serve roughly 105 four-year terms if he is to recoup his campaign investment.)

Mr. Scott rose not only from obscurity but from downright infamy on the strength of support from the Tea Party faithful, who continually stress the importance of placing government in the hands of regular folk. Yet Mr. Scott is an interesting brand of regular folk. This is a man who amassed much of his wealth — at least \$300 million of it — by so screwing up and embarrassing Columbia/HCA — the hospital company he founded and ran — that the board of directors heaved baskets full of cash at him just to get him out the door with a minimum of fuss. After Mr. Scott’s departure, Columbia/HCA was hit with a record \$1.7 billion fine for Medicare and Medicaid fraud that took place under his leadership.

Tea Party ardor and an unlimited bank account have propelled the high-rolling, take-no-prisoners health-care executive with a slippery past to a six-point lead in the latest Rasmussen Poll over Alex Sink, Florida’s elected chief financial officer and the Democratic Party’s steady if somnolent standard bearer. Other polls show a race far too close to call at this point.

It has been a curious contest thus far, involving two candidates who were virtually anonymous just a few



FLORIDA PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE
Claude Kirk, Florida’s governor from 1966-1971, believes Rick Scott and the Tea Parties’ influence are extensions of the same Republican party he helped put in power in Tallahassee.

years back and whose rhetoric rarely rises above pedestrian. Both Mr. Scott and Ms. Sink have unleashed pointed, blatantly personal attacks on one another and have further fouled the airwaves with a seemingly unending string of extraordinarily vicious and petty television advertisements.

The basic theme of Mr. Scott’s ads is that Ms. Sink is a dangerous liberal who has mismanaged the state’s pension fund and is joined at the hip politically with President Obama. Ms. Sink, meanwhile, portrays Mr. Scott as a shady businessman who, if there were any justice at all in this world, should be working the rock pile at a federal prison for his role in the Columbia/HCA affair.

The candidates have taken their opponent’s best shots and both remain standing, leaving one to wonder what it will take to decide this contest.

Sink’s battle for recognition

ALEX SINK’S FIRST BID FOR elective office in 2006, when she ran for the post of CFO, an important but relatively obscure state cabinet post.

Four years ago, most voters couldn’t distinguish an Alex Sink from a Kohler faucet, and during her CFO campaign, she regularly received mail addressed to “Mr. Sink.” Incredibly, one of her earliest challenges was to establish gender identity.

Ms. Sink, a North Carolina native, had spent 26 years fashioning a career in banking. She had risen to become president of Florida operations for Bank of America. Her husband, Bill McBride, ran for governor in 2002, losing his bid to Jeb Bush.

Despite her accomplishments, the 62-year-old Ms. Sink remained something of a mystery to those outside of the inner circles of state’s Democratic Party. Prim and punctilious, Ms. Sink has shown in her debates with Mr. Scott that she is not afraid to mix it up with her opponent. But she is a far cry from the assertive “Mama Grizzlies” (women such as former Alaska Gov. Palin, Sharron Angle, the Republican candidate for U.S. Senate in Nevada, and Michele Bachmann, the fiery Minnesota congresswoman) of the Republican Party who often “out-macho” their male counterparts. When

slapped with a tough question or a damning charge from her opponent, Ms. Sink often responds with a tight smile and a nervous giggle — mannerisms that seem strangely at odds with the moment at hand. And while she displays an adequate command of the facts, she sometimes struggles to verbalize her thoughts. The words “Alex Sink” and “charisma” rarely occupy the same sentence.

The job of chief financial officer is a relatively new position, having been created in 2002, and Ms. Sink is only the second person to hold the post. As CFO, Ms. Sink is responsible for some 3,000 employees and an annual budget of \$300 million in the Department of Financial Services. The CFO’s job encompasses a dizzying array of responsibilities that range from serving as the state fire marshal to managing the state’s \$24 billion in Treasury funds. In truth, few Floridians have much of a clue as to what the CFO actually does, and Ms. Sink has not done a particularly good job over the course of the campaign of explaining her work.

Mr. Scott has seized on the electorate’s ignorance toward Ms. Sink, and this has allowed him to define her in the most unflattering of terms. One line of attack that has proved to be effective is Mr. Scott’s repeated assertion that Ms. Sink has been inept in handling the state’s pension fund.

“The pension fund has gone from 7 percent overfunded to 13 percent underfunded (during Ms. Sink’s tenure),” Mr. Scott said last week in a debate at Nova Southeastern University in Broward County.

Mr. Scott is correct; the pension fund has diminished under Ms. Sink’s direction, but Ms. Sink responds that the fund’s losses were inevitable, given the economic meltdown that has gripped the entire United States. She also points out that she dismissed a bumbling minion who was involved in the administration of the fund.

“In a normal election year, Alex Sink would be an incredibly strong candidate,” says State

“Why in the hell are you trying to get me to say something bad about (Mr. Scott)? ... I’ve got nothing bad at all to say about him, so stop trying.”

— Claude Kirk, former governor

Sen. Dave Aronberg, a Democrat from Greenacres.

But, as Mr. Aronberg readily concedes, 2010 is not a normal election year. It is a midterm election, of course, which usually spells trouble for the party in power in Washington, which happens to be the Democrats this time around. Also, President Obama’s stunning fall in popularity has further complicated the races of Democratic candidates — especially those who trend moderate to liberal in their views, as is the case with Ms. Sink.

“The biggest challenges (Ms. Sink) faces really have little to do with her personally or what she stands on the issue,” Mr. Aronberg says. “Her biggest challenge is fighting the headwind that all Democrats are running into this year.”

Mr. Aronberg’s observation is astute. Mr. Scott accuses Ms. Sink of using “Obama math” to justify the pension fund decline and never passes on a chance to hurl the dreaded word “liberal” in her direction.

For her part, Ms. Sink gamely seeks to take control of her own image as best she can.

“I’m still that girl who grew up on that family farm (in North Carolina),” said Ms. Sink last week in her debate with Mr. Scott.

“She’s not the sort of person who pounds the desk or gets right in your face,” says Steven Hemping, chair of the Collier County Democratic Party. “She’s very analytical, and she’s very decisive.”

Mr. Hemping has no illusions that Ms. Sink will carry Collier County, which not only is solidly Republican but also home to Mr. Scott, who lives in Naples. But he says Ms. Sink does enjoy surprising strength within the county’s financial community.

“There is some bipartisan support for her among business leaders in Collier County who have known her for years,” he says. “These people, many of whom are Republican, dealt with her during her banking days, and they know that she is a socially moderate, fiscally conservative person.”

Mark Alan Siegel, the Democratic Party chairman in Palm Beach County, believes Ms. Sink has “done very well” as a candidate and has substantial support across the board in his county.

“Of course, I’m looking at this from a Palm Beach perspective,” says Mr. Siegel. “The Republicans we have here tend to believe in things like science, so they are not a likely constituency for someone like Rick Scott. For the most part, our Republicans tend to be sensible.”

While Mr. Scott is still viewed with suspicion by many Republicans who are not allied with far-right branch of the party (Jeb Bush, for example, grudgingly jumped on board), his campaign has staked out claims against Ms. Sink that resonate with those outside the Tea Party.

Mr. Scott insists that Ms. Sink’s proposals involving educating, health care and jobs would cost the state some \$12 billion. Mr. Scott points out that Senate President-to-be Mike Haridopolos, a Scott supporter, sent Ms. Sink a letter to this effect and that she chose not to respond.

When Mr. Scott raised the Haridopolos letter during the most recent debate, Ms. Sink replied: “I’m going to



ARONBERG

stand here and be Ronald Reagan — ‘there you go again.’ You’re just throwing mud....There’s no number like that in any of my plans. That’s why we can’t trust Rick Scott.”

Mr. Scott further portrays Ms. Sink as a “failed fiscal watchdog” who has become a part of the ruling class in the state capital.

“She clearly is a Tallahassee insider,” says Mr. Scott. “She’s been there for years. She’s had her shot. And in her time there, the state has lost more than 800,000 jobs... She’s had a lot of issues.”

“Let’s be honest,” says one Democratic official who speaks on the condition of anonymity. “This is not a good year to be running as a Democrat. It doesn’t matter who you are, really, or what you’re running for. Alex is smart and competent, but she isn’t dynamic, and she hasn’t done the greatest job defining who she is. She’s had trouble getting separation from the president and his policies and that hurts. Most of all, she’s facing a guy with almost unlimited financial resources. That’s really tough. I mean, (Mr. Scott) spent millions and millions in the Republican primary alone. That is truly amazing. I don’t believe (Ms. Sink) expected it to be this tough. I’m not sure any of us did. We all thought Rick Scott would implode or self-destruct in some way. We couldn’t believe a guy with a record like his could keep going. He hasn’t imploded, and it looks like he’s going to be there, going strong, right to the bitter end.”

Scott’s business acumen both blessing and curse

LEE COUNTY SHERIFF MIKE SCOTT, a Republican, also believes that Democrats greatly underestimated the resources that Rick Scott could bring to bear. The sheriff is a fervent supporter of Mr. Scott but is not related to the gubernatorial candidate.

“Spending \$40 million or \$50 million for Rick Scott is like me spending a thousand or so dollars,” he says. “So, I’m not surprised at all that his campaign has been so successful. But it’s not just money.

He’s a very impressive person. I didn’t know him prior to this (campaign), but I’ve met and spent time with him and his wife. He’s a very good family man.”

The sheriff’s depiction of Mr. Scott as a charming and charismatic figure is both interesting and perplexing. Few candidates in recent memory have remained as aloof and removed from both the public and the news media as has Mr. Scott. His campaign has been conducted through an avalanche of television commercials. Mr. Scott disdains meetings with editorial boards and his personal appearances are rationed and scripted.

His performance in debates reveals a man who seems uneasy when called upon to think on his feet, which is surprising given the fact that he once earned his keep as a lawyer at one of the largest firms in Dallas, Texas. Under even mild questioning, Mr. Scott often appears stunned, displaying the wide-eyed look of a man who has happened upon an intruder in his bedroom in the dead of the night.

Mr. Scott, in his television ads, plays strongly on his image as a self-made man. And indeed, this image is rooted in fact. At first blush, the 57-year-old Mr. Scott seems to be the very embodiment of the American Dream. He grew up as part of a working-class family in North Kansas City, Mo. Mr.

Scott’s father was a trucker and his mother (who features prominently in some of his television ads) worked at JCPenney and took in ironing on the side.

Following high school and a year at a community college, Mr. Scott enlisted in the Navy and served 29 months on active duty. After the Navy, Mr. Scott bought two doughnut shops, consolidated them, and pursued an undergraduate degree (which he earned in just 2½ years) at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Upon graduation, Mr. Scott sold his doughnut shop and married his high-school sweetheart. He then enrolled in the school at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

After law school, Mr. Scott was hired by the Johnson & Swanson, one of Dallas’ largest and most prestigious firms. Mr. Scott specialized in health care and energy issues, and he quickly gained notice as one of the firm’s brightest minds. By his early 30s, Mr. Scott was a star in Texas legal circles.

Mr. Scott might have remained a highly successful but relatively obscure Texas lawyer had he not crossed paths with Richard Rainwater. Mr. Rainwater was a billionaire from Fort Worth who boasted an outsized reputation as a swashbuckling corporate raider. Mr. Rainwater took note of Mr. Scott’s talents and approached him about a business venture, which turned out to be the 1987 attempt to take over of the Hospital Corp. of America. HCA rejected the offer put forth by Mr. Scott and Mr. Rainwater, but the pair went on to buy three dilapidated hospitals in El Paso. Mr. Scott used his life’s savings — \$125,000 — to help finance the first hospitals. These El Paso holdings eventually grew into the Columbia Healthcare Corp. Columbia, under Mr. Scott’s aggressive leadership, became a giant in the health-care field.

In 1993, Mr. Scott merged Columbia with HCA, and Columbia/HCA became the country’s largest hospital chain. At one point, Columbia/HCA, which was headquartered in Kentucky, was Florida’s largest private employer — surpassing even Disney. In less than five years, Mr. Scott’s company included 341 hospitals nationwide. Mr. Scott became known as an aggressive cutter of costs at his hospitals, which generally operated squarely in the black. By 1995, Rick Scott’s initial investment of \$125,000 was worth \$250 million.

Columbia/HCA also became the target of federal investigations involving Medicare and Medicaid fraud during its period of rapid growth. In 1997, just months before the federal investigations were revealed, Mr. Scott was eased out of his job by the company’s board of directors. Details of the parting are murky, but it is reported that Mr. Scott left with some \$10 million in cash and \$300 million in stock. The investigations continued, despite Mr. Scott’s departure, and eventually resulted in fines totaling \$1.7 billion, which is a record that still stands. The fines were paid in 2000 and 2003 — years after Mr. Scott had stepped down — but it was made clear that the irregularities occurred while he ran the show. It was the most massive Medicare and Medicaid fraud in history.

Mr. Scott laid low until last year, when he unexpectedly appeared in a series of television ads as a spokesman for a nonprofit group called Conservatives for Patients’ Rights. Mr. Scott had founded CPR and funded the outfit with \$5 million paid out of his own pocket. He used the commercials as a forum to criticize President Obama’s health-care proposals. Mr. Scott identified himself as a former health-care executive, but there was no mention

made of Medicare fraud or fines totaling \$1.7 billion. In hindsight, it seems clear that Mr. Scott was laying the groundwork for his gubernatorial bid. If nothing else, the CPR campaign allowed Mr. Scott to begin crafting the image that he would carry into this year’s campaign. In essence, this early exposure helped soften the later revelations regarding his business activities.

Bill McCollum, Florida’s attorney general and Mr. Scott’s vanquished opponent in the Republican primary, went after Mr. Scott for his role in the scandal. Ms. Sink has echoed and amplified Mr. McCollum’s attacks over the course of her campaign.

Ms. Sink has said that “if Scott proposes the same accountability measures for Florida government that he used at Columbia/HCA, we’ll have to back up the paddy wagon at the front door.”

Ms. Sink notes that Mr. Scott invoked his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination 75 times during a lawsuit involving Columbia/HCA. She also has called upon him to release a deposition given just days before he entered the governor’s race involving Solantic Corp., the health-clinic company he founded in 2001. According to its website, Solantic operates some 30 urgent-care facilities across Florida and has served more than 1.5 million patients.

Mr. Scott says he accepts responsibility for Columbia/HCA’s problems. He says he did not pay close enough attention to some of the company’s business operations because he was fixated on ensuring that patients received the best possible care at his hospitals. In essence, Mr. Scott says that any mistakes he made were those of the heart, not the head. Focusing on patient care left him insufficient time to oversee the nuts and bolts of his complex corporation, he says.

Mr. Scott’s self-characterization does not exactly square with how he was perceived during his high-flying days as a health-care mogul. His reputation was that of a hard-eyed, bottom line-obsessed executive who kept costs at a minimum. He was seen as the Gordon (“greed is good”) Gekko of the hospital industry.

In 1995, the “Healthcare Forum Journal” described Mr. Scott as an “icon of greed and heartlessness, of all that’s wrong with American health care.” “Forbes” magazine once observed that Mr. Scott “bought hospitals by the bucketful and promised to squeeze blood from each one.”

“I take responsibility, and I learned from it,” Mr. Scott says now of his hospital career.

He also pledges that he will not repeat any earlier mistakes if he is elected.

“In business... if something goes wrong, you focus on it,” Mr. Scott says. “You get better, and that’s what I’ve done.”

Mr. Scott also notes that he never has faced a criminal charge as a result of his actions, a circumstance that flummoxes his detractors.

The Sink campaign seems frustrated by its inability to turn Mr. Scott’s past business dealings into the overriding theme of this contest. Republicans say this inability is a clear indication that Ms. Sink and other Democrats have sorely misjudged the temper of the times.

“Voters are very frosted by the direction of this country under the Democrats,” says Gary A. Lee, chairman of the Lee County Republican Executive Committee. “Any concerns that voters might have (concerning Mr. Scott’s business career) are trumped by their concern over where this country is headed.”

Mr. Lee, who served as a congressman from upstate New York before moving to Florida, says that Mr. Scott’s financial resources allow the candidate “to hammer home” his message of limited government, almost to the exclusion of all else.

Mr. Scott pledges to reduce property taxes by 19 percent, but he has yet to say how this could be accomplished without a significant reduction in financial support for public education. He also proposes an “Arizona-style” immigration law for the state and wants to institute drug testing for welfare recipients.

