

PALM BEACH GARDENS & JUPITER FLORIDA WEEKLY®

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WEEK OF APRIL 5-11, 2012

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Shifting down the high price of filling up



RACHEL HICKEY / FLORIDA WEEKLY
Joe Costabile, business manager and technician at Surfside Scooters in North Palm Beach, says sales are up 30 percent to 40 percent over last year.

Scooter sales are skyrocketing along with fuel prices.

BY CHRIS FELKER
cfelker@floridaweekly.com

Gasoline prices are racing, and so are sales of scooters. On April 1 the national average for gasoline was \$3.925, according to AAA, and in 10 states the average was

more than \$4 a gallon. Price experts predict it will stay high through the summer.

At Surfside Scooters in North Palm Beach, sales are up 30 percent to 40 percent over last year, says Joe Costabile, business manager and technician. March was a “stellar month” for

sales, he says — as of the 20th, the shop had “doubled our sales from last month.”

Mr. Costabile, whose brands include Vespa, says there was a similar jump when gas skyrocketed in 2008. “People lined up

SEE SCOOTERS, A8 ►



INSIDE



Roadside icon

The Shell Factory on Florida's west coast turns 75. **B1** ►



Networking

See who's out and about in Palm Beach County. **A23-24** ►



Cool beans

Oceana Coffee in Tequesta roasts right in its cafe. **A22** ►

Florida Weekly celebrates five

FIVE YEARS AGO THIS WEEK, WE ROLLED out our very first edition in Fort Myers. Since then we've launched Florida Weekly in other markets. We've seen circulation and advertising grow. We've been among the first publications to launch a tablet edition and won a few awards along the way. We thank you, our readers, for your loyalty. See **A18-19**. ►



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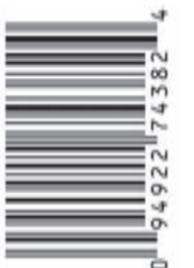
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COMMENTARY

Go out and see, pilgrim. Open yourself to the world.


 rogerWILLIAMS
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April, what a month. From the Latin “aperire,” to open.

To open the earth, to open our eyes and hearts, to open up the possibilities. To open our wallets (for the IRS, of course). A month said by modernists to be the cruelest.

That’s not true for Mitt Romney, not this April. But for Rick Santorum, perhaps it is. Now he’ll have to steer hard to port (left) if he wants to help another man reach the White House. And that must seem extraordinarily cruel to a starboard-steering soul so rightly certain of himself and everybody else.

But never mind them now. Let me review what April has brought or wrought historically.

In April, Ponce de Leon discovered Florida (probably in 1513) and claimed it for himself and his ilk (the Spanish). Anyone would have, although sugar-sand beaches swarming with frolicking youth — that’s you, I take it, because it’s sure not me — seem significantly more claimable than what he found. Why would you want a sugar-sand beach swarming with mosquitoes, extremely hostile Native Americans and mangroves?

In April, the United States Marines attacked Okinawa in the ferocious last Pacific battle of World War II (1945). In April, Jackie Robinson first entered the



ROGER WILLIAMS / FLORIDA WEEKLY
 Impatiens, an orchid, a periwinkle and lobelia remind us of April’s bounties.

Major Leagues (1947, the same month Truman kicked off the Marshall Plan to help our former enemies), and Hank Aaron tied and then surpassed Babe Ruth’s homerun record of 714 (1974).

In April, Robert Perry became the first human to reach the North Pole (1909), the Civil War ended with Lee’s surrender to Grant at Appomattox (1865), Thomas Jefferson was born (1748) and decades later made the Louisiana Purchase (1803).

He bought that vast tract from the French under Napoleon — all or parts of 15 contemporary states stretching from Louisiana to the Canadian border with Montana. Total acquisition: 828,000 square miles. Total cost: about 3 cents per acre, or \$15 million.

What a great month for T.J., but not so much for Napoleon.

In April a few years later (1814), the Emperor of France had to abdicate his position, not surprisingly.

Births and deaths, triumphs and tragedies, the great exodus of the Jews out of Egypt and into Liberation celebrated by

Passover this year from April 6 to April 14 — they’ve all played a part in this. The Titanic sank in April, which wasn’t so cool, but Apollo 13 took off and (somehow) splashed down safely, which was.

