

# It's a dogfight

*Prescriptions for "emotional support animals" at heart of court cases against condos in South Florida; pet owners are winning*



BY ATHENA PONUSHIS

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**K**AY VALENTE CANNOT SEE HER EPILEPSY. But she can see her hound dog — Boots — an animal that helps her through her seizures. Her Boca Raton homeowners association did not see the therapy, they saw 47 pounds, enough to make the board look more the animal than the dog their rules forbid.

Mrs. Valente bought a coach in West Lakes — do not say trailer here — a senior community, age 55 and over, golf courses and houses of worship nearby.

Rules say no pets over 30 pounds, but Mrs. Valente had a prescription from her neurologist and pictures of Boots, white paws crossed in her signature pose, "her majesty."

The West Lakes board said no, no more than 30 pounds, no exception for an "emotional support" animal, setting the stage for another act in the present pet-demic sweeping Palm Beach County and the rest of South Florida — battles between housing boards that don't see disability and pet owners who see discrimination.

The Palm Beach County Office of Equal Opportunity says complaints are piling in: more than half of its disability caseload involves emotional support animals, pet

SEE DOGFIGHT, A10 ►

ATHENA PONUSHIS/ FLORIDA WEEKLY

**Kay Valente has a prescription for Boots but had to fight her condo association to keep her.**

## INSIDE



### "Out in America"

West Palm couple is featured in PBS documentary. **A23** ►



### Golf lesson

Maria Marino gives tips for finding the right teacher. **A8** ►



### Meet Mr. Covelli

Sam Covelli's Panera Bread cafes are all about caring. **A14** ►



### No treasure

Film critic Dan Hudek says "Pirates" is boring. **A30** ►

## A SALUTE TO VETERANS



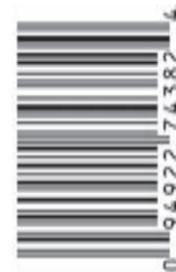
In observance of Memorial Day, *Florida Weekly* honors area veterans. Instead of "Society" and "Networking" photos, see Pages A18, A19, A33 and A34 for pictures of some of our area veterans. Society and Networking photos will return next week. For a list of Memorial Day events, see **PAGE A23**. ■

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TIM NORRIS A2  
 PUZZLES A32  
 PETS A6  
 BUSINESS A14

MARIA MARINO A8  
 REAL ESTATE A16  
 ARTS A23  
 EVENTS A26-27

FILM REVIEW A30  
 HEALTHY LIVING A12  
 CUISINE A35  
 MONEY & INVESTING A15



## COMMENTARY

## For a true adventure, hit the path less taken

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As another getaway summer approaches, do yourself a favor.

Leave the checklist at home.

On vacation in America, we tend to go where we're directed and do what's dictated. Where we're directed, usually, is some (mechanical drum roll) destination, something you could print on a T-shirt or tart up in a quarter-page ad in a magazine.

What's dictated is the checklist. In our goal-driven culture, that's the advertised proviso of must-see and gotta-do. Even adventure arrives by prescription. This is trip-planner-meets-GPS-meets-McDonald's. When we place the order for our trip, we need to be sure what we'll find inside the wrapper. We want the pretty-much-OK flavor, with no kickback. And the marketers of tourism, beleaguered themselves, are happy to sell our own picture-postcard fantasies back to us.

This year, though, here's another idea: explore. Wander into something unplanned and see what you find.

Scary, isn't it? Exhilarating, too.

I've seen the checklist, many times, all over. I didn't care about the packaged tours, the hot-ticket herding, the poster icons and general ignorance. I figured programmed busloads were fine; fewer people to fight in finding the cool stuff.

Most of a year in Yellowstone National Park changed my mind.

Right about now, I'd be getting ready to go back, to take that drive up across South Dakota, through the Black Hills into Wyoming, up over the Big Horn Mountains, through the last snows at Beartooth Pass through the Absarokas and into the park at Cooke City, from there along the Lamar Valley and onto the Grand Loop.

For most motorists and arrivistes, the Grand Loop defines Yellowstone. When it was built, in the 1880s, it brought access for the masses. Its chief architect was Philetus Norris, Yellowstone's second and most celebrated superintendent.

The loop was, and is, an engineering marvel, and it provides convenient motor access to the park's most publicized attractions, gusseted in wood walkways and signage, within easy reach of food and drink and restrooms and souvenirs.

It's also a trap. Stick to it, and you'll find big boxes to check, especially the Big Gotcha, Old Faithful.

I lived about 500 yards away, in a workers' dorm, and every day I could see a thousand people or more flock, at mostly firm but guessed-at intervals, to watch the show. A lot of them left before the geyser had even ebbed. Old Faithful? CHECK!

They missed the geyser itself, in all its daily and seasonal variety, each eruption different in spread and character and play in daylight, and they also missed the boardwalk stretching north and west beyond it, including (to my mind) the greatest geyser in the world, Grand Geyser.

Sure, Riverside Geyser, farther up, is dramatic, jetting into the Firehole River, and Castle Geyser is hooded and fervent. But Grand Geyser is spectacular beyond

grand, and never grandiose. It erupts, suddenly, from a still pool against a backdrop of rock and pine, sometimes more than 200 feet. You just have to wait for it.

We have trouble, now, waiting. We want the easy payoff.

Everglades and Key West's Mallory Square, CHECK. Mammoth Cave, CHECK. Grand Canyon, CHECK. Mount Rushmore, Glacier, Yosemite, CHECK, CHECK, CHECK.

Yellowstone is something else. It sprawls across 3,468 square miles, surrounded by mountains. It is mostly wild, a real wilderness ecosystem vastly beyond the noble efforts in Florida, starting with the Everglades. Those places look more and more temporary, thanks to our routine resource eating and comfort seeking, which is what vacations are meant to get us away from.

Danger? Sure. I would take a run, sometimes, from Old Faithful up to Lone Star Geyser, a sharp and rocky uphill start, a sublime woodsy and marshy middle, a striking finish, sometimes including a lone male bison resting in the shade. Before starting, I would usually stop at the ranger station to ask about bear sightings. Especially in spring and early summer, you do not want to stumble against a mother bear and her cubs, and adult grizzlies can be quirky. They'll trot away on impulse. They'll maul you in a minute. I never did see a bear, but when Lone Star finally went off, as I watched, it corkscrewed almost sideways, a spectacular sunlit gush. The bull bison looked up, sniffed, went back to snoozing.

That's one off-road stop. Another is a path snaking north and east from a park-

ing lot south of Midway Geyser Basin, along the Firehole and into a pine forest. Fairy Falls, a slim ribbon of water, drops 200 feet into a cool grotto. Beyond it, you reconnoiter. No pre-fab walkway. No guardrails. No problem.

Just off a footpath, a mud pot bubbles. From a small pool, every 30 seconds or so, a geyser jets skyward, unseen by all but you. The geyser is labeled Imperial. It's well named. Standing at the edge of each solitary wonder, alone in the vastness, you can feel the smallness of your other life, the promise of something stronger, simpler and more enduring.

The wild has its own agenda. I had sniffed the sulfur in the park so often that I stopped smelling it, but I still felt every shift of pine needles under my feet and smelled the new-ness on each shift in the wind. A couple of earthquake temblors shook me, too. Much of Yellowstone, after all, sits on top of a volcano.

I am drawn most to the Lamar Valley, east of the volcanic rim, which has no checkpoints and is ALL attraction. I wandered into it, once or twice. It surrounded me, like the sea, only with more colors and textures, and with bison and elk and wolves right there on the surface, where I was. They are much better at navigating it.

Checklists come from bean counters and commercial strategists, sizing us up for the profitable kill. Within reason, try an adventure of your own, in a place where you can walk or roll and look around and not be programmed.

Maybe, if we're open to it, that place is everywhere. It's just more of a risk. That's what we used to mean by "adventure." ■

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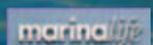
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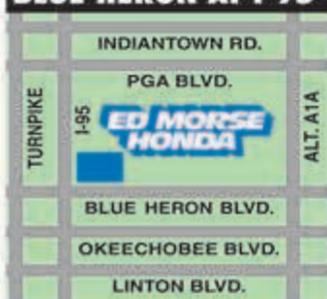
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written consent of Florida Media Group, LLC.**Back in charge: James Billie wins Seminole Tribe chairmanship**

James Billie, the controversial former chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida who pioneered the Indian gaming industry in the United States, has hit the jackpot.

Mr. Billie, who was forced from his position as head of the Florida Seminoles nearly a decade ago, will be sworn in as the new chairman of the tribe on June 6 in Hollywood. The ceremony will mark a serendipitous comeback by Mr. Billie, who reclaimed the chairman's job in a landslide during the tribal election earlier this month.

Mr. Billie, 67, won 58.4 percent of the 1,757 ballots that were cast in the election, according to the Associated Press. In doing so, he defeated two-term Chairman Mitchell Cypress, who was regarded as the favorite in the contest. Mr. Billie will serve a four-year term.

Mr. Billie could not be reached for comment regarding his upset victory.

Four years ago, Mr. Billie sought to regain the post he had lost after tribal leaders forced him from office amid charges of financial misdeeds and a sexual harassment complaint. He denied wrongdoing on all counts and vowed to win back his job. But in the elections of 2007, he was denied a spot on the ballot because of alleged irregularities involving residency requirements.

Mr. Billie's 22-year reign as chief of the Seminoles was marked by flamboyance and controversy. A battle-hardened veteran of the Vietnam War and an alligator wrestler of wide renown, he piloted airplanes and helicopters owned by the tribe and generally conducted himself in a fashion that was guaranteed to attract attention. The signal accomplishment of his tenure was the establishment of Indian gambling facilities, which became models that have been emulated by other tribes across the United States.

Mr. Billie was the driving force behind the tribe's opening of a high-stakes bingo operation in Hollywood in 1979. Not content with a bingo parlor, he and the tribe pursued an aggressive legal campaign designed to make the Seminoles a major player in the gaming industry.

Today, the tribe owns the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino franchise, which it purchased six years ago for nearly \$1 billion, and operates six other casinos around the state (including one in Immokalee).

Although the tribe refuses to disclose financial details of its privately held businesses, it is estimated that it takes in nearly \$2 billion annually from its gaming operations

alone. Proceeds from the gaming empire are used to pay dividends to each of the tribe's 3,200 members who live in Florida.

According to at least one source, each tribal member receives a stipend of \$14,000 a month from the gambling operations, and the top leadership fares far better than that.

When Mr. Billie was pushed from office, his salary was said to be about \$315,000 a year, which made him the highest-paid elected official in the state. Today, the chairman's salary is reported to be more than \$1 million, although the tribe will not confirm that figure.

Although Mr. Billie left under a cloud, his successor, Mitchell Cypress, and the elected tribal council that served under

him were dogged by accusations of financial mismanagement and neglect. Despite the tribe's repeated pronouncements that issues such as health care and treatment for substance abuse were top priorities, life expectancy for the average Seminole in Florida dropped from 59 years to 48 years over a 10-year period beginning in 1999. A newspaper examination of deaths occurring in the first eight months 2008 revealed that the overwhelming majority of deaths involving tribal members could be traced to drug and alcohol abuse.

When he first sought the chairman's post in 1979, Mr. Billie campaigned on a promise to improve health care and living conditions. ■

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# PET TALES

## Pool cautions

Swimming is good for dogs, as long as you're looking out for hazards

BY GINA SPADAFORI  
Special to Florida Weekly

Many dogs enjoy swimming as much as people do, and cool times in the local swimming spot or backyard pool are one of the best parts of warmer weather. But you have to look out for your pet around water, since even the strongest, most enthusiastic swimmers can get into trouble.

The keys to water safety for dogs: prevention, preparedness and awareness.

**Prevention:** No dog should be given unsupervised access to a backyard pool or a neighborhood pond or creek. Swimming pools are best fenced-off for safety. And if that's not possible, they should be equipped with alarms that sound when the surface of the water is broken by a child or pet falling in. Escape tools like the Skamper-Ramp (skamper-ramp.com; 800-842-6543) are a good idea, but it's better to prevent pets from getting in unsupervised in the first place.

Prevention also includes teaching your pet what to do when he's in the pool. Dogs don't get the idea that the steps are on one side only, and they may tire and drown trying to crawl out the side. If your pet likes to swim, work with him in the pool to help him learn where the steps are, so he can get out easily.



Retrievers usually love swimming and take to it naturally, but many other dogs enjoy the water just as much.

Finally, obedience training is extremely important. Your dog should come when called, even when swimming, so you can call him back before he heads into deeper water or stronger currents. Emergency shortcut: Always carry extra retrieving toys. A dog who's heading out into a dangerous area after a ball or stick can often be lured back into shore with a second item thrown closer in. It's no substitute for training, but it could save your dog's life.

**Preparedness:** Before letting your dog swim in any natural surroundings, survey the area for safety. Rivers and oceans can change frequently, and an area that was safe for swimming one visit can be treach-

erous the next. Consider currents, tides, underwater hazards and even the condition of the water. In the late summer, algae scum on the top of standing water can be toxic, producing substances that can kill a pet who swallows the tainted water. When in doubt, no swimming. Better safe than sorry.

One of the best things you can do is to take courses in first-aid and CPR for your pets. Many local Red Cross chapters offer these classes, and some veterinarians may also teach them in your community. A dog who's pulled out near death from drowning may be saved by your prompt actions — if you know what to do.

If your dog isn't much of a swimmer, or is older or debilitated, get him a personal flotation device. These are especially great for family boating trips because most have sturdy handles for rescue when a pet goes overboard.

**Awareness:** Be aware of your dog's condition as he plays. Remember that even swimming dogs can get hot, so bring fresh water and offer it constantly. When your dog is tiring, be sure to call it a day. A tired dog is a good dog, but an exhausted dog is in danger of drowning.

Be particularly careful of young and old dogs. Both can get themselves into more trouble than a healthy adult dog with lots of swimming experience. Young dogs can panic in the water, and old dogs may not realize they aren't as strong as they used to be. Keep them close to shore, and keep swimming sessions short.

Swimming is great exercise and great fun for all, and with these few simple precautions you can keep the cool times coming, with safety in mind. ■

### Pets of the Week



>>Bubba is a 5-year-old neutered male shepherd mix. He is quiet and friendly. He is eligible for the Senior to Senior adoption program; adopters 55 and older do not pay an adoption fee.



>>Franklin is a 1½-year-old neutered male domestic shorthair. He is a bit shy, but friendly. He gets along with other cats, and his best friend is Hunter (#A0175235 on the website). They wrestle and chase each other all day long and would love to find a home where they can stay together if possible.

### 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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- Your toes are buckled
- The balls of your feet hurt when you stand all day
- Your toes are arthritic and painful
- Sharp stabbing pain in your toes
- Shoes that hurt your toes

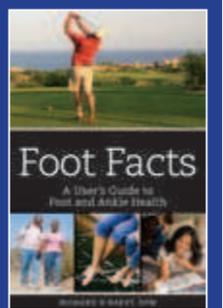
Many people worry that foot pain can lead to serious problems and inconveniences and have questions such as:

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# JCC hires architect for new campus

The Jewish Community Center of the Palm Beaches has named an architect for JCC North.

Tercilla Courtemanche Architects Inc., led by René Tercill and Lance P. Courtemanche, will be project architects for the Palm Beach Gardens campus. The firm was selected from seven teams that submitted proposals to design the 40,000-square-foot facility.

JCC North is expected to receive site approval in the fall, and construction is expected to quickly follow. The campus will be on a 14-acre parcel on Hood Road, just west of Central Boulevard. The \$15 million campaign to build the community center has raised more than \$10 million.

Initial plans are for an environmentally sensitive facility that will be the new home of the JCC's preschool, summer day camp and adult education program. JCC North also will house a gymnasium, a pool and aquatics center, sports fields and an auditorium. There will be expanded space for lectures, group fitness, recreation and education programs, as well as for children's programming, including those with special needs.

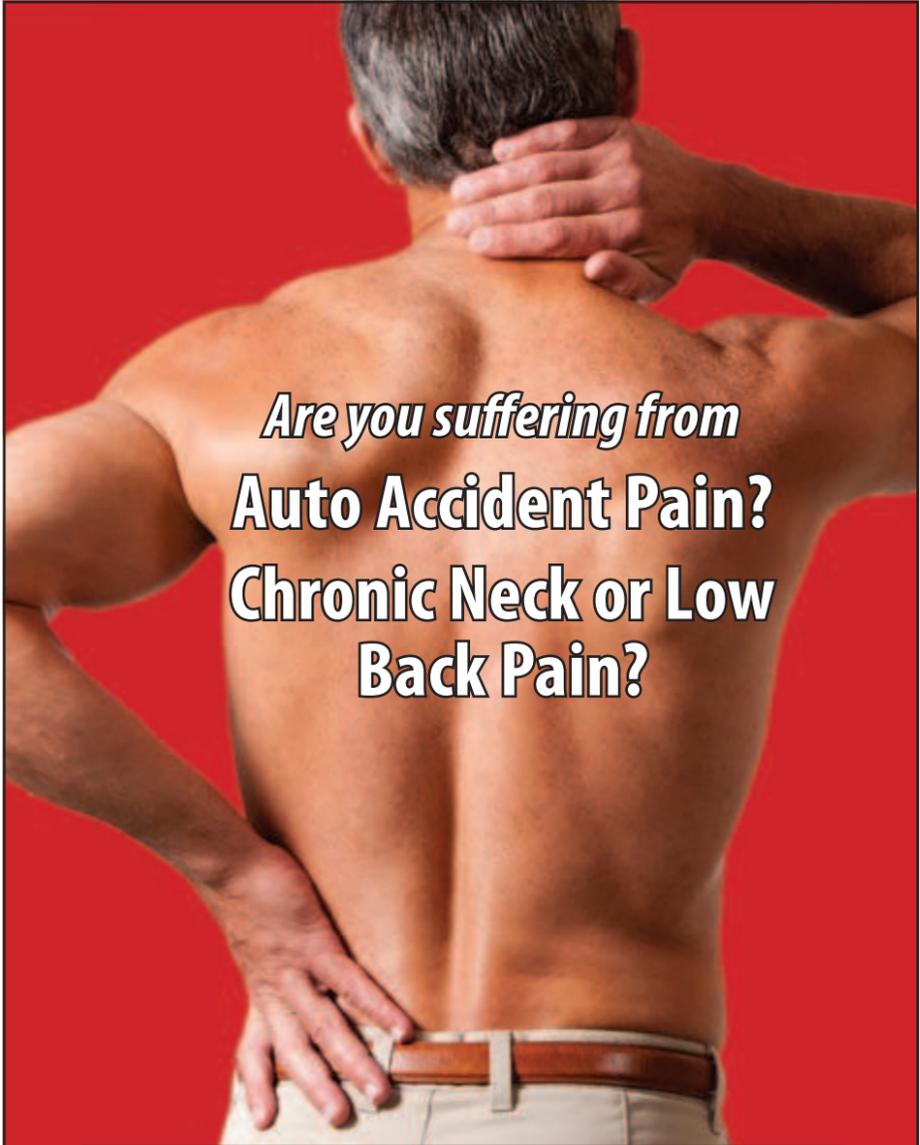
Tercilla and Courtemanche plan to use the site's indigenous fea-



COURTESY PHOTO  
René Tercille and Lance P. Courtemanche

tures to create an authentic camp experience for the center's summer day camp (currently operating in temporary space at Duncan Middle School). Under consideration are a boardwalk, docks, canoeing and other outdoor features.