Mr. Siegel, the Palm Beach Democratic chairman, says he believes that the Tea Party message — which Mr. Scott embraces fully — is too radical to prevail in Florida. In the end, he predicts, the state’s voters will have second thoughts about electing someone so closely allied with the far right wing of the Republican Party.

“Let’s face it,” Mr. Siegel says, “these (Tea Party supporters) are borderline crazy, and it will be hard to elect a person who appeals to that segment.”

Mr. Siegel envisions numbers of “sensible Republicans” abandoning their party to cast their votes for Ms. Sink on Nov. 2.

Should that occur, Claude Kirk will be taken by surprise.

Mr. Kirk sees the Tea Party not as a radical offshoot of the Republican Party, but rather as a natural extension of the movement he helped get off the ground more than 45 years ago.

“The Republican Party has always stood for conservative ideals,” he says. “That hasn’t changed in all these years. You can call it the Tea Party or whatever you want. It’s still the same.”

Mr. Kirk speaks in broad generalities about the upcoming election and the candidates involved. He bristles when asked if he sees parallels between Mr. Scott and his old political nemesis, Jack Eckerd. Both possessed extreme wealth, it is pointed out, and both sought to use that wealth to become governor.

“Why in the hell are you trying to get me to say something bad about (Mr. Scott)?” he asks. “I’ve got nothing bad at all to say about him, so stop trying. Don’t play games with me. What is it with you?”

Ah, yes, we are seeing tantalizing glimpses of the Claude Kirk of old — the man once called the “Salvador Dali of Florida politics” because his public pronouncements often were “the verbal approximations of (Dali’s) drooping, surreal watches.”

Growing testier by the moment, Mr. Kirk lets it be known that he has no critical comments to voice about any Republican and that questions about the Tea Party are starting to wear thin. He thinks all of the GOP’s candidates are just fine, the Tea Party’s just fine and Florida’s Republican Party, which he, of course, was instrumental in building, is really, really fine.

“Now, how many more of these damn-fool questions do you have?” he wants to know.

Told there are several more queries in the offing, Mr. Kirk goes silent for a second and then hangs up the telephone without a word.

No goodbye. No nothing. Just a click from the other end of the line.

Apparently Mr. Kirk has grown tired of contemplating the 2010 Florida gubernatorial contest. Understandable. The campaign has become a dismal, dispiriting affair filled with a sound and a fury that signify very little. It feels as if it has dragged on for years, not mere months.

Enough is enough, Mr. Kirk seems to be saying, and in that regard, the old “tree-shakin’ son of a bitch” from West Palm is right on. ■



SHERIFF MIKE SCOTT

Voting day questions?

Here are all of the amendments made easy

Some of the amendments on November's ballot have been as contentious this election cycle as the races for office. Nevertheless, the amendments are often cited as a vexing part of the ballot for voters. Here, *Florida Weekly* presents each amendment with its title as it will read on the ballot, and a brief explanation of what your vote will mean.

NO. 1: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VI, SECTION 7

Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement

YES: Eliminates public financing of campaigns.

NO: Preserves Florida's system of campaign finance.

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: Currently, the state of Florida spends millions of dollars on helping to finance political campaigns. During 2006, for instance, the state paid out \$11 million to help subsidize campaigns for various political offices. Supporters of the measure say the tax money should be used for other priorities. Opponents of the measure say the amendment favors corporate interests. They maintain that public financing is necessary to allow candidates who may not have as much access to money, a fair shot at public office.

NO. 2 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VII, SECTION 3 ARTICLE XII, SECTION 31

Homestead Ad Valorem Tax Credit For Deployed Military Personnel

YES: Gives deployed military a break on property taxes.

NO: No tax break given.

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: There is little to no organized opposition to this measure. The amount of the tax break will depend on how many days the member of the military spends deployed.

NO. 4 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE II, SECTION 7

Referenda Required For Adoption And Amendment Of Local Government Comprehensive Land Use Plans

YES: Gives the public a vote on land use changes within their city or municipalities.

NO: Keeps the system the way it is.

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: Builders and developers often have to ask city councils or county commissions for Land use changes in order to construct their projects. Currently, the system requires testimony before public boards and usually, public votes by the local governing body. The amend-

ment would create another layer of oversight, where the measure would have to be put to a public vote. Supporters call the amendment the Home-town Democracy Act and argue that it gives regular citizens a seat at the table regarding land issues. Opponents argue that it would increase the cost of development considerably and cripple an industry that is already struggling. The amendment would undoubtedly cost local municipalities more money.

NO. 5 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE III, SECTION 21

Standards For Legislature To Follow In Legislative Redistricting

YES: Aims to create voting districts that don't favor any party.

NO: Keeps districting as it is.

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: The amendment intends to do away with gerrymandering the state's legislative districts. Every 10 years, legislators redraw the boundary lines for voting districts. Gerrymandering is when the party in power draws those lines to favor its candidates. The result is often sprawling districts that can stretch across the state. The new district lines would use existing political and geographical boundaries that are supposed to be party-neutral. Leaders of the Florida Legislature oppose the measure, saying that the new districts will result in court battles. Another argument against it is that the new districts could water-down minority representation.

NO. 6 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE III, SECTION 20

Standards For Legislature To Follow In Congressional Redistricting

YES: Aims to create voting districts that don't favor any party

NO: Keeps districting as it is.

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: The same as Amendment 5, except this pertains to U.S. Congressional districts.

NO. 8 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1 ARTICLE XII, SECTION 18

Revision Of The Class Size Requirements For Public Schools

YES: Would ease the class-size requirements for public schools.

NO: Would keep class-size requirements approved by voters in 2002.

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: Voters approved a class-size amendment in 2002 that set mandatory caps on the number of students in classrooms. K through three, for example, were supposed to have no more than 18 students per classroom. The changes were to take effect this school year, but supporters of this amendment say the state and school districts can't afford the billions of dollars it would take to follow the law. The amendment would allow some leeway in how the rules are applied, letting some classes have a few more students above the mandated caps. The FEA, the largest teachers union in the state, opposes the measure. ■

— Compiled by Osvaldo Padilla
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A look at Palm Beach County, local referenda

PALM BEACH COUNTY

■ REQUIRING COUNTY CODE OF ETHICS, INDEPENDENT ETHICS COMMISSION AND INDEPENDENT INSPECTOR GENERAL

Shall the Palm Beach County Charter be amended to require the Board of County Commissioners to establish by ordinances applicable to Palm Beach County and all municipalities approving this amendment: a Code of Ethics, an independent Commission on Ethics funded by the County Commission, and an independent Inspector General funded by the County Commission and all other governmental entities subject to the authority of the Inspector General?

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

■ REFERENDUM TO CONTINUE AN AD VALOREM LEVY FOR SCHOOL OPERATIONAL NEEDS

Shall the School Board of Palm Beach County have the authority to continue to levy 0.25 mills of ad valorem millage dedicated for school operational needs to fund teachers, as well as arts, music, physical education, career and academic programs for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2015, with oversight by an independent finance committee of citizens and experts?

CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH

■ AMENDMENT TO CITY MARINA PROPERTY

Shall The City Of Riviera Beach Charter Be Amended To Provide That The Use Of Dedicated Submerged Public Lands At The City Marina Remain Limited To Municipal Park And Recreational Purposes According To Florida Dedication No. 24438-A; (2725) the Municipal Marina Properties, Newcomb Hall, Bicentennial Park, And Spanish Court Shall Be Owned, Managed, And Operated Solely By The City Of Riviera Beach; The Municipal Marina Properties Shall Not Permit Industrial Commercial Boat Repair Operations?

VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON

■ REFERENDUM QUESTION NO. 1: WELLINGTON CHARTER AMENDMENT - TERM OF OFFICE FOR MAYOR

Shall Wellington's Municipal Charter be amended to provide that the mayor shall be elected to a four year term thus making the mayor's term equal in length to that of the other council members and providing the four year term would begin with the election of the mayor during the 2012 municipal elections?

■ REFERENDUM QUESTION NO. 2: WELLINGTON CHARTER AMENDMENT

- CLARIFICATION OF TERM LIMIT PROVISIONS

Shall Wellington's Municipal Charter be amended to clarify that the prohibition against serving more than two consecutive terms of office should not include time in office spent as a result of a mayor or a councilmember having either been appointed to or elected to a partial term to fill a vacancy that existed in the office of mayor or councilmember?

■ REFERENDUM QUESTION NO. 3: WELLINGTON CHARTER AMENDMENT - ELIMINATION OF RUNOFF ELECTIONS

Shall Wellington's Charter be amended to provide that runoff elections shall not be necessary if the candidate with the highest number of votes for any office during the first election gets 35% or more of the votes cast for that office?

■ REFERENDUM QUESTION NO. 4: WELLINGTON CHARTER AMENDMENT - FILLING VACANCY IN MAYOR'S OFFICE

Shall Wellington's Municipal Charter be amended to provide that in the event of a vacancy in the office of mayor, the vice mayor may serve as the mayor for up to 180 days and that if there is more than 180 days remaining in the term of the mayor, then a special election shall be held in 90 to 180 days to fill such a vacancy?

TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH

Shall the Town of Highland Beach, Florida, purchase an aerial fire truck at a cost which is in excess of the Charter limit of \$350,000.00 and which is estimated to be \$810,000.00?

TOWN OF JUNO BEACH

■ QUESTION 1:

An amendment to article III of the town charter providing a residency requirement for town council candidates.

This amendment would require candidates for town council to be continuous residents of the town for at least one year immediately preceding the filing of a notice of candidacy, require candidates to submit an affidavit that they meet the residency requirement at the time of qualification for office; and prescribe the requirements for establishing residency.

■ QUESTION 2:

An amendment to article III of the town charter governing the terms of council members.

This amendment would extend the term of office for council members from two to three years commencing with the 2011 general election and stagger the terms to ensure that at least one seat on the council expires each year.

COUNCIL

From page 1

because of my land planning background. I'm running for the city council to bring new ideas and new energy to the city leadership."

In some cases voters may carry to the polls sour memories of the 4-1 votes that had Barnett at odds with her fellow council members. Or Ms. Barnett's call a year ago for City Manager Ron Ferris to resign, alleging he was having an affair with a city growth management employee. The department's administrator, Kara Irwin, resigned in April. She and Ferris married in July.

Part of the fallout is the proposed city charter amendment to prohibit romantic relationships between city supervisors and employees. Otherwise the candidates say they are looking ahead and promise to be more effective than Ms. Barnett.

"Jody Barnett could not or would not work with the other council members," said Mr. Gomoll. "That didn't accomplish anything. I want to accomplish something."

As for Mr. Ferris: I've never worked with him," said Mr. Gomoll. "Maybe if I get on the council and I didn't like what he was doing, then I'd say fire him. But I can't say I would fire Ron Ferris. He may be doing a great job. I don't know. My issues are the budget, the cost of public safety and the pensions. That's what I'm focused on. And in order to do anything about it I have work with the existing council."

Mr. Ferris "has done very, very well financially for the city," said Mr. Menard. "On the other hand the relationship with the subordinate of his showed me he had used very, very poor judgment. So I think there's good points with Ron, but there's also bad points with Ron. And it really is up to the city council to be policing that."

Regarding Ms. Barnett, "Some ideas Jody had were valid," said Mr. Menard. "However there are certain ways of getting your point across without offending somebody else. Once you go over the boundary, you're going to have a long way to earn those people's trust back again. You've go to work with the existing city council members. That's just the way it is. Like with my small business here, you have to learn how to communicate with people. You don't want to be bullied around, and you don't want to be stamped as being with the good old boys' club."

"It's the approach you take when you work with people," said Ms. Tinsley. "I feel with my business background I am able to work with many people." Mr. Ferris, she added, "has done a great job for the city, including finding a lot of creative ways to cut costs. We can do even better. The city needs be run more like a business."

The election's big-ticket item is the budget and proposed service cuts.

Looming large in that context are the business spinoffs hoped for an economic engine based in a long planned north county biotech hub, to include the existing Scripps Florida and Max Planck institutes, and — approved by the council in April — the square-mile Briger property between Donald Ross and Hood roads off of I-95.

"Like a business," said Ms. Tinsley, "I think we have to be efficient and look for tax savings while maintaining our quality of life for our residents."

She supports "more incentives to keep businesses here in Palm Beach Gardens, and I also think that we

need to create incentives to bring new businesses to Palm Beach Gardens. I think we have the building blocks to achieve that with Max Planck, Scripps and the Briger property. Now is the time to take the approvals that have already been put in place, and bring the bioscience to our north end of the county."

Said Mr. Gomoll: "I think it's vital to broaden the tax base to bring that kind of business in to the community. There are not that many Scripps or Max Plancks or other kind of businesses out there. So if you can get that, get them. I would be very much in favor. I would give incentives and if they can create enough jobs, I would ease the planning process and zoning and permits, stand on my head and spit wooden nickels if I could."

As the new spinoffs start coming in, cautioned Mr. Menard, "We're really going to have take a good look at how that's going to change Palm Beach Gardens, and not allow too many strange things to go up." He cited "some decisions done in the past that make me think the idea has been the biggest bang for buck. We have Downtown at the Gardens, which is a horrible, horrible layout for a mall. And it's right alongside of the big Gardens Mall." He added nearby Legacy Place as another example of the "complicated layouts to navigate through that are a direct fault of our city council that exists right now."

Said Mr. Gomoll: "I look at the budget, I see 60 percent of that budget is public safety. That was 40-some percent a few years back, and by 2015 it will be 72 percent. That has to be addressed. It's not an easy thing to do. You're not going to fire the police or the fire (fighters). But there are efficiencies that can be done."

Mr. Gomoll said he wants to focus his 37 years in banking on his "biggest concern," the pensions for city, fire and police employees. "They're too expensive. The plans as they exist right now cannot be sustained."

Mr. Menard said, "A reason why the pension fund is around 58 percent funded right now, is one of all, because the investments that are made on this pool of money haven't been as good as they have in the past. But we also had the fire department receive a huge increase several years ago in their pay, and part of your salary goes into your pension. It kind of put the fund behind a little bit."

Menard and Tinsley also emphasized garnering tax income by annexing county pockets.

"I had done a study about two years ago on the budget oversight committee," said Menard, "that just on Northlake Boulevard we had four major pockets. And if we took those four pockets, it would have increased another \$1.5 million into our budget. That would have been a huge savings in just this past millage rate that was raised: They wanted to do 8.2, and ended up with a 6.5 percent increase."

He said his favorite example "is Keating Drive which is off Northlake Boulevard. "You head up north on Keating Drive, and you're in the county. But as you continue driving down that road, all of a sudden now you're in the city again. There's no rhyme or reason for some of these pockets. But there are whole areas throughout the city that are like this. If we were to just square off our borders, we would have plenty of money. But we have to be careful about these annexations," he added. "Some of them don't even have city water, so the city might have to pay an inordinate amount to get them up to standard."

All three candidates support some form of council term limits. ■

in the know

GARY GOMOLL

■ **PERSONAL:** 65; single; B.A., business, Western Michigan University; law degree, University of Detroit; MBA, estate planning, University of Miami; lives in Ironwood.

■ **PROFESSIONAL:** Attorney; retired estate administrator, JP Morgan Chase bank; service on various charitable boards.

■ **POLITICAL BACKGROUND:** Unsuccessfully ran for Michigan state senate in 1978.

■ **POSITION ON ISSUES:** Wants to focus on cost of public safety and pensions, supports reductions in fire and police budgets, a proposed health clinic for city employees, charter amendment to prohibit romances between city supervisors and employees, term limits for council members.

■ **QUOTE:** "My community involvement, my education, the fact that I am a military veteran, all these things I think add up to somebody who can be trusted."



GOMOLL

KEN MENARD

■ **PERSONAL:** 44; single; attended Manchester Community College, Connecticut; lives in Garden Oaks.

■ **PROFESSIONAL:** Owner, Easy Computing computer repair and software business.

■ **POLITICAL BACKGROUND:** Vice chair, city budget review committee; first run for elected office.

■ **POSITION ON ISSUES:** Supports incentives to encourage small businesses, greater administrative efficiencies rather than cuts in services, a proposed health clinic for city employees, charter amendment to prohibit romances between city supervisors and employees, annexing county pockets and term limits for council members.

■ **QUOTE:** "I'll always remember that I am a public servant. I'm elected by the voters, and the special interest groups just don't have any ties on me. The voters elect me to do a job. I answer to them, I don't answer to anybody else."



