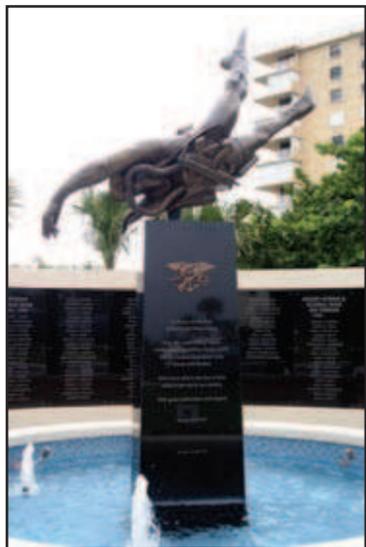


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WEEK OF MAY 12-18, 2011

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SCOTT SIMMONS/FLORIDA WEEKLY
The memorial at the National Navy UDT-Seal Museum features a bronze sculpture of a Frogman seemingly suspended in time.

Museum offers slice of Navy SEALs' history

BY SCOTT SIMMONS

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Osama bin Laden is dead.

On May 2, a team of Navy SEALs descended upon his compound in Pakistan, shot him, collected his body and brought to an end the longest and costliest manhunt in history.

And the program that launched the SEALs started in Fort Pierce.

The sleepy town in St. Lucie County, about an hour's drive north of the Palm Beaches, was home to a World War II military base that is now recognized as the birthplace of the U.S. Navy's Frogmen, predecessors to the SEALs — SEa, Air and Land teams — that make up the Navy's principal special operations force.

The town also is home to the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum, which honors SEALs, Naval Combat Demolition Units, or NCDUs, and Underwater Demolition Units, or UDTs.

But it is the recent action by SEALs to kill bin Laden that has drawn renewed attention to the seaside museum, which was founded in 1985.

"It's been like a bus station in here," said Andy Brady, an

SEE SEALS, A18 ►



SCOTT B. SMITH/FLORIDA WEEKLY

Kristine Ford and her son Kieran, who has leukemia, receive loving care from a pediatric support group.

St. Mary's program eases the lives of parents and children with cancer

BY MARY JANE FINE

mjfine@floridaweekly.com

SO QUICKLY. THINGS CAN CHANGE SO QUICKLY when a child is ill, can go from good to bad, from bad to Omigod in what feels like a heartbeat. So it is with Kieran Ford, age 19 months, on this recent Wednesday morning, when he is upright, pounding on the bongo drums in the playroom at St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach, as his mom threads his IV-pole around some little plastic tables. Across the

SEE ANGELS, A11 ►

INSIDE



Royally funny

"Beauty Queen of Leenane" is dark, Irish humor. **A23** ►



Society

See who's out and about in Palm Beach County. **A33-34** ►



Giving through golf

Columnist Maria Marino says charity benefits on links. **A8** ►



Pronti's near perfect

Our reviewer Scott Simmons gives eatery five stars. **A35** ►



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COMMENTARY

Media sniping from the right and left tarnishes signature moment



billCORNWELL
bcornwell@floridaweekly.com

But, thanks the great skill of America's military and intelligence services and a bit of luck, it all turned out fine this time around. At least that is how it appeared at first.

Then came the sniping from the "commentators" and bottom-feeding politicians (Sarah Palin and Rick Santorum are notable examples) on the right who sought not only to enhance George W. Bush's dubious role in the matter but also to diminish any credit that might accrue to Mr. Obama. This crowd had only recently suffered an enormous setback by the total collapse of their embarrassing campaign to portray the president as a foreign-born pretender.

Then Mr. Obama further inflamed the sensibilities of these political provocateurs by having the temerity to dispatch the architect of 9/11. Mr. Obama's detractors were already out in force by the time bin Laden's body had settled to the bottom of the northern Arabian Sea.

How do they loathe thee, Mr. President? Let us count the ways. They have carped and whined because Mr. Obama refused to release gruesome photographs of the mortally wounded Al Qaeda leader even after it became known that Defense Secretary Robert Gates had said the release of the photos would endanger American forces in the field.

There were further complaints about the changing narrative set forth by the administration involving the raid itself. This, again, from the crowd that looked the other way when — for propaganda purposes — the Pentagon, under Donald Rumsfeld, intentionally sought to mislead the American public about the rescue of

Jessica Lynch in Iraq and the death of Pat Tillman in Afghanistan.

Predictably, the debate about "enhanced interrogation techniques" — a dandy little euphemism for what we used to call "torture" — erupted, with some right-wing blowhards (think O'Reilly and Hannity) suggesting that waterboarding was the linchpin in the hunt for bin Laden. Protestations to the contrary from people like Sen. John McCain were summarily dismissed.

Finally, the president was excoriated for his appearance at Ground Zero in Manhattan last week and for his meeting with the military heroes who actually did the work of taking out bin Laden. Mr. Obama was accused of exploiting the grief of those who lost loved ones when the towers came down. And, yes, many of those people who found the president's somber ceremony to be offensive and who claim to be sensitive to the plight of bin Laden's victims had little to say five years back when one of their favorites (the notoriously corrosive author and columnist Ann Coulter) derided four 9/11 widows from New Jersey as the "Witches of East Brunswick" who were actually "enjoying their husbands' deaths." This scurrilous attack was occasioned because the women expressed political views that displeased Ms. Coulter.

To those who thought Mr. Obama's post-bin Laden activities were self-serving and in poor taste, I offer this historical retrospective: May 1, 2003. The aircraft carrier "USS Abraham Lincoln" is anchored off the California coast. A Navy S-3B Viking lands on the flattop. Out pops President

George W. Bush, who ludicrously preens about the deck in a flight suit. "Mission Accomplished," reads the banner that is strung across the bridge. "My fellow Americans," Mr. Bush informs us in one of the greatest presidential misstatements of all time, "major combat operations in Iraq have ended."

The Obama bashing of the last week has pushed the cable stars on the left (e.g. MSNBC's lineup of Chris Matthews, Rachel Maddow and that fat guy named Ed something or other) to begin their own campaign to totally and completely discredit Mr. Bush's role in the war on terror. This media carpet-bombing — both from the right and from the left — has tarnished a signature moment in our history.

Bill O'Reilly, the prince of pompous, likes to say that he takes to the airwaves "to protect the people." Please. His job — and the jobs of others like him — is to generate ratings and make money for their employers. Period. When that ability slides, they are expendable. If you don't believe that, ask Glenn Beck, who is on his way out the door at Fox News.

Thoughtful, sober analysis does not sell. If it did, Jim Lehrer of PBS would be the highest-paid news personality on television, which he is not.

Taking a hard look at the actions of our leaders is the proper role of the news media, and we must demand a full and proper accounting of the bin Laden mission. But ginning up hysterical theories and broad conspiracies is something altogether different. Sadly, it appears that many Americans have lost their ability to distinguish one from the other. ■

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— Laurie Fromer, Age 39, Busy Mother



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Non-surgical radiation simplifies and advances skin cancer treatment



Living in South Florida, many of us enjoy outdoor activities, such as swimming, biking, tennis and golf. While the exercise is healthy, too much sun is not. It can lead to skin cancer, a prevalent condition affecting an estimated 1 million Americans last year, according to the National Cancer Institute. Of those non-melanoma cases, there were fewer than 1,000 deaths. That's due in part to greater awareness and education, early detection and effective treatment options, such as using radiation therapy to treat skin cancer.

Superficial Electron Beam Radiotherapy is a non-surgical alternative to treat localized skin cancers: basal cell carcinomas and squamous cell carcinomas. Basal cell carcinoma is skin cancer that forms in the lower part of the epidermis (the outer layer of the skin).

Squamous cell carcinoma is skin cancer that forms in squamous cells (flat cells that form the surface of the skin). Most skin cancers form in older people on parts of the body exposed to the sun or in people who have weakened immune systems.

Electron beam radiation therapy is particularly suited for cancers found on the face, including the nose, ears, and eyelids. This treatment uses a precisely targeted thin, superficial radiation beam to destroy cancer cells while sparing normal tissues beneath the surface.

This type of radiation is different from X-ray treatment, which penetrates tissue, such as a dental X-Ray. Electron radiation creates a thin, narrow beam and can be tailored within a few millimeters and

is easily stopped and shaped to protect adjacent and underlying tissues.

During treatment, a small dose of radiation is delivered daily and destroys thousands of cancer cells by attacking their DNA. Each night, your own skin cells repair the radiation effects and regenerate. Fortunately, cancer cells do not have the same ability to recover from radiation effects as well as normal healthy tissues. Most radiation treatment is complete after an average of only 10 to 20 quick sessions. Each painless treatment takes only minutes, requires no anesthesia or cutting and no downtime. Treatment is as simple as a receiving a chest X-ray.

By the end of treatment, normal skin will become red and inflamed, much like a sunburn. Healthy skin cells usually recover from the effects of radiation within a week or two. Once healed, it is often difficult to detect where the treatment was delivered, leaving most patients with good to excellent cosmetic results.

Superficial Electron Beam Radiotherapy has been used for more than years and is a good option for those facing possible cosmetic alterations from surgery, or those for whom surgery or anesthesia could pose a health risk. Long-term studies have demonstrated the success of treating both small and large skin cancers with radiotherapy with proper attention to technique.

If you have been diagnosed with skin cancer, be sure to discuss all of your treatment options with your doctor, or call Jupiter Medical Center's Radiation Oncology department to learn more about Superficial Electron Beam Radiotherapy for skin cancer.

As a leader in the field, our Comprehensive Cancer Program offers progressive state-of-the-art treatment options and highly personalized care for our patients. The Foshay Cancer Center is designated by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer (ACOS) as a com-

prehensive community cancer program.

Only 25 percent of hospitals in the country have ACOS-accredited cancer programs. The Radiation Oncology department is one of only 14 facilities in Florida to be nationally accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR). The ACR awards accreditation to radiation facilities for achievement of high standards, qualifications of personnel, facilities and quality activities. These accreditations, along with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), assure our community that the level of services we provide is the highest quality. ■

— David Herold, M.D., MBA, Board Certified, Radiation Oncology, is the medical director of Jupiter Medical Center's Ella Milbank Foshay Cancer Center Radiation Oncology department. He has treated hundreds of skin cancer patients over the years with excellent clinical and cosmetic results. For more information about treating skin cancer with radiation therapy, call the Ella Milbank Foshay Cancer Center at 263-4400.

— A not-for-profit 283-bed community medical center consisting of 163 private acute care hospital beds and 120 long-term care beds, the center provides a broad range of services with specialty concentrations in cancer care, orthopedics/spine, emergency services, cardiac services, children's and women's services, minimally-invasive surgical procedures, including the Robotic Surgery Program, advanced diagnostics and rehabilitation. Founded in 1979, the center is affiliated with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The center has approximately 1,500 team members, 540 physicians and 700 volunteers. For more information, call 263-2234 or see jupitermed.com.

Scripps researcher identifies new pathway affecting lifespan

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

A team led by a scientist from the Florida campus of The Scripps Research Institute has identified a new role for a biological pathway that not only signals the body's metabolic response to nutritional changes, but also affects lifespan.

The study, published in the May 12 issue of the journal *Nature*, was conducted on *Caenorhabditis elegans* (nematodes or roundworms), which are a widely accepted model for human aging research.

"Not only have we been able to identify some of these molecules for the first time in the worm, but we have also been able to show they act as a signal of nutrient availability and ultimately influence the worm's lifespan," said Matthew Gill, PhD., in a prepared statement.

Dr. Gill, an assistant professor in the Scripps Research Department of Metabolism and Aging, conducted the research while at The Buck Institute for Research on Aging in Novato, Calif. "What makes this important is that the same molecules are present in both humans and *C. elegans*, so these mol-

ecules may play similar roles in both organisms."

Dietary restriction is a well-known means of extending lifespan and postponing age-related disease in many species, including yeast, worms, flies and rodents. However, until this study, little was known about the molecular signals involved.

The molecules identified in the new study are N-acyl ethanolamines (NAEs), a group of signaling molecules derived from lipids that help indicate nutrient availability in the environment and maintain an animal's internal energy balance. In the study, Dr. Gill and his colleagues showed that NAE abundance in the worm is reduced during periods of dietary restriction, and that NAE deficiency in the presence of abundant food is sufficient to extend the animal's lifespan.

"It is well known that if you put *C. elegans* on a restricted diet, you can extend its lifespan by 40 to 50 percent," Dr. Gill said. "However, we were amazed to see that if you add back just one of these NAE molecules, eicosapentaenoyl ethanolamide, it completely abrogates the lifespan extension."

Importantly, this particular NAE is similar to endocannabinoids in mammals, which regulate many different physiological processes including nutrient intake and energy balance, as well as inflammation and neuronal func-

tion. "The identification of other components of a novel endocannabinoid system in the worm now brings a new model system to the many researchers studying NAE and endocannabinoid physiology," said Dr. Gill.

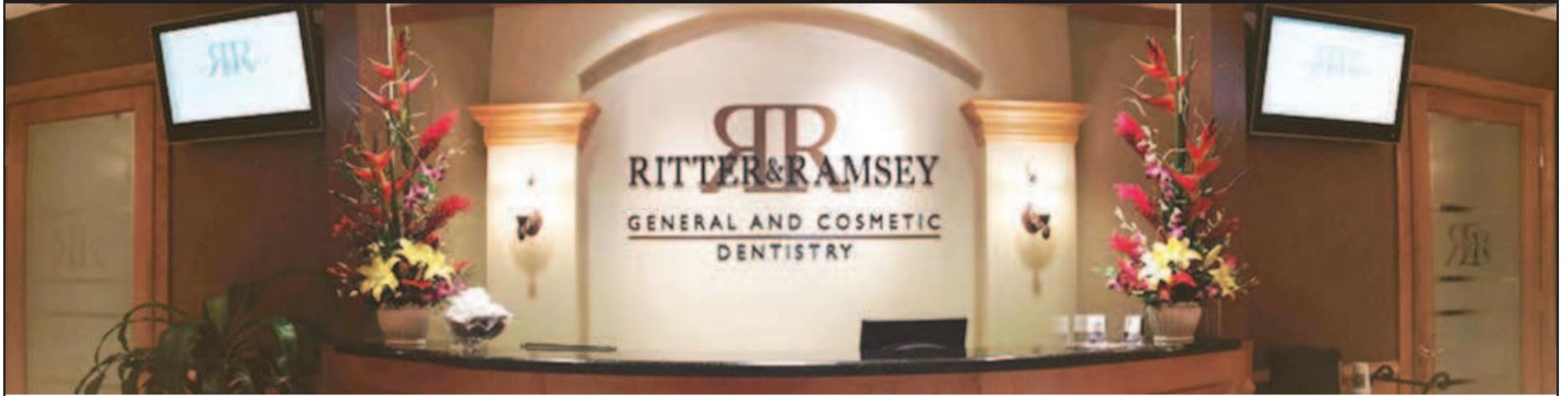
Intriguingly, the study also established a link among fat, NAE levels, and longevity. Other studies in rodents have shown that the availability of fatty acids can influence NAE levels. However, Gill and his colleagues found that in a genetically altered strain of *C. elegans* the inability to produce certain polyunsaturated fatty acids was not only associated with a reduction in levels of specific NAEs but also with lifespan extension. He added that the study's findings could shape future drug development efforts to influence aging and age-related disease.

The first author of the study, "N-Acylethanolamine Signaling Mediates the Effect of Diet on Lifespan in *C. elegans*," is Mark Lucanic, a postdoctoral fellow at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging. Other authors include Jason M. Held, Maithili C Vantipalli, Jill B. Graham, Bradford W. Gibson, and Gordon J. Lithgow of the Buck Institute for Research on Aging; and Ida M. Klang of the Buck Institute for Research on Aging and the Karolinska Institute.

The study was supported by the Larry L. Hillblom Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. ■



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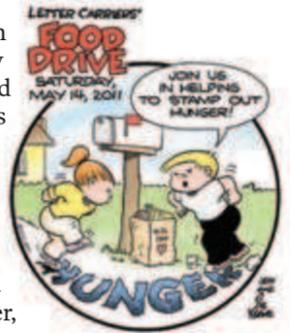
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Donate food at your mailbox on May 14

Feeding South Florida, formerly the Daily Bread Food Bank, joins with letter carriers on May 14 for the 19th annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive. To participate in Stamp Out Hunger, the nation's largest one-day food drive, postal service customers in Palm Beach County are asked to place a bag of non-perishable food by their mailboxes, which letter carriers will pick up during mail delivery.