For more information, call Michelle Wasch Lobovits, 712-5219, or visit [www.jcconline.com](http://www.jcconline.com). ■



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## GOLF

## Have you ever had a bad lesson?



mariaMARINO

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Lessons are the key to a good golf game and there are countless teachers in our area who can help you. But what is most important about a lesson? Finding someone who truly relates to you and uses words that your brain understands. Have you ever wondered why some lessons are better than others?

Years ago, I was lucky enough to work with Jack Grout. The name may sound familiar as Jack Grout was Jack Nicklaus' teacher, and really became a father figure for Mr. Nicklaus after his own father passed away.

You may recall from my first article about how I arrived in Florida in my little red sports car. What I didn't tell you was that the choice of clubs I pulled out of the hatchback were not to Mr. Grout's liking.

To say I was nervous working with such a renowned teacher would be an understatement. Here is a man who would not waste his time or yours if he didn't feel you "had it." Was I really ready to give up on my dream if he didn't think I "had it"?

While warming up on the lesson tee at Frenchman's Creek, I took note of the fabulous surroundings. It would not have been unusual to see Jack Nicklaus on the course or another well-known teacher by the name of Gardner Dickenson.

Lessons were not something I did often, so I didn't know what differentiated a good lesson from a bad one, but knew it happened. Since I didn't want to forget whatever pearls of wisdom Mr. Grout was going to impart, I brought a tape recorder. Scary to think that more than 25 years later, those tapes are still in my possession and I still listen to them. And therein lies the key to my column today.

What I took for a fabulous lesson was actually a fabulous teacher. One who interviewed me and learned what made me tick. The words and examples he used really resonated and I was able to absorb everything. To this day I can still hear him say, "If you speed up one department of your swing, you must speed up the others." (By the way, he did tell me I "had" it, but only if I got myself some better clubs. Funny thing, when I went to pay for my lesson, he pushed my hand away. Instead, he told me to go get a steak and put some meat on my bones so I could hit the ball farther!)

So what made him a fabulous teacher? His ability to determine my type of learning skill. It wasn't until I joined the LPGA Teaching and Club Professionals and went through all of the education that I understood what that meant.

Everyone has an innate way of learning. Some are visual, where pictures we envision help us execute the desired shot. Some are kinesthetic, where we learn by feel. And, like me, others are auditory, where sound is key. That explains my need to listen to the tapes.

So, knowing this, how do you improve your lessons? Think about that last really great shot you hit: If you had to describe it to someone, how would you do that? Did the ball go where you pictured it? Did it sound good coming off the club head? Did it just feel pure? If you can share that with your teacher, you are on the right track.

When I am working with a new student, several things occur. We talk about that perfect shot and about what other sports or hobbies they have done. Oftentimes there are comparisons that make learning the golf swing all that simpler. Take for instance someone who has played baseball or softball and can throw a ball underhanded. If you can relate the motion of lobbing a ball up into the air, you can understand finishing with a nice high follow through to



JACK NICKLAUS MUSEUM / COURTESY PHOTO

Jack Grout taught the great Jack Nicklaus how to understand the feel and rhythm of golf.

get the golf ball in the air.

Now let's say you are shopping for a new driver and have the opportunity to hit some shots with this club. Is it pretty or ugly? I guarantee if UGLY is what you are thinking, UGLY is what type of swing you are making! I can remember testing a club that was so ugly I had a hard time looking at it, and I didn't hit one good shot with it. The same goes for clubs that just feel good in your hands. You can't explain why you like it, you just know you have to have it.

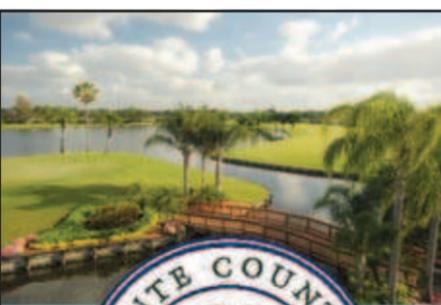
Or, if you like to dance and listen to music, chances are you will understand auditory lessons that involve words related to sound, tempo or rhythm.

Then there are those who enjoy activities that involve working with their hands. They tend to be kinesthetic and have hobbies like carpentry or pottery.

From a teacher's perspective, a lesson is more effective if the bantering between student and teacher involves this discussion in the first several minutes. If you find yourself with a teacher you just don't relate to, don't dismay, there are plenty of others you will. And remember, some of the "best" teachers may not be the "best" for you, if they don't understand your needs.

Thank goodness 25 years ago I found a teacher who did just that. ■

— 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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# Admiral's Cove Cares raises \$400,000 for charity

A community has come together to raise money for charity.

The Admiral's Cove Cares Charitable Foundation recently hosted a tea during which it distributed nearly \$400,000 in grants to 32 charities.

Recipients included Adopt-a-Family, Center for Family Services, Stand Down House for Veterans, Wounded Warriors Second Chance, Cancer Alliance, Hospice of Palm Beach, Jupiter Medical Center, Palm Healthcare, John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, Loxahatchee River Historical Society, Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, Loggerhead

Marinlife Center, Eissey Campus Theatre, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Academy for Practical Nursing, Jupiter High School scholarships, Literacy Coalition, West Jupiter Tutorial, American Cancer ROCK Program, Special Olympics of Palm Beach, First Tee and others.

The foundation raises money every two years with a Charity Weekend extravaganza. The 2011 Charity Weekend was chaired by Admiral's Cove residents and Foundation board members Beth Beson and Dale Abrahams. More than 615 residents and their families participated in a variety of events, includ-

ing a walk, a golf tournament, a tennis round robins, a croquet tournament, children's events, a casino night with a Texas hold 'em, a boat tour and a closing barbecue.

In 2005 and 2007, the foundation's Charity Weekend raised a combined total of more than \$730,000. In 2009, the foundation raised \$350,000.

The Admiral's Cove Cares Charitable Foundation, established in 2004, is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing aid to civic, cultural, education, social and health-related non-profit institutions within Palm Beach County.

For information, call 744-1700. ■



Organizers of The Admiral's Cove Cares Foundation's Charity Weekend include Gerry Holm, board president; Richard Sheehan, board member; Beth Beson, Charity Weekend chair and board member; Dale Abrahams, Charity Weekend chair and board member; and Christopher Speed, board member.

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# DOGFIGHT

From page 1

owners fighting residential associations who do not allow pets, limit breeds or limit size.

Real estate agents say it's a case of old rules and longtime residents, pitting condominium associations against Baby Boomers who will not give up their pets. Law firms representing condos are making thousands of dollars, paid to pick apart the credibility of doctors. Lawyers representing pets say dogs playing pianos while belting "Amazing Grace" would not satisfy some stringent condo boards. Condo boards say residents get their pets designated as "emotional service animals" — an animal providing therapeutic benefit to its owner through companionship and affection — to beat rules that are already in place.

But psychotherapist Jennifer Sneeden sees good health in emotional support animals, and she sees harassment — her patients being locked out of their apartment buildings, going so far as posting body guards outside their doors, fearing retaliation of condo associations. The Boca Raton mental health professional has been in private practice for seven years, prescribing pets for three.

"We don't really understand the way emotional support animals work, but we know they do," says Dr. Sneeden. "What we believe, the more the sense of companionship, the more the sense, 'I've got to be in control, because this animal is counting on me.'"

Dr. Sneeden says the health benefits of prescription pets are "tremendous," but the general public does not know it, and those who do, are the ones in court. She's baffled by the dollars condo boards are willing to spend on legal fees, because the way she sees it, an emotional support animal helps someone live a life, without infringing on anyone else's.

In March, Broward County prosecutors announced the county was suing Century Village on behalf of a widow with a 3-pound Chihuahua. County officials say the case marks their first prescription pet lawsuit, increasing the popularity of such disability disputes in the public eye, but feeling all too much of déjà vu for Mrs. Valente.

Mrs. Valente wears a medical alert bracelet, gold links, Hippocratic snake engraved. Boots wears an orange vest, bold-lettered "SERVICE DOG" emblazoned. In the spring of 2008, Mrs. Valente sold her house, put a down payment on the neutral-colored coach. Money down, she learned the West Lakes board must approve her before she can move in. Bylaws said Boots is too big. Mrs. Valente trusts, "I'm on anti-seizure medications, they will accommodate me, I have a right to keep her." She gathers her pictures and her doctor's prescription.

West Lakes said no. Mrs. Valente needed a place to live. Feeling she had no choice, she gave Boots to a friend and moved in.

Boots stopped eating and Mrs. Valente starts having seizures, frequently.

"When I wake up, I'm afraid. It's a horrible feeling to not even know who you are," Mrs. Valente said of those first few moments following a seizure. "Boots gets in my face and makes everything OK. Her just sitting there, looking at me, for whatever reason helps me. I know I'm alright. I know I'm not alone."

Besides offsetting panic, Boots goes to get help. When Mrs. Valente had a seizure in the backyard, Boots ran through her doggie door, paws pound-



COURTESY PHOTO

Maria Barbieri has a prescribed pet, her poodle Fosdyke. They are seasonal residents of Sea Mist in Tequesta.

ing on the sliding glass door to alert Mr. Valente. When he's not home, Boots has been known to run across a cul-de-sac, eliciting the aid of a neighbor. Never formally trained, Boots just instinctively goes.

But even the Lassie-like behavior didn't sway the West Lakes board, her duty not big enough for how big she was. Mrs. Valente's request for "reasonable accommodation of her disability," waiving the pet weight restriction for Boots, was denied. "They basically accused me of lying about my disability. My doctor wrote them three letters, they ignored it," said Mrs. Valente, 58, who has had seizures for 30 years, and the same neurologist for 20. "I wear a medical alert bracelet. I don't have a driver's license. I don't know what more they wanted."

West Lakes wanted Boots out. Mrs. Valente filed a complaint through the Palm Beach County Office of Equal Opportunity. West Lakes filed a lawsuit. Mrs. Valente found dead rats in her driveway. Mrs. Valente found piles of dog waste in her driveway. Mrs. Valente hired an attorney, Marcy LaHart.

President of the West Lakes board H.F. "Butch" Govoni said, per legal advice, "we are not able to respond to this article."

Director of the Palm Beach County Office of Equal Opportunity Pamela Guerrier says residential boards mistakenly think pet rules are their decision to make, entirely. Emotional support animals override this assumption, thereby making prescription pet cases an educational process. "Federal law, state law, county law, all say yes, the government will tell you what you're going to do. You can do whatever you want, as long as you're not discriminatory," Ms. Guerrier said. She does not own any pets.

As far as dead rats in driveways, Ms. Guerrier says, "This day in age, you would think you would be surprised to see discrimination still going on, but I'm not really shocked anymore by what comes through our doors, unfortunately."

Attorney LaHart has handled 40 to 50 cases involving residential boards and prescription pets over the last four years. Her clients are prescribed pets for chronic depression, epilepsy, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, autism and anxiety, among other "handicaps." Every one of Ms. LaHart's cases has ended in her client keeping their pet. Her favorite cases end with residential boards writing the check for her legal fees. Ms. LaHart has four dogs and two cats.

"The story is, there are a lot of mean-spirited retirees with nothing better to worry about. They have the 'rules are rules' mentality," Ms. LaHart said. "God forbid a little old lady has a cat in her condo. The next thing we know everybody will have a Great Dane. It will be the end of life as we

know it."

Currently, Ms. LaHart has one case in Palm Beach Circuit Court, another in Broward Circuit Court. She has one complaint awaiting the action of the Palm Beach County Office of Equal Opportunity, another at the Broward Civil Rights Division. Ms. LaHart moved from West Palm Beach to Gainesville in September 2009, but still helps people in South Florida because, "people down there still need me."

Ninety-five percent of the phone calls Ms. LaHart receives come from South Florida, people calling confused and distraught, holding a letter written in legal jargon they do not understand, pleading, "If I don't get rid of my dog in 10 days, they're taking me to court, please help." Ms. LaHart reasons this South Florida surge, saying, "For one, there are a lot more condos there. And two, people are a lot more civil to each other in other parts of the state, where these issues are dealt with more compassion and common sense, in my experience."

Ms. LaHart's success rests on the federal Fair Housing Act — mirrored by the state Fair Housing Act and a Palm Beach County ordinance — forbidding discrimination based on race, gender and handicap, handicap including mental disabilities such as depression and anxiety. Housing bodies must provide reasonable modifications to rules and policies when modifications are necessary, because someone who may have a disability, must have the same opportunity to live in the community as anyone else. Modifications mean hello, pets, even the hefty ones.

One boy big for his breed caused ostracism in the hallways of Tequesta. A board member of the Sea Mist condominium association would not speak to Maria Barbieri because of her 6½-pound Teacup Poodle, Fosdyke.

"I said hello, he said he did not want to speak to me, said he had a real problem with me," said Mrs. Barbieri, diagnosed with anxiety and a major depressive disorder. Holding her prescribed apricot poodle helps Mrs. Barbieri focus on her pet, not the panic in her head, a feeling she describes, "like being on the edge, ready to run."

"You don't ever want to wish bad things on a person, but if someone in this man's family were to experience what I have, he might be able to garner some empathy and compassion for me," Mrs. Barbieri said. "I don't think people truly understand, people stigmatize emotional disorders. If they can't see it, if they can't touch it, they don't believe it's there."

Dr. Sneeden prescribes pets to patients who demonstrate trouble with daily living — people who are not taking showers, not cooking dinner, not going out to the grocery store, not cleaning their house. Such disregard indicates an emotional support animal may be beneficial. Taking care of an animal requires a person in emotional

distress to take better care of their physical self. Not take a pill three times a day, but walk your dog three times a day, hence walk yourself.

"The other benefit, people with pets tend to be less focused on themselves, this is one important factor when treating someone's mental health," said Dr. Sneeden, who had two dogs for 17 years, lost one last year, lost the other two months ago. "If people can focus outside of themselves, focus on another being rather than themselves, it puts their problem in perspective."

Mrs. Barbieri experienced this transcendence, petting her Teacup Poodle on a plane. She kept telling Fosdyke, "You're alright, pal. You're alright." The dog was not the anxious one. But the vantage point of the plane gave Mrs. Barbieri a window into the medicine of her pet.

"I was anxious, I was reassuring myself out loud by talking to him," Mrs. Barbieri said. "My pet made it permissible to comfort myself, a tool to reassure myself in public, and not have it look weird."

Mrs. Barbieri vacillated back and forth about buying in Sea Mist. The seasonal resident told herself she could manage a few stretches here and there without Fosdyke, named after the favorite children's book of her two boys. Anxious and miserable, she faced up, "Why am I doing this to myself?"

Then the 45-year-old retired securities attorney found herself bullied by her condo council. Sea Mist wanted Mrs. Barbieri's medical records. Impermissible. Pet-protector Ms. LaHart wrote a letter.

"Just because you have asked to have an emotional support animal, does not mean your condo board is entitled to your medical or psychiatric records. The board is entitled to enough information to verify that you have a disability and your animal helps you cope with your disability, nothing more," Ms. LaHart said. "The condo is not doing you a favor by allowing you to keep an emotional support animal, the condo is complying with the law."

Though accommodations for Fosdyke were granted without legal action, Mrs. Barbieri still views the invasive request for her medical records as a means to embarrass her, an "I don't want them to see my records so I'll stop" tactic. But she would not give in to shame. Just as a diabetic would not be ashamed of needing insulin, Mrs. Barbieri would not be ashamed of needing Fosdyke.

"I don't feel like people should be ashamed of having a mental or emotional illness, it's a pervasive illness in our world, it deserves credibility," Mrs. Barbieri said. "So many suffer, and because they are ashamed, they don't get help, they don't talk about it. I just want people to get what they need to feel better."

Diane Eisenstein does not care to talk about why she has an emotional support animal. She will tell you her soft-coated Wheaten Terrier looks like something you would buy your child, but ask her why she has a prescribed pet and she will educate you.

"You're really not supposed to ask, 'Oh, why do you have an emotional service animal,' it's kind of like — it's not embarrassing, that's not the right word — it's rude," said Mrs. Eisenstein, 57-year-old interior designer and Highland Beach resident. She will not talk about her prescription and she will not name her condominium, as she has legislation pending.

In her initial interview, Mrs. Eisenstein told her condo association about her dog Riley. She remembers them saying, "Oh, we're sure you'll be terrific. How much does Riley weigh?" Riley weighed somewhere over their 20-pound limit, but under 30 pounds.