MENARD

MARCIE TINSLEY

■ **PERSONAL:** 41; married; three children; Associate degree in arts, Palm Beach State College; attended FAU; lives in Evergreen

■ **PROFESSIONAL:** Property manager for 500 Clearlake Suites in West Palm Beach.

■ **POLITICAL BACKGROUND:** First run for elected office.

■ **POSITION ON ISSUES:** Supports a comprehensive solution of three objectives: jobs, economic recovery and education. Wants to partner businesses and schools to create innovative and state-of-the-art programs. Supports annexing county pockets, term limits and the proposed health clinic for city employees.

■ **QUOTE:** "The biggest investment of my life is in Palm Beach Gardens, and for that reason I have served my community my entire life by volunteer work. I have the experience, the knowledge, I'm dedicated and I have the commitment. I want to do what's best for the residents, which I am one of them."



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HEALTHY LIVING

Gardens hospital receives excellence designation

Tenet Healthcare Corporation has announced that 43 of its 49 hospitals — including Palm Beach Medical Center — received 205 quality designations from CIGNA, including 71 Center of Excellence designations.

CIGNA uses its excellence designations to recognize hospitals for meeting CIGNA Health-Care's standards for quality and cost efficiency for procedures and diagnosis.



In addition, CIGNA has developed quality designations to indicate superior patient outcomes based on treatment effectiveness for 29 different surgical procedures and medical conditions. The patient outcomes data use hospitals' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Hospital Compare measures, Leapfrog Patient Safety Measures, mortality and complication rates in addition to other evidence-based protocol metrics.

Tenet hospitals receiving quality and COE designations for 2010 are Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center; Good Samaritan Medical Center, West Palm Beach; St. Mary's Medical Center, West Palm Beach; and West Boca Medical Center, Boca Raton. ■

Why do the people we love have the power to hurt us?



lindaLIPSHUTZ

llipshutz@floridaweekly.com

Jane (not her real name) came into my office last week in tears, furious and hurt after an explosive argument with her married daughter Emily. "I have always been there for Emily. I drop everything to babysit for her and loan her money when I can't afford it. In return, she's always hurting me and saying vicious things that cut me to the core. She usually calls me a few days later to tell me that she's sorry and how much she loves me, but I'm still reeling from the assault of her words. I am so disappointed by the choices that she's made in her life. I know that I can be critical and get upset with her when she doesn't listen to me, but it's only because I care so much. Why do we hurt each other, over and over even though we don't want to?"

I must emphasize that Jane is a sophisticated, well-educated woman, who prided herself on being able to balance a full-time career, a long-term marriage and to raise her two children to adulthood. She will confide with a rueful grin that perhaps her biggest parenting fault is that too often, she jumped in to solve Emily's problems, without giving her the oppor-

tunity to struggle through dilemmas and come up with her own answers.

From the time Emily was a little girl, the two locked horns. Emily was often needy and dependent, counting on her mother to rescue her when the going got tough. As she got older, Emily began to resent depending on her mother and blamed her for many of her problems.

Jane would find herself offering unsolicited advice, but couldn't stop herself because she had come to believe that Emily would screw up, if she was left to her own devices. Emily sensed that her mother had little confidence in her abilities, and began to doubt herself as well.

Intuitively, we all know that when we are threatened and insecure in our most important relationships, we often lose our ability to think clearly and to approach our loved ones in a way that will be listened to and heard. When we are hurting, most of us show a defensive, self-protective side that often only makes things worse.

These two women pay a huge personal price when they remain in a relationship that is so demoralizing. Although it will not be easy to reconfigure the entrenched way that they relate to each other, if both are committed they can take steps to make significant changes.

Looking underneath their ugly interactions might help them to understand what fuels the conflict.

Research has shown that humans are wired to crave relationships that offer comfort and security; a place where they can feel good about themselves. And when important relationships become stressed and uncertain, people have a tendency to either freeze up or to become angry and critical. Invariably, this can lead to a vicious, escalating cycle of accusation and hurt, leaving the parties frustrated and depleted.

This premise can become a valuable roadmap to help Jane and Emily reach out to each other in a more caring way. If Jane can curb her caustic, critical tongue, and withhold her urge to offer advice, while at the same time offering positive encouragement, she might be instrumental in helping her daughter gain more self-assurance.

It will be a challenge for Emily to resist the urge to call her mother when she is stuck, but it will become easier with time. Understanding that her self-esteem takes a beating each time she lashes out at her mother in a volatile way can be the impetus for her to show restraint. ■

— Linda Lipshutz, M.S., ACSW is a psychotherapist serving individuals, couples and families. A Palm Beach Gardens resident, she holds degrees from Cornell and Columbia. She can be reached at her Gardens office at 561 630 2827, and online at www.palmbeachfamilytherapy.com.

Survey: Younger men fail to see doctors for check-ups, screenings

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Open up and say "ah" might not be words heard often by men, particularly those younger than 30. According to a new men's health survey by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), less than 63% of men ages 18 to 29 say they have visited a primary care physician in the past year, compared to more than 85% of men ages 60 or older.

"While older men may have more reasons to see a physician, younger, healthy men who wait too long between routine physicals and who pass on screenings, such as blood pressure or diabetes, miss the opportunity to detect precursors to heart disease and other illnesses," says Joseph A. Giaimo, DO, an AOA Trustee and a board-certified internist and pulmonologist in private practice in Palm Beach Gardens. "Addressing these early warning signs is often the easiest and most cost-effective way to stop illness before it starts."

The most common reasons for not going to the doctor given by male survey respondents who had not seen a primary care physician in the last two years were that it was not needed at this time or that they had no health insurance.

The survey notes, however, that the number of men who say they have a designated primary care physician only slightly drops from approximately nine in 10 (88.3%) in men ages 60 or older to seven in 10 (70.1%)

among men ages 18 to 29.

Giaimo notes that the benefits of men visiting a primary care physician on a regular basis include:

- ▶ Routine physicals that can detect high blood pressure and cholesterol levels as well as problems with kidney and liver function early so that appropriate lifestyle changes can be made.

- ▶ Having the opportunity to address warning signs of heart disease and other illnesses that can help prevent chronic illness in the future.

- ▶ Recommending screenings for conditions such as prostate, colon and testicular cancer at certain age markers.

- ▶ Recommending immunizations appropriate for the patient's age group.

- ▶ Having the ability to make simple lifestyle changes that alone, or with the aid of prescriptions or over-the-counter medications, can help reduce the risk of chronic illness or the chances of needing surgery later in life.

Other survey results of note:

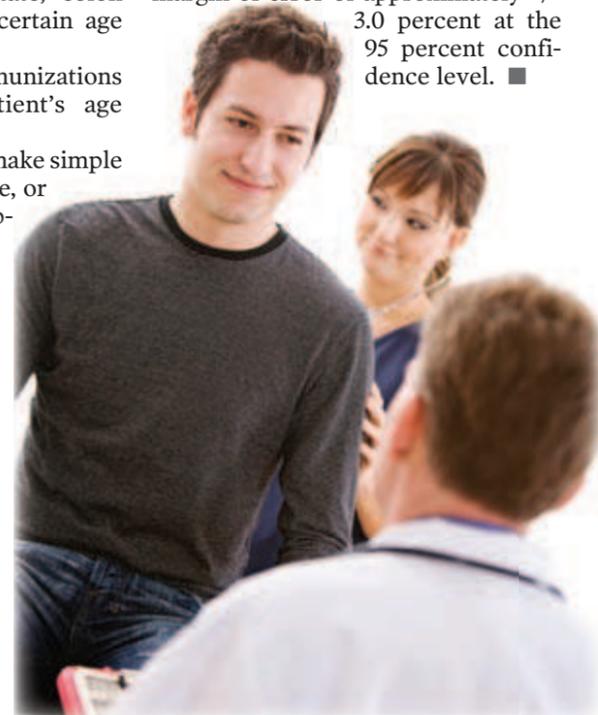
- ▶ Less than one-third (31.6%) of men ages 18 to 29 indicate they visit a physician more than once a year.

- ▶ Over half of all men surveyed (51.5%) visited a physician specialist at least one time or more

every two years, while about one-quarter (24.8%) of men have never visited a specialist.

- ▶ Older respondents (men and women) were more likely to have visited a physician specialist in the past year, with 55.9% of those 60 or older reporting visits to a specialist in the past year compared to about 30% of those ages 18 to 29 years old.

The survey was conducted from Oct. 12 to Oct. 15, 2010. A total of 1,027 respondents completed the online survey. A sample size of 1,027 has a margin of error of approximately +/- 3.0 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. ■



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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD
DISTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Modern mummies

New York City artist Sally Davies offered in October the latest evidence of how unattractive today's fast foods are to bacteria and maggots. Davies bought a McDonald's Happy Meal in April, has photographed it daily, and has noted periodically the lack even of the slightest sign of decomposition. Her dog, who circled restlessly nearby for the first two days the vittles were out, since then

has ignored it. (Several bloggers, and filmmaker Morgan Spurlock, have made discoveries similar to Davies'.) Food scientists "credited" a heavy use (though likely still within FDA guidelines) of the preservative sodium propionate but also the predominance of fat and lack of moisture and nutrients — all of which contribute to merely shrinking and hardening the burger and fries. ■

Compelling explanations

► Maybe Just Safekeeping It for a Friend: Raymond Roberts, 25, was arrested in Manatee County in September after an ordinary traffic stop turned up a strong smell of marijuana. At deputies' behest, Mr. Roberts removed a baggie of marijuana from his buttocks, but when the deputies saw another plastic bag right behind it (containing a white substance believed to be cocaine), Mr. Roberts said, "The weed is (mine)," but "(t)he white stuff is not"

► Firefighter Richard Gawlik Jr. was terminated by Allentown, Pa., in August for abusing sick leave after he posted his daily golf scores on a public website during three days in which he had called off from work. Mr. Gawlik's union president said the union would appeal and that "playing golf was well within the guidelines of Gawlik's illness."

► Woody Will Smith, 33, was convicted in September of murdering his wife after a jury in Dayton, Ky., "deliberated" about 90 minutes before rejecting his defense of caffeine intoxication. Mr. Smith claimed that his daily intake of sodas, energy drinks and diet pills had made him temporarily insane when

he strangled his two-timing wife with an extension cord in 2009, and made him again not responsible when he confessed the crime to police.

(In May 2010, a judge in Pullman, Wash., ordered a hit-and-run driver to treatment instead of jail, based on the driver's "caffeine psychosis." Some doctors believe the condition can kick in with as little as 400 mg of caffeine daily — an amount that, given America's coffee consumption, potentially portends a sky-high murder rate.)

► An Iowa administrative law judge ruled in September that former police officer William Bowker of Fort Madison deserved worker's compensation even though he had not been "laid off" but rather fired — for having an affair with the wife of the chief of police.

Although the city Civil Service Commission had denied him coverage (based in part on other derelictions, such as sleeping and drinking on duty and refusing to attend a class on search warrants), the judge ruled that Mr. Bowker's dismissal seemed too much like improper retaliation for the affair. ■

Bright ideas

► British entrepreneur Howard James, who runs several online dating sites, opened another in August to worldwide attention (and, allegedly, thousands of sign-ups in the first five days): dates for ugly people. Mr. James said new members (accepted from the UK, the USA, Canada, Australia and Ireland) will have their photos vetted to keep out "attractive" people.

► Keith Jeffery's book on the British intelligence service MI6, published in September and serialized in *The Times of London*, revealed that the first chief of the SIS (Secret Intelligence Service) during World War I recommended, as the best invisible ink, semen, in that it "would not react to (ink-detecting) iodine vapor" and was, of course, "readily available." ■

Least-competent criminals

► Xavier Ross, 19, passing by a piano at an art exhibit in front of the Grand Rapids, Mich., police station in October, could not resist sitting down to play a few notes — and was arrested when officers recognized him from a recent home invasion case.

► Selma Elmore, 44, was arrested in Lockland, Ohio, in October when she flagged down a police car to ask if there

was an arrest warrant out on her. (Officers checked; there was; she ran; the warrant was minor; "resisting arrest" was more serious.)

► Jason Williams, 38, was convicted in Maidenhead, England, in October of stealing a neighbor's window curtains, which he had immediately installed on his own windows — in plain view of the neighbor's window. ■

Demanding one's rights

► A lawyer in Xian, China, filed a lawsuit in September against a movie house and film distributor for wasting her time — because she was exposed to 20 minutes of advertisements that began at the posted time for the actual movie to begin. Ms. Chen Xiaomei is requesting a refund (equivalent of about \$5.20) plus damages of an equal amount, plus the equivalent of about 15 cents for "emotional" damages — plus an apology.

► In an April journal article, University of East Anglia professor Brett Mills denounced the 2009 British TV documentary series "Nature's Great Events" on the ground that the program's omnipresent and intrusive video cameras violated animals' privacy. "(The animals) often do engage in forms of behavior which suggest they'd rather not encounter humans," he wrote, "and we might want to think about equating this with a desire for privacy." ■

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PET TALES

Hitting the box

Cat potty problems seem worse during the winter

BY DR. MARTY BECKER & GINA SPADAFORI
Universal Uclick

When the weather turns colder and houses close up for warmth, every little thing starts to annoy us. Like the smell of the litter box, or (worse) the smell of a cat who's not using the litter box at all.

But don't blame the cat. If your cat is hit-or-miss where the litter box is concerned, chances are the choices you've made factor into the problem. After all, your cat really isn't asking for anything more than you would when it comes to a bathroom. All that's required for most cats is that the litter box be clean, quiet and offer no surprises.

The first step in solving a litter box problem is to make sure it's not a medical condition — and that means a trip to your veterinarian for a complete work-up. Urinary-tract infections and diseases such as diabetes make consistent litter box use impossible for even the most well-intentioned cat. You cannot hope to get your cat using the box again until any health issues have been resolved.



If your cat checks out fine, you need to make sure that everything about the box is to your cat's liking. The second rule of solving a litter box problem: If the cat isn't happy, no one will be happy. Here's what to look for:

■ **Cleanliness.** Cats are fastidious animals, and if the litter box is dirty, they look elsewhere for a place to go. Clean the box frequently — twice a day at least — and make sure it's completely scrubbed clean and aired out on a weekly basis. Having an additional litter box may help, too. (Multiple litter boxes are recommended for multicat households, since many cats simply will not share.)

■ **Box type and filler.** Many choices people make to suit their own tastes conflict with the cat's sense of what's agreeable. A covered box may seem more pleasing to you, but your cat may think it's pretty rank inside, or scary. Likewise, scented litters may make you think the box smells fine, but your cat may disagree — not only is the box dirty, he reasons, but it also

has this extra "clean" odor he can't abide. Start with the basics: a large box with unscented clumping-style litter.

■ **Location.** Your cat's box should be away from his food and water, in a place he can get to easily and feel safe in. Consider a location from a cat's point of view: Choose a quiet spot where he can see what's coming at him. A cat doesn't want any surprises while he's in the box.

Make the area where your cat has had mistakes less attractive by cleaning it thoroughly with a pet-odor neutralizer (available from pet-supply retailers). Discourage re-use by covering the area with foil, plastic sheeting or plastic carpet runners with the points up.

If changing things around doesn't clear up the problem in a healthy cat, you may need to retrain him by keeping your pet in a small area, such as a guest bathroom, for a couple of weeks.

Make sure the area you choose has no good options besides the litter box — no carpet, no pile of dirty laundry. Block off the bathtub or keep an inch of water in it to discourage its use as a place to go. After your cat is reliably using the litter box, let him slowly expand his territory again. As long as you keep up your end of the bargain and keep the litter box clean and safe, you have a good chance the good behavior will become permanent.

If you just can't seem to get the problem resolved, ask your veterinarian for a referral to a veterinary behaviorist. These veterinarians are skilled in behavioral problem-solving and are able to prescribe medications that may make the difference during the retraining period. ■

Pets of the Week



>>Amber is a 2-year-old spayed female Beauceron mix. She weighs 64 pounds and is a hard working dog with high energy. She needs to be in a home with no young children. She would benefit from structured obedience lessons. Lessons are offered at Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League; the first one is free.



>>Patches is a 5-year-old neutered male shorthair cat. He may be a one-eyed kitty, but it hasn't affected his abilities. He has a big meow and loves attention. To protect his limited vision and ensure he gets all the attention, Patches has to be the only pet. He is available for the Senior to Senior adoption program. For an animal 5 years and older, placed with someone 55 years and older, the adoption fee is waived. The adopter will be responsible only for the cost of the county license/tag.