Stamp Out Hunger is conducted by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) in cooperation with the U.S. Postal Service. Letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities across America will pick up donated food items when they service their postal routes on May 14. In 2010, Stamp Out Hunger collected a nationwide record 77.1 million pounds of food donations, pushing the 18-year total to more than 1 billion pounds of food.

More than 50 million Americans currently suffer from hunger, and 920,000 of them reside in South Florida. Feeding South Florida serves 800 not-for-profit agencies in four counties, and agency feedback shows that local demand for food services is up 39 percent due to the current economic climate.

Suggested donations include:

- Canned meats such as tuna, salmon, chicken, turkey and ham
- Canned chunky soups and stews
- Canned beans, fruits and vegetables
- New, unopened plastic containers of peanut butter and jelly
- Dry goods such as cereal, rice and coffee

Residents can also help on the day of the event by volunteering to sort food collected by the letter carriers. To volunteer, contact Leroy Green, Feeding South Florida's volunteer coordinator, at 954-518-1863 or lgreen@feedingsouthflorida.org. ■

Take a walk, get up close to turtle nests

Did you know Florida and the nation of Oman on the Arabian Peninsula account for 80 percent of loggerhead sea turtle nests worldwide?

In north Palm Beach County you can take a turtle walk and see the wonder of a nesting loggerhead turtle.

Guided Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center walks are held each week from June 1 through July 30 on Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8:30 p.m.

Pre-registration is required. Registration is available at marinelife.org. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center is located on U.S. 1 in Juno Beach, just north of the intersection with Donald Ross Road.

The center is a non-profit organization committed to the conservation of Florida's coastal ecosystems through public education, research and rehabilitation with a focus on threatened and endangered sea turtles. The center features an onsite campus hospital, learning exhibits and aquariums. Situated on the world's most important sea turtle nesting beach, the center is open daily. Call 627-8280 for more information. ■

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When my brother and I were growing up in Connecticut, my parents went out of their way to make sure we were aware that there were people less fortunate than ourselves, and that we should lend a hand if we could. It was second nature for me to begin volunteering with local golf tournaments some years back.

Palm Beach County, so rich in golf courses and charitable foundations, has turned fundraising into an art form. One of the leading ways to raise the big bucks is a golf tournament. Ever wonder how you can enjoy some of the more exclusive clubs in the county? Play in any of the numerous tournaments that are held at such courses as Old Marsh, Admirals Cove, the five courses at PGA National, Old Palm, Mirasol, BallenIsles, Jonathan's Landing, Trump International, Frenchman's Reserve and even Seminole, just to name a few.

If you have the time and money, you could play every day of the week and help one of the more than 300 charitable foundations in the county.

Ten years ago when The Bear's Club was first established, the developers felt it was important to give back to the town of Jupiter. From this, the Jupiter Children's Foundation was born and the inaugural Jupiter

Invitational became an annual happening. Being acquainted with several members of the board, I happily volunteered to help with their fledgling golf event.

The Bear's Club is a Nicklaus Signature Golf Course and a place that Jack, Barbara and the rest of the Nicklaus clan call their golf home. When walking through the clubhouse you witness the evolution of the Nicklaus family and its impact on golf and our community. Being the gracious family that they are, Jack and Barbara agreed to serve as honorary chairs of this little foundation's golf event.

Ten years later, I am now the executive director of the Jupiter Children's Foundation. The Nicklaus' have continued to be the honorary chairs. And with the help of our longstanding underwriters, Peacock + Lewis Architects, Braman Motorcars and Braman BMW Jupiter, a wonderful group of corporate partners, several of whom have played every year, including Weitz Construction, Lewis Longman & Walker law firm, and Haile Shaw & Pfaffenberger law firm, our "little" foundation has raised more than \$1 million.

Proceeds from the tournament have helped the West Jupiter Tutorial Center, the Thelma B. Pittman Preschool and the Nicklaus Children's Healthcare Foundation, to name a few agencies.

We have been lucky enough to hold our event at The Bear's Club; the Ritz-Carlton, Jupiter; and The Lost Tree Club. This year, on Oct. 21, we will add Loblolly Pines to our rotation. Without the partnership of these prestigious clubs and the countless corporations and small businesses that realize the importance of being good citizens, our foundation, along with the hundreds of other charities in the area, would not be as rich. Not just with money, but with the people and resources.

Robi Jurney, executive director of Quantum House, emailed me recently to share a heart-warming story of today's kids going that extra mile to help those less fortunate. Quantum House is located right next to



COURTESY PHOTO
The Benjamin School boy's golf team is raising funds for a putting green for the Quantum House. From left are Coach Toby Harbeck, team members Clancy Waugh, Jake Williams, Ryan Jahn, J.B. Thompson and Chandler Ford, and a Quantum House guest.

St. Mary's hospital in West Palm and is a temporary, tranquil place to live for families of children who face long durations in the hospital. Because their days are so long and not often filled with joy, the staff is constantly searching for fun ideas and support from the community to help families pass the time.

The Benjamin School boy's golf team recently toured the facility and what started as volunteering for the "Chef for a Day" program turned into a golf marathon to raise money to build a putting green at the Quantum House. Once funded and finished, the boys will volunteer to teach family members about golf.

On May 21, with the generous support of the members of the Medalist Golf Club, Club President De Mudd and founder Greg Norman, the boys will be participating in a day of marathon golf and are soliciting pledges for their efforts. It's just another example of the power we have to help and how golf is such an important cog in the wheel.

If you'd like to help by making a pledge see quantumhouse.org. ■

— Maria Marino is a professional golfer who teaches nationally for the LPGA and locally at the First Tee at Dyer Park in West Palm Beach. She also owns Marino Realty Group, which focuses primarily on property in Palm Beach Gardens and Jupiter. Email her at mmarino@floridaweekly.com, or call 906-8222.

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Jupiter hospital ranks No. 9 in survey of regional hospitals

BY SCOTT SIMMONS

ssimmons@floridaweekly.com



The bosses at Jupiter Medical Center are feeling proud.

Their hospital ranked No. 9 in a survey by U.S. News & World Report of the 69 hospitals in metro Miami-Fort Lauderdale, which includes Palm Beach County. To be ranked in that metro area, Jupiter Medical Center had to score in the top 25 percent among its peers in at least one of 16 medical specialties. Other Palm Beach County hospitals that made the top quartile were Bethesda Memorial Hospital in Boynton Beach and Palms West Medical Center in Loxahatchee.



COURIS

"A recognition like U.S. News & World Report really speaks volumes to the people we have here on the team," said Jupiter Medical Center CEO John Couris, adding that the hospital recently was ranked in the top 5 percent

of hospitals statewide by HealthGrades. "Without human capital, you can't have a world class organization."

Mr. Couris, who was named CEO last June, said he hopes to increase the hospital's rankings in a variety of ways.

"One of our biggest strategies is the expansion of our hospital," he said. "This past year, we kicked off a \$50 million capital campaign. We're about half-way through that."

More money means more capacity for the 283-bed not-for-profit hospital, Mr. Couris said.

"We'll be increasing capacity by 27 percent, and are adding an ortho-spine floor," he said. "We're going to be increasing the capacity of our OB unit. We are moving toward a Level II NICU."

Also in the works: a new educational center that will be tied to research at Scripps Research Park, Florida Atlantic University and University of Miami, he said.

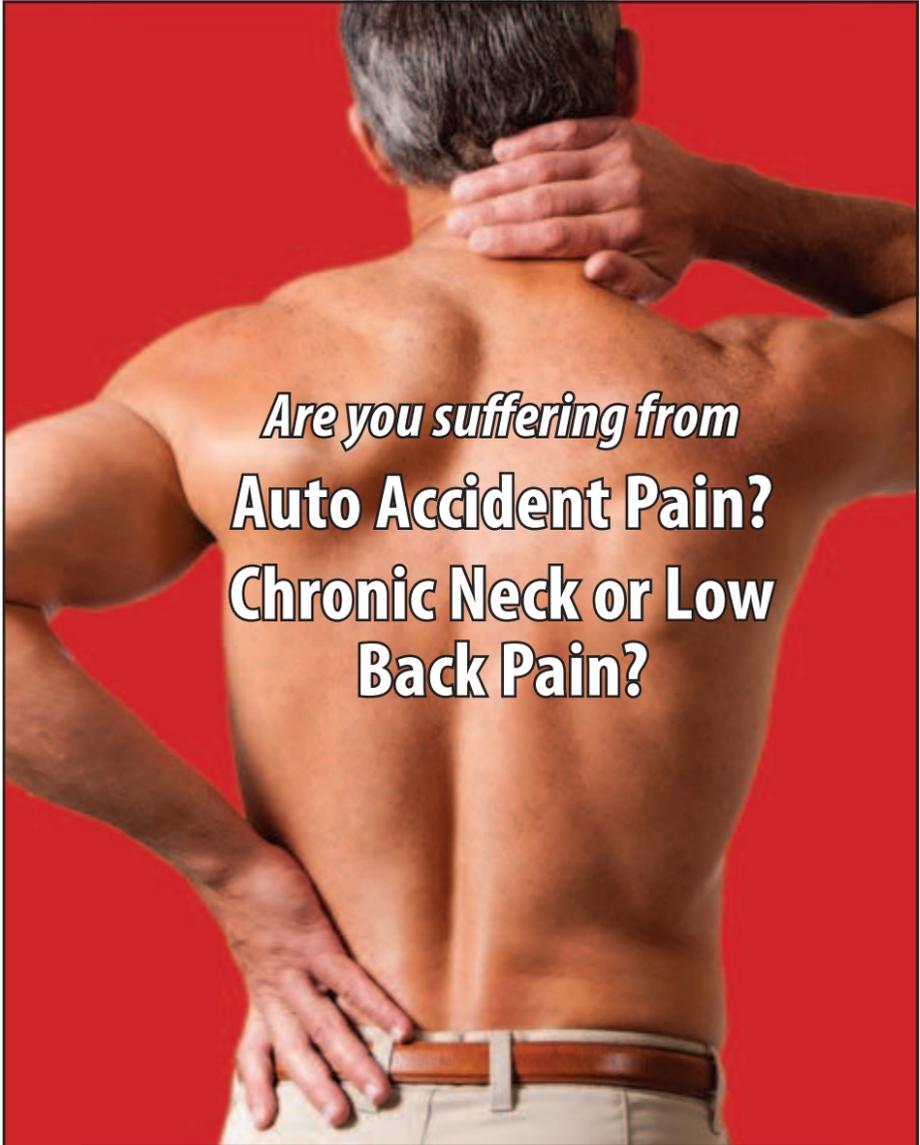
Jupiter Medical, built in 1979, has been renovating interior space. Once that is completed, the hospital will have about 116,000 square feet of renovated space.

"This campaign got a really big boost in the arm when the De George foundation gave us a \$10 million donation," he said.

That donation last fall by the Lawrence J. and Florence A. De George Charitable Trust was the hospital's largest single gift. It will pay for Florence A. De George Children's and Women's Healthcare Services at the hospital. The three-story building will be called The Florence A. De George Pavilion.

Mr. Couris said he was pleased by the support the hospital receives.

"The community in the north end of the county (has) some of the most generous people I have worked with. They are very sophisticated. They are very thoughtful and very compassionate." ■



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Selling Your Personal Items Through The Journey of Life Passages

Gail Sheehy, years ago, wrote a best-selling book called *Passages*, dealing with the stages of our lives and the changes we have to make in order to transition from one life-stage to another.

These days, many of us who read the book are deep in the throes of our own passages. The passage of time forces decisions that our experiences to-date haven't prepared us to make. Parents are going into senior apartments or assisted living facilities, our children have grown up and flown to their own nests. We are now empty nesters.

There are ways to adapt to this new life and one involves changing your living environment. To be able to dispose of those items that you no longer need or to sell a family estate becomes a priority for many individuals and there are at least four good ways to do that.

First, you may attempt to sell it on your own. This can be done through a yard sale or an open house sale. Make sure to contact your homeowner's association for approval prior to a yard sale. Move all your items into one place and put a price tag on everything, no matter how small. Decide how you want to display and arrange the items. Place an ad in the local paper with the address and exact time and date, and be prepared to open at that time. Place signs around the neighborhood on the morning of the sale directing everyone to the exact address. Have a lot of change and small bills for the cash box.

Second is an estate sale where everything is done for you; you have to decide what to sell and the selling firm does the rest. You get a check for your share of the proceeds when the sale is completed. There is usually a minimum guarantee sum for the selling company to cover their costs. Estate sales may last for several days so plan on people being there a few days before and during the sale. Also, keep in mind that weather and other factors could determine the success of your sale.

The third option is an auction house. This typically draws a large number of buyers, including professionals and knowledgeable collectors. The auction house handles all transactions, picking up your goods and preparing them for sale. The auction takes place in one day and your items will be sold to the highest bidder unless you set a reserved price (to guarantee your items will not be undersold). There is also a delivery charge and percent fee from the auction house.

Your fourth option is consignment. Your items will be picked up, usually with a predetermined charge and priced according to what the market will bear. In all cases there will be a commission split. Your merchandise will be displayed as well as the facility you select will allow. There will also be a limit set on how long your goods are kept before being marked down. Look over the contract carefully, read all of the details before signing the agreement and check their credentials.

Should you decide on consignment as a solution to your needs, I would like to suggest that you visit the True Treasures website, www.truetreasuresinc.com, and then pay a visit to all three locations. True Treasures was just awarded Fox News' "Best in the South" places to shop. We have been in business for 20 years and are members of the BBB and Chamber of Commerce. There are more than 20,000 square feet of store front available to display goods. The staff is knowledgeable, courteous and friendly. We are proud to have our storefront supported on www.1stDibs.com as well.

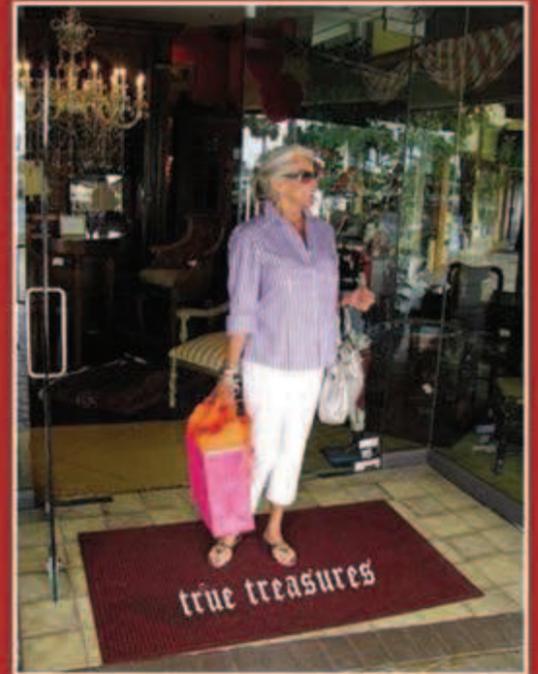
Designers from around the country visit our showrooms for the latest arrivals. For many years we were able to work closely with one of the best known appraisers in the area, David Miller. For local, national and international moves we depend on RSVP Moving & Storage Company. They are very well known in the area and are one of the leaders in their field. With the help of professionals of this caliber, we are able to keep our showrooms looking picture perfect.

True Treasures has expanded services to include life transitions support. When a client requires additional support with circumstances that may include packing the contents of a home or condo to prepare for a move or sale, we can handle the task from start to finish. All of our movers are skilled, bonded and insured.

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ANGELS

From page A1

Carbone, senior therapist for POST, the Pediatric Oncology Support Team, keeps Kieran's 3½-year-old brother Caleb occupied so that Kristine Ford can keep up with Kieran. The little boy coughs occasionally but, overall, his pneumonia seems on the wane, and home is the hoped-for target. Maybe tomorrow, maybe Friday.

"What is that you've got?" Ms. Carbone asks, as big-brother Caleb grabs a plastic rook off a chess board and tests it with his tongue.

"It's a ice cream," the boy announces.