ATHENA PONUSHIS/FLORIDA WEEKLY

Kay Valente has a prescription for her dog Boots. Boots calms Mrs. Valente when she experiences a seizure. Other residents in West Lakes have ostracized and bullied her, Mrs. Valente says.

"Oh, we're sure that will be fine."

Returning from an 11-day honeymoon to Paris, Florence and Rome, the new Mrs. Eisenstein received a letter: Riley's weight was not fine.

"My answer, either allow dogs or don't," Mrs. Eisenstein said. "How can you cut off the weight limit at 20 pounds. Those under 20-pounders are the most aggressive things, everybody knows that."

She may not elaborate on her prescription, but Mrs. Eisenstein has words for those whom she calls condo commandos, "Get a life. Go find a good cause. Get a job, anything, but stop picking on me. Do something constructive."

Century Village has gained cold-condo notoriety of late, a la Sweetie, the 3-pound Chihuahua. Owner Phyllis Schleifer was prescribed a pet for her severe depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, after a serious car accident and the loss of her husband of 42 years. Broward County is suing the condominium association on the widow's behalf, arguing their uncompromising pet policy violates the Fair Housing Act and county's Human Rights Act.

Century Village policy states, no walking pets permitted to be kept or harbored in any unit. The policy extends throughout four condominium communities, located in Boca Raton, Deerfield Beach, Pembroke Pines and West Palm Beach. These four limbs break down into 254 buildings and 253 condo associations. Charlie Parness, first vice president of the Condominium Owners Organization of Century Village East, says people are using the law, under the guise of emotional service animal, to get the pet.

"To me, it's unconscionable, anyone can say I have an emotional problem and get a doctor to give you the paperwork, if you give them the check," Mr. Parness said. "I think it's wrong."

Century Village questions Ms.

Schleifer's validity, as she lost her first complaint to the county, then lost her appeal, before filing a third time with a focus on her emotional disability. Her case marks Broward County's first prescription pet case, fulfilling responsibilities to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

If Ms. Schleifer wins, Mr. Parness sees a proliferation of dogs around his village — one dog means more dogs, more dogs mean dogfights. Mr. Parness describes his premonition as "most undesirable," and says "most people" feel this way.

"When you throw out all the rules, once the community starts doing that, the quality of life in this village will start to deteriorate," Mr. Parness said. "We urge and support our associations to enforce the rules, to keep the quality of life consistent and up. It's the only way to preserve our community."

Ruth Arnold, broker and owner of Rare Homes and Properties in Pompano Beach, says the market will affect pet policies more than any court case. She sees Baby Boomers demanding change, "I'm not going to buy, if I can't bring my dog," eventually translating into, "If I can't sell my condo, the board needs to open up to buyers with pets." In a matter of months, Ms. Arnold has watched communities — one being Leisureville in Pompano — amend pet policies, immediately raising property values by five to 10 percent.

"It's a history lesson. These rules were set up by World War II vets, people who came from farms, the first people who came down to South Florida to retire," Ms. Arnold said. "These rules were set up in a time people could not imagine anyone cleaning up after their dog, now it's the standard thing to do."

Ms. Arnold owns a little, black Yorkie-mix. Mr. Parness does not have pets. He happens to like dogs, just not in his village. Says sure, he had many dogs

when he was younger, but that was before he got married.

The 76-year-old retired in 1999, moving into the 55-plus Century community in 2000. He says people deserve peace and quiet in their retirement years, not stepping in a mess. He sees it bluntly, "When you move in, you sign the document, you give up your pet."

He has no problem with service animals, given proper documentation and bona-fide medical conditions, iterating demands pet-advocating LaHart has heard over and over again — show me the disability, plain as a seeing-eye dog. "How do I explain to you, how people with Alzheimer's or autism or depression benefit from the unconditional love and companionship emotional support animals provide?" Ms. LaHart asks. "You either get that, or you don't."

The analogy of the seeing-eye dog clears the confusion between the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, protecting a person's right to be in places of public accommodation, like grocery stores or theaters, with a service animal — an animal trained to do a specific task for a person with a disability.

"An emotional support animal does not require any training," said Ms. LaHart, making a considerable distinction. "A dog provides companionship and stress relief and has a calming influence just by being a dog. Emotional support animals are allowed in housing, not in grocery stores, not in theaters, not on the bus."

To condo boards claiming people are producing doctors' notes just to keep their pet, Ms. LaHart says yes, people probably are, though she would never knowingly assist someone in doing so. She sees the opposite as far more prevalent.

"People with a legitimate need for an emotional support animal, people all the more vulnerable because of the condition that makes them need an

animal, are intimidated into moving or getting rid of an animal that truly benefits them, because they have gotten a letter from a condominium lawyer threatening they will be sued and forced to pay the association's fees," Ms. LaHart said. "There is the real trend, condo lawyers dwell on small details and make hundreds of thousands of dollars a year by doing so."

Mrs. Valente has a manila file folder of letters from her homeowners board, assessing legal fees. The tab of the folder titled, "West Lake Crap." White paws, white chested, white tail-tipped Boots accrued \$2,400 of unanticipated legal fees. There are 177 homes in West Lakes, the board levied a \$135 bill per house.

"I literally had to pay \$135 to sue myself," Mrs. Valente said. "Now everybody hates me."

One woman in particular, a Wednesday-night-poker-playing regular, Mrs. Valente remembers, stood up from a card table in the West Lakes library, in front of five or six other women, and said, "You, you, you bitch. You took the medicine and food out of these people's mouths. How dare you."

Mrs. Valente will not go back to the library. She does not use West Lakes amenities. She says board members have given her the Italian arm gesture, obscenities come spewing from golf carts. Her name has been crossed off of social events, where she signed up to bring desserts. She hates where she lives, and if she had the money, she'd move.

"What are you gonna do? My husband's very sick, he's been on dialysis three years. Say an outlet goes bad, he can't get down on the floor and fix it, let alone do yard work," Mrs. Valente said. "I kind of have bigger fish to fry. I can't let this consume me."

She looks at her hound dog, "Are you my little pumpkin girl?" Flips back through her file, "Oh, this letter, this was a good one." Then from somewhere, she finds laughter. ■

## HEALTHY LIVING

## At times your little darlings will mess up and it's not your fault

lindaLIPSHUTZ

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The phone call came when Kate (names have been changed) was about to walk into an important meeting. She was totally unprepared for the venomous hysterics from her neighbor, Fran Smith. Fran claimed that Kate's 11-year-old daughter Lindsey had posted vicious lies about Fran's daughter Jessica on Facebook. Jessica was apparently devastated and refusing to go to school. Fran was demanding that Kate handle the situation or she was going to go to the principal.

Flustered, Kate stammered out a weak apology and a promise to find out what was going on. Kate was a wreck after she got off the phone. Mortified, she wanted to wring Lindsey's neck. Lately, she didn't recognize Lindsey. Her sweet angel had suddenly morphed into a creature that could be petty and down-right mean. She reminded herself not to jump to any conclusions, but she had a sick feeling, not doubting the truth of Fran's allegations. What she couldn't understand was why Lindsey, attractive, bright and popular, would have any reason to target another girl.

When Kate calmed down sufficiently, she had the presence of mind to recognize, that as painful as this whole experience would be, she could use this as an important opportunity to demonstrate her values and to hopefully teach her daughter about empathy and personal responsibility.

Kate stopped herself from going down

the path of blaming HERSELF mercilessly for having failed in her parenting. She decided to wait until she got home that evening to sit quietly with her daughter; not only to ascertain the facts but to give Lindsey a fair opportunity to comment on Fran's accusations. Kate knew it would be important throughout to emphasize how much she loved Lindsey and how much Kate wanted to maintain a relationship where the two of them could speak up freely about important topics, without inappropriate blame or judgment. She wanted Lindsey to know that she was available to support her with the tough situations that she faced. However, Kate reiterated that she counted on each member of the family to treat each other, and friends, with respect, compassion and dignity.

In order to have this conversation in an authentic way, Kate had to do some serious soul searching about her own value system and the way that she herself treated other people. Had Kate been one to gossip meanly about others in front of her children, or one who cursed and spoke rudely to her family and friends, Lindsey could have shrugged her shoulders and said to herself "Look who's talking?!!" However, this was not the case. Kate had always been the type of person to bend over backward to treat others with care.

And, in this case, it actually DID matter to Lindsey that her mother would hold her with high regard. So, it was tough for Lindsey to look her mother in the eye. She became defensive,

at first denying it was true. She finally admitted that she had had something to do with the posting, but she started to blame other girls, saying she wasn't the only one who had posted things about Jessica. Kate made it very clear, that she was NOT interested in discussing the behavior of the other girls. She was concerned with her daughter's behavior and would hold Lindsey accountable for the way that she treated other people. She counted on Lindsey to be the leader among her friends, treating everyone with respect, even if they chose not to be friends.

What Kate did next was incredibly tough. She spent some time asking Lindsey to put herself in Jessica's shoes, imagining how painful and humiliating the posting had been. Kate told Lindsey that she expected her to write a heartfelt letter of apology. She also expected a public retraction of the falsehoods online and a public apology, as well. In addition, she expected Lindsey

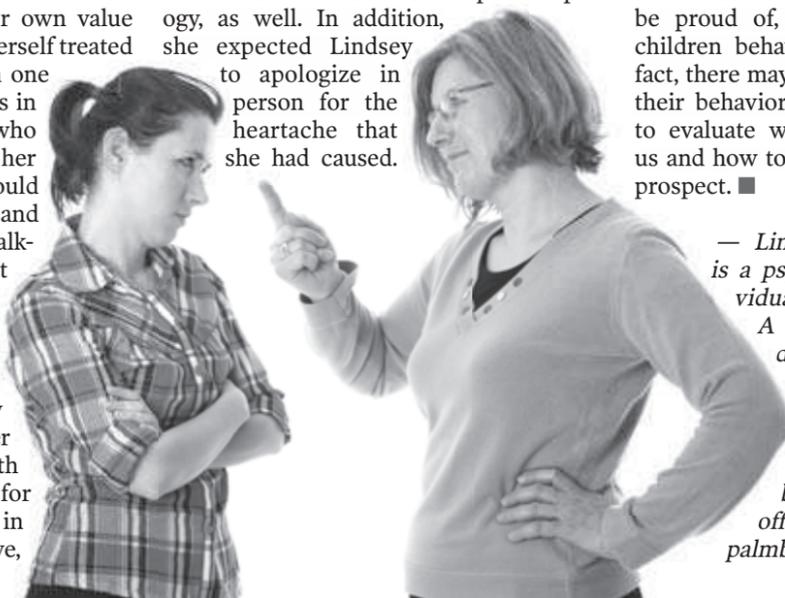
to apologize in person for the heartache that she had caused.

When Lindsey balked, Kate said she would go with her to the Smiths to offer support because Kate knew that it would be uncomfortable for Lindsey to face the Smiths alone. Lindsey's Internet and texting privileges were strictly limited for a specific period of time.

I'm not suggesting that this is a storybook tale about one mother's efforts that miraculously changed her daughter's behavior overnight. Rather, this is the story of one day in the life of a family where there were ongoing tests of will and a mother's commitment to instill values and decency. Kate has consistently held her own behavior to a high standard, trying to serve as a credible role model that she hopes her daughter will choose to emulate.

One of the toughest challenges for parents is to recognize that despite all of our efforts to raise our special darlings to become decent human beings we can be proud of, there are times that our children behave less than admirably. In fact, there may be times that we don't like their behavior at all! Taking a step back to evaluate what their actions mean to us and how to proceed can be a daunting prospect. ■

— 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 630-2827, or online at palmbeachfamilytherapy.com.



## GIVING

## Rev. Pam Cahoon: The power of one better angel at work

leslieLILLY

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



**Community Foundation**  
FOR PALM BEACH AND MARTIN COUNTIES  
Promoting philanthropy - Investing in communities

Of late, the act of celebration has become a scarce commodity, so thick are the clouds driven by the economic equivalent of a rogue El Niño blasting across the state. There is, however, a hint of blue sky. Even in such times, or perhaps because of such times, men and women of courage and distinction are hard at work in many fields of interest, investing their time, talent and financial support on behalf of making their communities a better place to live.

Florida Weekly frequently highlights in its pages stories and photos of smiling people attending charitable events. The stories draw our eye and our interest as a diversion from the monotony of dreary news. Many of the events focus on honoring individuals and families because their community service has created intersections where positive change is made. We are attracted to take notice because we see often in others our own better angels at work. The public elevation of charitable accomplishments thus inspires special occasions that invite purposeful fun with meaning beyond entertainment. The invi-

tations are sent, the underwriting is found, the tickets and tables are purchased, and the program is planned. Magically, at the appropriate time and place, we gather together in our sparkly party clothes or colorful parrot-head attire, to celebrate the good things flourishing at the center of what it means to be and have a community.

Earlier this month, several hundred people from throughout the region attended an annual event in West Palm Beach. This was a gathering of friends, supporters and alumni of Leadership Palm Beach County. The purpose of the event is to each year award the Leadership Excellence Award, an honor given since 2005. The award is in recognition of exceptional leadership on the part of graduates of the program who have "made significant and notable contributions to the betterment of our community." Leadership Palm Beach County knows of what it speaks: the mission of the nonprofit is to promote and foster awareness of countywide issues among established and newly emerging leaders. With more than 1,000 graduates, the network connects a growing body of informed, engaged citizens, many of whom hold positions of influence in the public, private and community sectors. The directory of graduates is a Who's Who of the county occupying positions of influence that carry with it with clout and a broad base of constituents. That's a potent combination when it comes to educating and making things happen county-

wide on important issues affecting our communities overall.

Alumni are invited to nominate Leadership Palm Beach graduates believed to best exemplify the character and qualities of exemplary leadership. Integrity, compassion, risk-taking, fairness, humility and empowerment are the lens through which heroes and heroines are sought. It can't be easy. The nominees all represent leaders with a yard-long resume of outstanding accomplishments on behalf of achieving stronger, more equitable, and caring communities. This year's award recipient was the Rev. Pamela Cahoon, who has led for more than 30 years Christians Reaching Out to Society (or C.R.O.S.) Ministries, as its executive director.

The Rev. Cahoon's track record sets a very high bar on the measure of the leadership required to meet the award standards. Her passion to end the scourge of hunger began many years ago, as a kid in elementary school. Her life changed when she took notice that some of her classmates didn't have the benefit of a homemade, brown-bag lunch. No free or reduced lunch program existed to take up the slack. She recruited her own mom to start packing extra lunches to share with classmates who had none of their own.

Her journey toward the milestone of the Leadership Excellence Award began long ago and, as she is quick to acknowledge, is now enabled by the support of family and many others who share her passion.



Rev. Pamela Cahoon

The Community Foundation is in very good company, indeed, as a supporter of C.R.O.S. But the transformation of her individual commitment into the social activism of the many is a stunning achievement: in 2010, C.R.O.S. Ministries, under the Rev. Cahoon's leadership, provided emergency food for more than 40,000 individuals, more than 40 percent of whom were children; served 85,000 meals to hungry families in the ministries' kitchens; distributed 28,000 after-school snacks to hungry kids; and sent home 16,000 brown-bag lunches to ward off hunger for families during the long weekends. C.R.O.S. also led efforts to gather food, salvaging more than 218,000 pounds of fresh produce from harvested fields and then distributed the food to 100 nonprofit agencies across the county. Congratulations to the Rev. Cahoon and to Leadership Palm Beach for honoring the power of one. ■

— 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. Last year, the Foundation awarded more than \$3.4 million in grants and led initiatives to address critical issues of common concern among our region's communities, including hunger, homelessness, affordable housing, and the conservation and protection of water resources. For more information, visit [yourcommunityfoundation.org](http://yourcommunityfoundation.org).

# Don't allow pain to keep you from a full life



Pain is your body's warning system. When you feel pain, your body is warning you of real or potential damage. Pain is one of the most common reasons people seek medical treatment.

Remember the old joke about the patient who lifts his arm and complains, "Doc — it hurts when I do that." And the doctor replies, "Don't do that." In many cases, that advice actually works fine. If you touch a hot stove and feel pain, don't do it again and your hand will stop hurting.



Hot stove pain, like broken leg pain or pain from overeating or over exercising, is called acute pain — a warning to take care of ourselves. When we treat the injury or stop the hurtful action, the pain eventually goes away.

Chronic pain is something else — a long-term, often debilitating condition that can turn your life upside down and damage both your physical and emotional wellbeing. It's not uncommon for a chronic pain patient to have suffered for years after treatment by multiple physicians with medications that have triggered their own dependency problems and a constellation of disabling symptoms.

For something in the body — skin,

bone, organ, muscle, nerves, connective tissue — to cause pain, it must have a nerve supply, be susceptible to injury, and responds painfully when stimulated. We treat chronic pain patients with a multi-disciplinary approach called Pain Management, a "whole body" approach with four goals:

- Diagnose the source of the pain.
- Reduce or eliminate the pain.
- Manage pain medications.
- Improve the patient's ability to control pain and better function both physically and emotionally.

We begin by examining the history of the pain, its intensity and duration, as well as circumstances under which the pain gets worse or gets better. Because Jupiter Medical Center's Pain Management Center is a hospital-based pain center, we are able to employ a range of treatments singularly or in combination. These might include oral and topical medications, occupational/physical therapy, injection therapies and implantable devices or electronic stimulation.

The real point is not to allow pain to keep you from living your life to the fullest.

If you experience pain that doesn't respond fairly quickly to conventional treatments such as analgesics, heat, cold and rest, discuss the situation with your physician or call the

Pain Management Center at Jupiter Medical Center at 263-5073 for more information. ■

— Nathaniel Drourr, M.D., Board Certified, Anesthesiology and Pain Management, is the Medical Director of Jupiter Medical Center's Pain Management Center. For more information about Jupiter Medical Center's Pain Management Center, call 263-5073.