To adopt a pet

The Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League, Humane Society of the Palm Beaches, was founded in 1925 and is a limited-admission non-profit humane society providing services to more than 10,000 animals each year. It is located at 3100/3200 Military Trail in West Palm Beach. Adoptable pets and other information can be seen at www.hspb.org. For adoption information call 686-6656.

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MUSINGS

Can of Worms



“Wouldn’t you think I’m the girl, the girl who has everything?
 Look at this trove: Treasures untold...
 How many wonders can one cavern hold?
 ...Ready to know what the people know
 Ask ‘em my questions and get some answers...
 What’s a fire and why does it — what’s the word — Burn?
 Wouldn’t I love, love to explore, that world up above?
 — “Part of Your World,”
 The Little Mermaid



In the time of the labor pains of the modern world — some might call this the Renaissance — there came into being an amazing phenomenon, the Wunderkammer, or Wonder-Room. It could be as big as a breadbox or as large as a room. Tiny or big, it was a collection of curiosities. One might find preserved animals, horns, skeletons, minerals or man-made objects either very small or very fine. And true to its transitional nature between Medieval and Modern, one might also find mythical objects, either posited or debunked.

In the early 17th century BCE, a physician specializing in embryology named Ole Worm created his own cabinet of curiosities. You might be familiar with him as Olaus Wormius, the name used by H.P. Lovecraft as the author of the fictional grimoire Necronomicon. Lovecraft was so convincing in his citation of this text that the spoof spread to rare book listings, the Yale card catalogue, and the knockoff books published later with that title.

The real Ole Worm is an excellent example of transition, straddling the line between pre-modern and modern. In an efficiently modern manner, he rebutted the existence of unicorns, and said that the de facto horns were those of narwhal. But then he proceeded to prove the magical healing powers ver-

sus poisons once attributed to unicorn horns to be true of narwhal horns. No loss of the baby in this bath water.

There is another sort of transition: This is the shortest but most difficult phase of the first stage of labor.

The stronger and longer contractions of this birthing phase function to complete the dilation of the cervix. The mother experiences increased body heat, trembling, belching and disorientation. But most importantly, she must consciously struggle against the desire to push prematurely. The urge to push the baby out at this point, to hurry the process to completion, is overwhelming. But the womb is not completely open and clear; and, she must pant her way through the waiting.

After the waiting there is emergence of treasure. If pirates know little of babies, they know much about treasure, buried, like fetuses, in the depths of the sea, in chests locked and loaded.

Waiting for finding in earths under waters, transitionally guarded, perhaps, by mischievous rainbow serpents.

Perhaps the Christian New Testament says it best: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6: 21).” In Egyptian mythology, at the time of the birth that is death the heart of soul is weighed in the balance against the unbearably light truth feather of Ma’at. It is not clear from the Egyptian Book of the Dead whether it is better for the heart to be heavier or lighter than the feather.

Aristotle chose the heart as heavier than the brain as the seat of thought, reason and emotion.

The shape we associate with heart has little correspondence with the actual shape of the human heart.

Instead we find this shape in the seed of the selphium plant, an herb used by the ancients as a contraceptive. And we also find the heart shape in a body organ of 0.1 percent of women in America: The bicornate uterus is a genetic anomaly in which the uterus has two upper horns, causing it to look like a perfect Valentine heart.

Transitions are treasures. Transitions are cans of worms. Good bait; good switch. And impossible to re-close. The matter of the heart: Pandora’s Box is yaw and maw. ■

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

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'03 MERCEDES SLK 320 CONVERTIBLE SILVER/GRAY, LEATHER, 32K, STK#3F274364.....	\$17,891	'08 ACURA MDX MAROON/TAN, NAV, DVD, TECH PKG, NEW TIRES, 33K, STK#8H532623.....	\$33,994
'09 MAZDA CX-7 SILVER/BLACK, LEATHER, ONE OWNER, STK#90222167.....	\$18,493	'08 LEXUS GS460 CERTIFIED, BLACK/BLACK, LUXURY SPORT SEDAN, NAV, STK#85000578.....	\$33,994
'06 HUMMER H3 WHITE/BLACK, AWESOME FUN, 48K, STK#68168444.....	\$18,994	'08 LEXUS GX470 CERTIFIED, BLACK/GRAY, NAV, MARK/LEV, STK#80151901.....	\$35,995
'07 VOLKSWAGEN EOS CONVERTIBLE BLACK/BLACK, FUN IN THE SUN, 31K, STK#7V030387.....	\$19,491	'07 CHEVROLET CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE BRIGHT BLUE/GRAY, LTHR, NAV, AUTO, 9K, STK#75114994.....	\$37,893
'08 HONDA CR-V EX-L BLACK/BEIGE, LEATHER, ONE OWNER, 22K MILES, STK#8C017237.....	\$21,994	'08 BMW 325ICA CONVERTIBLE SILVER/GRAY, CERTIFIED, 24K, STK#8PX51512.....	\$37,992
'08 MERCEDES C350W BLACK/BLACK, LUXURY SEDAN, 35K, STK#8F141426.....	\$26,693	'06 MASERATI GRANDSPORT WHITE/BLACK, LUXURY SPORTSCAR, 7K, STK#60022818.....	\$44,992

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BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE

OCT 28-NOV. 3, 2010

A GUIDE TO THE PALM BEACH COUNTY BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE INDUSTRIES



COURTESY PHOTOS

"Somerset" on Jupiter Island has 17,584 square feet, nine bedrooms, a cabana and a "leisure house."

Hot properties, big price tags

BY SCOTT SIMMONS

Special to Florida Weekly

Jupiter Island.

It has attracted the likes of Burt Reynolds, Olivia Newton-John and Celine Dion.

Golfers love it, too. Think Tiger Woods, Greg Norman and Nick Price.

It could attract you, too, if you can afford to pony up millions for an ocean-front estate on South Beach Road.

Why do celebrities choose the island?

"It doesn't have the hustle-bustle of Fort Lauderdale or Boca Raton," said Rob Thomson, managing partner of Waterfront Properties and Club Communities in Jupiter.

"It's very down-to-earth here," agreed Ken Meierling, broker and owner of Engel & Völkers' Jupiter office. "I try not to go south of PGA myself because of the traffic."

Any given day, there's no telling who is looking at property in that area, Mr. Thomson says.

"It could be a celebrity, could be a sports guy," Mr. Thomson said. "Not a

On Jupiter Island, it's not just the house — it's the lifestyle

week goes by that you're not showing somebody something."

And what are these celebrities and athletes seeing?

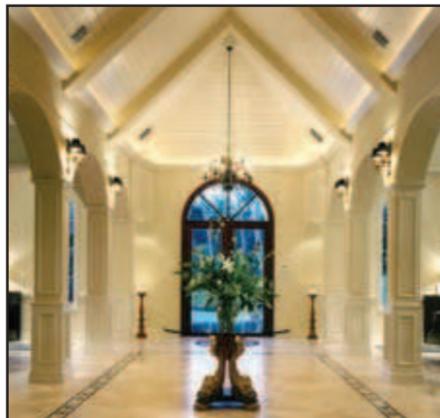
Mr. Thomson points to a \$29 million estate, called Somerset. It has 427 feet of ocean frontage, nine bedrooms and 12½ baths in 17,584 square feet of living space. The property also boasts a cabana and a two-story "leisure house," in which there is an exercise room with wet bar, sun deck and ocean porch, perfect for the celebrity who wants to escape the pressures of stardom.

Whoever buys this house is likely to pay cash, too.

"We're seeing a lot of cash buyers," Mr. Thomson said. "People are investing their money in real estate, for sure," adding, "I can't remember the last mortgage I did."

Mr. Meierling echoes that.

He says his office sees a lot of interna-



The vaulted hall at "Somerset."

tional buyers, and "most people we deal with are cash buyers over here."

The euro-dollar ratio is very favorable, Mr. Meierling said. "It's still a great opportunity for exchanging euros into dollars."

But these potential buyers are not all from Europe.

SEE JUPITER, B4 ►

WEEK at-a-glance



Go Blue award luncheon

And other business social events in Palm Beach County. **B6-9** ►



Real Estate

Toll Brothers launches a new model at Frenchman's Reserve. **B10** ►



Money & Investing

Hunting for travel deals puts extra money in your pocket. **B2** ►

Palm Beach County one of just four areas to see jump in home sales

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Palm Beach County was one of only four areas in Florida to report an increase in sales of single-family homes in September.

Sales climbed 7 percent over the same month last year, according to data released by Florida Realtors.

Statewide, sales were down 8 percent in September and in the Treasure Coast sales dropped 27 percent over last year.

In the year-to-year comparison for existing home sales, a total of 13,536 single-family existing homes sold state-

wide in September compared to 14,781 homes sold in September 2009. Florida's median existing-home sales price in September was \$133,400; a year earlier, it was \$141,700 for a decrease of 6 percent. The median is the midpoint; half the homes sold for more, half for less.

"Like the rest of the nation, Florida's housing market is feeling pressure from an uncertain economy," said 2010 Florida Realtors President Wendell Davis, a broker with Watson Realty Corp. in Jacksonville, in a statement. "Easing foreclosures and increasing job growth would go a long way in stabilizing the

market and strengthening the economic recovery. However, current record low mortgage rates along with available and affordable inventory continue to offer a rare opportunity for consumers who are ready to buy a home."

The national median sales price for existing single-family homes in August was \$179,300, up 1.2 percent from a year earlier, according to the National Association of Realtors. In Massachusetts, the statewide median re-sales price was \$330,000 in August; in California, it was \$318,660; in Maryland, it was \$262,339; and in New York, it was \$240,000.

NAR's latest industry outlook calls for a gradual improvement in home sales in upcoming months.

"Attractive affordability conditions from very low mortgage interest rates appear to be bringing buyers back to the market," said NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun, in a statement. "However, the pace of a home sales recovery still depends more on job creation and an accompanying rise in consumer confidence. The housing market is trying to recover on its own power without the

SEE JUMP, B3 ►

MONEY & INVESTING

Hunting for travel deals puts extra money in your pocket



Travel is expensive. Two critical and large items for which people have to manage and budget are airfare and hotel costs.

The Internet efficiently delivers a multitude of pricing options for hotels and flights. The problem is that there are so many sites to review and there is then the task of assimilating the information in order to make a decision.

Not all discount travel sites are created equal. Some sites touting exceptional pricing may actually offer pricing that is two times more expensive than another site.

Having "worked" the travel expense problem many times, I have developed a sequence of steps to find the best flights and hotels.

Airfare deals

First, I do have to know where I am going and for how long. Before even thinking about hotel accommodations, I book my flights.

One of the first considerations is how much luggage I need to bring. Luggage charges vary greatly from airline to airline. Frequent travelers know that Southwest Airlines does not charge for two checked bags; some airlines allow one checked bag (such

as Jet Blue) and some require payment for any checked bag. There's one airline that charges for any overhead bag larger than a pocketbook or knapsack. (After including the cost of an overhead bag and a checked bag, Spirit Airlines is not often that cheap.)

The second thing I do is to run a search for flights on www.Kayak.com. I post my travel dates and the search often generates as many as 100 air options. I record the names of the two to three airlines with the lowest costs and I then go to the Internet sites for these airlines to see if they are offering additional travel times and even cheaper fares available only on their sites.

I will also check the Internet sites of several airlines that do not post fares on Kayak, including Southwest Airlines — you need to go to their site directly.

Based upon all that information, I sort the cheapest fares and add to those fares the luggage costs. At this point, I am comparing apples to apples and I feel more comfortable in my purchase.

Advance flight purchases save a lot of money. If my plans are definitive (e.g. holidays), I take advantage of lower advance fares.

To the extent that Southwest's fares are in the ballpark with other discount advance purchase fares, I will book on Southwest as the airline allows cancellation or changing flights without a penalty. Avoiding a \$150 flight change fee can be very big savings... and most

airlines do have a hefty penalty.

Hotel deals

Pricing hotels is a bit more challenging. My process is to first check several sites: Insanely Cheap Flights, Easy Click Travel and Priceline. Each site has somewhat comparable rates but generally has its own special: a rate on one or two hotels that is much lower than what the other sites offer. With most of these sites, the purchase is final and not refundable or not to be credited to another hotel room, so I measure many times before I cut once.

If you're going to a big city where there are hundreds of hotels, refine the search by neighborhood. Try to whittle the selection down to about four to five hotels.

Now, knowing the range of prices offered for the hotels and knowing many of the names, I look on the website for Hotwire and "Name Your Own Price" on Priceline. Hotwire offers exceptional deals but does not reveal the name of the hotel until you have bought the room. In the four-star category, there is not much risk. There is much greater range of quality in the two- and three-star groups. I look for a "special" in the four-star group that is half the standard pricing quoted by other Internet sites. For example, if the average four-star in New York City for a weekend night is \$320, I am looking for a four-star special in the \$150 to \$200 range.

The final step is to go to the section within Priceline where you bid on a room: "Name Your Own Price." You can

choose what you will bid. Most start off with a bid around 50 percent of their shown retail. If the bid is rejected, you have to expand your area and/or your star level before you can resubmit.

Unlike air travel, I try not to book until the week before my stay, unless it is a major holiday week, as prices seem to get better and better as the date approaches.

If I am choosing a hotel for which the name is known, I will call the hotel and check to see if they have comparable prices under reservation and to see if they have any construction in progress.

I haven't found the best pricing by bidding or buying the name withheld. Sometimes the "special" rate for a named and known hotel is beyond compelling. If it seems to be as good as what I can get on a half-off Priceline bid. I take the hotel offer quickly; outstanding hotel deals do not last long.

I have stayed in plenty of four-star hotels in major cities for \$75 a night, and you can too.

One word of caution: If you start to spend hours invested in this project, it is no longer a price-efficient exercise, but it can become a fun hobby. ■

— Jeannette Rohn Showalter is a Southwest Florida-based chartered financial analyst, considered to be the highest designation for investment professionals. Her office is at The Crexent Business Center, Bonita Springs. She can be reached at 444-5633, ext. 1092, or jshowaltercfa@yahoo.com.



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JUMP

From page 1

homebuyer tax credit.”

In September, the interest rate for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.35 percent, significantly lower than the 5.06 percent average during the same month a year earlier, according to Freddie Mac. Florida Realtors' sales figures reflect closings, which typically occur 30 to 90 days after sales contracts are written.

Sales of existing condominiums in Florida rose 10 percent in September, with a total of 5,675 condos sold statewide compared to 5,140 units sold in September 2009.

Ten of Florida's metropolitan statistical areas reported higher existing condo sales in September. The statewide existing condo median sales price last month was \$83,400; in September 2009 it was \$102,300 for an 18 percent decrease. However, September's statewide existing condo median price was 2.2 percent higher than the statewide existing condo median of \$81,600 in August. The national median existing condo price was \$174,000 in August, according to NAR.

NAR President Vicki Cox Golder said opportunities abound in the current market.

“A decade ago, mortgage rates were almost double what they are today, and they're about one-and-a-half percentage points lower than the peak of the housing boom in 2005,” she said. “In addition, home prices are running about 22 per-

cent less than five years ago when they were bid up by the biggest housing rush on record.”

To illustrate the jump in housing affordability, the median monthly mortgage payment for a recently purchased home is several hundred dollars less than it was five years ago. “In fact, the median monthly mortgage payment in many areas is less than people are paying for rent,” Golder said.

Housing affordability conditions today are 60 percentage points higher than during the housing boom, so it has become a very strong buyers' market, especially for families with long-term plans. “The savings today's buyers are receiving are not a one-time benefit. Buyers with fixed-rate mortgages will save money every year they are living in their home — this is truly an example of how homeownership builds wealth over the long term,” Golder added.

Total housing inventory at the end of September fell 1.9 percent to 4.04 million existing homes available for sale, which represents a 10.7-month supply at the current sales pace, down from a 12.0-month supply in August. Raw unsold inventory is 11.7 percent below the record of 4.58 million in July 2008.

“Vacant homes and homes where mortgages have not been paid for an extended number of months need to be cleared from the market as quickly as possible, with a new set of buyers helping the recovery along a healthy path,” Yun said. “Inventory remains elevated and continues to favor buyers over sellers. A normal seasonal decline in inventory is expected through the upcoming months.” ■

BUSINESS BRIEFS



Veterans to eat free at Applebee's

Applebee's plans to thank the nation's veterans and active duty military by a free meal on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11.