Kristine Ford smiles. "I don't think these people realize the impact they make," she says, nodding toward Ms. Carbone and Barbara Abernathy, who heads POST. "I love every single one of them. They've had a huge impact on every single aspect of our lives. Financially, psychologically, emotionally."

And that is precisely the idea, the mission: to offer support of every sort, to be as much of an oasis as families in crisis can hope for. It provides help as tangible as emergency cash, as intangible as a shoulder to cry on, a reminder that a mother should eat lunch to keep up her strength for her child. At a time when considerable focus is on health-care costs, this care comes without a price tag.

"There's no other program like this in the country. Nowhere," Barbara Abernathy says. "There are hospitals that have social workers, but nobody does the in-patient and out-patient support that we do. We meet families where they are."

One thing they cannot do, though: make days in the hospital pass more quickly.

Wednesday fades into Thursday, Thursday into Friday, the days blurring together like watercolor paints.

But Friday . . . well, on Friday, things fall apart. Kieran's cough intensifies. He gasps for air. He has developed pneumocystic carinii pneumonia, PCP, caused by a yeast-like fungus, an opportunistic infection not uncommon in people with cancer or HIV/AIDS, those whose immune systems are weakened by drug treatment.

Dr. Vinay Saxena, his oncologist, orders the little boy placed on a ventilator, a tube that snakes down his windpipe, providing oxygen to his lungs and allowing him to breathe more easily. Nurses move him from Room 2514 to the PICU, the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

Alerted by a phone call, Holly Carbone comes running. Karen Hansen, the support team's child-life specialist, is already there. Their jobs overlap at times. A good thing, both say. Their mission is vague-sounding, shape-shifting, but essential to out-of-control lives: They do whatever a family needs them to do. Right now, that means hand-holding, providing company, conversation, reassurance, distraction for Kieran's mom. Her son is out of her sight, in a scary place where people are feeding a tube down his throat. He must be terrified, must be hurting, must be wanting his mommy, but she can't be there.

"Oh, I was a disaster," Kristine Ford says, a week later, recalling that day. "Now, I look back and laugh at myself. I was a lunatic. Hysterical. Crying. I was banging on elevator doors."

The POST women helped calm her. Now, every day, they visit. She knows them well. She has known them nearly half of Kieran's young life.



SCOTT B. SMITH / FLORIDA WEEKLY

St. Mary's Children's Hospital in West Palm Beach offers a support network for families of kids who have life-threatening diseases.

"THEY TOOK ALL HIS BLOOD OUT"

ON SEPT. 23, 2009, KIERAN FORD was a 5-week-old, 9-pound armful of misery.

Angry red dots covered the tops of his feet. He whimpered. He fussed. He refused to sleep. His 2½-year-old brother Caleb would cup Kieran's tiny feet in his hands and kiss them, gentle little butterfly kisses. The kisses left bruises.

That's not right, Kristine Ford thought. So on Sept. 24, she took her infant son to his pediatrician. She expected to leave with a prescription to soothe her baby's apparent rash, then head home for Caleb's play date.

But no.

To the doctor, the bruising and the red dots under Kieran's skin, something called petachie, were an ominous combination. He drew blood from the boy for a CBC, a complete blood count. The results came quickly, and for Kristine Ford, they were life-changing. That day — emblazoned in her memory: SEPTEMBER 24 — became the day she will never forget, the day she heard the doctor utter the word "leukemia."

"Keiran's white (blood cell) count was 140,000," she says. Normal is between 4,000 and 10,000. "I was very close to losing him."

The doctor wasted no time. He sent mother and sons to Palms West Hospital, the nearest to their Port St. Lucie home. Palms West also acted fast, sending them, by ambulance, to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. With a diagnosis of ALL, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the most common form of childhood cancer, the little boy

needed treatment, and he needed it to begin immediately.

"You only remember bits and pieces of the day," Kieran's mother says now, cradling him in her arms in the playroom of St. Mary's. "Little flashes. We arrived at Jackson around 11 p.m. They did a double blood transfer. They took all of his blood out and put donor blood in. Twice. They put him on life support."

For nearly a year, Kieran and his mother and brother practically lived at Jackson, a 230-mile roundtrip from home. Kristine Ford's husband had left her, she says, when she was eight months pregnant, so friends from church sometimes would take care of Caleb, allowing her to devote herself to Kieran. And so it went until the phone call from Terrie Johnson, care coordinator for the Pediatric Oncology Support Team at St. Mary's. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society had notified her that a family from northern Palm Beach County was being treated in Miami and might benefit from learning about POST.

"I called Kristine, and we chatted for quite a long time," Ms. Johnson recalls. "She has thanked me about 10,000 times since then."

At first, last July, the family came in just to have blood work done on

Kieran, Ms. Johnson says, but soon after his first birthday, he was transferred to St. Mary's and came under the gentle, all-enveloping wing of POST.

HELPING FAMILIES GET BY

BARBARA ABERNATHY NEVER WALKED, or worked, the easy path.

For 10 years, based in Belle Glade, she counseled women who gave birth to HIV— and AIDS-infected children, counseled the children, too. Then, in 1998, a friend told her about a start-up program at St. Mary's for children with cancer and their families: Was she interested? She was. She took the job.

And the timing seemed right. The drug AZT was changing the medical landscape, making AIDS a chronic disease with a potentially long lifespan. Ms. Abernathy's expertise — a licensed mental health counselor with a PhD in counseling — was likely to be less essential there. Still, she

was reluctant to turn her back on her clients, so for seven more years, she made a weekly West Palm-to-Belle Glade trek to see them.

"You can't make a commitment to these

SEE ANGELS, A10 ►

COURTESY PHOTO
Keiran Ford plays
the bongos.



ANGELS

From page A11

people," she says, "and then say, 'OK, goodbye, I have another job.'"

The \$100,000 seed money for that new job, the Pediatric Oncology Support Team, came from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. St. Mary's, still a charity hospital in 1998, got donations from several area foundations to make up the difference. Three years later, in serious financial trouble, St. Mary's was taken over by Tenet Healthcare Corporation, and the funding arrangement changed. Foundations could not donate money to the newly for-profit hospital, so POST became an independent, non-profit entity renting \$10 a-year office space from St. Mary's and existing on an annual budget — \$520,000 this year, down from \$600,000 a year ago — that comes from Dana-Farber; the Be a Star Foundation in North Palm Beach; Celebrities Fore Kids in Stuart; and several smaller foundations, including United Order True Sisters, the June C. Baker Foundation; and the H.A.N.K. Fund. The support team's continued existence still depends on the success of the foundations' annual fund-raising events.

POST serves Palm Beach, Hendry and all four Treasure Coast counties. So do St. Mary's two pediatric oncologists, Dr. Saxena and Dr. Narayana Gowda, the only pediatric oncologists in the immediate area. If a child in, say, Fort Pierce, has cancer, the doctor will be either here or in Orlando.

The POST budget pays for nearly everything: the salaries for its 6½ staffers and the financial assistance fund that pays for a multitude of necessities.

"Families are often a month behind on electric bills, so they will come to us with a \$300, \$400 bill," Ms. Abernathy says. "We have helped families with car payments, with car repairs, with food and, sometimes, the kids lose so much weight during treatment that they need new clothes."

Kristine Ford and her family learned, firsthand, about those needs. In her eighth month of pregnancy, Ms. Ford ceased working as a behavior therapist for children with autism. Keiran's leukemia diagnosis, three months later, kept her at home.

With no income beyond the monthly \$615 Kieran got from SSI, she welcomed the \$50 Walmart cash cards POST gave her, which allowed her to buy diapers and fill her car with gas, and the referral to the Children's Cancer Society for additional financial aid. Rent was no problem, since her father, Lee McNamara, owned her house, but when its elderly stove quit working, burner by burner, she relied on a hot plate — until Celebrities Fore Kids, approached by the POST team, provided a new stove.

Ms. Abernathy, a native of Mobile, Ala. — "We call it L.A.: Lower Alabama" — loves telling these stories to illustrate the breadth of her job, a job she feels is simply doing what came to naturally. Her mom's a nurse, her dad a pharmacist. The second of five kids, she says, "We learned that we were lucky, fortunate. We had what we needed and more." She wanted to help those who didn't.

"The day they put me out of work because they've cured childhood leukemia," she says, "I'll happily stand in the unemployment line."

"WHAT GOD CAN DO"

SOMETIMES, POST IS SIMPLY ABOUT being there, being present and offering silent support. It's like that with a Haitian mother and her 7-year-old daughter, who is fighting a brain tumor. On this recent morning,



SCOTT B. SMITH / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Members of St. Mary's Pediatric Oncology Support Team include Karen Hansen (standing, from left), Terrie Johnson and Holly Carbone and Barbara Abernathy (seated).

the woman wears a printed headscarf, common in St. Marc, the coastal town in western Haiti where she lived until moving to the U.S. 11 years ago. She is endowed with tremendous faith. She will share some of their experience but does not want her name or the name of her daughter in print. Not yet, not now. "When God heals her, I will tell everyone, everywhere," she says. "I will tell people what God can do."

At this moment, Barbara Abernathy finds the mother waiting for her daughter to emerge from a radiation session, the last in a series of high-energy X-ray treatments that seek to kill cancer cells.

"How's she doing?" Ms. Abernathy asks, enveloping the young woman in an embrace.

"She's OK." The words are spoken softly but with conviction.

"She's so strong, emotionally," Ms. Abernathy says. "She gets that from her mom."

Just outside the radiation room is a sort of display-window showcasing a surf board, a couple of faux palm trees, a painted mural of sea and sand. It seems both out-of-place and welcome, tucked amid the otherwise sterile walls and fluorescent lights, the leatherette waiting-room chairs and the overhead sign that warns, "Beam On. Do Not Enter."

The beach display, Ms. Abernathy says, is a reminder that sun rays share something in common with radiation rays. It also seeks to coax a smile.

The little girl is a second-grader, a voracious reader, math-and-science-student-of-the-month at Poinciana Elementary School in Boynton Beach before her diagnosis, last October. She misses school, faithfully completes the homework her teacher brings, wants so much to return to class. It was her teacher who sounded the something's-wrong alarm.

"The school was calling me," her mother recalls in accented English. "She had face drooping. When she smiled, the left side of her mouth would droop." That was a sign of a neurological problem, her daughter's doctor said, maybe Bell's Palsy, maybe something else. If there are any changes, he said, bring her to the emergency room.

The changes came swiftly. Within days, the little girl grew weak, her walking difficult. Her mother takes a few shuffling steps to demonstrate. The diagnosis: a glioblastoma multiforme, an aggressive form of brain tumor, resistant to chemotherapy and with a generally low survival rate.

Her mother heard the diagnosis and wrapped it in her intense faith. "My doctor isn't here," she says, pointing

to the floor, the hospital. "My doctor is up there." This time, she points to the heavens.

Minutes later, when the radiation treatment ends, she navigates her daughter's wheelchair into the waiting area: a pretty child with intense, dark eyes, her hair in braids except for an area above her left ear, where radiation made the hair fall out. There is a slight puffiness to her face, the result of steroids.

"I'm sorry I don't have a book to give you," Ms. Abernathy says, "but I'll bring one later. I can tell you a story, though. Would you like that?"

The child looks up, expressionless. She nods. Since December, when her doctor opened a hole in her throat to put her on a ventilator, she has been unable to speak. She no longer needs the ventilator to breathe for her, but a portable oxygen tank takes its place.

"Once upon a time, there was a princess, the beautiful Princess . . ." Ms. Abernathy begins, and uses the little girl's name, "and when she got lost in the forest, she began talking to the birds and the squirrels and the bunnies, who were her friends."

As Ms. Abernathy spins her instant fairy tale about Princess Nameless, Patient Nameless fixes her solemn gaze on her storyteller's face.

WALKING THE JOURNEY

IT DIDN'T TAKE KIERAN FORD LONG TO learn the lesson: Grown-ups are not to be trusted, especially grown-ups who wear white coats or have stethoscopes around their necks. The sight of either sets him to screaming, waiting for the next needle, the next tube, the next separation, however brief, from his mother. He doesn't scream when he sees the POST women.

The team's office, with its double-wall mural of trees and birds and flowers and butterflies, seeks to ease children's fears. And it does.

"Good morning, Sunshine!" Terrie Johnson greets a 6-year-old girl, one recent morning. "I'm so glad you're here. I'm hungry. Will you fix me breakfast?"

"Um-hmm," murmurs the child, who has leukemia.

Ms. Johnson drags a red and a blue beanbag chair away from a child-size kitchenette set, where the little girl spends several minutes setting a small table with plastic muffins on plastic plates with a plastic coffee service. "Delicious!" Ms. Johnson pronounces, sipping from a demi-cup.

For a tall, thin 15-year-old boy, she fetches an X-box for the flat-screen TV, a gift from a former patient, to occupy him until his doctor's appointment. The

boy, a rally-cap covering his baldness, will not attend the annual "Prom to Remember" for teens with cancer, his mother says, because its date coincides with his next round of chemo. "Well, maybe next year," Ms. Abernathy says, referring to the Fort Lauderdale event hosted by seven area hospitals, including St. Mary's.

More than ever, "next year" is a reality for children with cancer. The cure rate for childhood cancer is approaching 80 percent — close to 90 percent for those with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the type Kieran has — but some cancers remain very difficult to cure.

In 2009, Barbara Abernathy says, 19 of the support team's young patients died, "seven kids in seven weeks. We were walking around supporting each other. As much as we realize the journey is about the family, we do get invested."

Karen Hansen, POST's child-life specialist, takes a deep breath as she recalls Julia, who died a decade ago at age 10. "Julia made her presence known to everybody," Ms. Hansen says, her far-away gaze seeming to summon the child who refused to let cancer quiet her. "She underwent chemo, she had a bone marrow transplant," Ms. Hansen says. "She sang, she tap-danced. She could be a showoff; she could be loud and obnoxious. A lot of people didn't like her. It made me like her more."

Alongside her sit taller-than-toddler, Muppet-esque puppets named Corey and Molly; she uses them to comfort the frightened, reassure the shy, educate them all.

Corey is bald. He wears seersucker shorts but no shirt, so Ms. Hansen can show young patients his port, small chest tube into which doctors can inject chemotherapy. Molly is the shy puppet, who hides behind her hands until she gets to know a child:

"Hi, Sally. This is Molly. She has leukemia, just like you. She's 4 years old."

"Oh. I'm 4, too."

Ms. Hansen loves to recall the 6-year-old boy, a leukemia patient, who solemnly asked her to tell Molly that, "If she needs me, I'm here for her."

Molly Carbone cannot forget the morning — it was 4 a.m. — when she was awakened to learn that a 7-year-old patient had died. She drove to the family's home at once. "There's nothing that I'm going to say that's going to ease the pain," she says. "It's about being there and walking the journey with them."

After days like that, nights like that, she says, "I go home and hug my kid."

• • • • •

Finally, after more than a week, Kieran was extubated, freed of his ventilator tube, and released from the PICU to a non-emergency room. There, he began, once again, the chemotherapy regimen that had been temporarily halted lest it further suppress his immune system. On May 3, he was sent home to continue his treatment there. Twice a month, he will visit the hospital as an out-patient.

His mother counts the days, the minutes, until her little boy will complete his chemo regimen: Sept. 24, she says, two years after it began. On the day Kieran returned from the PICU, the young Haitian mother said her prayers for her daughter, as usual, and waited patiently, as usual, in the hope they would be answered.

And on that day, the members of POST carried on, doing whatever they could, whenever they could.

Terrie Johnson, the support team's care coordinator, remembers a woman she met not long ago, the mother of a young patient who transferred to St. Mary's after two years at another hospital where the medical care was good but the support element absent.

"How," she asked, "do people manage without you?" ■

Children's artwork stolen from site in Lake Worth

Elementary and Middle school students from the Lake Worth after-school center, For the Children Inc, and teaching artist Jennifer O' Brien spent a month researching and creating an exhibit of 64, 12-inch by 12-inch wood panels representing Lake Worth's colorful history and engaging current events.

The "Lake Worth — Past & Present" exhibit is being displayed on the temporary construction wall outside of the Cultural Council's future headquarters in the Robert M. Montgomery Jr. Building in downtown Lake Worth.

But four of the panels that middle school students made were stolen and one was damaged during the installation.

The Cultural Council, which commissioned the project, is asking that the art work be returned so all the students, and the greater community, can enjoy the complete exhibit that was carefully made.