Abe Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr. were both assassinated in April. Franklin Roosevelt died, William Shakespeare was born and died on the same day 52 years later (April 23), the first Social Security checks were sent out in 1937 (talk about a spring bloom), and Hitler was married and committed suicide all in about 24 hours (1945).

And don’t forget that President James Buchanan was born this month, along with Booker T. Washington, Betty Ford, Edward R. Murrow and Samuel Morse, to name a few.

Paul Revere made his midnight ride and “the shot heard ‘round the world” was fired in Lexington, Mass., to start the Revolutionary War, both in April.

George Washington took office as the first American president — not king, not conqueror, not general, but president — on April 30, 1789, 14 years after that shot.

So what does it all mean? It means that spring has sprung. Both my oldest and my youngest sons were born in April within one day of each other, although 22 years apart (1980 and 2002), and if that isn’t glorious spring, I don’t know what is.

For me and Geoffrey Chaucer, the 14th-century poet, this is a month of pilgrimage, of storytelling, of celebration.

Chaucer’s famous “Canterbury Tales” describes a winner-take-all storytelling contest between 30 men and women traveling from London about 60 miles to the

Canterbury Cathedral, each storyteller aiming to win free lodging and food for the best story. He begins with these lines:

Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote

The droghte of March hath perced to the roote....

Than longen folk to goon on pilgrimages....

Of course, my dad died in April too young. After that for a while, I thought the modernists were right.

T. S. Eliot puts it like this, in the first lines of his most famous poem, “The Wasteland” (1922), right under the Section I title, “The burial of the dead:”

April is the cruellest month, breeding Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing

Memory and desire, stirring Dull roots with spring rain.

But I say, Horsepuckey.

I can do all that memory and desire nonsense in any month, except for the lilacs, but we don’t have them here at my place, anyway.

Instead, we have a clutch of softly purple impatiens, a buttery yellow orchid with a red center, a luscious single periwinkle in a near-pink hue, and a scatter of blue lobelia — all of it improbably beautiful.

Still, the faint scent of orange blossoms, mostly a March phenomenon, drifts across our senses like distant perfume, an April nod to November fruit. And at night fireflies dance through woods like tiny emissaries from the stars, as buzzed with hopeful kinesis as anything.

Go out and see, pilgrim. Open yourself to the world. ■



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OPINION**Madison's last stand****richLOWRY**

Special to Florida Weekly

The shade of James Madison hovers over the ObamaCare argument at the Supreme Court.

It is the system of limited and carefully divided government powers that he had a large hand in crafting — and defended so ably in *The Federalist Papers* — that is at stake in the contest over the constitutionality of the individual mandate.

If the mandate stands, it will be the latest blow to Madison's scheme, which is the best architecture for self-government yet devised by man, but has been steadily worn down over time. It is a damning indictment of contemporary Washington that, overall, it is so hostile to the Madisonian ethos. He is a most inconvenient Founding Father since he tells us: No, the federal government can't do whatever it wants; no, we can't just all get along; no, we can't rush to pass whatever legislation deemed a "can't wait" priority by the president. Now, grow up.

In the mind of contemporary progressivism, these words of Madison from *The Federalist Papers* simply don't compute: "The powers delegated by the

proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite." They are an antiquated 18th-century sentiment unsuited to our more complex and more sophisticated time, to be ignored when not actively scorned.

So, as he famously wrote, "ambition must be made to counteract ambition."

But this division of power is meant to maximize accountability and competition in the belief that the undue accumulation of power in any one source is, in Madison's words, "the very definition of tyranny." Madison concerned himself with limits on government because "there is a degree of depravity in mankind, which requires a certain degree of circumspection and distrust." So, as he famously wrote, "ambition must be made to counteract ambition."

He would have no patience for gooey discussions on the Sunday shows about the divisiveness of our political life. "The latent causes of faction," for Madison, "are sown in the nature of man."

He was a pioneer in fighting the sort of partisan battles we now look down upon and rue.

Nor would Madison be moved by the lamentations that Congress isn't passing enough legislation quickly enough. He wanted a Senate — that balky, frustrating upper body — to check the rush to enshrine momentary causes into law. In a passage that could have been written as commentary on the handiwork of Nancy Pelosi's Congress, he argued "it will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood."