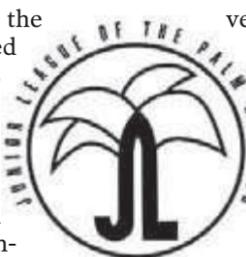
— A not-for-profit 283-bed community medical center consisting of 163 private acute care hospital beds and 120 long-term care beds, Jupiter Medical Center provides a broad range of services. For more information, call 263- 2234 or see [jupitermed.com](http://jupitermed.com).

## Junior League awards mini-grants to 8 groups

The Junior League of the Palm Beaches has awarded \$18,000 in mini-grants to eight area non-profit organizations. Thirty-three groups had applied for the mini-grants.

The groups awarded mini-grants were the Center of Creative Education Inc., Connor Moran Children's Cancer Foundation, Epilepsy Foundation, Hanley Center, Hannah's Home, Palm Beach Zoo, Villages of Hope and VSA Florida — Palm Beach County.

"This mini-grant is very important to Villages of Hope, because it is



very difficult to raise funds for youths in transition," said Charles Bender, executive director of Villages of Hope. "We provide these children, who are over 18, the structure and guidance to help them succeed."

Since its inception in 1941, the Junior League has contributed about \$3 million to specific community projects. In addition, in the past decade, the League has contributed more than 331,000 volunteer hours to these same community projects.

For more information about the Junior League, visit [www.jlpb.org](http://www.jlpb.org). ■

# SUSTAINED STYLE For The Home

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# BUSINESS

WEEK OF MAY 26-JUNE 1, 2011

A GUIDE TO THE PALM BEACH COUNTY BUSINESS INDUSTRY



## Florida Weekly wins 23 state awards for writing, design

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Building on last year's designation as the state's best weekly newspaper by the Florida Press Association, *Florida Weekly* picked up 23 writing and design awards for work published in 2010. Contest organizers announced the random winners last week. Final placing (first, second or third place) will be announced that the press association's annual convention in St. Petersburg on July 1.

Writer Roger Williams led the *Florida Weekly* team with six awards. He won for humorous column, serious column, education, investigative reporting and environmental reporting. Bill Cornwell took three awards, including best feature story, Evan Williams won for best obituary and news reporting and *Fort Myers Florida Weekly* Editor Osvaldo Padilla won for business writing. Other winners include: Nancy Stetson for criticism and best obituary; Phil Jason for criticism; Jeannette Showalter for health reporting and Betsy Clayton for outdoors writing.

"We're very pleased that our peers recognize all the talent and hard work from each of our writers," said *Florida Weekly* Executive Editor Jeffrey Cull. "And, although the editors of each of our publications don't directly share in the awards, they are a big reason why we're able to put out a quality product each week."

On the design side, Presentation Editor Eric Raddatz won for front-page design, an award he's taken in each of the past four years. He also won for best individual graphic. *Florida Weekly* also won awards for its "Best of" special section and its website development.

*Florida Weekly* is locally owned and publishes newspapers in Greater Fort Myers, Greater Naples, Charlotte County and Palm Beach Gardens with a combined circulation of 80,000.

The Florida Press Association's Better Weekly Newspaper Awards are open to monthly, semi-monthly, weekly, semi-weekly and tri-weekly newspaper members. ■

FLORIDA WEEKLY'S: A MEETING WITH

# Sam Covelli

BY C.B. HANIF

cbhanif@floridaweekly.com

YOU MIGHT CALL SAM COVELLI THE CHIEF cook at the thinking person's place for convenient, health-conscious food.

His Covelli Enterprises Inc. is the single largest Panera Bread franchisee, and the fifth largest restaurant franchisee in the nation.

In addition to his 178 Panera bakery/cafes in Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Florida and Canada (plus 20 more under construction), there are his five O'Charley's Restaurants (with agreement to build 50 more).

By year's end his company's gross sales revenues are expected to exceed \$400 million. This year alone the company issued 26,000 W-2 tax forms.

That partly explains why Panera Bread was just named the 2011 Casual Dining Brand of the Year in the recent Harris Poll study.

In Covelli's case there's more besides Panera's health-conscious fare, welcoming atmosphere and free-Internet convenience that makes it a cozy place to linger.

More beyond his businesses' pride in giving back to their communities — illustrated by the Dan Marino Foundation's National Autism Awareness Month posters gracing the Indiantown Road Panera that Covelli built and recently visited.

The roots go as deep as his father's McDonald's franchises, where from an entry level Covelli worked his way to award-winning success, becoming the largest franchisee in McDonald's history with 43 units by the end of 1997.

But his passionate commitment to excellent food and service, developing quality staffers and giving back to the community is making Covelli's company the total package today.

■ **First job:** My father was in the McDonald's business, one of the largest McDonald's franchisees in the country. As a young kid I loved working in the restaurant business, I just got a passion for it. To me it's not work, I just enjoy it. We've always emphasized treating the customer like they're everything. We never take a customer for granted. I grew up with that philosophy, and I have people thinking the same way. At least they'd better be thinking the same way.

■ **What I'm reading:** I probably read too many business journals. I read about people who started companies, the fascinating stories about how companies started. I like reading sometimes about political leaders.

■ **My personal philosophy:** It's pretty basic. I want our restaurants to be spotless. We want to have the best products that our customers appreciate. But the key to our business is no matter how good your philosophy is, you have to have quality people, who are friendly, who literally enjoy working in the business, it's not a job to them. When I go around the restaurants that's what I look for: enthusiasm, excitement, people who want to grow with our company. That's what it's all about.



C.B. HANIF / FLORIDA WEEKLY  
Sam Covelli, at the Panera Bread store on Indiantown Road in Jupiter, says he would rather be out at one of his stores than in his office.

■ **About the company:** Panera is a niche for people who want something better, to be treated special. If you're health conscious, nobody's better. If you want pastries, nobody's better. How many places in today's world have bakeries like we do to complement our sandwiches, our salads and our soups — seven different soups a day, that are delicious. You can't get bored eating at Panera, there's always something different on our menu. And we will not do anything that isn't high quality. We do not take shortcuts to get a better bottom line. In the long run our customers appreciate it, and that's why we do the business we do.

■ **Why the South Florida locations?** I know southern Florida, and I've always loved it here. We had a place here at Sailfish Point in Stuart. My parents have one there now, and we love it here.

■ **Best thing about my work:** You get to a point in your life when, it sounds corny to say this, but money is not even the motivator after a while. It's enjoying the business and watching people grow with it. It's why I don't even want to be in the office. I'd rather be out in the stores, such as the many new stores we're opening.

■ **My personal mission for the company:** I'd love to see my family keep getting involved in the business.

■ **What's on the horizon:** We just seem to keep growing, and we're going to keep growing as long as I can keep developing the quality of people who I'm developing who can run the stores the way we're running them. Any time I can buy a market, we just love it because we can use our philosophy and then we just grow the business. But size is irrelevant. It's what we're doing with it. The key is in every market, we need

to give back to the community. We are not going to take them for granted. We want to keep growing and we want to do it the right way. People live here who work in our business, so I want them to be part of the community. I want every one of our managers to belong to chambers of commerce. In every one of the communities, they need to be part of it.

■ **My top tech tool:** I use the iPad a lot now. I get all my numbers off it and my responsibilities for the day sent to me from my office.

■ **I love:** Watching sports, particularly the NFL. I loved the Dolphins when I went to the University of Miami, although my loyalty is really with the (Cleveland) Browns, unfortunately. But the University of Miami, that's my big passion for football. In fact I'm coming down here from for the Ohio State-Miami game. I like Ohio State too, but Miami's where I attended school. My son's at Ohio State now, so that's going to be one where I have to play middle of the road.

■ **I hate:** Taking vacations. After two or three days of being on vacation, I'm ready to go back.

■ **Finally:** "I want Panera to be the heartbeat of the community, I guess that's what it comes down to."

### in the know

- >> **Name:** Sam A. Covelli
- >> **Age:** 57
- >> **Family:** Married to Caryn; three children, Candyce, Albert, Danielle.
- >> **Hometown:** Warren, Ohio. (headquarters)
- >> **Education:** Marquette University; B.A. in business administration University of Miami (Fla.); honorary doctorate Youngstown State University.

# MONEY & INVESTING

## Real estate investment trusts offer tax incentive



Long gone are the days of the 4 percent two-year CD or treasury bills. As such, the investor who is hungry for safe and healthy yields has largely gone unsatisfied. But there might be some opportunities for extremely high yields in a very misunderstood equity sector: mortgage real estate investment trusts or REITs.

True, there is wisdom to not “reach for yield” as incredibly high dividend yields suggest greater-than-acceptable risks. The risk with high dividends is that the dividend will be severely cut.

More specifically, the concern is that management is denying the harsh reality that financial collapse is at their doors. If not that, the company might be known to be paying the dividend from sources of capital other than operating cash flows (i.e. the sources for the dividend are thought to be non-sustainable).

The other thought is that if these high dividend-paying companies are not too good to be true, then Wall Street analysts and gurus would have found them out and bid up the price until any pricing inefficiency is eliminated. But, investors have also come to understand that sometimes market inefficiencies exist and persist for a long time.

Not all investors know what it means to be a REIT. These entities most often

own real estate — commercial, apartment building, industrial, shopping malls, hotels, timberland, farmland, etc. And some invest in mortgages.

What makes a REIT different from other corporate entities is their unique favorable taxation; they are not double taxed on distributions as are corporate dividends, which are taxed first as corporate income and then taxed as a dividend at the personal income level. Rather, the distribution made by REITs is taxed only at the shareholder level as ordinary income dividends. The IRS’ requirement for that taxation privilege is that 90 percent of a REITs annual income MUST be distributed to owners.

There are three types of mortgage REITs: those that only buy federally insured mortgages from the U.S. agencies of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Ginny Mae (known as agency mortgage REITs or AMreits); those that only, or largely, buy private or uninsured mortgages (known as mortgage REITs or Mreits) and those that buy both types of mortgages (known as hybrid REITs).

But how they finance their assets and the extent of leverage depends upon their asset type.

Because the banks trust the federal agency’s explicit guarantee of principal and interest, the AMreits can borrow from the banks at 0.20-0.25 percent and leverage at levels of \$8 of debt for every dollar of capital.

So, though the mortgages are low yielding (3.5 percent average portfolio yield), the incredibly low borrowing

costs allows a very large “spread” or profit. Now, multiply the “spread” by the degree of leverage and you get a return on net equity of 20 percent and higher. And from this a high dividend of 14 to 20 percent can be paid.

Are the assets good? As good as the agencies’ guarantees. Will Freddie and Fannie ever default? It is possible, but it is a low, low probability in the current environment.

Will the spread remain large? No, eventually the spread will narrow as the economy improves. But until the fat lady sings, until Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke stops saying that rates will remain low for the foreseeable future, it would seem that the spread will remain very good.

So how does this group grow if it is always paying out its income? It issues additional amounts of stock, called secondary offerings, which happen like clockwork, often once a quarter. It raises capital in order to take on more debt in order to buy more mortgages as the 90 percent distribution does not allow growth through retention of earnings. So what happens with a secondary? The AMreit stock generally goes down on the news of the secondary and then rises through the quarter in anticipation of the declaration of the hefty quarterly dividend. Once the stock goes ex-dividend (or trades without right to the dividend), then the stocks drop and then the cycle is repeated. Pretty boring; pretty profitable boring.

One caveat: If the AMreit is issuing stock below book value, the secondary is

not accretive to shareholder value (not a good thing). Conversely, the secondary is good for shareholders if it is issued at above book value even though the immediate market reaction might be, or is often, an initial decline in stock value.

The Mreit group is generally not leveraged as AMreits; these REITs cannot get low rate bank financing using private mortgages as collateral. Unlike the AMreit’s hefty dividends returns of 14-20 percent, this group offers 10-14 percent dividends; its portfolio is largely private mortgages issued prior to 2009 (at higher rates) but bought after the financial crisis at oft times 50 cents on the dollar. So the unleveraged yield of 5-7 percent translates into a 10-14 percent return on net assets.

No question that AMreits, Mreits and hybrid mortgage REITs entities get hurt if there is a precipitous rise in interest rates, but that rise might still be a year away. And if the interest rate rise is coincident with an improved economy, then the market might perceive the Mreit mortgage assets to be of much higher quality....a buffer of sorts. And many of these entities hedge or lay off a certain amount of their interest rate risks.

As always recommended, speak to your advisers as to suitability. No doubt, the merits of investing in mortgage REITs is much debated and your experts might well warn against this exposure. ■

— Jeannette Rohn Showalter, CFA, can be reached at (239) 444-5633, ext. 1092, or jshowaltercfa@yahoo.com. Her office is in Bonita Springs.

## You should know ...

FLORIDA WEEKLY’S SPOTLIGHT ON  
LOCAL REAL ESTATE BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS

**NAME:** Damien Barr

**AGE:** 35

**CURRENTLY:** Co-founder and CEO of KangaRent, www.kangarent.com

**SPECIALTY:** Real Estate Rentals

**HOMETOWN:** Brisbane, Australia

**RESIDENCY NOW:** Palm Beach, FL

**BACKGROUND:** I grew up in Australia and completed my 4 year Carpentry apprenticeship in Brisbane before heading to Hong Kong as a professional rugby union player. After leaving Hong Kong I made my way to San Francisco to play for Golden Gate Rugby Club before moving to Aspen Colorado and putting my Carpentry skills to use. I lived and built custom homes in Aspen for 6 years. I left Aspen to work in the resort residential development industry and worked on projects all over the world, including the Turks and Caicos, Greece, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, Costa Rica and Florida.

I have now been living in Palm Beach for over 2 years and am a co-founder and CEO of KangaRent. KangaRent, which is located in Downtown at the Gardens, is a Real Estate brokerage firm 100% dedicated to the residential rental market

**MISSION:** To bring consistent professionalism to the residential rental market while making the entire rental process easy, efficient, stress free and enjoyable for both the Tenant and Landlord.



**FAMILY:** I have been married for 8 years to my wife Joy and we have a 4 year old son (Lachlan) and a 3 year old son (Julian).

**ACTIVITIES:** I love to spend time with my family at home and the beach. I also enjoy working, golfing, tennis and most outdoor activities.

**BEST THING ABOUT THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY:**

You get to meet and help all kinds of people from all different walks of life, and people will always need somewhere to live.

**TOUGHEST PART OF THE JOB:** I think the toughest part of the job is maintaining your motivation in an industry that has many ups and downs through different economic cycles which is one of the many reasons we started KangaRent.

**ADVICE FOR NEW AGENT:** If you are not willing to work full time in Real Estate, you minimize the chance of success. I believe many people getting into Real Estate take the flexible hours a little far and think that they will be able to spend more time away from work and business will fall in their laps – this simply will not happen. You also have to tell everyone you know and even everyone you don’t know what you do as a profession; you cannot be a silent agent.

**MY JOB WOULD BE EASIER IF:** Everyone was honest and loyal

**A QUOTE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS:** “When you are complaining about having no shoes, think about the man with no feet!”

**FLORIDA WEEKLY**  
YOUR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

If you would like to be featured in You Should Know, or would like to suggest someone for this column, please email Rachel Hickey at [Rhickey@FloridaWeekly.com](mailto:Rhickey@FloridaWeekly.com)

Visit us online at [www.FloridaWeekly.com](http://www.FloridaWeekly.com)



COURTESY PHOTO

Residences at the Oasis feature views of the Atlantic Ocean. Units have more than 700 square feet of balcony space from which to take in the views.

## Retreat with a view

### Singer Island's Oasis offers panoramic vistas

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Oasis, a haven on Singer Island, offers panoramic views, one residence per floor and more than 700 square feet of glass-wrapped balconies where residents may enjoy vistas of the Atlantic Ocean, the Intracoastal Waterway and the city.

A private entry elevator leads directly to the foyer with French doors revealing an open floor plan and ocean views from the living area. This residence has an oriental

flare. It features three bedrooms, 3½ baths plus a den and more than 4,000 square feet of direct ocean living space.

The gourmet kitchen has granite countertops, custom-imported Downsview cabinetry, a cook island and stainless steel appliances. The master bedroom has floor-to-ceiling windows. Oasis is comprised of two 19-story towers with one residence per floor. The amenities include an oceanfront heated pool and whirlpool, private beach access, outdoor grill area, an executive center, fitness center, media room and tennis courts. This residence at 3920 N. Ocean, No. 11B, Singer Island, is listed at \$1.9 million. Call Jeannie Walker at 889-6734 or see OasisSingerIsland.com.



COURTESY PHOTO  
The bedroom, which has floor-to-ceiling windows, offers sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean.

### BALLENISLES \* Palm Beach Gardens



#### 211 GRAND POINTE DRIVE ~ \$2,695,000 Stunning estate home with every imaginable detail.

This 8,200 sf home under AC is enriched with fine finishes and features 5 Bedrooms, 7 1/2 Bathrooms and 4 Car Garage. Master suite has his/hers baths, custom walk-in closets. NEW gourmet kitchen with top-of-the-line stainless appliances. Automatic whole-house backup gas generator, built-in vacuum cleaner system. East exposure. Media, billiards and music rooms + wet bar, fireplaces, summer kitchen, pool, rock waterfalls and more.



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marshag@leibowitzrealty.com

LEIBOWITZ  
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### Census reports why folks moved last year

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

A U.S. Census Bureau report shows that among the people who moved between 2009 and 2010, 16.4 million or 43.7 percent did so for housing-related reasons, such as the desire to live in a new or better home or apartment. The report was cited in a May 23 news release from the Florida Association of Realtors.

Among other reasons for moving, people cited family concerns (30.3 percent), such as a change in marital status; employment needs (16.4 percent) and other factors (9.5 percent). In 2010, 37.5 million people 1 year and older changed residence, not statistically different from 2009.