The stolen art panels, which were created with paint and collage, were replaced with copies of the original works. Below



COURTESY PHOTO

Four of the pieces of artwork done by children in a Lake Worth afterschool center were stolen. This photo shows the art during installation.

the copies is a note describing what happened to the original panels. The art project and history lesson has now morphed into lessons of morality and how public art should be preserved.

The panels will eventually be sold after the headquarters is open. Proceeds will benefit the Cultural Council's art education programs.

Anyone with information about the stolen panels is asked to contact the Cultural Council at 471-1601, or at palmbeachculture.com. ■

3 shows sold out; Maltz adds "Cats" matinee

The Malt Jupiter Theatre Conservatory of Performing Arts' production of the musical "Cats" is already successful — the first three shows have sold out and the theatre has added a fourth show.

The theater has added a matinee of the student production at 2 p.m. May 21.

The production of Cats is directed by two conservatory instructors and two original Broadway cast members: Anna McNeely, the original Jennyanydots on Broadway, and Brian Andrews, a 10-year cast member of the

Broadway show (starring Betty Buckley).

Based on the universally popular poetry of T.S. Eliot, Cats tells the story in song and dance of the annual gathering of Jellicle cats, at which time one special cat is selected to ascend to the Heaviside layer.

Sold-out performances are set for May 20 at 7:30 p.m., May 21 at 7:30 p.m. and May 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets for the additional performance at 2 p.m. May 21 may be purchased by calling the box office at 575-2223. ■

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HEALTHY LIVING

You don't have to stay in that bad relationship with your mother

lindaLIPSHUTZ
llipshutz@floridaweekly.com



Sadly, certain people heave a deep sigh of relief once Mother's Day has passed. They are unable to join Hallmark in extolling this holiday as a time for expressing heart-felt accolades of love and appreciation.

Rather, they shudder with a complicated mix of ambivalence and negative emotions: heartache, envy, and aching disappointment, largely because they wished they had enjoyed a warm, uncomplicated relationship with their mothers. One that they intuitively knew might have had a dramatic impact on their lives.

Now, those with tremendous insight or graduates of therapy may evolve to a place of acceptance, or even compassion, recognizing that difficult mothers (and fathers, or grandparents) have oftentimes been burdened by their own legacy of trauma or abuse. Adult children may genuinely wish to let go of their anger. However, they are often unable to. They can't help but to feel terribly gypped, especially when they watch re-runs of situation comedies, as apron-clad mothers envelop their families with unconditional hugs and affirmations, while heaping plates with home-baked cookies.

We often forget that some people with significant personality disorders, who are ill equipped to give of themselves emotionally to others, may become parents. Unfortunately, these troubled people may love their children deeply, but are often in

so much pain, they do not have the capacity to process their own frustrations nor to contain their own anxieties or volatility. They may be oblivious to the hurts and heart-ache they are causing; and may inappropriately expect their offspring to fill insatiable needs, and to come through for them in ways that can be burdensome, (or at times, abusive.) The adult children usually WANT to be able to relate in a loving way. However, they become guarded and wary of stepping into landmines, because many of their prior interactions have been exhausting or acrimonious.

So how do well intended, albeit beleaguered, adult children maintain a sense of self-respect and integrity, as they navigate relationships that cause tremendous pain and confusion? Understanding what happens in the relationship, and the emotional impact of the interaction, is an important first step.

When children have been raised in an environment of criticism, shame, and mixed messages, they may have internalized insidious, self-defeating, and demoralizing belief systems. They may have struggled to come up with strategies to endure the unpredictable discomfort. At great cost, they may have exerted huge efforts to reach for their resilience and to ultimately find a place of self-worth.

As adults, they often fear that returning to toxic interactions with their parents will compromise

their hard-earned growth, so they are often tempted to stay away. However, they might then feel guilty and cruel to turn their backs when a parent reaches out.

If they have been continually ridiculed or criticized, putting some distance in the relationship might have been their best survival mechanism. Sometimes, maintaining a boundary that feels safe and secure is critical. It may take some effort to determine how often to speak, and what's safe to confide. This can be the result of trial and error. When a previously shared confidence had been violated, or thrown back in the face, caution was learned at a dear cost. Defining clear boundaries that are adhered to will ultimately help regulate the amount of closeness or distance that will be the right fit.



As adults, we can master a totally different way of responding to our families. Knowing that we have some say in whether we remain in damaging relationships can be empowering. We can set limits on how we are spoken to, or how much time we spend with a person who disrespects us, if at all. Gaining the insight that it may be the other person who is acting irrationally, (not us), may help us to stay grounded when a situation starts to escalate out of control. And of course, reaching out to people who treat us with dignity, and keeping them near and dear, is the most gratifying of all.

We must remind ourselves not to have unrealistic expectations that our parents will come through for us exactly the way we believe they should. We must recalibrate our hopes and standards to avoid setting ourselves up for ongoing disappointments. Accepting the limits of our parents' abilities is an important, mature step, which may enable us to appreciate the simple things that they are able to offer. ■

— Linda Lipshutz, M.S., LCSW is a psychotherapist serving individuals, couples and families. A Palm Beach Gardens resident, she holds degrees from Cornell and Columbia and trained at the Ackerman Institute for Family Therapy in Manhattan. She can be reached in her Gardens office at 561 630 2827, or online at palmbeachfamilytherapy.com.

GIVING

When being a "charitable bank" is no longer enough

leslieLILLY
President and CEO of the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties



This economic recession continues to have profound implications for the families and communities that have been caught in its wake of economic decline and joblessness. Many of the social services agencies that have been our "first responders" in times of urgent need have seen their sources of financial support wither away and with the loss of financial resources, have lost the organizational capacity to respond to a vast and escalating demand for services.

These and other themes have been annually identified in the foundation's annual Nonprofits and the Economy Survey, a joint undertaking in the past of the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties and Allegany Franciscan Ministries. This year's survey is being conducted with the financial support of an additional local partner, Quantum Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in our area.

The importance of an appeal in promulgating this "temperature check" among

area grantmakers is driven, in part, by the many ongoing staff and board discussions about how to achieve the highest and best use of limited grant dollars. No one engaged in these conversations ever comes away with being totally satisfied with the process or their outcome. We all know, in effect, the patient is ailing but the symptoms of distress are multiple. It is a challenge to discern or

choose the appropriate remedy given the emergency room is overloaded and the waiting room is overflowing. A vast infusion of capital is demanded to keep things going and there clearly is not enough to go around. While fundraising has always been a fact of life for nonprofit professionals, the burden of competition has never been higher. Fundraising has now become, in effect, an extreme sport.

We know from our surveys that many nonprofits are in the midst of strategic assessments to understand what's required if they are to stay in business in these new circumstances — if the goal is staying in business — or running leaner, more efficiently or collaboratively. The search for the full menu of options is underway. Though difficult choices may lie ahead for many nonprofit staff, board and volunteers, the time is now that challenges conventional wisdom. Leaders are pursuing positive change and experiencing a renewal of commitment to do better, and more — but differently — than in the past. The changes

inherent in those tough choices won't be easy and there will be very few organizations that escape that reality.

The Community Foundation is providing financial support to nonprofit organizations working to restructure and/or improve upon their business model and tackle, often through partnerships and collaborations, more efficient delivery of services. These transformations often achieve greater cost-benefits to organizations, such as shared staff, or centralized back office services for multiple users. The adage of doing more with less is permanently engraved into nonprofit balance sheets. Foundations are on this trail, too, including elimination of expenses, conserving resources and achieving greater cost efficiencies. There have been reductions in staffing and benefits, squeezing of operational budgets, and a substantial up-tick in no-frills, no fat.

Foundations are also transforming their management systems, utilizing many new informational technologies, ramping up their use of digital media and eliminating print communications.

Associations of grantmakers are an important resource toward these objectives, often providing access to the tools and strategies on behalf of like-organizations that perform similar functions and have similar needs. These collegial support systems are important to staff and board members alike. We are constantly recalibrating to stay with and ahead of the times. Nonprofits share, as a sector, many of the

same issues of sustaining relevance, effectiveness, and form and function. Within all of this activity and restructuring, larger forces at work will deeply affect the role of philanthropy and the nonprofit sector more broadly. In past columns I have described some of the policy changes imminent, most especially those proposed that affect the tax benefits of charitable giving.

Meanwhile, many grantmakers are in the midst of an intellectual transformation. They are bent on shedding the perception externally of the role of foundations as "charitable bankers" to communities in need. The re-imagining of mission is migrating toward more comfort internally with foundations fulfilling a more vigorous role of leadership in strengthening and investing in communities, a newly emerged mandate that is driven by the deterioration of the social safety net. The end game? Communities that can deal more effectively with the vast social and economic challenges ahead. ■

— As one of Florida's largest community foundations, the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties advances quality of life, citizen engagement, and regional vitality through its promotion of philanthropy. We are the trusted steward of more than 250 funds created by area families, philanthropists, corporations and private foundations for charitable investment in our region's communities. For more information see yourcommunityfoundation.org.

BUSINESS

WEEK OF MAY 12-18, 2011

A GUIDE TO THE PALM BEACH COUNTY BUSINESS INDUSTRY

Palm Beach Hospice Foundation names 5 board members

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Hospice of Palm Beach County Foundation has announced the appointment of five business leaders to its board of directors: Thomas Burns, CPA, a partner with Cocuy, Burns & Co. P.A.; Robert Friedman, president of R.M. F. Financial Inc.; Alfred G. Morici, counsel with Cohen, Norris, Scherer, Weinberger & Wolmer; Marilyn Siebrasse, vice president and wealth management advisor at The



BURNS



MORICI



WALTON



SIEBRASSE



FRIEDMAN

Private Client Reserve of U.S. Bank, and Beth Walton, president and chief executive officer of the Town of Palm Beach United Way.

“Our strength in the community is a reflection of the leadership of our board of directors,” Greg Leach, president of Hospice of Palm Beach County Foundation said in a prepared statement. “We are honored to have these outstanding community leaders join us in our mission.”

Thomas G. Burns has served on the boards of SunFest of Palm Beach County, Palms West Chamber of Commerce and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and continues to volunteer with SunFest and Palms West Chamber of Commerce. Robert M. Friedman chaired the board of the Urban League of Palm Beach County and presently serves as chairman of its advisory board. He also served on the board and as campaign chair for United Way, is co-founder of the Dan Marino Center in Weston, and volunteers with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office.

Alfred G. Morici has served as the past president of the Palm Beach County Estate Planning Council and has served on the

boards of South Palm Beach County Bar Association and the Boca Raton Estate Planning Council. Marilyn Siebrasse has served as treasurer of the Planned Giving Council of Palm Beach County since June 2009.

Beth Walton is president and chief executive officer of the Town of Palm Beach United Way. She serves as treasurer of Palm Beach Dramaworks and is a vestry member, chairman of the Stewardship Commission and a member of the outreach commission committee at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

The foundation serves as the fundraising arm for Hospice of Palm Beach County.

“The response here has been tremendous. There are really good people in the community.”

— Chief Gene Saunders, who founded Project Lifesaver in 1999 in Virginia



COURTESY PHOTO

Gene Saunders, chief executive officer of the company, says Florida’s aging population and the number of autism patients make it a key state for Project Lifesaver International.

Project Lifesaver International finds a home in Gardens

BY SCOTT SIMMONS

ssimmons@floridaweekly.com

Worried that Grandma may wander off?

Or maybe you’re concerned that your youngster, who has autism, may disappear without warning.

Fears for their safety can be overwhelming.

But Project Lifesaver International says its tracking devices can help ease some of that anxiety.

The non-profit organization recently moved its headquarters to Palm Beach Gardens’ NorthCorp Corporate Park, just south of PGA Boulevard and east of Interstate 95.

“The response here has been tremendous,” says Chief Gene Saunders, who founded Project Lifesaver in 1999 in Virginia. He is a retired police officer from Virginia. “There are really good people in the community.”

Since the organization’s founding, it says more than 1,200 fire and police departments, sheriff’s offices and emergency medical services providers in the United States, Canada and Australia have used its services.

The group employs four people in Florida and four in Virginia, and it operates with money that comes from grants, equipment — the devices cost about \$25 — and training fees and from donations.

The premise is simple: Those enrolled in Project Lifesaver’s program wear a small transmitter on their wrist or ankle. If that client is missing, a caregiver can call



COURTESY PHOTO

The small lifesaver tracking device may be worn on a wrist or ankle.

the local Project Lifesaver agency and an emergency team will search the area from which the transmitter’s signal is received.

Average recovery time?

Thirty minutes, the organization says.

“We’ve been with Project Lifesaver since 2008,” says Sgt. Scott Pascarella, public information officer for the Jupiter Police Department. “We’ve utilized the equipment on a couple of occasions and we found it to be very useful to us.”

Other area law enforcement agencies that use the devices include the Palm Beach Shores Police Department and the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office.

Chief Saunders says he was inspired to found the Project Lifesaver while he was commander of search and rescue at the Police Department in Chesapeake, Va.

“It was mostly for missing Alzheimer’s patients,” he says. “Back then, in the late ’80s and early ’90s, it wasn’t that much talked about.”

Or effective.

“We didn’t do a very good job,” he concedes. “It’s not like you’re searching for a person who is cognitive and can help you.”

Then in 1993, the local sheriff asked Chief Saunders for help.

Radio tracking devices had been used in North Carolina.

“I liked their concept. I went to a local hospital in Chesapeake and gave them bracelets,” he says.

There was a pilot grant for the program in Chesapeake, then other cities wanted to participate.

“After the first couple of rescues, we discovered that it worked,” Chief Saunders says. “By 2001, I was doing that as a volunteer. Then I talked with my wife and decided to go for it fulltime.”

But how did Project Lifesaver wind up in Palm Beach Gardens?

“Because we were in 45 states, we knew Florida would be next. We asked where would we be most effective,” Chief Saunders says. “If we were going to establish a presence, we needed to be a couple hours away” from other areas in the state.

“And with Alzheimer’s and autism, this is a key state for those issues,” he says. ■

in the know

>> For more information about Project Lifesaver International, log on to www.projectlifesaver.org or call 847-7659.

MONEY & INVESTING

Silver bust doesn't tarnish all commodities

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A variety of the commodities markets had a serious correction in the past week. Silver was slaughtered.

Based on such undeniable facts, some investors are leaping to two conclusions: first, commodities markets are coming undone, and second, all those who were invested in commodities lost a lot of money this past week. Definitely coffee shop chatter and maybe corporate boardroom banter.

These conclusions most probably need reconsidering as they could be very wrong.

Maybe the best way to understand this week's price action is to look at examples of bubbles bursting and bull market corrections in a variety of asset types in the U.S.; it might help frame the possibility that silver's meteoric rise of the past eight months and ensuing crash this week is not forecasting a death knell to all other commodities and, further, it might only be a deep correction within a still-intact bull market. Corrections can be viewed as opportunities.

Bubble example one: U.S. residential real estate bubble. Prices collapsed some 30-50 percent across broad sections of the U.S., beginning in 2007 and

still ongoing. Housing prices went up without strong underlying fundamentals; weak jobs, wages and incomes have prolonged the bust. But, some states (the North Dakota types) were unscathed.

Bubble example two: NASDAQ's 2000-2001 crash. Eleven years later, this bubble is still a bust. As with the aforementioned bubble in real estate, the high NASDAQ valuations were unsupported by a lack of fundamentals for many NASDAQ companies. Though the DJIA is in the same asset class (U.S. equities), DJI companies had underlying fundamental value and meaningful price recovery ensued.

So ... no sense in throwing the baby out with the bath water; no sense to say all real estate in 2007 or ALL equity markets in 2000-2001 were bubbles bursting; segments of those markets with good fundamentals corrected and then have recovered. And maybe this is analogous to commodities. Maybe a lot of commodities have very good fundamentals and are less bubbly than silver.

How so? The world has major countries expanding at a rapid clip that are hugely dependent on commodity imports. Their demand is real. They are using imported commodities to feed their populations, make products for export and build their infrastructure.