In his book on Madison's political thought, "American Compact," Gary Rosen notes that "as Madison feared, utility rather than constitutionality has become the ultimate test for public policy." The debate over ObamaCare at the time of its passage focused on its cost, its workability and its aggrandizing tendency more than its constitutionality. For Madison, Rosen continues, constitutional limits "were the deepest source of republican dignity, the bulwarks that he expected citizens to defend in order to remind themselves of their sovereignty." Would that they were once again. ■

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

Forget fear of flying; fear airport screening**amyGOODMAN**

Special to Florida Weekly

There was terror in the skies this week over Texas, caused not by a terrorist but by a pilot — a Flight Standards captain, no less. JetBlue Airways Capt. Clay Osbon, flying Flight 191 from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport to Las Vegas, began moving up and down the aisle after the jet was airborne, ranting, according to several passengers, about Iraq, Israel, al-Qaida and bombs, calling on passengers to recite the Lord's Prayer, saying that they were "all going down." An off-duty pilot in the cabin went to the cockpit to help the co-pilot with the emergency landing, while passengers and crew subdued Osbon. Osbon, who'd been with JetBlue almost since its founding, was taken to the hospital, suspended with pay, then criminally charged with interfering with a flight crew.

That's enough to inspire a fear of flying in anyone. But just getting to your airplane these days may present a greater risk to your health than the actual flight.

New airport security screening technology, primarily backscatter X-ray devices, have come under increased scrutiny, as their effectiveness is questioned amid concerns that the radiation exposure may cause cancer. Adding to health concerns are both the graphic nature of the images captured, essentially nude photos of every person passing through the machine, and the aggressive — and for some, humiliating — nature of the alternative to the scans, the "enhanced pat-down" by a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) agent.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins introduced a bill that would require independent laboratory testing of the X-ray backscatter machines, exactly what a group of University of California, San Francisco scientists called on the Obama administration to do in April 2010. Responding to the TSA claim (provided by the manufacturer, Rapiscan) that the radiation dose is less than "the dose one receives from eating one banana," professor John Sedat and others wrote: "While the dose would be safe if it were distributed throughout the volume of the entire body, the dose to the skin may be dangerously high. ... There is good reason to believe that these scanners will increase the risk of cancer to children and other vulnerable populations (including pregnant women)." When this risk is multiplied over 700 million annual travelers, Michael Love, Ph.D., the manager of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine X-ray facility, told *Discover* magazine, "someone is going to get skin cancer." The European Union has banned the machines.

While flying the past few weekends, I refused to go through the scanners, which is every passenger's right, although the option is almost never indicated anywhere (the Collins bill also requires clear signage). I was made to wait while TSA employees were clearly available to conduct what is euphemistically called an "enhanced pat-down." The agent's aggressive questioning of my decision to "opt out" was matched only by her aggressive pat-down when I would not give in. Arriving back in New York, a friend who had just flown in from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport recounted how the TSA agent had her hands down the front of my friend's pants and said, "Feels like you've lost some weight!"

Who gains? The two manufacturers of the full-body scanners have powerful

friends. As reported in *The Hill* and *The Washington Post*, L-3 Communications, maker of the millimeter wave scanner, hired lobbyist Linda Daschle, wife of former Sen. Tom Daschle. Rapiscan, the maker of the X-ray backscatter machine, reportedly paid \$1 million to the Chertoff Group, run by former Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff, while Chertoff appeared in the media touting the value of the machines. Each machine costs the taxpayer about \$150,000, but that is only the purchase; installation, then staffing, costs much more.

TSA agents themselves may face the greatest risks. A recent TSA inspector general's report acknowledged that "wing shields be installed to further reduce radiation exposure levels for backscatter operators." It also noted that TSA employees reported insufficient time for training on the machines. Michael Grabell, a reporter with *ProPublica* who has written extensively on full-body scanners, told me: "Radiation technicians have told some of the TSA screeners that 'If I were on these machines, I'd be wearing a radiation badge.' But the TSA has refused to let them."

All these concerns have led the nonprofit Electronic Privacy Information Center to sue the TSA and DHS, seeking a halt to the use of the scanners, at least until independent testing of the risks is performed, and the results made public.