In 2010, 69.3 percent of all movers stayed within the same county, 16.7 percent moved to a different county in the same state, 11.5 percent moved to a different state, and 2.5

percent moved from abroad to the U.S. By region, people in the Northeast were the least likely to move, with a mover rate of 8.3 percent in 2010. The Northeast was followed by the Midwest (11.8 percent), the South (13.6 percent) and the West (14.7 percent).

Generally, people with incomes below the poverty line were more likely to move than those just above the poverty line. In 2010, 23.6 percent of people with incomes below 100 percent of the poverty line had moved within the last year compared with 16.5 percent of people with incomes between 100 and 149 percent of the poverty line.

The highest moving rate: Black Americans living alone, (16.7 percent), followed by Hispanics (15.6 percent), Asians living alone (13.9 percent) and non-Hispanic whites living alone (10.8 percent). ■

# Sales jump 21 percent in April

Palm Beach County recorded more than 1,000 purchases of existing homes in April for the second consecutive month.

A total of 1,112 Palm Beach County single-family homes sold, a 21 percent jump compared to the same time last year, according to Florida Realtors.

Statewide, existing home sales increased 2 percent last month with a total of 17,192 homes sold compared to 16,781 homes sold in April 2010.

Statewide sales of existing condos last month rose 17 percent compared to the year-ago sales figure.

Twelve of Florida's metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) reported higher existing home sales in April; 14 MSAs also had higher condo sales.

It's the fifth consecutive month that Florida Realtors has reported higher year-over-year existing home and existing condo sales statewide.

"Market conditions remain optimal for qualified buyers with strong credit," said 2011 Florida Realtors President Patricia Fitzgerald, manager/broker-associate with Illustrated Properties in Hobe Sound and Mariner Sands Country Club in Stuart. "Mortgage interest rates are under five percent, a range of housing options is available at very affordable prices, and the economic recovery continues to strengthen. Realtors across the state are reporting increased interest from buyers ready to find their Florida dream home."

Florida's median sales price for existing homes last month was \$131,700; a year ago, it was \$140,300 for a 6 percent decrease. However, April's statewide existing home median price was 4.3 percent higher than it was in March.

Analysts with the National Association of Realtors note that sales of foreclosures and other distressed properties continue to downwardly distort the median price because they generally sell at a discount relative to traditional homes. The median is the midpoint; half the homes sold for more, half for less.

The national median sales price for existing single-family homes in March 2011 was \$160,500, down 5.3 percent from a year ago, according to NAR. In California, the statewide median resale price was \$286,010 in March; in Massachusetts, it was \$273,475; in New York, it was \$215,000; and in Maryland, it was \$215,000.

NAR's latest industry outlook predicts that existing home sales will continue to rise gradually but unevenly.

In Florida's year-to-year comparison for condos, 8,987 units sold statewide last month compared to 7,703 units in April 2010 for an increase of 17 percent. The statewide existing condo median sales price last month was \$91,900; in April 2010 it was \$100,200 for an 8 percent decrease. April's statewide existing condo median price was 9 percent higher than it was in March.

The national median existing condo sales price was \$153,100 in March 2011, according to NAR.

The interest rate for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.84 percent in April, significantly lower than the 5.10 percent averaged during the same month a year earlier, according to Freddie Mac. Florida Realtors' sales figures reflect closings, which typically occur 30 to 90 days after sales contracts are written. ■

## ILLUSTRATED PROPERTIES

# Boater's Paradise!

This beautiful Singer Island waterfront home—with no fixed bridges and direct ocean access—has everything, even an air-conditioned garage! Corner lot with pool, large patio and new dock. French door entrance with an inlaid Verona Marble foyer. Four bedrooms, three full baths and one half bath. Ask about the list of improvements made to this lovely Palm Beach Isles home. A boater's dream! Call for a floor plan. \$1,200,000.



VIRTUALLY STAGED



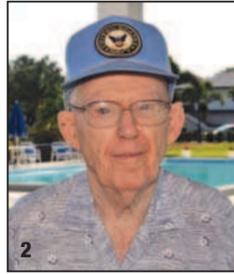
**Carol A. Dubinsky**  
Broker-Associate

Illustrated Properties Real Estate, Inc. • 1265 Plaza Circle, Singer Island  
**561.301.5538 • tiara39@comcast.net**

# MEMORIAL DAY 2011

## A SALUTE TO VETERANS

In observance of Memorial Day, Florida Weekly honors area veterans. See Pages A33 and A34 for more pictures of some of our area veterans. Society and Networking photos will return next week. For a list of Memorial Day events, see Page A23.



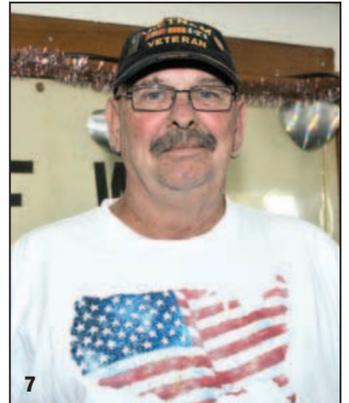
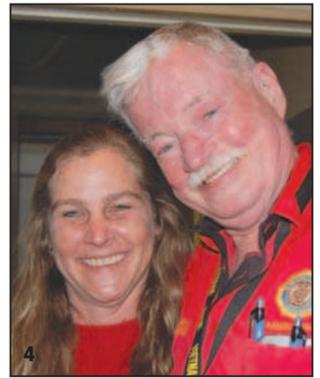
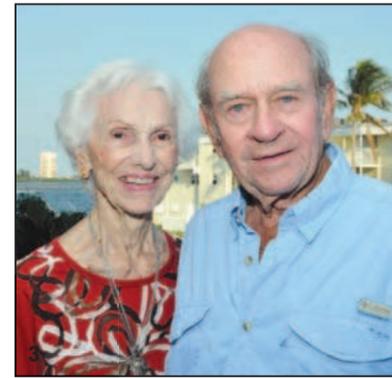
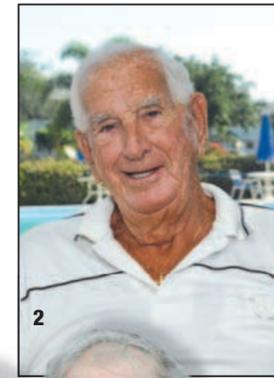
1. Gary Slavson, Gardens, U.S. Navy
2. Hank Kavanagh, Tequesta, U.S. Navy
3. John and Patty Charos, Gardens, Army
4. Fred and Doreen Padgett, Post 271 members
5. Bill McConnell Sr., Lake Park, U.S. Army

RACHEL HICKEY/FLORIDA WEEKLY  
BETTY WELLS/FLORIDA WEEKLY

**FLORIDA WEEKLY**  
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# MEMORIAL DAY 2011

## Florida Weekly salutes our area veterans



1. Wayne Millen, Jupiter, U.S. Army
2. Thomas A. Vetter, Tequesta, U.S. Army
3. Gene and Mary Waller, NPB, U.S. Navy
4. Ed McKeon, Jupiter, U.S. Army and Kathy Moutran
5. Ken and Donna Wright, Gardens, Army
6. Carol and Dave McAteer, Jupiter, U.S. Army
7. Norbert Koontz, NPB, U.S. Army

RACHEL HICKEY/FLORIDA WEEKLY  
BETTY WELLS/FLORIDA WEEKLY

**Fun and Freebies Around Every Corner, Every Day, All Summer Long**

**At Downtown at the Gardens**—the hippest shopping, dining and entertainment destination in all of South Florida—we're redefining that tired cliché, "summer of fun" with our own amped-up and totally outrageous version of how to spend your free time this June to August. We've just unleashed Downtown's Summer of Surprises, a crazy and spontaneous bonanza of free gifts, ridiculously huge discounts from our long list of restaurants and boutique retailers, chances to win free luxury vacations and even free gas cards just for parking (always for free) in our covered garage.

How do you win? Easy. Just frequent Palm Beach's most happening hub of fun and your family's chance to win valuable giveaways is as good as anyone's. So don't be surprised when you round a corner and bump into a Downtown Do-Gooder who'll present you with a gift certificate, a movie pass, free dinner or drinks, VIP seating at an upcoming event or any of hundreds of valuable freebies just for visiting Downtown at the Gardens.

# \$5,000 GAS CARD giveaways

Park in our garage May 16th - June 30th for a chance to win a gas card. That's right, we're rewarding you for parking in one of our 900 **FREE** garage spaces.

Follow us on Facebook for clues to the giveaways!

Complimentary Valet and Garage Parking

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DowntownAtTheGardens.com

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**Jim Walker III**  
Broker-Associate



**FEATURED: Oasis 11B**

All the best that Singer Island has to offer. 3BR/3.5BA + Den. Private elevator entry into this stunning estate residence with a magnificent unique Oriental flair. Enjoy panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean, Intracoastal waterway and city from glass-wrapped terraces.

Only one residence per floor and over 4,000 square feet of living space. **Offered at \$1,900,000**



**FEATURED: Ritz Carlton 1003B**

A rare find for an oceanfront condo! This 3BR/3BA is available fully furnished and boasts impeccable attention to detail throughout. Custom moldings and trim work, wainscoting, ceiling medallions, elegant lighting fixtures, custom built-in displays and shelving, and

exquisite furnishings and decor. This resort-style residence has spectacular views and over 2,300 square feet of luxury living. **Offered at \$1,498,000**



**Ritz Carlton 1001A**

3BR/3.5BA + den. Direct ocean. Spectacular ocean to ICW views, 10ft. ceilings. **Asking \$2,199,000**



**Oasis 14A**

3BR/3.5BA + den. World class estate with world class design. Turnkey/ready for occupancy. **Asking \$1,999,000**



**Oasis 12B**

3BR/3.5BA + den. Direct Ocean. Priced to sell. Over 4,000 SF of living space. **Asking \$1,995,000**



**Ocean's Edge 602**

3BR/3.5BA. Open spacious floor plan with premier SE views of the ocean, ICW and city. **Asking \$1,799,000**



**Via Delfino 1801**

4BR/5.5BA. Exquisite ocean views from every room. Over 3,400 SF of living + cabana. **Asking \$1,790,000**



**Ritz Carlton 1102B**

3BR/3.5BA. Breathtaking ocean and ICW views. Decorated and fully furnished. **Asking \$1,595,000**



**Oasis 2A**

3BR/3.5BA + den. Spacious 2nd floor unit. Over 700 SF of covered balcony. Great price! **Asking \$1,290,000**



**Ritz Carlton 1904B**

2BR/2.5BA + den. Direct ocean. Amazing views, marble floors, over 1,900 SF of living space. **Asking \$1,199,000**



**Resort at Singer Island 1451**

3BR/3.5BA. Ocean views from 14th floor residence with over 2,800 SF of living space. **Asking \$1,089,000**



**Beach Front 1103**

3BR/3BA spans over 2,700 SF of living space. Ocean, intra-coastal, city and pool views. **Asking \$1,189,000**



**Beach Front 1502**

2BR/3BA + den. Amazing ocean, city and Intracoastal views. Over 2,400 SF. **Asking \$849,000**



**Martinique ET2201**

2BR/3.5BA - Direct ocean. High northeast corner residence in the coveted East Tower. **Asking \$750,000**



**Jupiter Yacht Club 502**

3BR/3BA. Large balcony provides breathtaking views of the Intracoastal and marina. **Asking \$699,000**



**Martinique WT1404**

2BR/3.5BA. Incredible southern views. 14th floor residence boasts gorgeous sunrises. **Asking \$579,000**



**Martinique WT804**

2BR/3.5BA. Renovated with tropical décor and open galley kitchen. Breathtaking views. **Asking \$549,000**

**MARTINIQUE - SINGER ISLAND**

Luxury condominium living  
Private full service restaurant  
Five-star amenities including:  
2 heated pools  
2 lighted tennis courts  
24-hour manned gate/security  
Concierge in each tower

**From \$399,000**

**RITZ-CARLTON RESIDENCES**

The epitome of Singer Island luxury living  
375-foot stretch of pristine beach  
Ritz concierge services & amenities  
Private poolside restaurant  
Valet parking  
24-hour concierge

**From \$700,000**

**BEACH FRONT - SINGER ISLAND**

An exclusive, gated community with only 59 residences  
24-hour guarded gate entry  
Private elevator lobbies  
Exquisite amenities including  
Free-form, infinity-edge, oceanfront swimming pool

**From \$799,000**

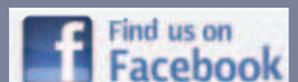
**MARINA GRANDE**

Luxurious marina living in a boater's paradise, directly next to Loggerhead Marina  
State-of-the-art amenities  
24-hour manned gatehouse  
Valet parking  
2 tennis courts

**From \$190,900**



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### NPB WATERFRONT

Better than new five BR home on deepwater. Key West style with metal roof, wood floors and gourmet island kitchen. 60' dock, 12k lb. lift, beach and pool w/spa. Covered porch with summer kitchen plus balcony off the master suite.

\$1,049,000 - North Palm Beach  
The Smith Team



### CALOOSA NEW CONSTRUCTION

Almost completed Brentwood model by Vista Builders. Four BR plus office and sitting room. Beautiful 5 acre lot. Large country kitchen with island, wood floors, summer kitchen, wood beam ceilings and two sided stone fireplace.

\$858,500 - Palm Beach Gardens  
The Smith Team



### MIRABELLA at MIRASOL

Four bedroom plus loft two story home. Corner lot with pool. Gated community with pool and clubhouse.

\$375,000 - Palm Beach Gardens  
The Smith Team



### Palm Beach Country Estates

Under construction by Vista Builders. Four BR plus den and over 3300 a/c'd square feet. Granite, pavers, crown molding and 3 car garage on paved road.

\$614,900 - Palm Beach Gardens  
The Smith Team



### Trailside

20 beautiful acres in a gated equestrian community just West of 195. Paved roads, all white fences and all 20+ acre lots in the community.

\$399,999 - Hobe Sound  
The Smith Team



### Tequesta

Five acres just North of Jupiter. Surrounded

\$375,000 - Tequesta  
The Smith Team



### Garden Oaks

Three BR home in a gated community. Expanded Bedford model on large and private backyard with mature landscaping.

\$256,900 - Palm Beach Gardens  
The Smith Team



### PALM BEACH COUNTRY ESTATES

Under construction by VISTA BUILDERS. Four BR, three bath and three car garage. Granite, pavers, impact windows and more!

\$499,999 - Palm Beach Gardens  
The Smith Team



### WATERFRONT NPB

Four bedroom home on deepwater lot with dock and boatlift. Large cul-de-sac lot with 100' on the water.

\$799,000 - North Palm Beach  
The Smith Team



### GARDEN OAKS SOUTH

Two BR, 2 BA with two car garage Capri model on the lake. Covered and screened porch. Gated community with amenities.

\$195,000 - Palm Beach Gardens  
The Smith Team



### SQUARE LAKE

To be built by Vista Builders on 1.5 acre lot. Almost 5000 square feet! Impact windows, pavers, crown molding, 3 car garage and more!

\$599,999 - Palm Beach Gardens  
The Smith Team



### SQUARE LAKE

Remodeled ranch home on corner lot .87 acre. New cabinets in kitchen. New paint and flooring, Pergo floors in bedroom.

\$174,900 - Palm Beach Gardens  
The Smith Team



### PALM BEACH COUNTRY ESTATES

Newly built by VISTA BUILDERS! Four bedroom with 3 car garage on over an acre lot. Granite, pavers, impact windows and more!

\$454,000 - Palm Beach Gardens  
The Smith Team



### PALM BEACH COUNTRY ESTATES

Under construction by VISTA BUILDERS. 4/3/3 with 3000 a/c'd square feet. Impact windows, granite, pavers and much more.

\$535,000 - Palm Beach Gardens  
The Smith Team

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WEEK OF MAY 26 - JUNE 1, 2011

A GUIDE TO THE PALM BEACH COUNTY ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT SCENE

"She cleans the stove of the oil. If that isn't love, I don't know what is."

— Connie Kurtz of her partner of 36 years, Ruthie Berman

# OUT IN AMERICA

PBS documents progress, but shows there's still a long way to go

BY DREW STERWALD

Florida Weekly correspondent

CONNIE KURTZ FRIES LATKES IN A PAN, flipping the cakes of grated potato and onion in sputtering oil until they are evenly browned. She presents a taste to her partner of 36 years, Ruthie Berman.

"She cleans the stove of the oil," Ms. Kurtz says of Ms. Berman. "If that isn't love, I don't know what is."

Cleaning up after someone else? Just a routine scene from any long-term relationship, one of the myriad adjustments, compromises and trade-offs that couples accept as part of the bargain.

Whether they're gay, lesbian or straight.

That kitchen moment is just one scene from a new documentary airing on PBS stations that explores the everyday lives of America's gay, lesbian and transgender citizens. As Ms. Kurtz, Ms. Berman and others in the community show in "Out in America," life isn't all gay pride parades and marriage equality demonstrations.

It's going to church. It's taking care of a sick partner. It's making latkes.

Southwest Florida's public TV station,



COURTESY PHOTO

Ruthie Berman and Connie Kurtz of West Palm Beach recently celebrated their 36th anniversary. They will attend a screening of "Out in America," a documentary in which they appear, in Fort Myers.

SEE OUT, A25 ►

## A day of remembrance: Memorial Day events honor fallen military

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Memorial Day offers an opportunity to reflect and to remember members of our military who have fallen in battle.

Here are area events:

Remembering America's Fallen — The New Gardens Band presents a tribute to the armed forces, 3 and 8 p.m. May 23, Eissey Campus Theatre, Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens. Tickets: \$15-\$20; special pricing for veterans is \$5 for the matinee and \$10 for the evening performance; 207-5900 or [www.palmbeachstate.edu/x13030.xml](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/x13030.xml).

Memorial Day Ceremony — Homage

to fallen service members. 9 a.m. May 30, Veterans Plaza, 10500 N. Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens; 630-1100 or [pbgfl.com](http://pbgfl.com).