So thinks the global money manager GMO, which manages \$107 billion, of

which \$38 billion is asset allocation strategies. See GMO's chart of China's Share of World Commodity Consumption. (Source: April 2010, GMO Quarterly by Jeremy Grantham, "Time to Wake Up: Days of Abundant Resources and Falling Prices Are Over Forever," free if you register at www.gmo.com)

Specifically, Grantham writes: "Optimists will answer that the situation that (the chart) describes is at worst temporary, perhaps caused by too many institutions moving into commodities. The Monetary Maniacs may ascribe the entire move to low interest rates ... But commodities are made and bought by serious professionals for whom today's price is life and death. Realistic supply and demand really is the main influence." So much for speculators.

Second, as to the coffee shop assumption that all commodity investors lost money this past week ... well, not true. If you held a long-only portfolio of commodities futures, ETFs or indices, there most probably was red ink in a portfolio.

But don't forget the hundreds of millions of profit made in silver this past week. How? All commodity futures contracts have two sides: the buyer and the seller. Clearly, those who sold silver at lofty prices made a bundle. For every million-dollar loser on a "long" silver contract, there was also a million dollar winner on the other or "short" side.

Responsible commodity investing is

not creation of a portfolio that uses margin to the maximum and "pyramids" contracts in a single commodity. If portrayed or executed in such fashion, it does commodity investing a disservice to all.

In fact, for those who held a diversified portfolio of 12 to 15 different commodities/currencies and have both long and short positions, their portfolio might have fared well. This is often times the incredible value of managed futures.

It is always my recommendation to have several advisers and to seriously consider their counsel within the context of their expertise and to consider any other factors that influence their perspectives, including their forms of compensation. It is best to reach investment conclusions and take action after thoughtful consideration and fact finding as opposed to knee jerk reactions based on emotions or cable news' hyperbole. ■

— *There is a substantial risk of loss in trading commodity futures, options and off-exchange foreign currency products. Past performance is not indicative of future results.*

— *Jeannette Rohn Showalter, CFA, can be reached at 239-444-5633, ext. 1092, or jshowaltercfa@yahoo.com. Her office is at The Cxrent Business Center, Bonita Springs.*

You should know ...

FLORIDA WEEKLY'S SPOTLIGHT ON
LOCAL REAL ESTATE BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS

NAME: Michael J. Brue

AGE: 35

CURRENTLY: Broker/General Manager for Keller Williams Realty of Palm Beaches, Jupiter and Treasure Coast

SPECIALTY: Luxury Real Estate

HOMETOWN: Syracuse, New York

RESIDENCY NOW: Jupiter, Florida

BACKGROUND: Past 10 years I have been involved in South Florida Real Estate. The last 7 have been growing Keller Williams. I am also a CDPE (Certified Distressed Property Expert)

FAMILY: I have a wonderful wife, Angelique, two children, two American Bulldogs and one American Pitbull Terrier service dog

ACTIVITIES: When I am not working, I enjoy boating, boxing, 4 wheeling, martial arts training, raising, rescuing and rehabilitating American Bulldogs and American Pitbull Terriers.

BEST THING ABOUT THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY: Helping Real Estate Professionals and Clients achieve unlimited income potential through Real Estate Sales.

TOUGHEST PART OF THE JOB: Staying ahead of current market.

ADVICE FOR NEW AGENT: Learn from the best and learn quickly. Fight through the busy work to get to the money making activities.

MY JOB WOULD BE EASIER IF: Actually it has been easier lately, somewhere it switched. It used to be us doing most of the calling and now we have so many people contacting us.

A QUOTE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS: "You can watch life as it happens to others or you can dream bigger and decide to co-create a life by design. The choice is yours!"

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Michael J. Brue

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Realtors hit Capitol Hill to voice concerns

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Realtors from across the country are meeting with legislators, public policy makers and industry leaders this week to address concerns and issues that affect homeowners, aspiring home owners and real estate investors, at the Realtors Midyear Legislative and Trade Expo.

"As leading advocates for home ownership, housing issues and private property rights, Realtors know that the time for action is now," said National Association of Realtors President Ron Phipps, broker-president of Phipps Realty in Warwick, R.I. "We need to make sure that our children and grandchildren have the same opportunities build their futures through home ownership, just as many in our generation and generations past have."

More than 8,000 Realtors and guests are expected to attend the meetings, which take place in Washington, D.C., through May 14. During the week, Realtors were meeting with legislators on Capitol Hill to urge action toward streamlining short sales, ensuring access to affordable financing and preserving the tax benefits associated with home ownership.

Realtors were participating in sessions with a number of government officials and industry experts, including representatives from the Federal Housing Administration, National Economic Council, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Mortgage Bankers Association of America, Center for Responsible Lending and the National Urban League.

"The issues facing our industry — like the mortgage interest deduction, foreclosures and short sales, affordable financing and available credit — don't just affect people who own a home," said Mr. Phipps. "Home ownership shapes communities and strengthens the nation's economy. This week and every week, Realtors are at the ready to keep housing first on the nation's public policy agenda, because housing and home ownership issues affect all Americans."

The National Association of Realtors represents 1.1 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries. ■

Biggest drop in U.S.

Real estate firm Zillow says South Florida home values will be drop more than its initial prediction

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Home values fell three percent in the first quarter of this year, marking a pace of decline not seen since 2008 when the housing recession was at its worst. Home values fell 1 percent between February and March and 8.2 percent from March 2010. The cumulative decline in home values since the market peak is now 29.5 percent.

The figures were announced in a report released May 8 by real estate firm Zillow.

Although South Florida sales are rebounding, home values continue to experience drop more than the national market, the report shows.

South Florida home values dropped another 1.8 percent in the first quarter of the year, falling to levels that are on par with 2002.

Zillow's home value index for Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties in the first three months of 2011 fell to \$137,300, a 12.8 percent decrease from the same quarter last year. The national home value index was \$169,600, down 8.2 percent.

There was little escaping the housing downturn in the first quarter. With only one metro showing positive year-over-year change (Honolulu), and one remaining flat (Pittsburgh), the vast majority of U.S. markets logged declines over the past 12 months. The metros hit hardest were geographically diverse with Ocala, Pueblo, Colo., Detroit and Atlanta experiencing the sharpest yearly declines.

Homes in the bottom price tier lost the most value in the first quarter, while homes in the top tier lost the least amount of value. The value of homes in the bottom tier fell 13.9 percent year-over-year; while homes in the middle tier fell 8.7 percent and homes in the top tier fell 4.3 percent.

Nearly three-quarters, 74.5 percent, of homes in the United States lost value from the first quarter of 2010 to the first quarter of this year. That's up from the fourth quarter of 2010, when 69.2 percent had lost value, but is down substantially from a peak of 85.5 percent in the first quarter of 2009.

A record — 37.7 percent — number of homes sold in March were sold for a loss. The rate of homes selling for a loss has steadily increased since June 2010.

Negative equity in the first quarter reached new high with 28.4 percent of all single-family homes with mortgages underwater, from 27 percent in the fourth quarter.

Foreclosure liquidations rose throughout the first quarter after falling in late 2010 following the "robo-signing" controversy. In March, one out of every 1,000 (0.1 percent) homes in the country was lost to



foreclosures, up from 0.09 percent in December 2010, their lowest point since November 2009.

Foreclosure re-sales reached a new peak in March 2011, representing 23.7 percent of all sales during the month compared to 17 percent in March 2010. Foreclosure re-sales have been increasing steadily since June, when they made up 14 percent of all sales.

Because of the strong depreciation in the first quarter, Zillow has revised its forecast for the total home value decline nationally in 2011 to 7 to 9 percent (previously 5 to 7 percent) and its forecast of the bottom from late 2011 to 2012 at the earliest. Zillow reports that its expectation post-bottom (where the firm defines the bottom as the end of consistent monthly depreciation) is for a long period of below-normal real estate appreciation during which time the country works out the remaining

overhang of excess housing supply.

Housing demand remains fundamentally weak but Zillow predicts some improvement in the balance of this year due to slowly improving employment conditions and increasing rates of household formation. The firm states that it believes, however, that this somewhat improving picture on the demand side will be largely offset by excess supply.

The supply picture continues to look bad with approximately 2 million homes in the foreclosure process and another more than 1.5 million homes seriously delinquent, Zillow reports. While delinquencies do appear to be declining recently, the firm said it believes that rates will remain much higher than normal for a considerable period of time due to high negative equity rates and elevated unemployment. ■

BALLENISLES ~ Palm Beach Gardens

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SEALS

From page 1



SCOTT SIMMONS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Visitors can pose for pictures in this inflatable boat in one of the museum's galleries.

employee of the museum, which he said has been drawing steady crowds since the news came that a team of SEALs had killed bin Laden.

"It's been insanity," Mr. Brady said. "Monday was the first Monday we were closed for summer and the crowds were lining up."

A few people wandered in and out of the museum on the Friday after bin Laden's death.

Museum employees said that was the lightest attendance had been all week.

But visitors remarked that they were there to pay tribute to the team of SEALs who had killed the terrorist leader.

Television news crews were among the crowds that Monday, Mr. Brady said. And a TV news crew was at the museum during that Friday visit.

According to the museum, this is how it went in Fort Pierce.

By 1942, the United States had been drawn into World War II, both in Europe and in the Pacific. While planning for a European invasion, Allied intelligence learned that the Germans were placing underwater obstacles along the beaches at Normandy, in France.

And in 1943, Lt. Cmdr. Draper L. Kauffman was directed to establish a school to train people to eliminate obstacles on an enemy-held beach prior to an invasion.

On June 6 of that year, he established a Naval Combat Demolition Unit training school on Hutchinson Island near Fort Pierce.

Why Fort Pierce?

The beaches were relatively remote and the ocean water was swimmable

Mr. Brady said that when he first moved to Fort Pierce in 1977, people warned him to be careful going out into the surf because of military training obstacles placed there during World War II. Now those undersea obstacles — chunks of concrete and iron designed to thwart an enemy landing — reside at the museum.

Also there: a UB-H1 helicopter, or "Huey," and patrol boats used in Vietnam.

Some things aren't as big as you might think: An Apollo space capsule used by UDT recovery teams to prepare for the astronauts' splashdowns looks positively tiny.

The Navy's connection? Teams of Frogmen put a flotation collar on the capsule after its landing to prevent it from sinking, then opened the hatch and assisted the astronauts onto a hovering helicopter. Smaller yet, a four-man submarine that sits near the entrance will send spasms of claustrophobia into anyone with a fear of tight spaces.

From more recent history, you can peer into the windows of the lifeboat from the Maersk Alabama, the cargo ship that was overtaken by pirates near Somalia in 2009 and whose captain was held hostage in the boat until he was freed by a team of Navy SEALs.

That orange lifeboat sits near an 8,400-square-foot addition that's under construction on the north side of the museum. It's scheduled for completion in June.

Inside, visitors can see the history of all these special operations. The main gallery focuses on World War II and Fort Pierce's role in underwater demolitions training.

There are displays of photos and weapons. A Dec. 7, 1941, Honolulu newspaper details the news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. There is a medical kit from

Desert Storm.

Elsewhere, there are weapons from the various conflicts, flags, uniforms and dioramas depicting a soldier's life in Vietnam or Iraq.

A gift shop to the front, called the Ships Store, does a brisk business selling T-shirts, postcards and such. Typical souvenirs, you chuckle, then the woman in line ahead of you tells the clerk at the register that her husband served in Korea.

She is frail and elderly, and uses a walker.

Seeing her reminds you of why people come to this museum.

They're here to remember, and to pay tribute.

Outside is the perfect place to do that. On the south side of the museum sits a SEALs memorial. A 9-foot-tall bronze Frogman floats atop a pedestal, seemingly suspended in time. Surrounding him, a curving wall bears the names of SEALs and their predecessors killed in the line of duty.

It can be an emotional place, Mr. Brady said, especially when people make rubbings of the names of loved ones lost.

And it is then that you remember to stop, reflect and say "thank you" one last time before leaving. ■

in the know

>> The National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum is at 330 N. Highway A1A, on North Hutchinson Island, Fort Pierce. The museum is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday. It's closed Mondays from May-December. Tickets: Adults (ages 13 and over), \$8; children ages 6-12, \$4; children 5 and under, free. Entry fee included with membership. Group rates/reservations available. On the web: www.navysealmuseum.com. Phone: (772) 595-5845.

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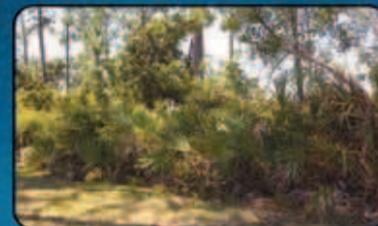
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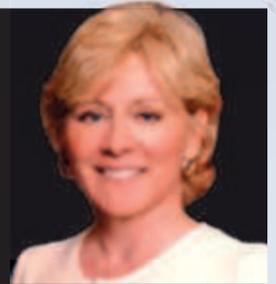




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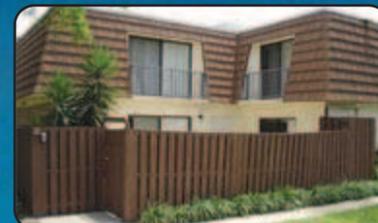
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WEEK OF MAY 12-18, 2011

A GUIDE TO THE PALM BEACH COUNTY ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE



>>inside:

"The Beauty Queen of Leenane" plays through June 19
A25

COURTESY PHOTO

▲ Kati Brazda, Kevin Kelly and Barbara Bradshaw in a scene from "The Beauty Queen of Leenane."

Irish comedy, served dark

Twisted McDonagh play at Dramaworks is thoughtful, funny

BY HAP ERSTEIN
herstein@floridaweekly.com

PALM BEACH DRAMAWORKS PRIDES ITSELF ON producing, as its catch phrase puts it, "theater to think about." But with "The Beauty Queen of Leenane," Martin McDonagh's twisted Irish dark comedy, the company is considering hanging out a new shingle.

As artistic director William Hayes puts it, "This is not only theater to think about, but theater that will blow your mind."

"Beauty Queen" was the first of many gruesome, comic tales of McDonagh's that American audiences were exposed to, on Broadway in 1998. Like several of his plays, it is set in the coastal region of Connemara, County Galway, a great place to leave.

"Leenane, at least as he's depicted it, is poverty-stricken, a place of no industry, a place that feels stuck in time," says Hayes. "It's isolated, most of the land is infertile, it's not conducive to fishing because of the weather. They live in a dark, wet, dreary climate most of the year, such a depressed area."

There, Maureen (Kati Brazda), a plain, lonely, 40-ish spinster lives with her sour, manipulative mother, Mag (Barbara Bradshaw). When Maureen finds her first love,

SEE QUEEN, A25 ►

Grimaldi's set to open in June at Downtown in the Gardens

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Northern Palm Beach County diners will soon have another choice for New York-style hand-tossed coal-fired brick-oven pizza. Grimaldi's Pizzeria will open in June at Downtown in the Gardens, at 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Ave. in the Gardens.

The first Grimaldi's opened in New York City and there are now 20 locations across the U.S., in Texas, Nevada, Arizona, and its flagship stores in New York City, the company reports. A restaurant was opened last year in Fort Myers.

Grimaldi's says it has garnered more

awards than any other pizzeria in the country, and lays claim to more celebrity sightings than most 5-star restaurants. The pizza is made with fresh ingredients, using a "secret recipe" pizza sauce, hand-made mozzarella cheese and dough. It's traditional pie, like what was started in Naples, Italy.

The coal-fired ovens at Grimaldi's Pizzerias weigh 25 tons and are heated by 100

pounds of coal a day. The oven heats to 1,200 degrees. The intense heat of the oven evenly bakes the pies to create Grimaldi's crispy and smoky thin crust that Zagat has voted best pizza.



It has been said that the secret to true New York-style pizza is the water used in the dough. Grimaldi's

believes that too, the company says. To create the same water as used in its

Brooklyn pizzeria, the company hired a chemist to analyze and recreate the mineral content and exact composition of the water to ensure the dough tastes the same in Florida.

Grimaldi's Pizzeria has restaurants in Phoenix, Tucson, Las Vegas, Reno, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Fort Myers and Corpus Christi. Additional locations in Texas and Florida are on the drawing board, the company reports.