Until we know that these full-body scanners are safe, I'm opting out. ■

— Denis Moynihan contributed research to this column.

— Amy Goodman is the host of "Democracy Now!," a daily international TV/radio news hour airing on more than 1,000 stations in North America. She is the author of "Breaking the Sound Barrier."

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PET TALES

Pick a pair

Check the shelter for perfect pets: two indoor rabbits

BY GINA SPADAFORI
Universal Uclick

When Easter draws near, you can be sure of an increase in sales of chocolate and rabbits. And while it won't hurt you much to buy chocolate on a whim, I'd rather you pass on buying a bunny on impulse.

But if you're ready for a surprisingly special pet, wait a few weeks, check the shelters and pick a pair. They do well in multiples — after they're altered, of course — and you'll find wonderful rabbits ready for re-homing in the weeks after Easter.

Never thought of a rabbit as an indoor pet for adults? You're missing out! Once liberated from the confinement of a backyard "hutch" and provided with a safe and secure indoor environment, bunnies really shine as pets. They're playful and adorably willful, trainable and even amenable to using a litter box.

Care is surprisingly easy, and very affordable. Here's how to keep your rabbit healthy:

■ **Housing.** Your rabbit will need a home base of a small pen or large cage with food, water and a litter box. Rabbits do well with a plain cat box filled with a shallow layer of recycled paper pellets, covered with a layer of fresh grass hay. You don't scoop a rabbit box — you change it completely, every day. (The ingredients you toss are great for your compost pile.)

■ **Nutrition.** Fresh water needs to

be available at all times. For food, skip the store-bought pellet route and feed your rabbit a variety of fresh leafy veggies and an unlimited supply of fresh grass hay. If you do go with pellets, your rabbit should still get as much fresh grass hay as he wants. Treat your rabbit, too: Bunnies love little bits of fruits, roots and leafy greens. (If you have storage space, hay is cheaper by the bale and lasts for many weeks in a cool, dry location.)

■ **Health care.** Check with your local rabbit rescue group for the names of veterinarians who are known to be good with rabbits. Get your rabbit spayed or neutered. In addition to keeping your rabbit from reproducing, you'll have a better pet. Unaltered rabbits can have behavior problems such as aggression and urine-spraying. Your rabbit will need a wellness check, just as a cat or dog would, and a good rabbit vet will help you catch little health problems before they become big ones.

■ **Exercise and play.** Make sure your rabbit is allowed time outside the cage or pen every day. If you can't manage letting your rabbit roam at will indoors, block off a single rabbit-proofed room. A secure, supervised area outside is fine as well, but



A pair of rabbits are good indoor pets: quiet, playful, affectionate and easy to care for.

don't leave your rabbit unattended. Rabbits can be scared literally to death by cats, dogs and even jays and crows. Because some rabbits can be chewers, you'll want to make sure that any rabbit-friendly area has electrical cords tucked away, and deny access to the legs of nice furniture and the corners of good carpets.

■ **Rabbits love toys.** Cat toys, dog toys, hard-plastic baby toys and even the cardboard tubes from inside toilet paper and paper towel rolls are fun for rabbits. Cardboard boxes stuffed with hay and treats are also fun for bunnies.

I had a trio of pet rabbits for a few years — Turbo, Annie and Velocity. I still miss them, and will be looking to adopt a pair later this spring. I encourage you to join me, and make this spring a good one for former Easter bunnies. ■

Pets of the Week



>> **Bessie** is a 1-year-old spayed Boxer mix. She was born with a crooked front leg, but can walk and run comfortably. She would do best in a home with no small children.



>> **Joey** is a 2-year old neutered domestic. He likes to sleep sprawled out on his back with his hind legs off to the sides, head curled under, and one of his front paws draped over his face. He's a happy guy and gets along with everyone, even other cats.

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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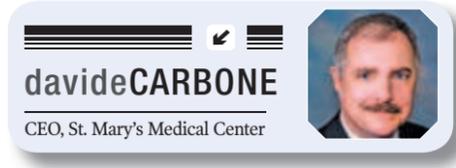
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For more than 70 years, St. Mary’s Medical Center has been an important part of Palm Beach County’s history and culture. As our community has grown and changed we, too, have immensely expanded our services and capabilities to maintain our communities’ health, safety and prosperity. In recent years, we’ve focused on expanding our specialized pediatric services, as St. Mary’s has the only dedicated pediatric hospital from West Palm Beach to Orlando.