Last year, Applebee's served more than 1 million military men and women, and lines formed before the doors opened. This year, the company says it expects that number to grow.

Veterans and active duty military will need to provide proof of service, which includes U.S. Uniform Services Identification Card, U.S. Uniform Services Retired Identification Card, Current Leave and Earnings Statement, Veterans Organization Card, photograph in uniform or wearing uniform, DD214, citation or commendation.

All Applebee's will be open 11 a.m.-midnight, and the offer is valid for dine-in only. For locations, visit www.applebees.com ■

BankAtlantic teams with Place of Hope for walk

BankAtlantic employees have volunteered to team up with the Place of Hope as a co-sponsor of Place of Hope's Second Annual Hope Walk.

Place of Hope is a faith-based, state-licensed child welfare organization providing family-style foster care (emergency and long-term); family outreach and intervention; transitional housing and support services; adoption and foster care recruitment and support; hope and healing opportunities for children and families who have been traumatized by abuse and neglect. Place of Hope provides homes and support for foster children (and their family members) while the children are in state custody. The program also includes family reunification, pre-adoptive placement, and post-emancipation from care.

“Place of Hope strives to foster and support healthy and productive lives, free of fear, endangerment, and most of all abuse,” said Jarett Levan, CEO of BankAtlantic. “Place of Hope restores dignity and provides guidance and hope through various programs and efforts and we are very happy to co-sponsor and support this event for these deserving children in our community,” he added.

The second annual walk is Saturday, Nov. 6. Registration begins at 8 a.m. The two-mile walk begins 9:30 a.m. At noon there will be family events and prizes awarded for games. The event is at Carlin Park, 400 South State Road A1A in Jupiter.

Activities currently scheduled include a live DJ by World Class Entertainment, a Bounce House, and specialty units from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department, a display of custom racecars provided by Rick's Rods, and the Hope Market. ■

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COURTESY PHOTO

Listed by Engel & Völkers, this beach house on Jupiter Island is priced at \$4.95 million.

JUPITER

From page 1

“What we’re seeing now is more traffic from the Northeast,” Mr. Meierling said, adding that Engel & Völkers has 75 offices up North that refer clients to South Florida agents. And people in those higher-end markets seemingly are not as affected by the economic downturn as other people.

Last quarter saw more sales than any quarter in the past 25 years, Mr. Thomson said.

“The finer properties still sell,” he said. “Anybody’s house that’s not in great condition takes a hit.”

“In general, I’m not that worried about Jupiter,” said Mr. Meierling. “It’s a destination where people want to be.”

While prices in the luxury markets have corrected, “the general markets are the ones that cause the bad press,” Mr. Thomson said. “There are no short sales at Jupiter Island, Jonathan’s Landing, Admirals Cove or The Bear’s Club or the Ritz-Carlton.”

But there aren’t a lot of newer houses on the market, either. Somerset, for example, was built in 1997.

“When the market took a dip, builders stopped building,” Mr. Thomson said.

And one of Mr. Meierling’s listings bears that out.

His firm is offering a \$4.95 million home on Jupiter Island. That home, which is about 70 years old, has more than 330 feet of ocean frontage.

“I haven’t seen anything with this kind of old Florida charm,” he said of the house, which he sees as a beach home for a family. “It has cypress throughout. Back then they built things differently. They built things to last.”

The six-bedroom house, which has 3,665 square feet of living space on 1.26 acres, has been owned by the same family for half a century. The house is built

of hardy Dade County pine with cypress paneling, and has many upgrades, including zoned air-conditioning systems and a newer cedar shingle roof.

But here’s the real bonus: The setting is protected because the house is

“grandfathered” in its location and no new houses will be allowed to be built along the beach on either side, Mr. Meierling said.

In comparison, Mr. Meierling’s office is at Jupiter Yacht Club & Marina,

where condominium units sell for \$800,000 and up. Condos are two and three bedrooms, “with a phenomenal view,” he said.

Engel & Völkers has a listing for a three-bedroom unit at the yacht club, which is on the Intracoastal Waterway, in the heart of the town of Jupiter. It has never been lived in and has wooden floors. The building has luxurious amenities. Asking price: \$999,000.

But have prices stabilized?

“I think the bottom of the market is finally here,” Thomson said. “I haven’t seen anything selling for less in quite sometime.”

“Interest in the bigger houses has been really active in the past 60 days. Odd time for that to be happening,” Mr. Thomson said. Buyers of those large estates in northern Palm Beach and southern Martin counties typically do their hunting in January and February.

“I think people are thinking it’s time to put their money back into real estate,” he said.

Mr. Thomson said that Waterfront Properties has grown as a result. The firm has doubled its size, he said, and now has 40 agents at offices in Sewall’s Point (near Stuart), Jupiter, North Palm Beach and Weston.

“And we have plans to open in Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale and Boca,” he said.

Regardless of markets, people still come back to Florida, Mr. Meierling said. Engel & Völkers, based in Hamburg, Germany, has offices in southern Palm Beach County, including Manalapan, and he says the company plans to open a branch at Sewall’s Point.

And why not?

“We’re selling a lifestyle,” said Mr. Meierling, who came here three years ago from Germany. Prices are lower and people want to be in Florida, he said.

“Florida hasn’t changed,” he said, and despite the current economic situation, “we still have beaches, equestrian activities and the sun.” ■



COURTESY PHOTOS

“Somerset,” listed at \$29 million, has 427 feet of ocean frontage on Jupiter Island.

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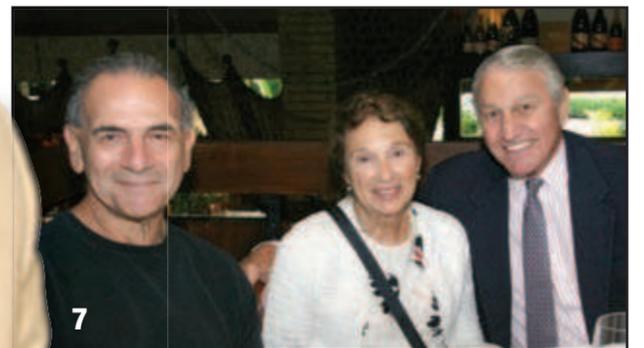
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NETWORKING

The Italian Cultural Society of the Palm Beaches at Cafe Chardonnay



JOSE CASADO / FLORIDA WEEKLY

- 1. Caesar and Olympia Cora
- 2. Emilio and Suzanne Petti
- 3. Joy and Mike Miltenberger
- 4. Ferd and Lucia Maggiordi
- 5. Virginia Pacelli, Phyllis Verducci, Virginia Longo
- 6. Vera and Fred A. Princiotta
- 7. Robert Silvani, Nan Paterniti, Carmen Paterniti

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NETWORKING

Second Annual Go Blue Award Luncheon at PGA National



RACHEL HICKEY / FLORIDA WEEKLY

1. David McClymont and Beth Neuhoff
2. Caela Bickly-Hayek, Karen Bell and Nichole Buccini
3. Lisa Wade and Jennifer Patterson
4. Fletch and Lynne Wells
5. Michael Bresette, Wanda Bregette and Rick Herren
6. Lisa Rawe, Linda Barnette, Debbie Spruill and Erica Verk
7. Melissa Ranly and Tash Glazer

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NETWORKING

The Captain's Club Marine Kickoff Bash at Sugar Cane Island Bistro



1



2



3



5



4



6



7

MAUREEN GREGG AND CLARA EDWARDS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

1. Monique Comfort and Tracey Miller
2. Carey Chen, Diane Jenkins, Norm Isaac, Dr. Ray Waldner and John Jenkins
3. Geraldine Napolitano, Lisa Watson and Brendan Schilling
4. Clifford Lame and Elena Caffray
5. Gary Lavalley, Molly Wilson and Rick Wilson
6. Kristy Grant, Kim Grant and Jenny Grant
7. Jeff and Alyssa Freeman

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NETWORKING

Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches mixer at McCormick and Schmick's Seafood Restaurant



- 1. Gabriele Bowen and Laurie Albert
- 2. Teri Edgar and Becky Reincke
- 3. Alan Kessman
- 4. Courtney Kennedy and Ellen Maringione
- 5. Karen Everitt and Steve Everitt
- 6. Barry Gilliland, Dana Wilson and Klara Novotna

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COURTESY PHOTO

A view of the pool of the new Largo Mar model, built at Frenchman's Reserve.

Toll Brothers launches new model at **Frenchman's Reserve**

Luxury homebuyers get one more option in northern Palm Beach County, as Toll Brothers has opened a new model home in its Heritage Collection at Frenchman's Reserve.

"Our gorgeous Largo Mar model is a magnificent addition to this spectacular resort community," said Jason Snyder, senior project manager, in a statement. "Frenchman's Reserve offers world-class amenities, including an Arnold Palmer-designed golf course."

The Largo Mar, situated on a waterfront site and designer-decorated by Decorators Unlimited, is a Palm Beach-style home with three bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths and 3,664 square feet of living space. Guests enter a two-story foyer that flows to separate living and dining rooms, a study and a family room adjacent to the kitchen. The covered lanai overlooks the pool. There is a large master suite with master bath on the first floor. Upstairs are two additional bedrooms, each with its own bath, and a flexible loft space.

The Heritage Collection offers seven home designs,

ranging from 3,400 square feet to more than 4,500 square feet of living space. Each home is situated on a lot that offers golf course or lake views. Homes also have such features as oversized ceramic tile in the main living areas and pool packages with brick paver pool decks. Homes are priced from the mid-\$900,000s.

Frenchman's Reserve offers a country club lifestyle. In addition to the golf course, amenities include a 45,000-square-foot Grande Clubhouse that offers casual and formal dining, a library, a boardroom, rooms for television and cards, locker rooms and golf pro shop.

The Spa at Frenchman's Reserve includes a full-service spa, state-of-the-art fitness center, six lighted Hydrogrid clay tennis courts, tennis pro shop, locker rooms and an outdoor pool and spa.

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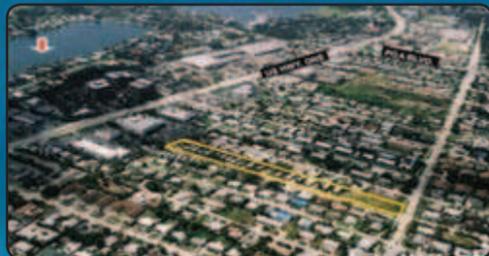
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 3, 2010 A GUIDE TO THE PALM BEACH COUNTY ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE

COURTESY PHOTOS



EPIC PLAY LAUNCHES
SERIES ABOUT FLORIDA

CANE

>>inside:
Cane can mean a hurricane, sugar or a biblical tale
C4

Gregg Weiner and David Nail in "Cane"

BY HAP ERSTEIN
herstein@floridaweekly.com

As Florida Stage, a large professional theater producing exclusively new and developing American plays, completes its first quarter century of existence, producing artistic director Lou Tyrrell ponders its legacy.

Wanting to leave something lasting behind, he has initiated The Florida Cycle, a series of new scripts on the life and history of The Sunshine State.

"All the plays we do are stories that audiences can relate to, no

SEE CANE, C4 ►

WEEK at-a-glance



Taking forever

Our reviewer says "Hereafter" feels like an eternity. **C11** ►



Sandy Days, Salty Nights

Men divide women into two categories: sports fish and keepers. **C2** ►



Mashing it up

Essential tools for out-of-this-world grilling. **C8** ►



Cuisine news

New restaurants are popping up all over the north county. **C15** ►

Get spooky at fall festival and wine, food fest



SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

A fall festival and a food and wine fest are set for Oct. 30 in the Gardens.

The second annual Boo's 'N' Brews Food & Wine Festival, organized by Whole Foods to benefit Autism Speaks, is 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Downtown at the Gardens.

The Halloween-themed fund-raiser will combine more than 100 varieties of craft beer and wine tastings, a Halloween costume contest, performance artists, food vendors, and shopping. There will be a live performance by The Feeder Band, and WRMF 97.9 FM will be on-site covering live, as well as signing autographs, introducing the band and judging a Halloween costume

contest with prizes totaling \$500.

Tickets to participate in beer and wine tastings are \$20. Whole Foods says 100 percent of the ticket sales will be donated to Autism Speaks South Florida.

The Palm Beach Gardens' Fall Festival, sponsored by the City of Palm Beach Gardens Recreation Division, is 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

It will include games and activities, including a flashlight egg "haunt," a Trick or Treat Street and a costume contest.

Bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating, as well as flashlights for the "haunt."

The event is at Burns Road Recreation Center, 4404 Burns Road, Palm Beach Gardens. ■

SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

The marrying kind



ArtisHENDERSON
sandydays@floridaweekly.com

I once had a colleague, Hannah, who unnerved me in a way I'm not used to. She had pretty green eyes and a mess of curly hair that she wore piled casually on top of her head. She was petite and slim, but with a curve to her hips that made her distinctively feminine. There was something very womanly about her but in an old-fashioned sort of way, so that I could imagine her in gingham, traipsing across the plains like a character out of "O Pioneers!"

We were both in our mid-20s when we met, and while I aimed far and wide — in my career, in my love life — Hannah kept her head tucked. She was destined for marriage and babies in quick succession — anyone could see that, and a small part of me envied her. She carried none of my restlessness and possessed not a smidge of ambition. I treated her coolly, with a vague dislike that took me years to identify as jealousy. While most of the women I knew cast about for direction, Hannah hunkered down.

"I just need a husband," she would say.

Not long after I met her, she began dating a man we all knew. He was handsome, smart, solid and kind. The type of man

who would make a good husband and father. He recognized in Hannah a similar spirit, and he identified with her goodness and lack of complexity. He must have known that the rest of us were still figuring things out, that we were not yet right with ourselves, because he passed us over and chose Hannah without a second thought. She was clearly the marrying kind.

Comedian Steve Harvey, who did an excellent job of transforming himself into a love guru with the publication of his advice book, "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man," says all men divide women into two categories: sports fish and keepers.

Sports fish are the kind you play around with, Mr. Harvey says. He labels them "throwbacks." These are the women destined for catch-and-release, ladies with low standards whom guys meet in bars and on the dance floor. The women who haven't learned to respect themselves.

Keepers, though, are just that: the women men want for the duration. "The kind of woman a man can envision settling down with," Harvey calls them.

My friend Sarah told me recently that she discussed the concept of sports fish and keepers with her twin brother, Sam, and he agreed that's how men cate-

"...all men divide women into two categories: sports fish and keepers..."

gorize the women they meet. Sarah ran down a list of her friends and asked which ones Sam would consider keepers. He dismissed them all.

Are any of my friends the kind a man would want to marry?" Sarah asked.

Sam said yes, and he said my name.

Sarah reported this information back to me, laughing and askance. But I smiled to myself on the other end of the phone line, secretly pleased. Somewhere along the way I must have discovered that reservoir of calm domestication that Hannah knew so well. Turns out, it was in me all along. ■



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BEACH READING

'Heart Transplant'

By Andrew Vachss and Frank Caruso, with Zak Mucha, LCSW (Dark Horse Books, \$24.99)

REVIEWED BY KATY B. OLSON
Special to Florida Weekly



Sean is a pudgy 9-year-old kid whose turbulent home life parallels the heartless bullying he faces daily at school. One afternoon, he returns home to find his neglectful, drunk mother and her boyfriend-of-the-month murdered. While police and social workers debate what to do, an older man walks in, claiming Sean as his grandson. Though Sean knows this isn't true, he's aware of his choices, and he decides to leave with the man he comes to call "Pop."

Pop teaches Sean what love means — not emotion, but behavior — in an incredible sacrifice. In the hallmark of the story, Pop performs the life-changing "heart transplant" that Sean, like every bullied child, needs.

Written by child-protection attorney Andrew Vachss and illustrated by artist Frank Caruso, "Heart Transplant" is more than a graphic novel. Author and artist are in sync, each never overpowering the other but delivering the message — that bullying can be overcome only by changing culture from within — with images somehow both elegant and coarse, images that mirror the work's stark, hard-

hitting story. Zak Mucha, LCSW, provides explanations of what Sean — and the reader — has experienced.

The result is a response to bullying rooted not in dogma, but in reality, not hammering home the textbook answers that fail kids from Columbine to Virginia Tech, but whispering the truth, on a human level that appeals to kids and their caretakers.