Grimaldi's also offers a selection of beers and an extensive list of wines (by the glass and bottle), as well as salads, calzones and desserts. For more information, see grimaldispizzeria.com. ■

SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

It's a cold, cold couples-only world out there



My relationships are frequently long-distance affairs, complex entanglements with some handsome beau I see on the weekends. Once a month if he's far away. Even farther, and it's a yearly event. Which often leaves me dateless on Friday nights. Thus the Catch-22 of long-distance relationships: Technically attached, so no screwing around, and you don't get to participate in all the fun couples-only activities.

Of which, it turns out, there are many. If you haven't heard, it's because you're not in a relationship. I had no idea couples did so many cool things with other couples. Dinners. Weekend getaways. Barbecues. There's a whole world of exciting couples-only entertainment out there. But for the partnerless, the theme park is always closed.

Until you yourself are in a pair. Like when your long-distance boyfriend flies into town. Suddenly, you become less threatening. Less of a free agent.

With a boyfriend by your side, you are on lockdown, and other couples don't fear your presence. In fact, they seek you out. Not you, exactly. Both of you. You and your boyfriend.

I recently experienced my own thrills of the couples-only lifestyle during a

two-week stint with the Captain. For the length of his stay, we spent every free evening with two other couples, friends I have had for a while but who I never suspected of such fun get-togethers. I saw them infrequently on my own, and I realized later that the rest of their social time must have been blocked off for their coupled friends.

When the Captain left, the social invitations from the coupled world — trips out of town, dinners on Friday nights — suddenly declined.

Then my paired friends valiantly gave me a test run, an experiment to see how I did without my boyfriend. We went for a weekend at the beach where I played fifth wheel while the couples held hands and walked in the sand. It was uncomfortable for all of us. The invitation did not come a second time.

But I can't say I don't understand their behavior. In fact, I understand perfectly. During the Captain's visit, we had dinner with my good

friend Adele. She is permanently single, which is perplexing because she's pretty and charming, funny and smart. She certainly came off that way during the evening with my boyfriend. Actually, she was too pretty. Too charming. Too funny and smart. By the time we were halfway through the meal, I had worked myself into a jealous fury. By the end of the evening, I was angry and frightful, irate at her flirtatiousness, irritated by the Captain's seeming receptivity.

I thought about that dinner in the weeks after he left, when my social calendar suddenly dried up. It felt like a betrayal, the disappearance of my coupled friends, but when I considered it, I appreciated their stance.

Being the fifth wheel is never

"I played fifth wheel while the couples held hands and walked in the sand. It was uncomfortable for all of us..."



fun, but it's also threatening. A lone man or woman is a danger to the other unions at the table. Wise couples circle in, like wagons in the night, and leave the singles alone in the dark. ■

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THEATER REVIEW

Perplexing, maybe, but "Cha-Cha" delivers thought-provoking theater

hapERSTEIN

herstein@floridaweekly.com



Even longtime audience members at Florida Stage, who have seen a handful of plays by Carter W. Lewis over the past two decades, may be taken aback by the enigmatically titled "The Cha-Cha of a Camel Spider," now drawing a lot of head-scratching — and applause — with its world premiere at the Kravis Center's Rinker Playhouse in West Palm Beach.

In what feels like a synthesis of the latest pre-occupations of the St. Louis-based writer, "Cha-Cha" begins with a break-in at the headquarters of "e," a Blackwater-like private mercenary army. It sticks around there long enough for Lewis to fire a few shots at our wayward foreign policy, before morphing into a "Wizard of Oz"-like odyssey of young Bethany Hanrahan, a recent college graduate with a dead-end degree in spoken word poetry.

On her journey of discovery, trying to learn the truth about the "friendly fire" combat death of her upper-level "e" operative father in Kandahar, Afghanistan, she gathers with her two soldiers busted down to security guards and a Muslim cabbie. The taxi driver may already be dead, though he shows no outward signs of it. "The Cha-Cha of a Camel Spider" is that kind of play.

Bethany (a verbally nimble Elizabeth



Eric Mendenhall and Elizabeth Birkenmeier take the stage in "The Cha-Cha of a Camel Spider," produced by the Florida Stage.

Birkenmeier) and her mother, Loretta (radiant, though stressed out Laura Turnbull), have broken into "e" headquarters, to hack into the computer network and obtain the death benefits they are owed. Loretta is eminently practical, while her daughter puts her faith in artistic matters. "Poetry can change time and space" is her credo, a curious belief which will eventually be tested in the play.

But before the play spins out into the realm of the surreal and lyrical, Bethany

is apprehended for trespassing by Stack and Denny, the two guards who probably killed her father. Stack (played with sour gusto by Todd Allen Durkin) is preoccupied by his stomach ulcer, while reticent Denny (angular Eric Mendenhall) finds himself growing romantically attracted to Bethany.

They take her to Denny's grandmother's unkempt greenhouse (impressively created by scenic designer Victor A. Becker), where a wisecracking Muslim named Ahmad Ahmadazai mysteriously

arrives. As played with dry well-timed wit by Antonio Amadeo, the character all but steals the show, dead or alive.

More than just an angry political rant, this "Cha-Cha" is also interested in matters of the heart, even when that heart is artificial. Found on Al Hanrahan's desk is a souvenir of his final mission, the mechanical heart of his last victim, a glowing contraption with mystical powers. And Ahmad — not unlike the Tin Man — needs his heart back to become whole again.

Even if you can take all the above in stride, you may not be prepared for Lewis's poetic climax, which takes a quantum jump into a different reality. You will not be alone pondering what the concluding scenes are about, which is surely intentional. Just sit back, enjoy Birkenmeier's performance art tour de force and let the poetry waft over you.

Director Louis Tyrrell may give up a few clarity points for the sake of entertainment, but it is a trade-off worth making. Lewis is pushing the bounds of narrative form, with a "Cha-Cha" worth following his lead on and expanding your mind. ■

in the know

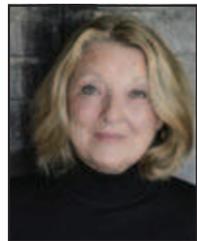
>> THE CHA-CHA OF A CAMEL SPIDER, Florida Stage, Kravis Center's Rinker Playhouse, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Through June 5. Tickets: \$25-50. Call 585-3433 or (800) 514-3837.

QUEEN

From page 1

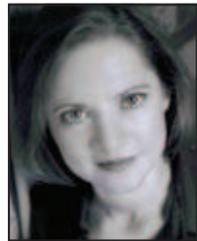
who represents her only chance to escape Leenane, Mag does her best to thwart Maureen's plans.

That is about all Bradshaw hopes theatergoers know before seeing "Beauty Queen." "I hope the audience doesn't know a thing," she says. "That they just come in and take the ride with us. It's a sneaky play, because you don't expect a lot of it. It sneaks up on you. Good theater should provoke and this is certainly a provocative piece."



BRADSHAW

Bradshaw concedes she was daunted by her first reading of the play. "It scared me to death, I'll be honest with you," says the actress featured in such Dramaworks productions as "The Chairs" and "The Gin Game." What worried her, she says, was "the places you have to go, emotionally" and the challenge of breathing life into Mag.



BRAZDA

"She is such a caricature, but cannot be a caricature. I have to keep her real and grounded. To be who she is and to understand how she has become that way.

"Was she always a horrible, mean, terrible person? No, I don't think she was," says Bradshaw. "I think she's angry at her own circumstances. And she's trapped too. So I have to make her real, and real



Kati Brazda (left) Barbara Bradshaw perform a scene from Palm Beach Dramaworks' production of "The Beauty Queen of Leenane."

people don't sit around thinking, 'I'm a villain.' I have to approach her anger, her disappointments, her frustrations, to really address her situation."

As Brazda says of her character, Maureen, "At the play's beginning, she is resigned to this mundane routine that is her life. And it seems that the only entertainment she and Mag have is picking at each other."

Not only is this the first work by McDonagh that Dramaworks is tackling, it is the company's first foray into the murky depths of dark comedy. But as Hayes sees it, McDonagh's writing has clear similarities to two of the Irishman favorite dramatists — Harold Pinter and David Mamet.

"He deals with pauses in the same ways, the same kind of rhythms, the same kind of meaning. You can see the influences, but it's in his really unique voice," says Hayes. And in the way McDonagh uses his dark, dreary corner of Ireland as a character in his plays, "He truly is to Connemara, in every regard, what Mamet is to South Chicago."

"He immerses us in the small town mentality of Leenane," says Brazda, returning to Dramaworks following her acclaimed performance in "A Moon for the Misbegotten" three seasons ago. "They're so extremely poor and feel so insignificant that the gossip, the resentments, become so significant. As

McDonagh says, 'You can't kick a cow without somebody holding a grudge for 20 years.' There's humor in that small town mentality."

Brazda was unfamiliar with McDonagh's plays when she landed the role in "Beauty Queen of Leenane," but soon she rented "In Bruges," the hit-man movie he wrote and directed. "And I went, 'Oh, now I get it,' where the humor does come in. He's extremely funny in that 'Oh-no' kind of a way."

While the play is an insightful character study, it is not as cerebral as Dramaworks' usual fare. "It's not a play where you sit and talk a lot about the themes or some hidden meaning or the symbolism," notes Hayes. "And McDonagh would be the first to say that he doesn't like plays that are trying to make a political or social statement. He says, 'I just like to tell stories, to surprise myself. I like to make myself laugh.' This is old-fashioned Irish storytelling, with a twist."

Not lost on Hayes is the fact that "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" will be the final production in its current performance space, before the company moves to larger quarters on Clematis Street in the fall.

"And it's a perfect kind of play to close with, in that it's a claustrophobic situation," he says. "Obviously it works in a bigger space too, but it wouldn't work as well. It packs a bigger punch in a smaller space like this.

"It's a pressure cooker. This is theater that will blow your mind." ■

in the know

>> THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE, Palm Beach Dramaworks, 322 Banyan Blvd., West Palm Beach. Through June 19. Tickets: \$47. Call: 514-4042.

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Thursday, May 12

■ **Story time session at the Loxahatchee River Center** - 9:30 a.m. Thursdays, Burt Reynolds Park, 805 N. U.S. 1, Jupiter. Call 743-7123 or visit www.loxahatcheeriver.org/rivercenter.

■ **North County Democratic Club** - 7 p.m. May 12, Gardens Branch Library, 11301 Campus Drive, Palm Beach Gardens. Keynote speaker: Terri Rizzo, vice chair, Palm Beach County Democratic Party; 624-4898 or georgeconroy16@yahoo.com.

■ **Mos'Art Theatre** - Screenings of "Of Gods & Men," at 1:30 p.m. and "I Am," at 4 p.m. May 12. Tickets: \$8. 700 Park Ave., Lake Park; 337-6763.

■ **Bridges at Lake Park ACCESS Assistance Workshop** - Workshop on receiving food stamps or Medicaid, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. May 12, Lake Park Public Library, 529 Park Ave., downtown Lake Park. Free; 881-3330.

■ **Resource Depot** - Silent auction, food tasting from Downtown restaurants, school art exhibits and entertainment from local schools to benefit local efforts of Resource Depot. It's 6-9 p.m. May 12 at Centre Court and The Pavillion (next to Sur la Table), Downtown at the Gardens, Palm Beach Gardens; call 882-0090.

■ **Basic Driver Improvement Class** - 6-10 p.m. May 12, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. May 19, 6-10 p.m. May 20 and 6-10 p.m. May 26, Safety Council of Palm Beach County, 4152 W. Blue Heron Blvd, Riviera Beach; 845-8233.

Friday, May 13

■ **Abacoa Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series** - Noon-3 p.m. Fridays, Abacoa Amphitheater and Village Green, Main Street and University Boulevard, Jupiter. Free. Bring lunch or purchase from vendors. May 15: Steve Jones of Acoustic Remedy. May 20: Brian Bobo. May 27: Rob Arenth. Information: tmuniz@versapm.com or 253-8080.

■ **Mos'Art Theatre** - Screenings of "Queen to Play" and "Lebanon, Pa." Various times, May 13-May 19. Opening night tickets: \$6. General admission: \$8. 700 Park Ave., Lake Park; 337-6763.

■ **"Big Bad Musical"** - 7 p.m. May 13 and 3 and 7 p.m. May 14. The Big Bad Wolf is being slapped with a class-action lawsuit by quirky characters who want to get even: Little Red Riding Hood, her Grandmother, the Three Little Pigs and the Shepherd in charge of the Boy Who Cried Wolf. With Sydney Grimm as the commentator on live Court TV, the two greatest legal minds in the Enchanted Forest — the Evil Stepmother and the Fairy Godmother — clash in a trial. Mr. Wolf makes a good case for himself. Was he born a criminal, or made one? Mos'Art Theatre, 700 Park Ave., Lake Park. Tickets: \$15/\$12; 337-6763.

■ **Karen Oberlin** - May 13-14 and 20-21, The Colony's Royal Room, 155 Hammon Ave., Palm Beach. Tickets: \$100, dinner and show; \$65, show only; 659-8100.

Saturday, May 14

■ **Glee Club** - 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays, Mos'Art Theatre, 700 Park Ave., Lake Park; 707-5677.

■ **Yoga in the Outfield** - 10 a.m. April 30, Roger Dean Stadium, Abacoa, Jupiter. Yoga class is suitable for all levels.

Bring yoga mat and water. Free; email Lindsey@abacoa.com or call 624-7788.

■ **Downtown in Bloom** - 11 a.m.-7 p.m. May 14-15, at Downtown at the Gardens, 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Ave., Palm Beach Gardens. Free; www.downtownatthegardens.com or 340-1600.

■ **Lake Park Baptist Family Fun Day and Auction** - Dinner, bounce houses, inflatable obstacle course, sports, DJ and kids games, 4-8 pm. May 14, 625 Park Ave., Lake Park. Dinner is \$15 adults, \$5 children; activities cost \$5; 844-2747.

■ **Kids Story Time** - 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center, 14200 U.S. 1, Juno Beach. Free; marinelife.org.

■ **The 2nd Annual Friends of Jupiter Beach Food & Wine Festival** - In honor of Jack Melleby. The festival, presented by PNC Bank, will be 3-6 p.m. May 14 underneath the east span of the Indiantown Road Bridge, Jupiter. Dozens of restaurants and beverage sponsors will offer tastings. Tickets: \$30 per person in advance (by 5 p.m. May 13), \$35 at the door, \$10 for children 12 and under. Available at friendsofjupiterbeach.com or by mail: Send ticket request and check to: Friends of Jupiter Beach, P.O. Box 791, Jupiter, FL 33468. Tickets will be available at the will call table at the event and will not be mailed.

■ **"Celebrating Yourself"** - Art on Park Studios and Gallery hosts its first juried student art show. Opening reception 6-8 p.m. May 14. Show continues through June 2. Gallery is at 800 Park Ave., Lake Park; 355-0300.

■ **Holy Smoke's American Bistro & Bar** - Performances by Phill Fest & Friends, 4-7 p.m. Saturdays and The Adriana Samargia Jazz Combo, 4-7 p.m. Sundays. Kitchen open until midnight, bar open until 3 a.m. daily. 2650 PGA Blvd., PGA Plaza, Palm Beach Gardens; 624-7427.

■ **Dog Days of Summer** - Match-up between the Tampa Yankees and the Jupiter Hammerheads, 6:35 p.m. May 14 at Roger Dean Stadium, Abacoa, Jupiter. Fans can bring their dogs into the stadium and watch the game from a section for owners and pets. There also will be in-game dog-related entertainment and many local pet businesses in attendance. A Pooch Pass is \$5, with all proceeds benefiting local dog-related not-for-profits such as Friends of Jupiter Beach and the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast. Pass will allow dogs admittance to all Dog Days of Summer games throughout the season. Individual tickets for pet-owners are \$8.50 for adults and \$6.50 for children; 775-1818.

■ **Celebrate Saturdays at Downtown** - Performances 6-10 p.m. May 14: Billy Bones. May 21: Derek Mack Band. Downtown at the Gardens' Centre Court, 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Drive, Palm Beach Gardens; 340-1600.

■ **"Coppelia & Gems"** - Presented by Atlantic Dance Theater at 8 p.m. May 14 and 2 p.m. May 15, Eissey Campus Theatre, Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors. Tickets available at 575-4942 or www.TheAtlanticTheater.com.

■ **"Broadway Bound!"** - Concert by the Indian River Pops, 7:30 p.m. May 14 at The Lyric Theatre, 59 SW Flagler Ave, in Stuart. Tickets: \$25; (772) 286-7827.