63rd Annual Memorial Day Observance — 11 a.m. May 30, Riverside Memorial Park, 19351 SE County Line Road, Tequesta; 747-1100 or [cheryl.godbout@sci-us.com](mailto:cheryl.godbout@sci-us.com).

Memorial Day Observance at Veterans Park — The Veterans Coalition of South Florida will present a Memorial Day program at 9:30 a.m. May 30 at Veterans Park, 9400 W. Palmetto Park Road, between Lyons Road and U.S. 441, west of Boca Raton. There will be a procession of colors, guest speakers and

patriotic music. The public is invited and is encouraged to bring lawn chairs. The event is sponsored by Palm Beach County and is coordinated jointly by the Veterans Coalition and Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department's Special Events Section. Visit [www.pbcparcs.com](http://www.pbcparcs.com) or call the special events hotline at 963-6755.

Memorial Day Ceremony — At South Florida National Cemetery, 6501 S. State Road 7, Lake Worth (a mile south of Lantana Road). Event is sponsored by the Palm Beach County Veterans Committee, who will be joined by members of more than a dozen veterans organizations, at the 10 a.m. May 30. There

is no public parking at the cemetery. Free park and ride shuttle begins at 8:15 a.m. at The Target Superstore, 5900 State Road 7, Lake Worth (Lantana Road and U.S. 441), and at Pro Source One, 8245 U.S. 441, Boynton Beach (on U.S. 441 just south of Hypoluxo Road). Attendees are encouraged to bring folding. Water and ice will be provided. For information, visit [www.pbcveteranscommittee.com](http://www.pbcveteranscommittee.com).

Memorial Day Service — The National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum will host a service at 10 a.m. May 30. The museum is on North Hutchinson Island, 3300 N. A1A, Fort Pierce; (772) 595-5845 or [www.navysealmuseum.com](http://www.navysealmuseum.com). ■

# SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

## What it takes to get a date



I just don't get it. I was at a house party on a recent Saturday night at an apartment complex hilariously called Melrose Place. The gathering was in the courtyard around a pool, and people drank and talked and made awkward attempts at dancing while music played from a stereo inside.

I showed up in my standard going-out attire: something with bare shoulders and a flowing hemline, a strapless dress that reached to the floor. Just the right amount of skin, I thought. Just the right amount of sexy-without-really-trying. But trying, of course.

My friends and I poured drinks in the kitchen and made our way to the pool. We sipped and chatted and moved our hips to the music. We waited for the men to approach. Over time, they did and my friends peeled off from the circle. Petra in her low-cut chemise; Mara in her tight dress. And me? I politely sipped my drink, waiting. And waiting. Waiting until I finally gave up.

By the end of the night, my friends had handed out their numbers and scheduled rendezvous for the week ahead. I had worked my way through a bottle of wine. On the way home, they tittered

about the great guys they met. I sulked in silence.

Dispirited, I phoned my friend Gabe the next day.

"Not one man approached me last night," I wailed into the receiver. "Why don't men talk to me?"

"I imagine your intelligence and independence are intimidating," Gabe said. The kind of answer I like to hear.

"But what's the real reason?" I said.

Gabe was quiet for a few seconds. "They don't think you're easy," he said finally.

I didn't say anything on my end of the phone. Gabe must have thought I needed further explanation. "You don't look slutty," he clarified.

I laughed. Well, there's that. "If I don't look slutty, does that mean I look boring?"

"It means you don't look easy. Unfortunately, that's what most people at bars or clubs are looking for."

"So how do I look approachable?" Gabe reflected.

"Men are simple creatures," he said after a pause. "If you want to attract somebody, you need to look like you want sex. The opposite of classy."

I thought of my younger, wilder days when I wore miniskirts and see-through tops and had a date every weekend. But I wised up over time and eventually realized the finer principles of relationships. Namely, just because you're down for a good time doesn't mean you're

long-term romance material.

The question is where men and

women find a meeting point.

Women are supposed to use our sex appeal to attract a man, but once we pique his interest we better not make good on that promise. Otherwise we become a passing fling.

"If you want to attract somebody, you need to look like you want sex..."

Men use sex appeal to judge a woman's availability for the night. What comes afterward is another story.

The answer then is a woman has to be just enough sexy, just enough available and just enough easy for a man to approach. The trick, of course, is knowing where to draw the line. ■





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# OUT

From page A23

WGCU, presents a special free screening of "Out in America" at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at the Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers. The film will air nationwide on PBS stations on Wednesday, June 8, during Gay Pride Month.

"One of the cornerstones of PBS is to give viewers opportunities to explore worlds that they traditionally would not be a part of," says Dan Nelson, development director for WGCU Public Media. "When I learned from the show's producer that two of its 'stars' live in Florida, we decided to bring together our viewers and members to meet Ruthie and Connie and celebrate the diversity of Southwest Florida and the high quality programs available on WGCU."

Ms. Kurtz and Ms. Berman live in West Palm Beach. Both will attend the Fort Myers screening and a reception afterward.

The two women are no strangers to publicity.

In 1988, they sued the New York City Board of Education for domestic partner benefits, winning the landmark case in 1994. They've been interviewed by Phil Donohue and Geraldo Rivera and were the subject of a 2002 documentary, "Ruthie and Connie: Every Room in the House."

"We have been very public for a very long time," Ms. Kurtz said in a phone interview. "We have a website and a blog. We are able to really let our hair down in all ways to get the message out. Things have changed, but not enough that I can sit back and accept and be appreciative. There's more to be done."

"Out in America" filmmaker Andrew Goldberg agrees, though he didn't set out to make a political film. He wanted to pan away from politics and zoom in on the diversity within the LGBT community and the commonalities its members share with the rest of the world.

"When you turn on the TV, it's almost always something like marriage equality, bills and laws," Mr. Goldberg said in a phone interview from New York. "Part of the reason I wanted to make this is because there's no frank discussion about just being lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender."

"I asked a gay friend of mine how much of his life he spent talking about all these issues in the headlines, and he said, 'Most of my life is not much different from anybody else's.'"

"I asked a gay friend of mine how much of his life he spent talking about all these issues in the headlines, and he said, 'Most of my life is not much different from anybody else's.'"

## Tremendous progress made

Mr. Goldberg interviewed hundreds of people all over the country to find those featured in the hour-long film.

There are "the Harolds" — one black Harold, one white Harold — who've been together 45 years. There's a man who used to be a woman and a woman who used to be a man. There's a gay cowboy as well as a gay minister, a lesbian professor and a lesbian country music star.

Their conversations about coming out of the closet, fighting discrimination and AIDS and finding love are stitched together with news footage chronicling 60 years of changing American attitudes toward the LGBT community. A clip from a Miami TV station shows cops using entrapment to arrest gay men in 1965. Mike Wallace gravely discusses the psychology of "the homosexual" in a black-and-white news report. Fast-forward to lesbian couples marrying on courthouse steps.

"We've made a tremendous amount of progress," activist Robyn Ochs says in the film. "There are rights that exist now that would have been unimaginable 15 years ago."

None existed when Ms. Berman and Ms. Kurtz fell in love in 1974. Both were married and had children. Ms. Berman



Harold Herman and Harold Mays have been together 45 years.

TWO CAT PRODUCTIONS / COURTESY PHOTO



Mike Hartman was an "out" cowboy in Oregon before the movie "Brokeback Mountain" was released.

TWO CAT PRODUCTIONS / COURTESY PHOTO



Country music star Chely Wright, who came out as a lesbian, is featured in "Out in America."

TWO CAT PRODUCTIONS / COURTESY PHOTO

was a teacher and school administrator; Ms. Kurtz was a bookkeeper. They'd known each other since the 1950s when they were neighbors in Brooklyn, but love blossomed later.

"We have a long history — two married women, five children, 21 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren," Ms. Berman said. "And it wasn't easy. We knew we couldn't stay in our marriages once we fell in love."

After more than three decades together, the women finish each other's sentences, phone each other several times a day when they're apart and aren't shy about dancing in front of the "Out in America" cameras.

Their relationship is like a tandem bicycle, they say.

"Nobody has to say, 'Start with your left,'" Ms. Berman says.

Straight people tend to think of gays and lesbians only in terms of sexuality, the couple believes, so they only see part of the picture.

Ms. Berman: "They put us in the bedroom."

Ms. Kurtz: "We are in every room functioning."

Ms. Berman: "We celebrate holidays, go to the movies, socialize with non-gays as well as gays. We go to theater, the opera. We have a full, rich life. The only difference is we have to be concerned about our finances together and who can visit in the hospital."

## Hatred still out there

News of people coming out of the closet might not raise eyebrows as much as it used to, and a handful of states have even approved same-sex marriage. But



COURTESY PHOTO

Ruthie Berman and Connie Kurtz of West Palm Beach recently celebrated their 36th anniversary. They will attend a screening of "Out in America," a documentary they appear in, at the Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers.

that's a far cry from full acceptance and equality nationwide.

As recent headlines proved, there are still young gay men killing themselves to escape public torment and personal hopelessness. There are still people like the Rev. Fred Phelps preaching that "God hates fags."

"Toxicity and hatred are so contagious," Mr. Goldberg said, adding that's why films like "Out in America" that bring human faces and personal narratives to the public arena are still needed. "We can never have too many of these things."

"Most people don't hear any of this. The film shows that (gays and lesbians) can have long-term relationships, have grandchildren."

Growing up in Chicago, Mr. Goldberg, who is straight, said he was taught "all sorts of bigoted things." But the lessons of hatred never took hold in him. He couldn't see that being gay was any different than, say, having brown hair.

In he was in college in the early 1990s, a male roommate came out of the closet and Mr. Goldberg was shocked to see how others reacted to the revelation.

"What he was doing was disliked by a lot of people — friends and family," Mr. Goldberg said. "His family was not warm at all. I kept thinking, 'Why is this so horrible?' That stayed in my mind, this sort of dishonesty we're all living with." ■

## in the know

>> "Out in America," a PBS documentary  
>> **Free screening:** 2 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at the Alliance of the Arts, Fort Myers. Reservations required. Call 590-2506.

>> **Television premiere:** 8 p.m. June 8 on WPBT-Channel 2 and at 11 p.m. June 9 and 3 p.m. June 11 on WXEL-Channel 42.

## WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

## Thursday, May 26

■ **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 see loxahatcheeriver.org.

■ **ACCESS Assistance Workshop** - Sponsored by Bridges at Lake Park, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. May 26, Lake Park Public Library, 529 Park Ave., Lake Park. Free; 881-3330.

■ **Beach Safety Day** - Palm Beach County Ocean Rescue will present the event, which will feature first aid techniques and swim, board, and pier rescue demonstrations. Palm Beach County Ocean Rescue will educate participants about being safe in and near the aquatic environment with discussions and/or material about rip currents, jellyfish, Portuguese man-of-war, lightning, sun protection, snorkeling, surfing, and boating safety. It is 2:30-5 p.m. May 26, Juno Beach Park, 14775 U.S. Highway 1, Juno Beach; 694-7483.

■ **Mos'Art Theatre** - Screenings of "Blank City," at 5 p.m. and "My Perestroika," at 7 p.m. May 26. Tickets: \$8. 700 Park Ave., Lake Park; 337-6763.

■ **Basic Driver Improvement Class** - 6-10 p.m. May 26, Safety Council of Palm Beach County, 4152 W. Blue Heron Blvd, Riviera Beach; 845-8233.

## Friday, May 27

■ **Mos'Art Theatre** - Screenings of "First Beautiful Thing," "A Good Man" and "The Princess of Montpensier." Various times, May 27-June 2. Opening night tickets: \$6. General admission: \$8. 700 Park Ave., Lake Park; 337-6763.

■ **Downtown's Weekend Kick-off** - Singers perform 6-10 p.m. Fridays. May 27: Shauna Sweeney Band. Downtown at the Gardens' Centre Court, 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Drive, Palm Beach Gardens; 340-1600.

■ **Florida Classical Ballet Theatre** - The company presents "To Russia with Love," 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. May 27, Eissey Campus Theatre, Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens. Tickets: \$22-\$32; 207-5900 or www.fcbt.org.

■ **Sunset Celebration** - 6-8 p.m. May 27, Harbor Marina, 105 Lake Shore Drive, Lake Park.

■ **Tony DeSare** - The headliner from New York's Carlyle Hotel plays a cabaret show May 27-28 and June 3-4, The Colony's Royal Room, 155 Hammon Ave., Palm Beach. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and show starts around 8 p.m. Cost: \$110 for dinner and show; \$70 for show only. 659-8100.

## Saturday, May 28

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

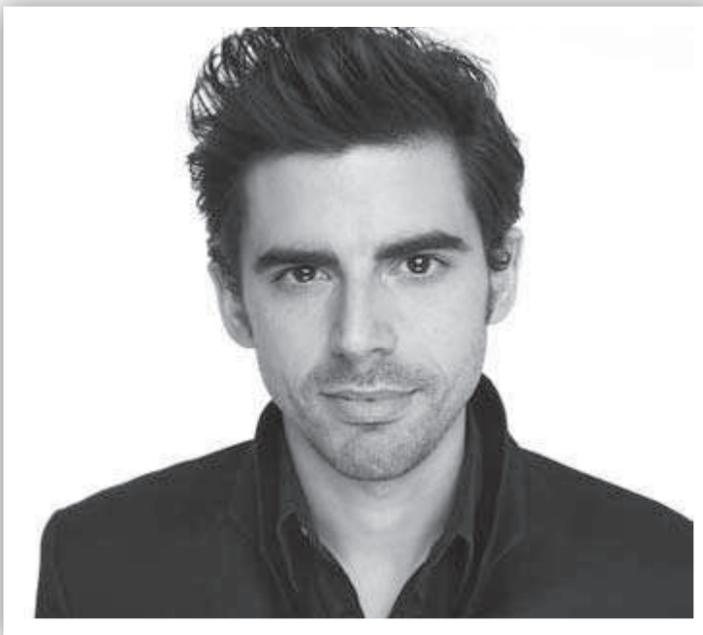
■ **Kids Story Time** - 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Loggerhead Marineline Center, 14200 U.S. 1, Juno Beach. Free; marinelife.org.

■ **Celebrate Saturdays at Downtown** - Singers perform 6-10 p.m. Saturdays. May 28: Derek Mack Band. Downtown at the Gardens' Centre Court, 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Drive, Palm Beach Gardens; 340-1600.

■ **Cutest Pet Contest** - Sponsored by WRMF, 4-6 p.m. in the Plaza, Downtown at the Gardens, 11701 Lake Victoria

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COURTESY PHOTO



Gardens Drive, Palm Beach Gardens. Enter your pet and you could win a \$250 gift certificate to Whole Pet Essentials and a \$50 Downtown at the Gardens gift card. 340-1600. Contest details at www.wrmf.com. Click on CONTESTS.

■ **Elegant Spring Tea Party** - Hosted by Artists Showcase to save its art programs in the Historic Jenkins House, 12:30-3:30 p.m. May 28, Bear Lakes Country Club, West Palm Beach. Will feature local artists and prizes. This tea calls for social attire (hats for women, ties for men; no jeans) Prizes for most unique tie and hat. Tickets: \$35 per person/tax deductible; 832-1323 or email asotb@bellsouth.net.

■ **Slammin' Saturdays at Roger Dean** - The Palm Beach Cardinals play the Lakeland Tigers in this minor league game. It is followed by fireworks and Rolling Stones tribute band "The New Stones," 6:35 p.m., Roger Dean Stadium, Abacoa, Jupiter. Tickets: \$8.50 for adults, \$6.50 for children and seniors; 775-1818 or www.rogerdeanstadium.com.

■ **Bill Maher** - The political humorist appears at 8 p.m. May 28 at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: \$30 and up; 832-7469.

■ **"Remembering America's Fallen"** - Patriotic concert by The New Gardens Band, 3 and 8 p.m. May 28, Eissey Campus Theatre, Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens. Tickets: \$15 matinee, \$20 evening; 207-5900.

## Sunday, May 29

■ **"Coppelia" from the Paris Opera Ballet** - Screening at 1:30 p.m. May 30. Tickets: \$18. 700 Park Ave., Lake Park; 337-6763.

## Tuesday, May 31

■ **Tuesdays at Tots** - 11:30-1 p.m. Tuesdays. 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.

■ **Coupon Saving Workshop** - Sponsored by Bridges at Lake Park, 5:30 p.m. May 31, Lake Park Public Library, 529 Park Ave., Lake Park. Free; 881-3330.

## Wednesday, June 1

■ **"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.

■ **Basic Computer Class** - Noon to 1:30 p.m. June 1, Lake Park Public Library, 529 Park Ave., Lake Park. Free; 881-3330.

■ **Hatchling Tales** - 10:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Loggerhead Marineline 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.pbgl.com.

■ **Turtle Walks** - Guided walks offer the opportunity to see loggerheads nesting, 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays, June 1-July 30, Loggerhead Marineline Center, 14200 U.S. Highway 1, Juno Beach. Tickets are \$10 for members of Loggerhead Marineline Center and \$15 for non-members. Pre-registration is required; 627-8280.

## 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.

■ **"Celebrating Yourself"** - Art on Park Studios and Gallery hosts its first juried student art show. Through June 2. Gallery is at 800 Park Ave., Lake Park; 355-0300.

■ **"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 Marineline 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 Exhibition," through May 26. "The Art of Association," May 28-June 9. Opening reception is 5:30-7:30 p.m. June 3. 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, excludes golf exhibitions; 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; "Out of This World," June 4-Sept. 4. 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.

■ **The Art Gallery at Eissey Campus** - "Collective Synergy," juried exhibition by members of the Palm Beach County Art Teachers Association, through Sept. 2, Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens. Free; 207-5015.

## June events

■ **Exhibition of Paintings and Drawings by Pamela Larkin Caruso** - Features botanicals and hearts, June 2- Aug. 31. Eissey Campus Theatre lobby gallery, Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens. Gallery is open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and at all performances; 207-5905.