Before publication, "Heart Transplant" was recognized and lauded by experts from educators and psychologists to journalists and policemen. After its release, it will surely receive further acknowledgment, as well as prime real estate in bookstores, libraries and classrooms. But at its heart, the work is simply about the life-transforming and unalterable relationship between love and self-respect ■

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Trenell Mooring, left, fight choreographer Joe Isenberg and Gregg Weiner on the set of 'Cane'

CANE

From page 1

matter where they are set," notes Tyrrell. "But Florida is so interesting in its eccentricities and its extremes. As a company whose name represents the state, making a cultural contribution to the state, and from the state to the country, wouldn't it be fun if years later we had 12 or 15 or 20 plays that told various Florida stories?"

To inaugurate the ambitious project, Tyrrell turned to the company's playwright-in-residence, 29-year-old Andrew Rosendorf, and suggested he investigate the dramatic potential in the state's uneasy history with water. At the time, Palm Beach County was in a severe drought situation, with only a 21-day supply of water.

Rosendorf, born and raised in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., jumped at the assignment, even though he did not have the foggiest idea how to turn the issue into a play.

"What was interesting about that whole process and overwhelming as well as I didn't know what story I wanted to tell, I didn't know the time period and I didn't know anything about South Florida history," concedes Rosendorf. "Oh, my god, I had so much to learn."

He became a sponge, soaking up information about the region and specifically the Everglades. "And slowly I started to land on things that resonated with me," Rosendorf says. "That led me to look at the time right before the 1928 hurricane and to the present day."

In the early years of the 20th century, South Florida was essentially a swamp. The problem then was too much water. Rosendorf became intrigued by how the situation became reversed, from one extreme to the other, in just 80 years. And it occurred to him to tell the story of a fictional Belle Glade farmer just before the devastating Okeechobee hurricane of 1928 and, in the second act, the consequences of his actions on his

descendants today.

That is the premise of "Cane," which has its world premiere Oct. 29 at the Kravis Center's Rinker Playhouse, Florida Stage's new permanent home. The epic drama looks at the connections between the past and the present in a story of betrayal and bloodshed, water and wind, family and fortune.

"If I've done my job right, you're watching a human story and then the issues are coming out of that," says Rosendorf. The play begins in a time when efforts were first made to control the water flow from Lake Okeechobee with a dike. "They were thinking that if they could drain the water away, they could use the fine muck that was underneath for agricultural soil. They wanted to use the soil and the favorable temperature here to get off the foreign dependency of sugar."

In that context, the title "Cane" has three meanings — hurricane, sugar cane and "the Biblical implications of Cain and Abel," the playwright points out.

When Rosendorf started his research in May of last year, Florida Stage was still in Manalapan, in a theater that had a low stage ceiling. Yet it soon became

clear that "Cane" would be a play of epic proportions, as Tyrrell — who would direct the production — envisioned a towering dike that loomed over the landscape.

"When Lou read the script, he quickly had the idea that maybe the dike had some height, when my initial thought to make sure it would be producible, was that the dike could well be just the front of the stage," says Rosendorf. "I'm very drawn to theatricality and there's theatricality in this play, but I also had in mind that Florida Stage was asking me to write this, so I knew I had to keep a certain producibility aspect in mind."

The move to the Kravis is ideal for a play like "Cane," allowing scenic designer Richard Crowell to think on a massive scale. "It was great good fortune that we moved to the Rinker Playhouse and gained all this height," says Tyrrell. "Cane" allows Florida Stage to "show our audience, very specifically, scenically and storytelling-wise, why it is better for us to be here."

But putting the Herbert Hoover Dike onstage was not the only challenge Rosendorf gave his director. He also calls for the torrential rains and gale force

winds of a major destructive hurricane.

"Growing up in New York, I am used to the kind of stagecraft that you can see on Broadway. But almost every time you have to solve a creative issue through your imagination, it's always bigger and more exciting, I think," says Tyrrell.

"Ultimately, we are going to suggest water through sound and light. So slickers need not be provided to the front row."

"Cane" has gone through a rigorous, time-consuming developmental process of readings and revisions over the past 18 months. Clearly, Florida Stage would not make such an effort if it did not feel that the play — like subsequent works in The Florida Cycle — will be of interest beyond the state line.

"I think it's a very universal story of what was going on 80 years ago," says Rosendorf. "As I learned from my research, water shortage is a huge issue, not just in Florida, but around the country, especially with the Great Lakes and Lake Michigan. Experts believe that the next world war won't be fought over oil, but will be fought over water. We like to call Florida 'the canary in the mineshaft,' that what happens here is a microcosm of what is happening elsewhere."

"If we're emotionally invested in the human story, it may be set in Belle Glade, but it should take on a greater, wider resonance."

Although "Cane" is a cautionary tale of man's attempts to harness nature, Tyrrell and Rosendorf also wanted to be sure that it was an entertaining ride. "It is epic, because it covers personal issues of the people, and deals with global issues that we should all care about," says Tyrrell. "And for people who just love a great read, this play is a real page-turner." ■



Gregg Weiner and Trenell Mooring — rehearsing on the set in the scene shop.

COURTESY PHOTOS

in the know

>> CANE, Florida Stage at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Fri., Oct. 29 through Sun., Nov. 28. Tickets: \$47-\$50. Call: (561) 585-3433 or (800) 514-3837.

Burt Reynolds Institute to host murder mystery

There will be a classic "Who-done-it?" at The Gardens Mall and it will benefit the Burt Reynolds Institute for Film and Theatre.

The murder mystery-themed fundraiser will take place from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, at Saks Fifth Avenue. Participants will form teams to solve the mystery or just enjoy the fun. There also will be drinks, appetizers and raffles.

Honorary chairs are Burt Reynolds and Loreen Farish. Event chairs are Karen Chimato and Sandy Mast

Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased by calling BRIFT at (561) 743-9955. Tickets also will be available at the door. Saks is on the north side of The Gardens Mall, 3109 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens ■

Pianist Coltman to play at Lighthouse ArtCenter

Internationally acclaimed pianist Heather Coltman will perform her *Romance of the Piano* on Friday, Oct. 29, at the Lighthouse ArtCenter in Tequesta, presenting a selection of passionate piano pieces from history. She will offer a glimpse into the minds of such piano greats as Mozart, Mendelssohn, Hensel and Gershwin.

"We're very much looking forward to hosting Dr. Coltman's performance in Tequesta," said Lighthouse ArtCenter Executive Director Katie Deits. The pianist's performance is one in a series of concerts throughout venues in South Florida, aside from Coltman's regular performance schedule as a solo and chamber musician. She also is chair of the Department of Music at Florida

Atlantic University. The performance is scheduled to take place from 7 to 8 p.m. and is preceded by an hour of wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres beginning at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Purchase tickets by phone at 746-3101 or online at Lighthousearts.org under "Exhibitions and Events."

All proceeds benefit the programs of the Lighthouse ArtCenter, at Gallery Square North, 373 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta, a half-mile west of U.S. 1. Museum hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. with admission free for members and \$5 for non-members ages 12 and up. Saturday hours are 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with free admission. ■

Museum show highlights landscapes

The Lighthouse ArtCenter presented several awards to artists with works in its exhibition "Landscapes 2010."

Katie Deits, executive director of the Tequesta museum, presented awards to several artists who received top honors for their work in exhibition, open through Nov. 2 and juried by Clay Surovek of the Surovek Gallery in Palm Beach:

John Allen, who received Best of Show for the hand-dyed metal, "Dreamscape" (priced at \$2,500); Gwen Eyeington, who received First Place for the oil on canvas, "Everglades Reflection" (priced at \$4,300); Barbara Carswell, who received Second Place for the watercolor, "Oak Island, NC" (priced at \$950); AJ Brockman, who received Third Place for the Digital Painting on canvas, "Nozrider" (priced at \$1,050).

Honorable Mentions went to: John Bowen, for the watercolor, "Seawall and Boat Reflection" (priced at \$850); Peter Debe, for the photograph, *Ode to Florida* (priced at \$900); Durga Garcia for the photograph, "Lunar Celebration" (priced at \$250); Duane Hatfield

for the oil on canvas, "Storm Coming" (priced at \$400); Dr. Elise Hillmann for the acrylic on canvas, "Sunset Over Loch Lomand" (priced at \$1,500); Ann Lawtey, for the oil on canvas, "Monhegan Lighthouse" (priced at \$2,700); Tess Lindsay for the acrylic on canvas, *Old Florida* (priced at \$850); Nancy Sloane for the digital print, "Sunset at Dawn" (priced at \$300); Kit Snider for the archival digital print, "Landscape" (priced at \$750); Sue Traber for the photograph, "Cinnamon Surprise" (priced at \$350).

"I'm very happy with the turn-out of this show," Deits says, "and I know Clay Surovek found his role as judge no easy task."

The Lighthouse ArtCenter is in Gallery Square North, 373 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta, Florida, a half-mile west of U.S. 1. Hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. with admission free for members and \$5 for non-members ages 12 and up. Saturday hours are 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. with free admission. Call 746-3101 or log on to www.lighthousearts.org. ■

PUZZLE ANSWERS

3	4	5	9	7	2	1	8	6
9	2	1	4	8	6	7	3	5
7	6	8	3	1	5	9	4	2
6	5	4	8	3	9	2	7	1
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5	7	6	1	9	8	4	2	3
4	9	3	6	2	7	5	1	8
8	1	2	5	4	3	6	9	7



BOB LAPPIN & THE PALM BEACH POPS

TICKETS NOW ON SALE



MAESTRO LAPPIN

• LET IT BE...THE BEATLES featuring The Nylons

KRAVIS: NOV 5-6 – EISSEY: NOV 7

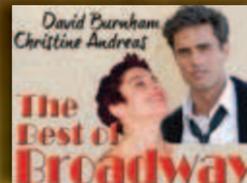
A tribute to The Beatles with special guest The Nylons, world-famous recording group best known for their Top 40 hit "Kiss Him Goodbye." A musical journey with "All You Need Is Love," "Yesterday," "Hey Jude," Eleanor Rigby" & more!



• THE BEST OF BROADWAY David Burnham & Christine Andreas

KRAVIS: NOV 29-30 – EISSEY: DEC 6

A South Florida tradition, delight in your favorite songs from a variety of popular musicals including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *La Cage Aux Folles* and *Jeckyll & Hyde*. Featuring Broadway stars David Burnham of *Wicked* and Christine Andreas of *La Cage Aux Folles*!



• THE STREISAND SONGBOOK with Gloria Loring

EISSEY: JAN 9 – KRAVIS: JAN 10-11

Featuring actress/singer Gloria Loring with the #1 hit "Friends and Lovers" and of *Days of Our Lives*. Showcasing the music of Barbra Streisand with "Somewhere," "The Way We Were," "Evergreen" and music from *Funny Girl*, *Hello Dolly*, *Yentl* and more!



An Evening of • RODGERS & HART/JOHN PIZZARELLI QUARTET

EISSEY: FEB 8 – KRAVIS: FEB 9-10

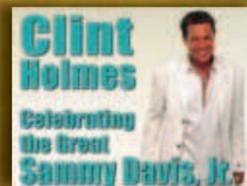
Internationally acclaimed singer & guitarist John Pizzarelli puts his own spin on these light-hearted classics by Richard Rodgers & Lorenz Hart, "My Heart Stood Still," "The Lady Is A Tramp" "With A Song In My Heart" & "Blue Moon."



• CLINT HOLMES: CELEBRATING SAMMY DAVIS, JR.

EISSEY: MAR 13 – KRAVIS: MAR 14-15

By popular demand, superstar Vegas entertainer Clint Holmes returns to honor the great Sammy Davis, Jr. with "What Kind of Fool Am I," "Candy Man" & other nostalgic favorites. Don't miss this high energy concert!



• MICHAEL CAVANAUGH: THE MUSIC OF BILLY JOEL & MORE

KRAVIS: APR 4-5 – EISSEY: APR 10

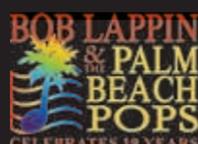
Handpicked by Billy Joel to star in the hit Broadway musical *Movin' Out*, Tony- and Grammy-nominated Michael Cavanaugh is a gifted pianist & vocalist. Spotlighting the hits of Billy Joel and other legends for an amazing concert!



Order Your Tickets Today! Tickets \$29-\$89

Call 561.832.7677 – www.PalmBeachPops.org

(Sun 10am to 2pm & Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm)



KRAVIS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
West Palm Beach

EISSEY CAMPUS THEATRE
(Palm Beach State College) - Palm Beach Gardens

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Thursday, Oct. 28

■ **Starfish & Coffee Storytime Session** – at the Loxahatchee River Center: 9:30 a.m. Oct. 28, Burt Reynolds Park, 805 N. U.S. 1, Jupiter. Call (561) 743-7123 or visit www.loxahatcheeiver.org/rivercenter.

■ **Turtle Tots** – Loggerhead Marine-life Center of Juno Beach, Loggerhead Park, 14200 S. U.S. 1, Juno Beach, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Oct. 28; \$5-\$8. marinelife.org.

■ **Robb & Stucky Design Seminar** – “Material World — Fabric Transformations;” with consultant Wanda Robbins; 11 a.m., Oct. 28; Robb & Stucky Interiors, 3801 Design Center Drive, Palm Beach Gardens. Reservations required. 904-7200, option 5.

■ **Business After Hours** – with the Cultural Alliance, sponsored by the Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce, 5-7 p.m. Oct. 28 at The Borland Center, MidTown, 4901 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens. This event will showcase the many cultural groups in Northern Palm Beach County with presentations from nearly 20 cultural groups — from the fine arts, performing arts, museums and wildlife attractions. The event also will feature drawings for many cultural prizes, including theater tickets, classes, books and other items. Guests will receive gift bags with souvenirs. Call 746-7111.

Friday, Oct. 29

■ **Art Exhibition by Justin Rabideau** – 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Oct. 29-Nov. 2, Eissey Campus Theatre Lobby Gallery, Palm Beach State College, 11051 Campus Drive (off PGA Boulevard), Palm Beach Gardens. Call 207-5905.

■ **“Giving Back Is Always in Fashion”** – Presented by Maltz Jupiter Theatre for Conservatory of Performing Arts; Frenchman’s Reserve Country Club, Palm Beach Gardens. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Oct. 29. Call 972-6124 or go to www.jupitertheatre.org.

■ **Scripps Virtual Exploration** – Learn about Scripps Florida. Scripps Research Institute, 120 Scripps Way, Building B, Jupiter, 1:30 p.m., Oct. 29. Teens+. RSVP: 228-2015; scripps.edu/florida/events/specialseminars.html. Also: 1:30 p.m., Nov. 19, Dec. 14, Feb. 11, March 11, April 15.

■ **Halloween Party** – Haunted Hammock Kids. Games, crafts, trick-or-treating, hay

Boos And Brews: Food and wine festival/tasting, music, Halloween costume contests. Whole Foods Market, Downtown at the Gardens, Palm Beach Gardens, 6-10 p.m., Oct. 30. \$20; benefits Autism Speaks of South Florida.

ride at local aquarium. River Center, 805 N. U.S. 1, Jupiter, 2-7 p.m., Oct. 29. \$5. 743-7123; or email: RiverCenter@Loxahatcheeiver.org.

■ **Trick or Treat** – Enjoy a Halloween celebration for children at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29, at the Keller-Williams Realty Jupiter, Tequesta, Hobe Sound building, 4455 Military Trail, Jupiter. All local children are invited to attend.

■ **“The Woman in Black”** – 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays; 6 p.m., Sundays; 3 p.m., Saturdays; Oct. 29-Nov. 7; \$20 (\$15 for those in costume); The Atlantic Theater, 6743 W. Indiantown Road, Suite 34, Jupiter. \$15; 575-4942; theatlantictheater.com.

Saturday, Oct. 30

■ **Palm Beach Gardens Chess Club** – 9 a.m.-4 p.m., North Palm Beach Parks and Recreation Center, 603 Anchorage Drive, art building. \$2 per player per Saturday. USCF membership required. Call John Dockery, president/tournament director, at 762-3377.

■ **Boot Camp** – 9-10 a.m., Saturdays; West Jupiter Recreation Center, 6401 Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Adults (13-17 years must be accompanied by an adult); \$5. Call Constonsa Alexander at 694-5430.