Sunday, May 15

■ **Auditions for the "Pied Piper of Hamelin"** - 7 p.m. May 15 and

May 22 at 7pm in the North Palm Beach Community Center, 1200 Prosperity Farms Road, North Palm Beach. All children from 5 to 18 are welcome.

Tuesday, May 17

■ **Tuesdays at Tots** - 11:30-1 p.m. Tuesdays. May 17: Fido and Friends. May 24: Estate Planning for Your Family. May 31: Pregnancy and Exercise. At Palm Beach Tots, Suite 3107, Downtown at the Gardens. Call 366-7449 to RSVP.

Wednesday, May 18

■ **"Break Up Support Group"** - 10 a.m. Wednesdays, various locations in Palm Beach Gardens. Sponsored by The Counseling Group, which provides free Christian counseling, classes and support groups; 624-4358.

■ **Hatchling Tales** - 10:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center, 14200 U.S. 1, Juno Beach. Free; marinelife.org.

■ **Tai Chi for Arthritis** - 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Burns Road Recreation Center, 4404 Burns Road, Palm Beach Gardens. Class focuses on muscular strength, flexibility and fitness. Drop-in fee: \$9; resident discount fee: \$8. 10-class pass fee: \$80; resident discount fee: \$70. 630-1100; www.pbgfl.com.

■ **Style Swap** - A high-end style swap where women can mix, mingle and exchange gently used clothing and accessories. The process will benefit Dress for Success, the non-profit that provides interview suits and career development for women in more than 75 cities worldwide. Bring a donation. It's 6-8 p.m. May 18 at Centre Court and The Pavilion (next to Sur la Table), Downtown at the Gardens, Palm Beach Gardens. (202) 359-0669.

■ **American Bocce League and Free Play** - 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays, through May 25, Downtown Park (just south of the Cheesecake Factory), Downtown at the Gardens' Centre Court, 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Drive, Palm Beach Gardens; 340-1600.

Ongoing events

■ **"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.

■ **"Haitians of Florida: The Hope & the Future"** - through May 31, Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum, 300 N. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach; 832-4164.

■ **Flagler Museum** - Museum is housed in Henry Flagler's 1902 beaux-arts mansion, Whitehall. The museum is at 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. Tickets: free for members; \$18 adults, \$10 youth (13-18 years) accompanied by adult; \$3 child (6-12 years) accompanied by adult; and free for children under 6. 655-2833.

■ **"The Color Purple"** - Through May 15, the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: \$25 and up; 832-7469.

■ **"The Beauty Queen of Leenane"** - Through June 19, Palm Beach Dramaworks, 322 Banyan Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: \$47; 514-4042, Ext. 1.

■ **"Reconciliation"** - Sculpture exhibition by Jo Anna Zelano, Through

May 31, Eissey Campus Theatre Lobby Gallery, Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens. Gallery is open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and at all performances. Free; 207-5905.

■ **"The Cha-Cha of the Carmel Spider"** - World premiere of Carter W. Lewis' play in which a young woman finds herself caught up in a frightening and darkly comic journey with two rogue mercenary soldiers and a vaguely magical Afghani cab driver who has a penchant for Led Zeppelin. Through June 5, Florida Stage, Kravis Center's Rinker Playhouse, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: \$40-\$50; 585-3433.

■ **Children's Research Station** - Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center program is designed to exercise children's science skills through an experimental lab. Each child receives a lab coat, veterinary instruments, a worksheet, and their own sea turtle replica to name and study. Kids take their sea turtle's straight and curved measurements with a measuring tape and calipers. Based on the measurements, Dr. Logger helps the group place their turtles into a size classification to determine age and species. They role play taking blood with a syringe and learn about the different things a blood sample can reveal. The children look at X-rays, locate a hook in the turtle's throat and learn more about the steps necessary during sea turtle rehabilitation. Then, the group tags their turtles with a unique number and mimics a successful sea turtle release into the ocean. To be held at 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, and at 11 a.m. 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Saturdays. Admission is free; 14200 U.S. 1, Juno Beach; 627-8280.

■ **Lighthouse ArtCenter** - "41st Annual Kindergarten-12 Community Schools Exhibit," through May 26. Museum is at Gallery Square North, 373 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Cost: Members free, \$10 non-members ages 12 and up. Free admission Saturdays; 746-3101 or www.lighthousearts.org.

■ **Norton Museum of Art** - "From A to Z: 26 Great Photographs from the Norton Collection," through June 19; "Eternal China: Tales from the Crypt," through July 17. "Altered States," through July 17. Museum is at 1451 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach. Admission: \$12 adults, \$5 visitors 13-21; free for members and children under 13. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. second Thursday of the month. Closed Mondays and major holidays; 832-5196.

■ **Society of the Four Arts** - Museum, library and gardens are at 2 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Admission: Free to members and children 14 and under, \$5 general public; 655-7226.

May events

■ **Blue Friends Social** - 5:30-7:30 May 19, Jupiter Beach Resort, 5 N. A1A, Jupiter. Free for Blue Friends, \$25 for guests; 627-8280.

■ **The Art of Wine** - An evening of wine tasting and art appreciation presented by the shops of Downtown, WILD 95.5FM and Whole Foods Market, 6-8 p.m. May 19, The Boulevard at Downtown at the Gardens, Palm Beach Gardens; 340-1600.

■ **Pirate Party** - Join Downtown, Cobb 16, Whole Foods and WILD 95.5FM host a party to mark the release of "Pirates of the Caribbean 4: On Stranger Tides." The night will benefit Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. It's 6 p.m. May 20, Downtown at the Gardens, Centre Court, Palm Beach Gardens; 340-1600.

Take wing

Parrots can be perfect ... or a problem

BY DR. LAURIE HESS
Special to Florida Weekly

It happens in malls across America every weekend. Somewhere between Build-a-Bear and the food court, an 8-year-old races up to the pet store window, presses his face against the glass, points to the large parrot perched inside and shouts, "Mommy, Daddy, can we get him, PLEASE?"

The parents see the colorful bird dancing on the other side of the glass and their child's longing expression, and all reason leaves them. Before they know it, they are swiping their credit card and trying to cram their SUV with a big metal cage, bags of food, and a large, feathered family member who is now squawking loudly in the back seat.

Parrots — from parakeets to macaws — can make wonderful companions, but many are purchased impulsively. Parrots are highly intelligent creatures that require a great deal

of attention and care. They can thrive in the right homes, but they are often bought by people who have little knowledge of what they require. As a result, many birds end up being relinquished to shelters or re-homed. Or worse, they remain in homes where they are ignored, becoming unhappy and self-destructive.

Before you purchase a parrot, ask yourself four questions:

■ **Do I live in a home conducive to owning a parrot?**

This really means: Can you and your family tolerate noise? Parrots naturally chatter and squawk early in the morning and at dusk, around feeding time. Also, large bird-cages take up a great deal of space. Small-apartment dwellers or light sleepers might not be able to tolerate these restrictions. Additionally, little children and large birds often don't mix.

■ **Do I have time to care for a parrot?**

In the wild, parrots live in flocks of hundreds or thousands. They are social animals that need constant contact and interaction with their flockmates (in your home, this means you) to prosper. When they are ignored or left alone for long periods, they may scream and pick at their feathers or skin. Also, they need water and food (including fresh produce) twice a day, plus weekly cleaning and daily spot cleaning of their cages. This adds up to several hours a week in playtime, feeding and cleanup.

■ **Do I have a lifestyle suited to owning a parrot?**

Parrots are homebodies and generally don't like change. When they are moved into new environments, they sometimes stop eating and can take days to adjust. Plus, we already noted how attached they become to their flockmates. As a result, they sometimes don't acclimate easily to unfamiliar surroundings, such as boarding kennels. If you travel a lot or if you're gone from morning until midnight, a fish or two might be better pets.

■ **Do I have the finances to care for a parrot?**

While many people will shell out hundreds of dollars to purchase a parrot, few consider what happens next. Parrots require fresh food daily, which will add to your grocery bill, and some will chew up expensive toys in under a minute. And what happens when your parrot becomes ill? Few people take their birds for regular veterinary checkups, and even fewer take out parrot pet insurance policies. So when the birds get sick, a person may be hit with an unexpected vet bill. If purchasing a parrot will max out your budget, you may want to wait and save up.

That all said, if you can answer these questions with an honest "yes," then a parrot can be an entertaining and loving lifelong companion. ■

Pets of the Week



>>Lila is a 3-year-old spayed female pit bull mix. She weighs about 40 pounds. She is active, gentle and prefers the company of women. She came to the shelter with a litter of puppies, all of which have found homes. She would benefit from the free training classes at Peggy Adams.



>>Tucker is a 1-year-old neutered male cat. He is adventuresome and likes being with people.

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 hspb.org. For adoption information, call 686-6656.

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11th Anniversary SEASON

www.palmbeachdramaworks.org

Florida Classical Ballet performs "To Russia With Love"

As a finale to its 10th season, Florida Classical Ballet Theatre will perform "To Russia With Love" on May 27 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at The Eissey Campus Theatre, 11051 Campus Drive, Palm Beach Gardens.

The program will include a compilation of pieces including the main ballet, For Such A Time As This; The Story of Queen Esther.

This ballet is based on the biblical book of Esther. The book of Esther tells the story of a courageous woman who became a queen and risked everything to save her people. The music for the ballet is a compilation of pieces by Edvard Grieg. The ballet will be narrated by Cantor Bruce Benson.

During the summer of 2009, the ballet,

which was conceived and choreographed by artistic director Colleen Smith, was performed by the troupe for the people of Budapest, Hungary.

This summer, the company has been invited to Russia to perform in churches, park concerts, orphanages and a hospital. Touring will be three resident artists from the company, along with apprentice and trainee dancers ranging in age from 15 to 18, who will be given this chance to dance overseas.

Tickets are \$ 22 to \$32. For tickets call the box office at 207-5900.

Florida Classical Ballet Theatre is committed to preserving the art of classical ballet, enriching the community with the beauty of ballet and impacting young lives through the discipline of dance. ■

PUZZLE ANSWERS



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



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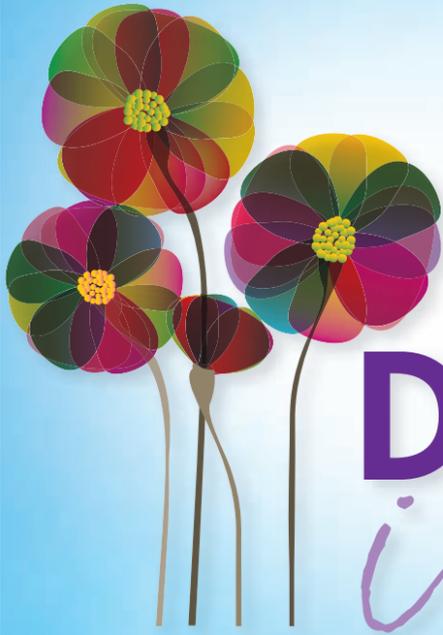
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★ ★ ★ ½

Is it worth \$14 (3D)? Yes

"Thor" singlehandedly takes the inherent cheesiness of both mythology and comic books and transforms it into a vast, energetic movie that's accessible and enjoyable for all. The folks at Marvel Comics needed this to be good in order to keep the "Avengers" train rolling toward next summer, and lucky for them it's not just good — it's darn near great.

Thor (Chris Hemsworth) is a Norse God who, as we learn in the lengthy opening sequence, is cast out of his home planet of Asgard by his father, Odin (Anthony Hopkins). Leaving his brother Loki (Tom Hiddleston) behind to deal with an impending threat from the enemy Frost Giants, Thor finds himself in a remote area of New Mexico as a mere mortal amongst the people.

Hey, there are worse places he could end up.

While there, he befriends aspiring astrophysicist Jane Foster (Natalie Portman), who hits him twice with her car; her mentor, Erik Selvig (Stellan Skarsgard); and Jane's comic-relief supplying friend Darcy (Kat Dennings). Thor also encounters S.H.I.E.L.D. emissary Agent Coulson (Clark Gregg), who's determined to figure out whether Thor is friend or foe.

The acting is often forgettable in comic book movies, but the heretofore unknown Mr. Hemsworth makes Thor a lovable hunk who makes us laugh, kicks some serious ass and is easy on the eyes. The role could have been played a number of ways, but credit to Mr. Hemsworth for hitting the right notes every time.

Because we like Thor so much, we freely give ourselves to the story, which is always dramatic and exciting.

The script by Ashley Miller, Zack Stentz and Don Payne makes some sly references to Marvel heroes "Iron Man" and "The Incredible Hulk," but it dutifully stays away from being a long prequel to "Captain America: The First Avenger" (out July 22) and "The Avengers" (May 2012). Instead, "Thor" is a



compelling tale about a meathead who learns to think and feel in a way that's never sentimental or melodramatic.

Even better, the production design and visual effects offer a spectacular array of colors and dazzle, particularly Odin's realm in Asgard and the bridge that connects Asgard to the wormhole to earth.

Director Kenneth Branagh also features more creative uses of a hammer than one could ever imagine, and the plain western outskirts of New Mexico provide a nice contrast to the rich textures of Asgard.

Ordinarily 3D is a useless accessory, but here it allows viewers to be even more immersed in the story, and because everything is so gorgeously rendered, it's a real thrill. If "Thor" comes to your area in 3D, it's worth the few extra bucks.

Since Marvel began producing its own films with "Iron Man" in 2008, "Thor" is the best film the studio has made. And yes, that is saying a lot. Captain America, don't screw it up. ■

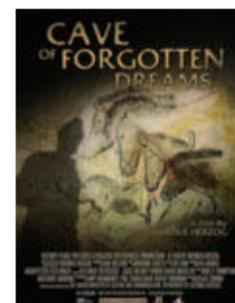
— Dan Hudak is the chairman of the Florida Film Critics Circle and a nationally syndicated film critic. You can e-mail him at dan@hudakonhollywood.com and read more of his work at www.hudakonhollywood.com.

in the know

>> Aside from "The Avengers" next summer and "Iron Man 3" in May 2013, Marvel is also considering movies about Doctor Strange and Ant-Man.

CAPSULES

Cave Of Forgotten Dreams ★★



(Narrated by director Werner Herzog) Renowned filmmaker Werner Herzog explores the Chauvet caves in France, which are believed to be the oldest existing pictorial creations known to mankind. It's interesting for the first 30 minutes, but after that you start wondering why

you're not watching this at home on Nat Geo rather than in the theater. In other words, it's nothing to run off to. Not Rated: Nothing Objectionable. ■

REVIEWED BY DAN HUDAK

www.hudakonhollywood.com

Something Borrowed ★★

(Kate Hudson, Ginnifer Goodwin, Colin Egglesfield) Rachel (Ms. Goodwin) and Darcy (Ms. Hudson) have been best friends their entire lives, but when self-centered Darcy is about to marry Rachel's law school buddy/love interest Dex (Mr. Egglesfield), chaos ensues. It's not funny, romantic or fun, and the story takes the easy way out rather than treat the adults with honesty. Rated PG-13.