■ **Hooked on a Cure** - Fishing tournament to benefit the Lymphoma & Leukemia Society, June 3-4, Lake Park Harbor Marina, 105 Lake Shore Drive, Lake Park. Fee: \$250 per boat for four anglers, \$50 for each additional angler. Mail registration forms to: Hooked on a Cure, 155 E. Blue Heron Blvd., Riviera Beach, FL 33404. www.jasonbrian.com.

# WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

■ **“Rain”** - A Tribute to The Beatles — 8 p.m. June 3 and 2 and 8 p.m. June 4, the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: \$20 and up; 832-7469.

■ **Lighthouse Sunset Tours** - Scheduled for June 3, 8, 17 and 22. Call for tour times. See the Jupiter Lighthouse turning on to illuminate the night sky. Visitors get an inside look at the nuts and bolts of a working lighthouse watchroom. Tour time approximately 75 minutes. Tickets: \$15 members, \$20 non-members. RSVP required; 747-8380, Ext. 101.

■ **Farm-Your-Backyard Vegetable Garden** - 9 a.m.-2 p.m. June 4, Mounts Botanical Garden, 559 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach. Mounts horticulturist Mike Page and Arthur Kirstein, coordinator of Agricultural Economic Development, will teach this hands-on workshop on how to successfully grow vegetables. The focus of the program is on establishing and managing small vegetable projects, with helpful tips on site preparation, seedling establishment, planting, maintenance and harvesting will be covered. Cost: \$30 members, \$40 nonmembers. 233-1757 or www.mounts.org.

■ **Fitness at the Library** - Sponsored by Bridges at Lake Park, 11 a.m.-noon June 4, Lake Park Public Library, 529 Park Ave., Lake Park. Free; 881-3330.

■ **River Totters Arts n’ Crafts** - 9 a.m. second Wednesday of each month (next session is June 8), Loxahatchee River Center, 805 N. U.S. 1, Jupiter. Arts and crafts for kids. Cost: \$3; 743-7123.

■ **Camp Kappawanna** - City Theatre presents Lisa Loeb’s musical at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. June 9-10, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

June 11 and 1 p.m. June 12 at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Tickets: \$25; 832-7469. Group rates available. Call 651-4438 or 651-4304.

■ **Lighthouse Moonrise Tour** - See the moon rise from the top of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, 7:30 p.m. June 15. Tour time approximately 75 minutes. \$15 members, \$20 non-members. RSVP required; 747-8380, Ext. 101.

■ **Teen Summer Theatre Program** - June 20-July 1, Eissey Campus Theatre, Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens. Program is for teens ages 13-16, and will end with a free performance on July 1. A maximum of 25 students will be accepted into the program. Tuition: \$375; 207-5905 or denholmn@palmbeachstate.edu.

■ **“Footloose”** - The students of the Maltz Jupiter Theatre’s Conservatory of Performing Arts present the musical at 7:30 p.m. June 24-25 at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 children; 575-2223.

■ **Turtle Walks** - In June and July, the Loggerhead Marinelife Center, at 14200 U.S. 1, Juno Beach, will offer Wednesday-Saturday night turtle walks. Tours begin at 8:30 p.m. Walks are \$15, or \$10 for members. Advance registration and payment are required; see www.marinelife.org or call 627-8280, Ext. 107.

■ **Mommy & Me** - Family-friendly activities for mummies, daddies and little ones 11 a.m.-1 p.m. the last Wednesday of the month. Next session: June 29, Downtown at the Gardens’ Carousel Courtyard, 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Drive, Palm Beach Gardens; 318-5358.

## PUZZLE ANSWERS



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

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## Fashion camp comes to Gardens Mall

Camp and couture go together at The Gardens Mall.

The mall's seven-week Fashion and Modeling Camp runs Saturdays, June 4 through July 25.

Each week will focus on a fashion module designed to ignite a child's imagination and senses. Expert tips on healthy eating and energy-packed snacks will be explored, along with a special Pilates demonstration. Curriculum at Fashion and Modeling Camp includes Runway Technique, Nutrition and Health, Movement to Music, Acting 101 for Modeling, Proper Etiquette, Yoga and Hair, Nail and Skin Care, Posing for the Camera, Fashion Design, and much more to build

self-esteem and confidence.

The course culminates in a Back-To-School Fashion Show scheduled for Aug. 13.

Camp is led by Barbara Smoliak, who is executive director of the Star Power Program, an after-school enrichment program taught in Palm Beach County middle and high schools.

There are two age groups for youth. Kids 10 and under meet from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and kids 11 to 18 meet from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Camp is open to boys and girls.

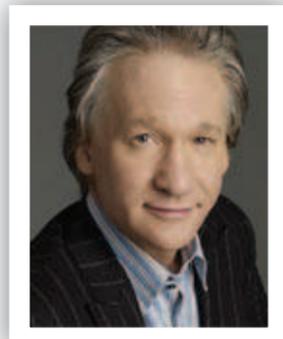
Cost is \$250 per child.

For information, call 747-6594 or visit [www.palmbeachfashioncamp.com](http://www.palmbeachfashioncamp.com). ■

## Maher to play Kravis May 28

Bill Maher, on television for 17 years as a comedian and political commentator — first on Politically Incorrect (Comedy Central, ABC, 1992-2002), and for the last seven years on HBO's Real Time — plays Dreyfoos Hall at the Kravis Theater in West Palm Beach on May 28 at 8 p.m.

Maher's combination of unflinching honesty and big laughs have garnered him 22 Emmy nominations. In recent years, this same combination



was on display in Maher's swipe at organized religion, *Religulous*, the 7th highest grossing documentary ever.

In addition to his TV series, best-selling books, HBO stand-up comedy specials and concert appearances, Maher is a frequent guest on MSNBC, CNN and late night talk shows hosted

by Jay Leno and David Letterman.

Tickets start at \$30. Call 832-7469 or see [Kravis.org](http://Kravis.org). ■

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In memory of St. Jude patient, Nicky Mailliard, RA Sushi will donate 100% of the proceeds from the week-long sale of select menu items to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to help fund cancer research and treatment.

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## “Idol” Hicks to play Dirty Martini

Dirty Martini opens with vodka, vermouth, an olive and an “American Idol.”

Taylor Hicks, who won the fifth season of the talent show, will give a special performance June 1 at the newly opened Dirty Martini at Downtown at the Gardens.

The Alabama-born Mr. Hicks, a singer-songwriter who got his big break during the 2005-2006 season of “American Idol,” has released two albums since his win, a self-titled major



label debut and “The Distance.”

The performance will launch Dirty Martini’s Wednesday ladies night, called “La Crème de la Femme,” at which women receive one complimentary martini and half-price drinks from 8 p.m. until closing.

Doors open at 4 p.m. Mr. Hicks’ performance begins at 9 p.m. and is limited to the first 400 guests.

Dirty Martini is in the former Strip House at Downtown at the Gardens, 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Ave., Palm Beach Gardens. Phone: 799-1115. On the Web: [www.dirtymartinipalmbeach.com](http://www.dirtymartinipalmbeach.com). ■

## Botanical garden festival set for June 25

The Friends of Mounts Botanical Garden Tropical Fruit Festival is June 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Co-sponsored by the Palm Beach Chapter of the Rare Fruit Council International, the festival will include special cooking demonstrations at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. by Chef Allen Susser, owner of Chef Allen’s restaurant in Miami.

Other highlights include a tropical fruit display by Gene Joyner and a fruitscaping lecture by Dr. Jonathan Crane; tropical fruit samples (limited to the first 500 attendees), and fruit and fruit trees will be available for purchase; a Palm Beach County Extension Master garden-

ing booth, family and consumer sciences canning display, and live steel drums music by Calypso King.

The festival is supported by the Marge & Fritz Bell Tropical Fruit Project. Admission is free for members of Mounts Botanical Garden and the Palm Beach Chapter of the Rare Fruit Council International, and \$5 per person for everyone else. For more information, call 233-1757 or see [mounts.org](http://mounts.org).

Mounts is at 531 North Military Trail in West Palm Beach. It is open Monday-Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The suggested donation for entry is \$5 per person. ■

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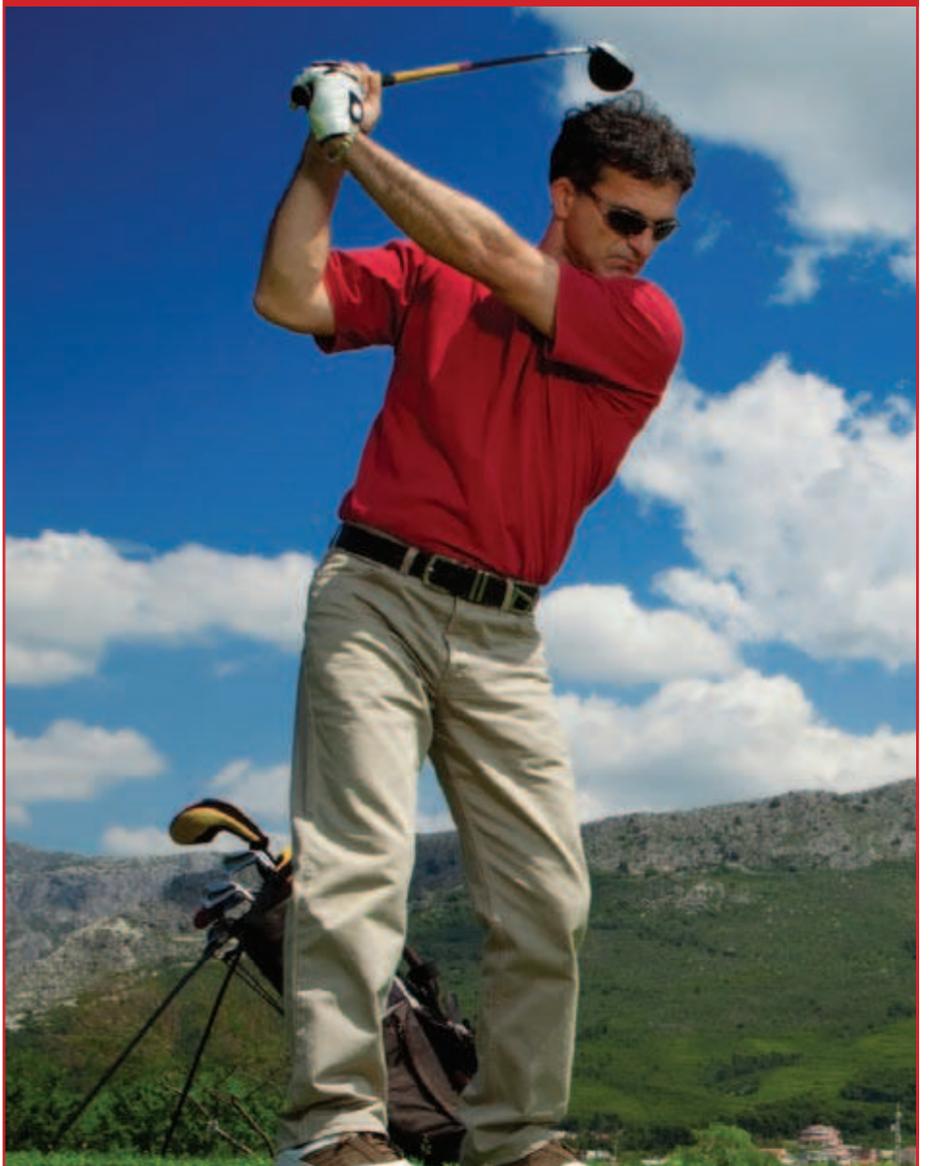
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## LATEST FILMS

### 'Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides'

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★ ★

Is it worth \$10? No

You know that feeling when someone who's trying to impress you but acts weird because they can't relax and go with the flow? That's what it's like watching "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides." It's trying so hard to impress and entertain that it comes across as desperate and boring.

Johnny Depp said he wanted to simplify the story for this film after the convoluted mess of the last two "Pirates" movies. Director Rob Marshall's ("Nine") film is comparatively a bit simpler, sure, but there's still far too much going on. Why screenwriters Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio can't streamline their scripts (they've written all four movies) is anyone's guess.

Mr. Depp's Jack Sparrow is on a quest for the Fountain of Youth. But so are Barbosa (Geoffrey Rush), who's now working for the British crown; the King of Spain (Sebastian Arnesto), who sends his own fleet; and Blackbeard (Ian McShane), the pirate whose daughter Angelica (Penelope Cruz) has a history with Jack.

Throw in voodoo, zombies, a priest (Sam Claflin) and his beloved mermaid (Astrid Berges-Frisbey), and you have a lot of tangential moving parts that only distract from, and in no way add to, the main storyline.

Mr. Depp was an Oscar nominee the first time he played Jack, but at times here he's clearly going through the motions. At other times he's the only good thing the movie has going for it, as he continues to make Jack an incorrigibly lovable scoundrel.

It's also nice to see Mr. Rush return, but the new actors to the franchise (Mr. McShane and Ms. Cruz) have little impact.

As for the action, there's plenty of it — too much, in fact, to the point where it gets redundant, especially at times when it's there for no discernible reason. Action



for the sake of action — such as the scene when Jack fights Angelica before they meet — is the worst type of action of all. This is also infuriating because it slows the story down with poorly edited, mind-numbing silliness. Worse, the 3D adds little visual appeal; no doubt this will play better on regular screens.

The end (including a brief scene after the credits), of course, sets us up for a fifth film, but we have to wonder if there's really a story left that's worth telling. By this point Captain Jack and company have exhausted numerous high-seas possibilities, and the franchise's once delightful charm is no longer anywhere to be found.

The first "Pirates" was a great swash-buckling adventure with a straightforward story of good vs. evil and Jack Sparrow stumbling about in the middle. The second and third films got away from this simplicity, meaning it's especially sad to see that the lesson has not been learned with the oversaturated "On Stranger Tides."

Watching these movies should be enjoyable — not like a chore. Where has all the fun gone? ■

in the know

>> Penelope Cruz was pregnant during filming, which led to wardrobe issues later in production. During some long shots, her sister stood in for her.

## CAPSULES

REVIEWED BY DAN HUDAK

www.hudakonhollywood.com

### Meek's Cutoff ★★

(Michelle Williams, Bruce Greenwood, Will Patton) In 1845, settlers struggle to survive as they travel the Oregon Trail and encounter a potentially dangerous Native American. The acting is fine but the story is painfully dull: It's 104 long minutes in which virtually nothing happens. Rated PG.

### Bridesmaids ★★½

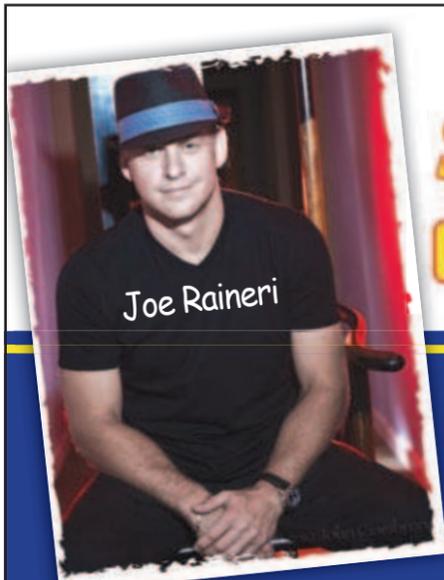
(Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne) Unlucky in love and with little going for her, Annie (Wiig) even fails at being a good maid of honor for lifelong

best friend Lillian (Rudolph). Consistent laughs redeem the clunky pacing, extensive running time and scenes that run far too long. Rated R.

### Everything Must Go

★★★

(Will Ferrell, Michael Peña, Rebecca Hall) An alcoholic (Ferrell) loses his job, wife and home in the span of a few hours, forcing him to live on his front lawn. You'd think the premise would make for a laugh-out-loud Will Ferrell comedy, but this is really a thoughtful drama with brief comedic interludes. Credit to Ferrell for giving a real performance rather than acting like an idiot as he usually does. Rated R. ■



## Cup of Joe Morning Show

with Valerie Smyth

I'm wondering if it's just me who gets so frustrated with customer service—or the lack of customer service—when I go shopping lately. Now, before I go any further, let me clarify that there is a handful of merchants who really take pride in their staff and realize the importance of customer service.

I was at The Gardens Mall to look for an outfit for an upcoming event, and here's what happened. I walked into a store where I usually find really great things, and all of the employees were engaged in a conversation about how stupid their boyfriends are. That's OK with me, because at one time or another in our lives, girls, we have all felt that way! It's the fact that when I walked in, I wasn't greeted (and I walked right by them), I wasn't asked if there was anything in particular I was looking for... nothing. I grabbed a few things to try on. Still, no one said a word to me. I walked by very slowly to get a reaction... there was none! One girl was texting, and moved so I could pass. I was so aggravated that I put the items I wanted back and left. The kicker: not even a "goodbye."

However, to the employees at "Mac" in The Gardens Mall: Kudos! Your customer service is superb, and you will always have my return business! Tune in to The Cup of Joe Morning Show weekdays at 6:30 for your chance to win great prizes!