■ **Saturday Kids Camp** – weekly camp sponsored by Jupiter Outdoor Center; Session 1 — 9 a.m.-noon; Session 2 — 1-4 p.m., weekly; ages 7-13. \$35 per session; advanced registration required. 747-0063; jupiteroutdoorcenter.com.

■ **Yogaboarding with Cora** – 9:30 a.m., weekly; yoga and guided meditation, while Stand Up Paddling on the waters of the Jupiter River. Jupiter Outdoor Center; call 747-0063.

■ **Pumpkin Dive** – 2:30 p.m. Oct. 30, Dive into the pool for your pumpkin, decorate your pumpkin and take it home. Activities will include music, hay fun, and a costume contest. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets. At Burns Road Recreation Center, 4404 Burns Road, Palm Beach Garden, 630-1100; pbgfl.com.

■ **Boos And Brews** – Food and wine festival/tasting, music, Halloween costume contests. Whole Foods Market, Downtown at the Gardens, Palm Beach Gardens, 6-10 p.m., Oct. 30. \$20; benefits Autism Speaks of South Florida. acteva/go/palmbeachgardens.

■ **Fall Festival** – Games, activities, costume contest, flashlight egg “haunt,” trick or treat. Burns Road Recreation Center, 4404 Burns Road, Palm Beach Gardens, 6-8 p.m., Oct. 30. pbgfl.com; (561) 630-1100.

Sunday, Oct. 31

■ **Trunk Or Treat** – Safe, family friendly environment. Covenant Centre International, 9153 Roan Lane, Palm Beach Gardens, 6 p.m., Oct. 31. 627-8138; covcentre.org.

■ **Taste in the Gardens Green Market** – Gardens Park, 4301 Burns Road, Palm Beach Gardens; 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Live entertainment, produce, plants, flowers, handmade crafts and prepared food and drink items. Free; no pets. For vendor information, call 772-6435.

■ **Dave & Aaron’s Workout on Stand Up Paddleboarding** – 9:30 a.m., Jupiter Outdoor Center. For reservations, call 747-0063; visit www.jupiteroutdoorcenter.com.

Tuesday, Nov. 2

■ **Twelve Angry Men** – The court drama, Nov. 2-14, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Tickets: \$39-\$57. Call 575-2223; jupitertheatre.org.

■ **“Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee”** – Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum, 500 Captain Armour’s Way, Jupiter, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday. 747-8380, ext. 101; jupiterlighthouse.org.

Ongoing

■ **“Land-Escape” Art Exhibition** – Features work by Jupiter artists Bruce Bain and Sonya Gaskell and Palm Beach Gardens artists Esther Gordon, Melinda Moore, and Ok-Hee Kay Nam; Palm Beach International Airport, Concession Level 2, West Palm Beach; on display through Dec. 15. www.pbcgov.com/fdo/art/registry.htm.

■ **Active Adult Getaway/Morikami Museum** – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 4; Cost: \$20 per person; ages 45 and older; register through West Jupiter Recreation Center, 6401 W. Indiantown Road, Jupiter by Oct. 29. Call (561) 694-5430.

Coming up

■ **Free Lighthouse History Lecture Series** – Juno Beach Town Center, 340 Ocean Drive, 6-7 p.m., Nov. 4, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 17, 747-8380, ext. 101; jupiterlighthouse.org.

■ **San Jose Taiko** – 7 p.m. Nov. 5, Kravis Center’s Gosman Amphitheatre, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: \$10. 832-7469; kravis.org.

■ **Gardens Community Outdoor Yard Sale** – Sell old treasures or buy new ones. Burns Road Recreation Center, 4404 Burns Road, Palm Beach Gardens, 7:30-11:30 a.m., Nov. 6. Also: Pre-register to sell, 15x10 space \$20. Register: 630-1100; pbgfl.com.

■ **Hope Walk** – Carlin Park, 400 A1A, Jupiter, 8 a.m., Nov. 6. Benefits Place of Hope. Register: 775-7195; placeofhope.com.

■ **Hibiscus Show & Sale** – 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 7. More than 80 vendors will sell plants and supplies. The American Hibiscus Sunrise-Conrad Chapter will be having their hibiscus show featuring many of the state’s best blooms. Hibiscus plants will be available at their booth. The PBC Woodturners will be selling a large selection of their beautiful woodturnings. Palms, orchids, bamboo, begonias, bromeliads, fruit trees and many other types of plants will be for sale at the Mounts Botanical Garden, 531 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach. Cost: \$5 per person. Call 233-1757 or visit www.mounts.org.

■ **Palm Beach Pops** – Let It Be — The Beatles with The Nylons. Eissey Campus Theatre, Palm Beach Gardens, 8 p.m., Nov. 7. \$75-\$85. 832-7677; palm-beachpops.org.

■ **Lighthouse Sunset Tour** – Jupiter Lighthouse, call for times, Nov. 10 & 24; \$15. RSVP: 747-8380, ext. 101.

■ **United States Army Signal Corps Band, “Signal Distortion”** – Concert 11 a.m. Nov. 11, Veterans Plaza, 10500 N. Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens. Free. 630-1100; pbgfl.com.

■ **Parents Night Out** – For ages 6-11; West Jupiter Recreation Center, 6401 W. Indiantown Road, Jupiter; 5:30-9 p.m., Nov. 12; Dec. 10; \$5. Call 694-5430.

■ **Middle School Lock-In** – A sleepover event sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County’s Jewish Teen Initiative, 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, at the Doubletree Hotel, 4431 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens. Snacks, a DJ, games, transportation to and from the event, and a light breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 14, will be included. Cost is \$20 if registered and paid for by Monday, Nov. 8. The cost increases to \$25 after Nov. 8. Registration and transportation schedule is available at www.JTIPalmBeach.org. Call 242-6630 or e-mail Adrienne.Winton@Jewish-PalmBeach.org.

■ **Doobie Brothers** – 8 p.m. Nov. 13, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: \$25-\$100. 832-7469; kravis.org.

■ **Girls Night Out** – Food and cocktails. PGA National Resort and Spa, 400 Avenue of Champions, Jupiter, 5:30-8 p.m. Nov. 17. Ages 21+. pgaresort.com.

■ **Art & Music in the Gardens** – With “Faces, Figures & Fantasy” by Susan Megur, 6-8 p.m. Nov. 19, City Hall Lobby and Veterans Plaza, 10500 N. Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens. Free. pbgfl.com.

■ **A Journey Through Italy** – With tenor Franco Corso, 8 p.m. Nov. 19, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Tickets: \$45 orchestra, \$40 mezzanine. Fund-raiser for the Maltz Jupiter Theatre Guild. Phone: 575-2223; jupitertheatre.org.

■ **The Ugly Duckling** – Starring Pinky Flamingo in this production with giant puppets, 2 p.m. Nov. 20, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Tickets: \$12. 575-2223; jupitertheatre.org.

■ **Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Fall Sundowner** – An evening of beachside with music, food, drink, live auction. Benefits Loxahatchee River Historical Society, 5:30-8 p.m., Nov. 20. 747-8380, ext. 10; jupiterlighthouse.org.

■ **Art in the Gardens** – Two-day art festival. Midtown, 4801 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 20-21. 748-3946; npbchamber.com.

■ **Dreamgirls** – Nov. 23-28, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: \$25 and up. 832-7469; kravis.org.

■ **29th Annual Citrus Nationals** – Nov. 27-28, Palm Beach International Raceway, 17047 Beeline Highway, Jupiter. Country singer Josh Thompson sings at 9 p.m. Nov. 27. Adult reserved seat, full event tickets are \$40 and junior (12 and under) admission is \$20. General admission full event adult tickets are \$30 and juniors are free. Concert only tickets can be purchased at \$20 for adults and \$5 for juniors. 622-1400; racepbir.com.

— Send calendar listings to events@floridaweekly.com.



THEATER REVIEW

'Rocky Horror Show' lacks danger, dark edginess

h a p e r s t e i n
herstein@floridaweekly.com



Boca Raton's Slow Burn Theatre Company, now beginning its second season, prides itself on producing musicals with a dark edginess, as its inaugural attractions, "Bat Boy" and "Assassins" can attest. But edge and danger are exactly the qualities that are missing from its version of "The Rocky Horror Show," playing through this weekend with a midnight show on Halloween eve.

"Rocky Horror" is, of course, a spoof of B-level horror flicks mixed with an allegory of sexual liberation. But ever since the show gained cult status — and audience interaction — with the wildly successful 1975 movie adaptation, it has been hard to wrest it from parody mode.

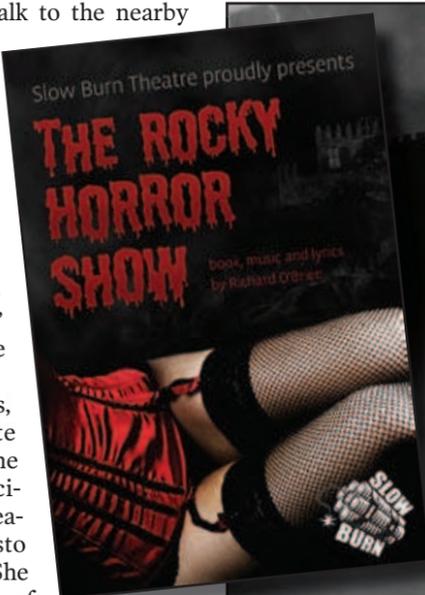
Written by songsmith Richard O'Brien, who insinuated his way into the show's original cast as well as the movie, "Rocky Horror" is hardly textbook tidy with its dramaturgy. Instead, it comes off as an occasional storyline on which 15 or so musical numbers are haphazardly hung. And if the show was ever shocking, you would never know it from the squeaky-clean production at Slow Burn.

For what it is worth, the show follows the dilemma of nerdy Brad and virginal Janet — engaged to each other, but determined to save themselves for marriage. Alas, they get a flat tire on a remote, rainy

road and decide to walk to the nearby foreboding castle to phone for assistance. Little do they know what a journey of discovery this will be, for the castle belongs to fishnet-stockinged, high-heeled Dr. Frank 'N' Furter, a "sweet transvestite, transsexual from Transylvania," as he will introduce himself in song.

Anyway, before this, matters begin quite promisingly with the opening number, "Science Fiction Double Feature," sung with gusto by Renata Eastlick. She returns later as one of Furter's minions, Magenta, stealing most of the scenes she is in. She commands a lot more attention than Noah Levine (Brad) and Alexa Capiello (Janet), who are fine in the early going, but neither one makes much of a transition when liberated by Furter's sexual prowess. Rick Pena designs some nicely abbreviated costumes for them, but one gets the impression that the wardrobe is doing more character work than the two performers.

Larry Buzzeo (Frank 'N' Furter) fills out a bustier well enough, but he misses much of the character's menace. Director Patrick Fitzwater wisely tries to avoid comparisons with the movie in his casting, though trading in Tim Curry for a Charles



COURTESY PHOTO

Alexa Capiello and Noah Levine play Janet and Brad in the Slow Burn Theatre Company's "The Rocky Horror Show."

Busch type only sends us further into camp. Matthew Korinko, the company's co-artistic director, takes on the thankless role of the show's narrator and manages not to earn a single laugh with it.

Since it was probably unavoidable, Slow Burn encourages "Rocky Horror" groupies with their audience shout-outs, and allows newbies to play along by selling them packets of participatory props and instruction sheets. But at an early performance, the cast seemed a bit unnerved by these interruptions.

I am not convinced there is a dark show

lurking inside "The Rocky Horror Show," but Slow Burn certainly never found it. The results of this dubious exercise are decidedly rocky. ■

in the know

- >>What: The Rocky Horror Show
- >>When: Through Sat., Oct. 30
- >>Where: Slow Burn Theatre Co., at West Boca Community High School, 12811 West Glades Rd., Boca Raton
- >>Cost: \$30
- >>Info: (866) 811-4111

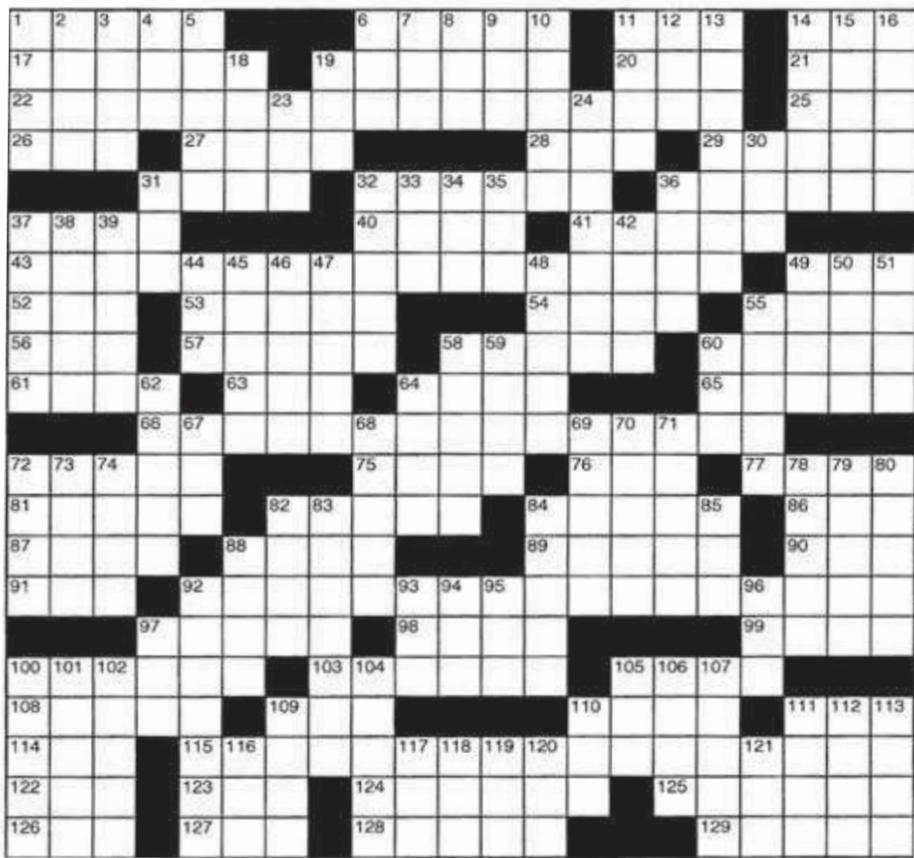
YOUR VOTE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