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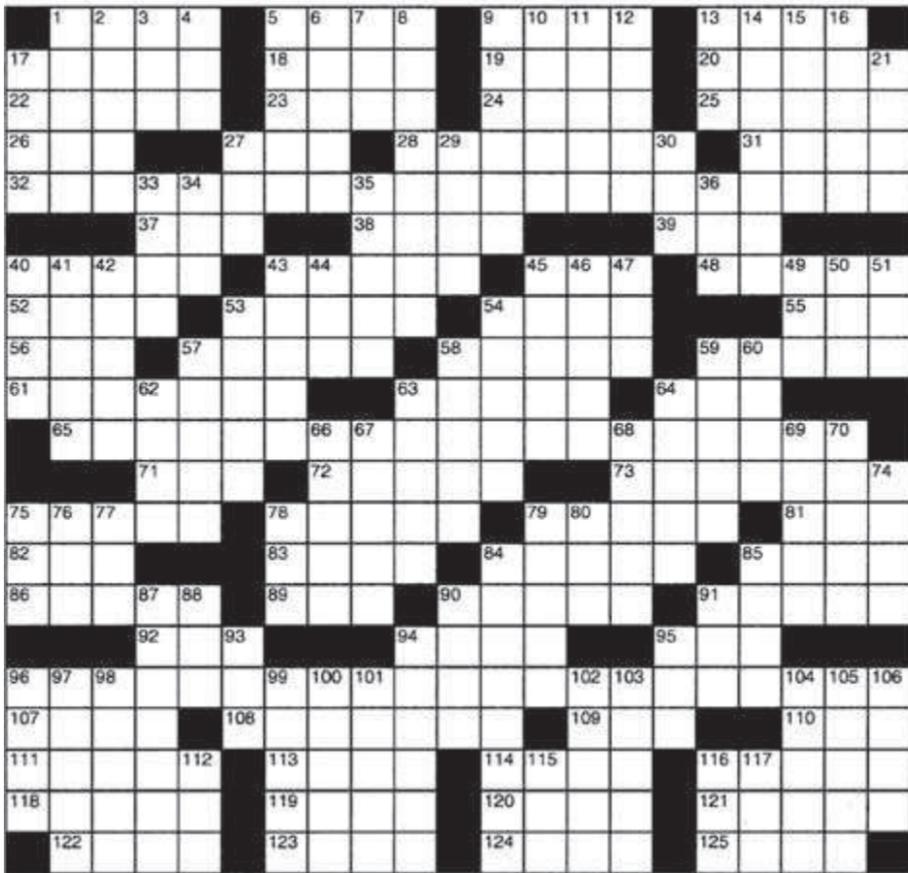
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FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES

LIFE LINE



- ACROSS**
- 1 Interrogate
 - 5 Took a dip
 - 9 Engineering course
 - 13 Theater collection
 - 17 Government group
 - 18 The Fates, e.g.
 - 19 Akbar's city
 - 20 Madonna role
 - 22 Moral man?
 - 23 Pianist
 - 24 Unwelcome visit?
 - 25 Plot
 - 26 Narcs' org.
 - 27 Roberts or Robertson
 - 28 Took in
 - 31 Dress size
 - 32 Start of a remark by Marguerite Whiteley May
 - 37 Malaria medic
 - 38 Eaves dropper?
 - 39 "— whiz!"
 - 40 Assumption
 - 43 "Tosca" tenor
 - 45 "Veronica's Closet" item
 - 48 Haggard
 - 52 Surrounded by
 - 53 Cook's cry
 - 54 Wilbur
- Post's confidant**
- 55 Curly poker?
 - 56 Crony
 - 57 Eisenhower, for one
 - 58 African capital
 - 59 Mansfield or Meadows
 - 61 Author France
 - 63 It comes from the heart
 - 64 Weep
 - 65 Middle of remark
 - 71 "Make — double!"
 - 72 Crack up
 - 73 "Evil Ways" group
 - 75 — salad
 - 78 Pennsylvania sect
 - 79 Rock's Tears for —
 - 81 Squash shot
 - 82 Garage supply
 - 83 — in (yield)
 - 84 Beetle
 - 85 1,760 yards
 - 86 Put on hold
 - 89 Vane letters
 - 90 Composer Gabriel
 - 91 '78 Peace Nobelist
- DOWN**
- 1 Chess piece
 - 2 Retract
 - 3 Skater
 - 4 Use a phaser
 - 5 Scarecrow
 - 6 Ire
 - 7 Pitch in
 - 8 Peak
 - 9 Kind of swallow
 - 10 Once more
 - 11 Treat alternative
 - 12 Hot spot?
 - 13 Mo
 - 14 First name in boxing
 - 15 Shinbone
 - 16 Berle
 - 17 Pinkett of "The Nutty Professor"
 - 21 Nautical adverb
 - 27 Favorite
 - 29 Kentucky neighbor
 - 30 Westminster winner
 - 33 Roman poet
 - 34 Aerialist's fallback
 - 35 Senator Hatch
 - 36 Spear-headed
 - 40 Mama's boy?
 - 41 Muscat native
 - 42 Mamer or Lapham
 - 43 Diverse
 - 44 Khan
 - 45 Actress Ekland
 - 46 Broadcast in July
 - 47 Bustle
 - 49 One of the Marches
 - 50 Finished first
 - 51 Bom
 - 53 Perry's secretary
 - 54 Swamp
 - 57 Reggae's — and the Maytals
 - 58 Cold sound
 - 59 Pop Art pioneer
 - 60 Blind as —
 - 62 Relief initials?
 - 63 Tickle
 - 64 Gawk
 - 66 Violinist Mischa
 - 67 Inexperienced
 - 68 Inedible fruit
 - 69 Sound
 - 70 "— Gay"
 - 74 Facilitate a felony
 - 75 Fare for a fry
 - 76 Hurry
 - 77 Sprite
 - 78 Mr. Lucky's card
 - 79 Gounod opera
 - 80 Drop a brick
 - 84 Juvenal or Swift
 - 85 Certain
 - 87 Stretchy
 - 88 Gun the engine
 - 90 Mirror image?
 - 91 Crafty
 - 93 Contemporary
 - 94 Hold out
 - 95 Word with good or bad
 - 96 Clears one's throat
 - 97 Forster's "— With a View"
 - 98 Singer Summer
 - 99 Parts
 - 100 "— Got a Friend" ('71 hit)
 - 101 Cosmetician Lauder
 - 102 Everything considered
 - 103 Bare
 - 104 Kapitan's command
 - 105 Armistice
 - 106 Table d'—
 - 112 Flap one's gums
 - 115 — Tome
 - 116 Prone
 - 117 Arthur or Benaderet

◀ SEE ANSWERS, A28

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HOROSCOPES

■ **TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** With summer just around the corner, travel begins to dominate your sign. Make plans carefully to avoid potential problems in the first half of June.

■ **GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** A romantic Libra sets a challenge that your "sensible" side might question, but your idealistic self finds the prospect too intriguing to resist. The choice is yours.

■ **CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Those tense times in your personal life are just about over. Concentrate on reaffirming relationships. Your love of travel opens a surprising new opportunity.

■ **LEO (July 23 to August 22)** The Big Cat usually loves to be in the center of things. But this week it might be wiser to watch and learn from the sidelines. A Pisces wants to make you purr.

■ **VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** "New" is your watchword this week. Be open to new ideas, both on the job and in your personal life. A romantic Aries or Sagittarian beckons.

■ **LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** Some difficult family decisions have to be faced, but be sure to get more facts before you act. Be careful not to neglect your health during this trying time.

■ **SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** You still need to support a loved one through a dif-

ficult time. Meanwhile, things continue to work out to your benefit in the workplace.

■ **SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** Aspects continue to favor expanding social opportunities. A Gemini reaches out to offer a chance for re-establishing a once-close relationship.

■ **CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** There's a potential for misunderstanding in both your job and your personal life. A full explanation of your intentions helps smooth things over.

■ **AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** You might be feeling restless on the job, but delay making any major moves until all the facts are in. A Scorpio has a surprising revelation.

■ **PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** Your business sense works to your advantage as you sort through the possibilities that are opening up. A Libra is Cupid's best bet for your romantic prospects.

■ **ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** Home conditions still demand attention. Also, keep an open mind about a sudden question of trust involving a close friend. All the facts are not yet in.

■ **BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a gift for being open-minded about people. This helps you make friends easily. You do very well in public service.

By Linda Thistle

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

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, A28

FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

Unveiling Audi A4 at Braman Audi



COURTESY PHOTOS



1. John Mazzio, top left
2. Ron Bacak, top right
3. The crowd at the unveiling
4. Ron Bacak, above

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

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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

Palm Beach State College Foundation Golf Classic



1. A helicopter from Palm Beach Helicopters releases numbered golf balls onto the 18th green as part of the "Copter Drop" contest. The winner received a Dell laptop computer.
2. Andre Wade lines up a shot as he competes against a foursome in the "Beat the Junior Golfer" contest at the Palm Beach State College Foundation Golf Classic.
3. First place winners from the Palm Beach State Foundation Golf Classic, Pepsi Beverage Co. team, from left: Angel Moguzzi, Tim McDulin and Charlie Gantz.
4. Tim McDulin, of the Pepsi Beverage Co. winning four-some of the Golf Classic, taps in a putt.
5. Mike McDonald blasts out of a sand trap during play at the Palm Beach State Foundation Golf Classic.
6. Palm Beach State College President Dennis Gallon prepares to tee off at the 8th hole.
7. Julie Reiman, Amy McDonald and Steve Michels watch Mike McDonald tee off on the back nine at the Palm Beach State College Foundation Golf Classic.
8. Betsy Unger, a Palm Beach State College sophomore, talks about how events like the Foundation's Golf Classic have benefited her directly with scholarship money to attend college.

COURTESY PHOTOS

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FLORIDA WEEKLY CUISINE

Pizza, pasta and personality keep Pronti's going strong

scottSIMMONS
 ssimmons@floridaweekly.com



Consistency is what makes a great restaurant.

And consistency is what has made Pronti's Italian Kitchen a favorite of northern Palm Beach County for nearly 40 years.

Pizzas. Pasta dishes. Salads. All are created with a deft touch amid comforting surroundings.

Inside, the restaurant is a tribute to New York's Little Italy.

A sign reads "Mulberry Street."

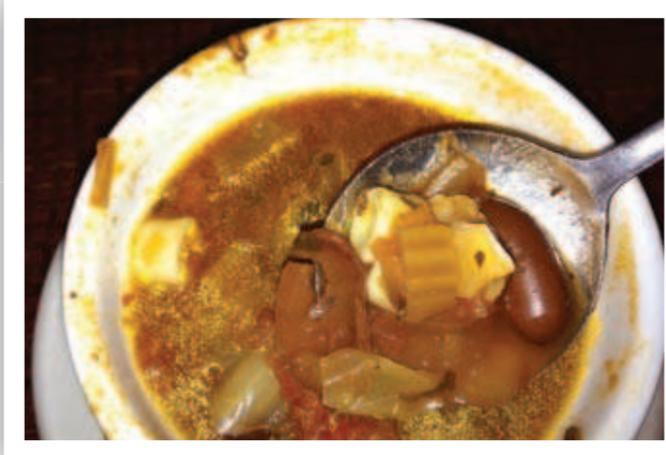
Photographs of Italian and Italian-American celebrities — Luciano Pavarotti and Frank Sinatra — line the brick walls. A diorama of Ebbets Field covers another wall. And there are pictures of the former owner, Bob Pronti, with sports personalities of the past.

In fact, Mr. Pronti still stops in for eggplant and meatballs whenever he is in town, says the current owner, Doug Wojciechowski, who was chef at Pronti's for 14 years before taking over the restaurant 14 years ago.

It's what some of the new-fangled places around the area are attempting to create. But this is the real thing, with layers of personality built over the decades.

The food also is a step back in time. It's comforting and filling, yet it keeps you wanting more.

Take the bread, for example. The loaves of white bread are tender on the inside



Pronti's minestrone has a rich broth.

with a crispy crust. They're hot with a plate of olive oil mixed with herbs and cheese, perfect for sopping with bits of bread.

And that bread is perfect with a salad (\$3.50).

At first glance, it's nothing special — just a bowl of Iceberg, with wedges of tomatoes, crinkle-cut carrot slices, sliced onion and some black olives. Then you realize the bowl has been chilled, and the salad is absolutely crisp and fresh.

Try it with the Thousand Island dressing. It's house-made and worth the calories in all its creamy glory. Or upgrade to a salad with Gorgonzola (\$4.50) for a retro treat.

Many of the entrees offer diners a choice of soup or salad. And it's a tough choice.

The minestrone is packed with beans, pasta and bits of carrot. The beef-infused broth is hearty and loaded with tomato.

Then it's on to the main course.

"Mmmm. Smell the wine," our server said as she delivered a bowl of the Chicken, Asparagus, Red Pepper and Sundried Tomato (\$18.95). The tender chunks of chicken were simmered in a fragrant Madeira wine sauce with pencil asparagus, bits of red pepper and sundried tomato. The menu suggested linguine, but we requested ours with penne so the pasta could soak up all that sweet goodness of Madeira. It was a dish that was even better the next day — there was so much we couldn't eat it all in one sitting.

Pronti's Chicken, Asparagus, Red Pepper and Sundried Tomato



Pronti's Italian Kitchen has been in Lake Park for 39 years.

Sometimes, simple is best.

The Broccoli Rigatoni (\$12.95) It is a plate of broccoli florets steamed until tender then tossed in a garlic butter sauce over the pasta is another favorite — my companion has ordered it each time she has come here over the course of a decade and has never been disappointed.

The pizzas are a testimony to the art of the pie.

Pronti's offers a variety of crusts, from thin to thick Sicilian.

But our favorite for years has been the New York Crunchy.

It's a thinner crust, but not the thinnest, with a crisp outer edge. The 12-inch pies start at \$11, and have plenty of Pronti's sauce and mozzarella.

The restaurant offers plenty of toppings, too, as well as specialty pies. The 10-inch Barbeque Chicken pizza (\$14.75), with slices of chicken, tangy barbecue sauce, red onion and provolone, also makes a great appetizer to share or a meal for one.

During lunch visits, we've enjoyed the manicotti (\$8.95), loaded with ricotta and served with marinara sauce. It comes with choice of soup or salad. The smaller portion size on this is good, too. Pronti's also frequently will make menu items in a smaller portion on request.

The sandwich menu is extensive, too. Look for such classics as veal, eggplant and chicken Parmagiana and meatball subs.

An Italian Wedge (\$9.50) was a good choice for takeout.

The layers of ham, Genoa salami, provolone, lettuce, onions and tomatoes were on wedges from a round loaf of bread, and reminded us of a New Orleans-style mufaletta, only without the olive salad. Ours was made without onions and had dressing on the side, as requested.

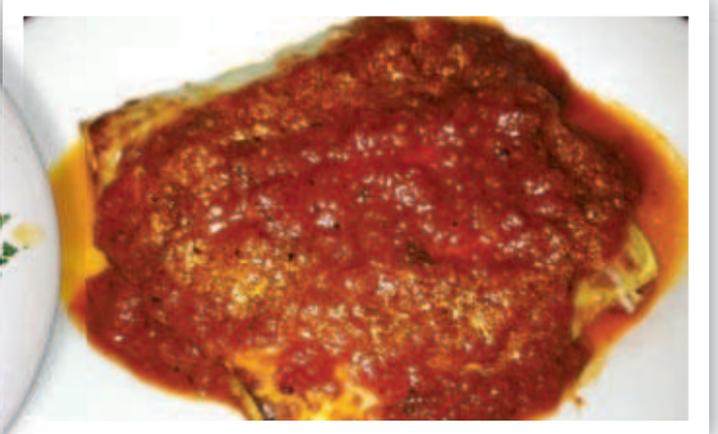
Service each visit has been warm — servers greet regular customers by name — and efficient. Our waitresses each visit made excellent menu suggestions, and kept glasses filled.

But most important, they made us feel welcome.

And it's that warmth, along with consistency and quality, that will keep us coming back. ■



Broccoli Rigatoni



Pronti's lunch portion of manicotti

in the know

Pronti's Italian Kitchen

1440 10th St. (just south of Northlake Boulevard), Lake Park
 842-3457

Ratings:
Food: ★★★★★
Service: ★★★★★
Atmosphere: ★★★★★

- >> **Hours:** 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday, 3:30-11 p.m. Saturday, 3:30 p.m.-10 p.m. Sunday
- >> **Reservations:** Yes, for larger parties
- >> **Credit cards:** Major cards accepted
- >> **Price range:** Moderate. Pizzas, \$11 and up; submarines, \$8.50-\$10.95; chicken, pork, veal, steak, \$13.95-\$29.95; pastas, \$18.95-\$19.95
- >> **Beverages:** Full liquor bar available, plus wine and soft drinks
- >> **Seating:** Booths and tables
- >> **Specialties of the house:** Pizzas, pasta
- >> **Volume:** A healthy din on busy nights
- >> **Parking:** Free lot
- >> **Website:** www.prontisitaliankitchen.com

★★★★★ Superb
 ★★★★★ Noteworthy
 ★★★ Good
 ★★ Fair
 ★ Poor

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Martinique WT 201 2BR/3.5BA. Unique, completely renovated residence with spacious private balcony. Over 2,000 SF of living space. Crown molding, hardwood floors and neutral paint. Truly stunning and a must see!
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