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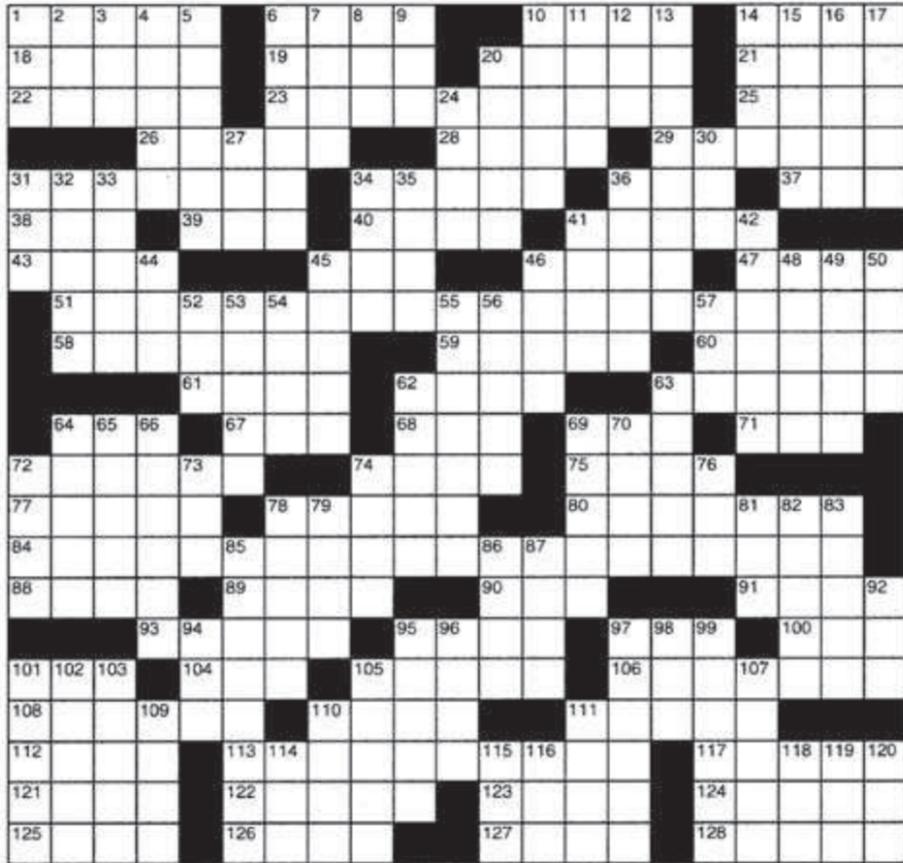
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# FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES

## TIME WARP



- ACROSS**
- 1 Puccini heroine
  - 6 Keen
  - 10 Actress Lanchester
  - 14 Be in charge
  - 18 Fully developed
  - 19 Farm measure
  - 20 Sag
  - 21 Inspect too closely?
  - 22 Automaton
  - 23 Start of a remark by Doug Larson
  - 25 Sue of "Lolita"
  - 26 Squander
  - 28 Clinton's hometown
  - 29 Woodland deities
  - 31 Sporting dog
  - 34 Manifest
  - 36 Heredity letters
  - 37 — kwon do
  - 38 Antiquity, archaically
  - 39 Born
  - 40 "Serpico" author
  - 41 "The Donkey Serenade" composer
  - 43 "September" ('61 film)
  - 45 Fire
  - 46 James of "Misery"
  - 47 — facto
  - 51 Part 2 of remark
  - 58 Kind of clam
  - 59 Dhamar's locale
  - 60 "Rebel Without a Cause" actor
  - 61 Rocker Halliwell
  - 62 "Man bites dog," e.g.
  - 63 Myrdal or Nelson
  - 64 Fall behind
  - 67 Encore exclamation
  - 68 Flock female
  - 69 Norm
  - 71 Move, with "about"
  - 72 Spanish title
  - 74 "... some curds and —"
  - 75 Tennis pro Nastase
  - 77 Ralph of "The Waltons"
  - 78 Stiller's partner
  - 80 "Appalachian Spring" composer
  - 84 Part 3 of remark
  - 88 Siamese
  - 89 Coup d'—
  - 90 Good
  - 91 times
  - 91 Chucky, for one
  - 93 Yellowish brown
  - 95 WWII site
  - 97 Room for research
  - 100 Ginnie —
  - 101 Friend
  - 104 EMT's skill
  - 105 Commandment word
  - 106 Remarkable
  - 108 Talisman
  - 110 Galaxy glitterer
  - 111 Buy off
  - 112 Writer
  - 113 Paretsky
  - 113 End of remark
  - 117 Too heavy
  - 121 Mix with water
  - 122 Inexperienced
  - 123 European capital
  - 124 Talk really big
  - 125 Away from the wind
  - 126 Richard of "Inter-section"
  - 127 Rocker Van Halen
  - 128 Birth-related
- DOWN**
- 1 Pitch
  - 2 "Deep Space Nine" role
  - 3 Fill in
  - 4 Circus performer
  - 5 Reach
  - 6 Fowl feature
  - 7 Feel sore
  - 8 Wrath
  - 9 Permit
  - 10 Act like
  - 11 Stud site
  - 12 Impresario
  - 13 Hurok
  - 14 Italy's — Mountains
  - 15 Celeste or lan
  - 16 Maui
  - 17 greeting
  - 18 Obtuse
  - 20 "Light My Fire" rockers
  - 24 Big bird
  - 27 "I told you so!"
  - 30 Tasty tuber
  - 31 Wine word
  - 32 Deere things
  - 33 Fess up
  - 34 Poet
  - 35 Khayyam transport
  - 36 — butter
  - 41 Actress Dunaway
  - 42 Fondness
  - 44 Printemps follower
  - 45 Comic Elliott
  - 46 Machine parts
  - 48 Neighbor of 116
  - 49 "Slammin' Sam"
  - 50 Bouquet
  - 52 Crone
  - 53 Simple life form
  - 54 Garr of "Mr. Mom"
  - 55 Glasses
  - 56 Loser to Truman
  - 57 Big bird
  - 62 Jawaharial's jacket
  - 63 Belyache
  - 64 Terrier
  - 65 A Pointer sister
  - 66 Like Notre Dame
  - 69 Early Brits
  - 70 Baseball family name
  - 72 "M\*A\*S\*H" Emmy winner
  - 73 Actor Stephen
  - 74 Power unit
  - 76 Urban transport
  - 78 Carpenter's corner
  - 79 List ender
  - 81 Postfix
  - 82 Cover girl
  - 83 Poet
  - 85 Seductive
  - 86 Without value
  - 87 Detect
  - 92 Triangle part
  - 94 Tennis term
  - 95 Ignominy
  - 96 Starch source
  - 97 It's down in the mouth
  - 98 "— Blue?" ("29 song)
  - 99 Zoo attraction
  - 101 It's tossed with sauce
  - 102 Menotti title character
  - 103 Novelist Alison
  - 105 Place for pots
  - 107 Striped sprinter
  - 109 Path
  - 110 Move a bit
  - 111 Unadorned
  - 114 Dundee denial
  - 115 Hoopsters' org.
  - 116 Newark's st.
  - 118 Put away a pastry
  - 119 Police hdqrs.
  - 120 Sniggler's quarry

SEE ANSWERS, A27

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## HOROSCOPES

### GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)

You might want to consider stepping back from the task at hand for a while. This could help you get a better perspective on what you've done and what still needs to be done.

### CANCER (June 21 to July 22)

Your keen Cancerian insight should help you determine whether a new offer is solid or just more fluff 'n' stuff. The clues are all there, waiting for you to find them.

### LEO (July 23 to August 22)

Being ignored is difficult for any proud Leo or Leona. But pushing yourself back into the spotlight might be unwise. Instead, let things work themselves out at their own pace.

### VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)

Trying to uncover a colleague's secret under the pretext of showing concern is ill-advised. Control your curiosity in order to avoid raising resentment in the workplace.

### LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)

Expect to hear good news about a loved one. Also, be prepared for some changes in several family relationships that could develop from this lucky turn of events.

### SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)

Some surprises are expected to accompany a number of changes that will continue through part of next week. At least one could involve a romantic situation.

### SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)

You might be

upset by some of your critics. But most of your associates continue to have faith in your ability to get the job done, and done well.

### CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)

A workplace goal that suddenly seems out of reach is no problem for the sure-footed Goat, who moves steadily forward despite any obstacles placed in his or her way.

### AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)

Uncertainty about who is right and who isn't might keep you from making a clear-cut decision. Wait until you know more about what you're being asked to decide.

### PISCES (February 19 to March 20)

Be careful to keep your emotions in check when dealing with a demanding personal situation. You need to set an example of strength for others to follow.

### ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

Lots of possibilities begin to open up by midweek. Some seem more appealing than others. But wait for more facts to emerge later on before you consider which to choose.

### TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)

Bravo to the determined Bovine. While others might give up, you continue to search for answers. Expect your Taurean tenacity to begin paying off by week's end.

### BORN THIS WEEK:

You have an extraordinary ability to rally people to do their best. You would be a treasure as a teacher.

By Linda Thistle

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

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, A27

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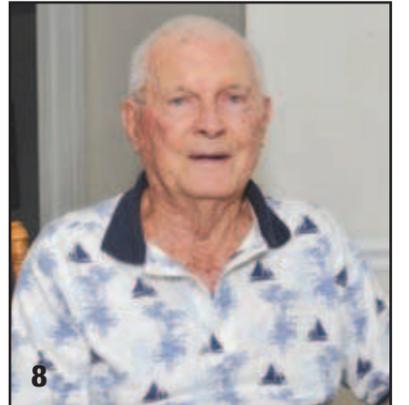
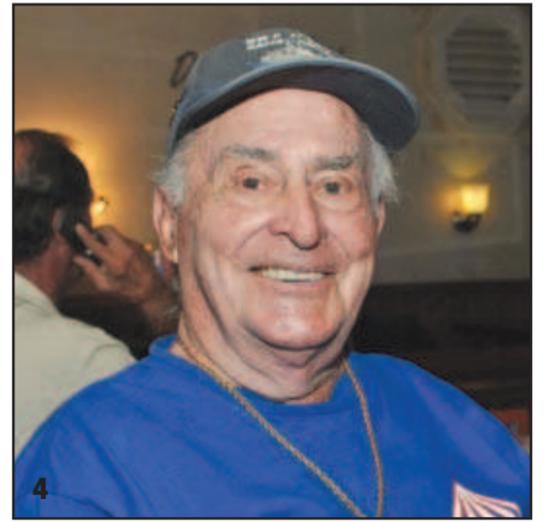
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# MEMORIAL DAY 2011

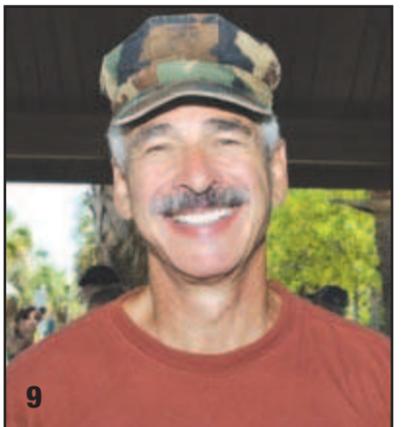
Florida Weekly salutes our area veterans



1. Kathleen Fox, Singer Island, U.S. Air Force
2. Kenneth J. Rourke, U.S. Army
3. Tommy Growden, N. Palm, U.S. Navy
4. Robert Gee, Gardens, U.S. Navy
5. William Burris, NPB, National Guard
6. Henry Inserra, Gardens, U.S. Navy
7. Joe McMorrow, U.S. Army
8. Jack Cadwell, Tequesta, U.S. Navy
9. Richard Wennet, Gardens, U.S. Navy
10. Thomas Roush, Lake Park, U.S. Army
11. Jim Arnold, Pompano Beach, U.S. Army
12. Scott Levesque, NPB, U.S. Navy
13. Dick and Nancy McKee, Singer Island, U.S. Army

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YOUR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

RACHEL HICKEY/FLORIDA WEEKLY  
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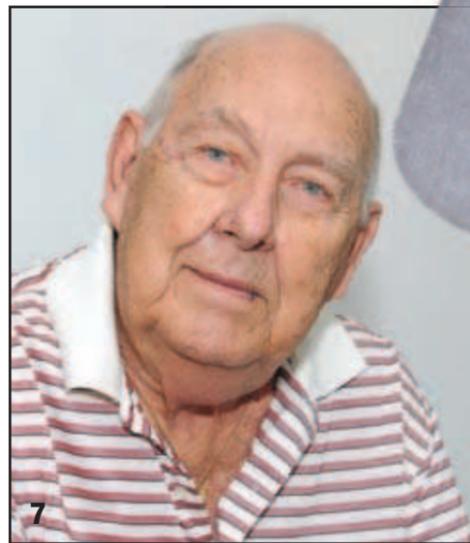
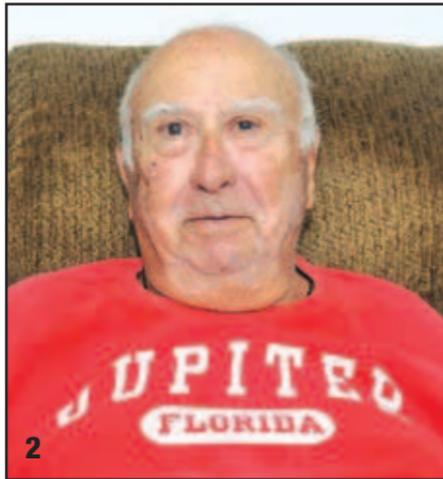
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# MEMORIAL DAY 2011

Florida Weekly salutes our area veterans



RACHEL HICKEY/FLORIDA WEEKLY  
BETTY WELLS/FLORIDA WEEKLY

1. Curtis Kuzmitch, Gardens, U.S. Navy
2. Carl Porcaro, Tequesta, U.S. Army
3. Jack Sohaliski, the Bluffs, U.S. Army
4. Bill Clevenger, Tequesta, U.S. Army Air Force
5. Fred Bartlett, Gardens, U.S. Navy
6. Emory Wallace, North Palm Beach, U.S. Army
7. Ed Hee, Tequesta, U.S. Navy
8. Dominic Defilippi, Jupiter, Marine Corps
9. Cloe Pavel, Tequesta, U.S. Army
10. Doris Markow, Singer Island, U.S. Coast Guard
11. Helen McCune, Tequesta, U.S. Coast Guard

**FLORIDA WEEKLY**  
YOUR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

# VINO

## South African wines please the palate and the pocketbook, too



**Jim McCracken**  
vino@floridaweekly.com

recently visited Florida and took some time to talk with me. Here are some snippets from our conversation:

**Q: Did you discover a great wine that got you started in the business?**

**A:** Yes. De Trafford wines in South Africa. When I tasted them I liked their individual styles. I have adopted a lot of his techniques, like open fermentation and using natural yeasts."

**Q: What wine region would you like to explore that you haven't been to yet?**

**A:** I want to go to Napa. It has similarities to South Africa in climate and soils. I want to see how they make them - New World wines in a classical style."

**Q: What would you be doing if you were not a winemaker?**

**A:** I would be a painter ... or maybe a furniture maker. I would definitely be creating something."

**Q: What's your best wine?**

**A:** Penny Black is my signature wine. I wanted to make a wine with finesse so I put a touch of chenin blanc into Penny Black. This is no gimmick but a traditional French standard - they blend voignier into shiraz and Rhone blends to lighten them up.

Below are 10 South African wines I tasted recently and enjoyed. They are listed in alphabetical order but you can't go wrong with any of them.

■ **Bouchard Finlayson Galpin Peak Pinot Noir 2009 (\$40):** Big and rich cherry and berry nose, balanced on the palate with lingering plum and raspberry flavors, ending with soft, luscious tannins.

■ **Bouchard Finlayson Kaaimansgat Limited Edition 2009 Chardonnay (\$23):** A classic style chardonnay with 60 percent barrel fermentation, the citrus nose shows melon and apple, carrying through on the palate with a buttery balanced finish.

■ **DeWetshof Limestone Hill Chardonnay 2010 (\$17):** Made from grapes grown on chalky, gravelly hills. After fermentation the wine is matured on the lees in stainless steel tanks for a



JIM MCCRACKEN / FLORIDA WEEKLY  
**Winemaker Nick Gebers of Post House Wines.**

few months. Fresh green apples and citrus aromas on the nose follow through on the palate, ending with a long tangy finish.

■ **Lammershoek Roulette 2006 (\$30):** Warm, fragrant spice on the nose with bright red fruits, fresh berries on the palate with good tannins leading to a soft mineral finish.

■ **Morgenster Lourens River Valley 2006 (\$35):** A traditional Bordeaux-style blend, the complex nose is fol-

lowed by rich dark red fruit flavors with balanced tannins and a long finish.

■ **Muratie Shiraz 2007 (\$38):** Dark intense red color with a ripe fruity nose. This well-balanced shiraz has plums, dark cherries and pepper on the palate, finishing with subtle balanced tannins.

■ **Post House Blueish Black 2008 (\$18):** A blend of shiraz and pinotage, with dark purple color, this wine has a ton of personality. Medium bodied with ripe tannins, the nose starts with plums, berries and spice and moves to black cherry and blackberries on the palate.

■ **Post House Missing Virgin 2008 (\$30):** This blend of pinotage and petit verdot grapes produces a wine with intense color. Full bodied and rich with supple soft tannins, a hint of blueberries and spice on the palate.

■ **Post House Penny Black 2007 (\$23):** Named after the first stamp ever printed, this wine is an elegant blend of mostly shiraz and cabernet sauvignon. Inky black in color, with a floral and peppery nose, the dark fruit flavors and firm tannins end with a lingering finish.

■ **Solms Astor Cape Jazz Shiraz NV (\$19):** Originally made to be poured during a yearly jazz festival, this light, sparkling and refreshing shiraz is low in alcohol and infused with a subtle fruitiness of cranberry, blackberry, raspberry and pomegranate. ■



Nick Gebers, winemaker and owner of South Africa's Post House Wines,



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**FEATURED: Oasis 11B**

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Only one residence per floor and over 4,000 square feet of living space. **Offered at \$1,900,000**



**FEATURED: Ritz Carlton 1003B**

A rare find for an oceanfront condo! This 3BR/3BA is available fully furnished and boasts impeccable attention to detail throughout. Custom moldings and trim work, wainscoting, ceiling medallions, elegant lighting fixtures, custom built-in displays and shelving, and

exquisite furnishings and decor. This resort-style residence has spectacular views and over 2,300 square feet of luxury living. **Offered at \$1,498,000**



**Ritz Carlton 1001A**

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**Oasis 14A**

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**Ocean's Edge 602**

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**Via Delfino 1801**

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**Ritz Carlton 1102B**

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**Martinique ET2201**

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**Jupiter Yacht Club 502**

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**Martinique WT1404**

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**Martinique WT804**

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