12 ANGRY MEN

NOVEMBER 2-14

FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES

BIOPICS



- ACROSS**
- 1 Potassium, e.g.
 - 6 ___ pole
 - 11 Scott's "The Quartet"
 - 14 "Nova" network
 - 17 Idolized
 - 19 Fandango kin
 - 20 Maestro de Waart
 - 21 "Hulk" Ferrigno
 - 22 George M. Cohan biopic
 - 25 Link letters?
 - 26 Grant or Tan
 - 27 Crow's toe
 - 28 CPR provider
 - 29 Tenor Mario
 - 31 Svelte
 - 32 TV's ___ & Greg
 - 36 "El Cid" star
 - 37 Stardom
 - 40 Like pie?
 - 41 Squirrel away
 - 43 Thomas More biopic
 - 49 Small shots
 - 52 Bother
 - 53 Japanese dog
 - 54 Social misfit
 - 55 Throw in the towel
 - 56 Cio-Cio-San's sash
 - 57 '86 Janet Jackson hit
 - 58 Fresh
 - 60 Billie of "The Wizard of Oz"
 - 61 Merino males
 - 63 I.M. the architect
 - 64 Manage
 - 65 With 49 Down, Thomas Jefferson's veep
 - 66 Edwin Booth biopic
 - 72 Line
 - 75 "Confound it!"
 - 76 Cubic meas.
 - 77 Mosque figure
 - 81 Marine leader?
 - 82 Helps with the dishes
 - 84 Sao ___, Brazil
 - 86 Nev. neighbor
 - 87 Privy to
 - 88 Decree
 - 89 Moving
 - 90 Cotton ___
 - 91 Bleak critique
 - 92 Billie Holiday biopic
 - 97 Biblical city
 - 98 Journalist Jacob
 - 99 ___ podrida
 - 100 Western desert
 - 103 Sherbet flavor
 - 105 Coup d'___
 - 108 Fight site
 - 109 Actress Alicia
 - 110 Applaud
 - 111 Make wine divine
 - 114 Glowing
 - 115 Robert Stroud biopic
 - 122 Dram
 - 123 Chou En-___
 - 124 Prepared a potion
 - 125 Aftershock
 - 126 "Ask ___ Girl" ('59 film)
 - 127 Terminate
 - 128 Frequently
 - 129 Electrical inventor
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Author Angelou
 - 2 Dairy-case buy
 - 3 Oscar's cousin
 - 4 Genesis vessel
 - 5 Parasite
 - 6 Overly
 - 7 Foster's "Dog Tray"
 - 8 ___ Aviv
 - 9 Palindromic preposition
 - 10 Transmit by bytes
 - 11 The Mertzses' income
 - 12 Suffix
 - 13 Unhappy
 - 14 Rocker Robert
 - 15 Movie chimp
 - 16 Largest African nation
 - 18 Sandwich shop
 - 19 Cellist's need
 - 23 Blocker or Aykroyd
 - 24 Piles up
 - 30 Timber tree
 - 31 Decimal base
 - 32 Hold up
 - 33 Baseball's Chase
 - 34 Dolt
 - 35 Bread or booze
 - 36 Jurist Learned
 - 37 Party present
 - 38 Lab critter
 - 39 Adage
 - 42 British pol
 - 44 Mozart's "Così ___ tutte"
 - 45 Giraffe kin
 - 46 Up and about
 - 47 Tall story?
 - 48 First name in photography
 - 49 See 65 Across
 - 50 South African activist
 - 51 WWII gun
 - 55 Resembling
 - 58 Couches
 - 59 Datebook abbr.
 - 60 Candy quantity
 - 62 Cold-shoulder
 - 64 Transformer part
 - 67 Actress Peggy
 - 68 Polishes prose
 - 69 "Stop, sailor!"
 - 70 Time of your life
 - 71 "Dallas" matriarch
 - 72 Wisecrack
 - 73 Skeleton part
 - 74 007's school
 - 78 Tycoon
 - 79 Historian Durant
 - 80 IQ crew
 - 82 "The Aeneid" queen
 - 83 TV's "Everybody Loves ___"
 - 84 Dated
 - 85 Solid circle
 - 88 Grow dull
 - 92 Endearing
 - 93 Nest egg
 - 94 Diarist Anais
 - 95 Light carriage
 - 96 Fate
 - 97 ___ Antonio, TX
 - 100 Mediterranean island
 - 101 Sky stalker
 - 102 Dock
 - 104 Stallone role
 - 105 Building wing
 - 106 Diplomacy
 - 107 In pieces
 - 109 Saharan
 - 110 No gentleman
 - 111 "Babes in ___" ('37 musical)
 - 112 Sheffield slammer
 - 113 Biblical book
 - 116 Charleson or Carmichael
 - 117 Rottweiler's remark
 - 118 Take-home
 - 119 Be in debt
 - 120 Marsh
 - 121 Fairway accessory

◀ SEE ANSWERS, C5

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HOROSCOPES

■ **SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** Rely on your keen instincts as well as the facts at hand when dealing with a troubling situation. Be patient. Take things one step at a time as you work through it.

■ **SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** Your curiosity leads you to ask questions. However, the answers might not be what you hoped to hear. Don't reject them without checking them out.

■ **CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** Be careful not to tackle a problem without sufficient facts. Even sure-footed Goats need to know where they'll land before leaping off a mountain path.

■ **AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** Appearances can be deceiving. You need to do more investigating before investing your time, let alone your money, in something that might have some hidden flaws.

■ **PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** Your recent stand on an issue could make you the focus of more attention than you would like. But you'll regain your privacy, as well as more time with loved ones, by week's end.

■ **ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** Your honesty continues to impress everyone who needs reassurance about a project. But be careful you don't lose patience with those who are still not ready to act.

■ **TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** Pushing others too hard to do things

your way could cause resentment and raise more doubts. Instead, take more time to explain why your methods will work.

■ **GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** Be more considerate of those close to you before making a decision that could have a serious effect on their lives. Explain your intentions and ask for their advice.

■ **CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** You might have to defend a workplace decision you plan to make. Colleagues might back you up on this, but it's the facts that will ultimately win the day for you. Good luck.

■ **LEO (July 23 to August 22)** The Big Cat's co-workers might not be doing enough to help get that project finished. Your roars might stir things up, but gentle purrr-suasion will prove to be more effective.

■ **VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** Someone you care for needs help with a problem. Give it lovingly and without judging the situation. Whatever you feel you should know will be revealed later.

■ **LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** While you're to be admired for how you handled recent workplace problems, be careful not to react the same way to a new situation until all the facts are in.

■ **BORN THIS WEEK:** You're a good friend and a trusted confidante. You would be a wonderful teacher and a respected member of the clergy.

By Linda Thistle

		5		7	2			6
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	9		6					1
		2			3			7

Puzzle Difficulty this week:

★ ★

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

★ Moderate ★ ★ Challenging
★ ★ ★ Expert

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◀ SEE ANSWERS, C5

LATEST FILMS

'Hereafter'

danHUDAK
www.hudakonhollywood.com



★★★
Is it worth \$10? No

What's amazing about "Hereafter" is that in 129 minutes, nothing happens. Three separate storylines, location shooting in London, Paris and San Francisco, and nothing. For a movie that aspires to explore what happens after we die, all it really explores is what happens when you focus on pathetically boring people with nothing to do.

You'd think with Clint Eastwood directing a script by Peter Morgan ("Frost/Nixon") there'd be some original, bold things to say about life and mortality. But no. Not even close. What we do get are three disparate storylines that barely connect.

George (Matt Damon) is a blue-collar American who has a special connection to the afterlife. On the other side of the world, French journalist Marie (Cécile de France) has a near-death experience that shakes her reality. And when Marcus (George McLaren and Frankie McLaren), a London schoolboy, loses the person closest to him, he desperately needs answers.

The biggest problem with Mr. Morgan's script isn't that the characters don't physically intersect more, it's that thematically the stories don't connect. The whole point of exploring mortality issues from three perspectives is to allow the actions in one storyline to reflect and/or enhance the other storylines. But that never happens here; it's as if each character is in his/her own movie that has nothing to do with the others until the very end, and by then it's too late.

If each individual journey were interesting, this might be forgivable, but really only George's plotline is compelling. He views his ability to communicate with the dead as a curse, which is fascinating, especially with his avaricious brother (Jay Mohr) trying to exploit his gift for profit. When George meets Melanie (Bryce Dallas Howard) at a cooking class and they strike up a flirtation, he knows his ability is both the most interesting thing about him and the one surefire way to ruin any



future they might have.

More focus on George would have been welcome, especially since so little is offered with Marie and Marcus. Mr. Eastwood uses catastrophic events to try to drive home some emotion, and both the Indonesian tsunami that Marie survives and the London subway bombing that Marcus avoids are nicely done. But other than that, the characters never approach being interesting.

That "Hereafter" will go down as the most boring and directionless film of 2010 goes without saying. That it could've been something great might be an overstatement, but the truth is it's a big tease: It never really delves into what happens in the afterlife; it's only about people who are curious about what happens after we die. And when they don't find answers, we're all left scratching our heads. ■

— Dan Hudak is the chairman of the Florida Film Critics Circle and a nationally syndicated film critic. You can e-mail him at dan@hudakonhollywood.com and read more of his work at www.hudakonhollywood.com.

in the know

>>> Peter Morgan wrote the screenplay shortly after losing a friend in an accident. "He died so suddenly, so violently," he said. "It made no sense. His spirit was still so alive around us, at his funeral I was probably thinking what everyone else was: 'Where has he gone?'"

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ART BRIEFS

Palm Beach Pops season set to open



COURTESY PHOTO

■ Bob Lappin and The Palm Beach Pops will launch their 19th concert season for 2010-2011, on Nov. 1, with "Let It Be... The Beatles."

■ Shows, with The Nylons as guest artists, are 8 p.m. Nov. 1-3 at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Nov. 5-6 at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach and Nov. 7 at the Eissey Campus Theatre at Palm Beach State College in North Palm Beach.

■ Next up, the Pops will perform "The Best of Broadway," with stage veterans David Burnham and Christine Andreas. Shows are 8 p.m. Nov. 29-30 at the Kravis Center, Dec. 1, 3 and 5 at FAU and Dec. 6 at Eissey.

■ In January, the Pops will perform "The Streisand Songbook," with singer/actress Gloria Loring. Shows are 8 p.m. Jan. 4-6 at FAU, Jan. 9 at Eissey and Jan. 10-11 at the Kravis.

■ In February, the John Pizzarelli Quartet joins the Pops for "An Evening of Rodgers & Hart." Shows are 8 p.m. Feb. 8 at Eissey, Feb. 9-10 at the Kravis and Feb. 11, 12 and 14 at FAU.

■ Las Vegas entertainer Clint Holmes honors a legend in March by "Celebrating the Great Sammy Davis Jr." Shows are 8 p.m. March 9, 11 and 12 at FAU, March 13 at Eissey and March 14-15 at the Kravis.

■ In April, "The Music of Billy Joel and More" features the vocal and piano stylings of Michael Cavanaugh, a Grammy and Tony award-nominated artist handpicked by Joel himself to star in "Movin' On." Shows are 8 p.m. April 4-5, April 7-9 at FAU and April 10 at the Kravis.

Tickets are \$29-\$89 and are available by calling 832-7677 or visiting www.palmbeachpops.org/tickets. ■



U.S. Signal Corps band to play Veterans Day concert

The city of Palm Beach Gardens will present a Veterans Day ceremony and concert with the U.S. Signal Corps Band, Signal Distortion.

The concert is scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 11, at Veterans Plaza, 10500 N. Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens. Based at Fort Gordon, Ga., Signal Distortion performs for audiences throughout the United States. The group's nine members will perform a variety of popular tunes from singers and groups.

The event is free and open to the public. Call 630-1100 or visit www.pbgfl.com. ■

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Wines of the World at PGA National Resort



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FLORIDA WEEKLY CUISINE

Veteran restaurateurs open north Palm Beach County eateries

janNORRIS

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Several new restaurants have opened in the north county area recently, many from veteran restaurateurs.

In North Palm Beach, Kubo, featuring Asiatic cuisine, opened in the Crystal Tree Plaza. It's been four years in the making, says chef/owner Roy Villacrusis. The chef brought sushi to CityPlace when Mark's at CityPlace opened.

The name refers to both a Japanese house, and a family name meaning long life, he said. "I want to welcome guests as they might be welcomed into my house," Villacrusis said.

"Kubo is not just sushi — it's Asiatic cuisine. It started with the question, 'What would sushi be like if it had not started in Japan?' The menu has many influences from the Philippines, Japan, China, Vietnamese — with my interpretations," he said.

Trips to those countries, tasting foods and exploring cooking methods has helped him put together the menu of small plates in a casual setting.

An example is a mashup of a bahn mi — a Vietnamese barbecued pork sandwich, served inside the Chinese baozi, or cha siu baau — the steamed pork bun. The bun is a soft, pillowy foldover, encasing tender roast pork, with cilantro and a special barbecue sauce.

A nod to the popularity of street foods is on the menu, with Filippino skewered foods cooked over a grill — including isaws (pork and chicken), atay (chicken liver) and balan-balunan — grilled chicken liver. Appropriate dipping sauces are served with each.

"Kubo is loosely based on Japanese izkayas, which literally translates to Japanese pub," he said.

The red-walled and white-tiled restaurant, punctuated with black accents, features a long counter where diners can watch the foods being prepared, chairs and tables with a corner bar, plus an outdoor patio where tables and chairs are protected from the elements by canvas curtains. The courtyard on the plaza's end, with a fountain, is "ideal," Villacrusis said, "for live music and parties" that are planned, as well as lunch service.

Kubo, 1201 U.S. Highway 1 (Crystal Tree Plaza), North Palm Beach; (776) 7248, open Tuesday-Thursday, 5-10 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 5-11 p.m.

Carmine replaces Noche with fish grill

Carmine Giardini, owner of Palm Beach Gardens' gourmet market bearing his name, as well as CG Burger (a new one opens soon at PGA Boulevard and U.S. 1) and Carmine's Coal Fired Pizza, plans to open Umi Fish Bar and Grill in the old Noche nightclub space within the next two months.

The concept will return Giardini to fish restaurants — he started the popular Ocean Grill, now closed, across from the gourmet market.

Coming aboard as a partner and to help create the menu is Chef John Belleme, most recently of Henry's in Delray Beach, and before that, Zemi in Boca Raton. "It's going to be a very exciting project," Belleme said. "It's going to be wild, but not too wild. I'm excited to be getting back to Asian fusion — it's what I do best," he said.



SCOTT B. SMITH/FLORIDA WEEKLY

Holy Smokes! opened recently in Palm Beach Gardens. In addition to American grill foods, it offers a pulled pork taco, and pizzas.

"There will be an extensive sushi menu, and the former bar at Noche is going to be dedicated to the sushi and raw bar — we'll have a large raw bar menu, too," Belleme said.

"A lot of sharing, tapas-style plates is on the main menu. People can come in and order two or three to share and have that be their dining experience, or they can order ala carte from the robata menu — salmon and fish, grilled lamb chops by the piece, or vegetables — you could put together a whole vegetarian dinner from the grill." Some will be based on Asian street foods like satay with sauces, he said.

For the traditional diner, a list of entrees also is on the list.

"Carmine isn't sure this area is ready for a tapas or small-plates menu exclusively," he said. "We're going to offer both."

Karen Hanlon, who designed Noche, will return to redesign the restaurant. "The whole back area of the restaurant, opening on to the waterfront, will be an indoor-outdoor bar," Belleme said, similar to the one at Giardini's other restaurant, Cabo Flats in Palm Beach Gar-



Chef John Belleme

COURTESY PHOTO

dens' Downtown at the Gardens. "We're on the water — it would be nuts not to capitalize on it."

Mock dinners will be served until the grand opening in December, Belleme said, then the restaurant will be open for dinner daily.

Umi Fish Bar and Grill, 2401 PGA Blvd., (in the Harborside Plaza), Palm Beach Gardens. (Phone and web site coming soon.)

Holy Smokes! replaces Shorty's BBQ

The smoker is still on the premises, but Shorty's BBQ in the PGA Plaza (behind Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza) is no more.

"After I wanted to put in a full bar, and they didn't want me to, we parted ways," says Solomon Kedmi, who partnered with the long-time Shorty's to open their first non-Dade branch. "We wanted to do something different," he said, of Holy Smokes!

His pre-teen daughter gave it the unique name, he said. "She came up with it riding in the car one day."

The menu is casual, but with upscale touches; a mix of American grill foods — burgers, ribs and barbecue — including the signature pulled pork taco with cole slaw — and pizza. "I put in pizza ovens here and brought my crew from Portofino," he said. At that Singer Island spot, late-night after-work crowds kept him busy. "We have a following for that pizza. The same guy who has been making it 30 years is here with me again."

An inside-outside bar, punctuated with a car grill coming through the wall overhead the patio, is popular again with the late-night hospitality workers and sports fans who come for the games on the plasma TVs around the bar.

"Families come early, because of the good values, then the clientele gets younger as the night is later."

It's moderately priced with few items over \$15.

Holy Smokes, 2650 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens, 561-624-7427. Serving from 11:30 a.m. to late night daily.

Gulfstream Café from NY Prime owners

In the old Tavern of Jupiter space, the Gulfstream Café has opened. It's from the same owners of the Tavern, but with a new concept and management team.

The menu is seafood-based, with touches of Southern cooking adding a spin. Steaks and pasta round out the menu.

Crab cakes, she crab soup and several fried seafood platters are on the entrée and appetizer menus, along with shrimp and grits done New Orleans style with blackened shrimp, andouille sausage and creamy cheese grits.

In season, oyster roasts will take place, but for now, Sunday Brunch is a big deal, with a special Bloody Mary bar — patrons get the spicy glass of tomato juice and vodka and add in their own garnishes and flavorings from offerings such as olives, celery stalks and anchovies.

The parent group is CentraArchy Restaurant Group, which also owns NY Prime in Boca Raton. Jerry Greenbaum, CEO, says "consistency" is the key to restaurant's success — he believes a new management team will ensure that, after noting trouble with a former team at the Tavern.

A full bar is available, as is patio dining.

Gulfstream Café, 1352 S. U.S. Highway 1, Jupiter, (561) 744-5144, www.centraarchy.com; open Monday-Saturday, 3-11 p.m., Sunday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

— Jan Norris covers food and dining for Florida Weekly. Write to her at jnorris@floridaweekly.com and read more at her website, www.JanNorris.com. ■



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