Our pediatric services have become highly sophisticated, with patients from all over the state, nation and even the world coming to St. Mary’s for pediatric care. Now, this same level of extraordinary care will soar to greater heights with a new name: Palm Beach Children’s Hospital at St. Mary’s Medical Center.

Palm Beach Children’s Hospital better distinguishes our excellence in the image of Palm Beach County. From our one-of-a-kind Paley Advanced Limb Lengthening Institute, to our Pediatric Congenital Open Heart Surgery Program, Palm Beach Children’s Hospital provides some of the most highly specialized pediatric services in the tri-county area.

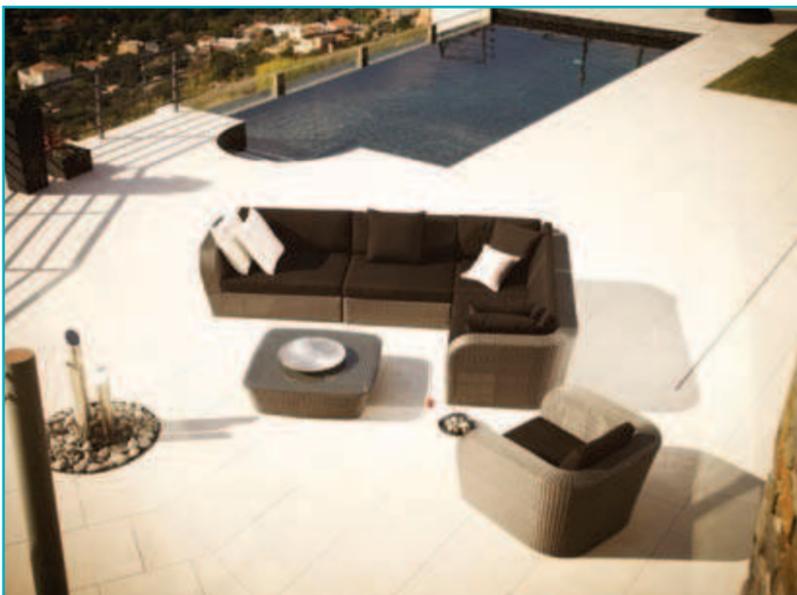
In addition, Palm Beach Children’s Hospital offers a unique Pediatric Neurosurgery Program and provides the area’s only 24-hour dedicated pediatric

emergency room and pediatric trauma care. Palm Beach Children’s Hospital is also an established leader in pediatric oncology, with access to some of the latest cancer clinical trials as a member of the National Cancer Institute’s Children’s Oncology Group. Most recently, we’ve developed a new pediatric nephrology and chronic dialysis program.

While this list of services is impressive, what truly distinguishes St. Mary’s and the Palm Beach Children’s Hospital is our comprehensive and holistic approach to pediatric care — the “St. Mary’s Way.” Our way involves not only treating the patient’s condition, but also supporting all aspects of life that may be affected while the patient is under our care. Our established Child Life program helps pediatric patients and their families reduce stress and anxiety. As a Catholic hospital, we also have a seven-member staffed Pastoral Care Team that works with our medical specialists to help patients heal body, mind and spirit.

The “St. Mary’s Way” is always driven by what’s most important: Our community. After 70 years of service, we are proud to continuously expand the level of health care we can provide. You will see a lot of exciting news, events and services announced from Palm Beach Children’s Hospital. This new name will carry St. Mary’s Medical Center’s continued mission to bring some of the most comprehensive and advanced pediatric care to children and families in Palm Beach County and far beyond. Stay up-to-date by visiting www.palmbeachchildrens.com. ■

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PHOTOS BY RACHEL HICKEY / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Joe Costabile of Surfside Scooters says Vespas tend to be top sellers these days. Prices for Vespas start at \$3,199, or \$4,399 for a 150cc bike.

SCOOTERS

From page A1

out the door when gas went over \$4 a gallon.”

But he and partner Don Swartwood III, who says he has the same title — “we both do the same things” — were able to manage along with one helper. “The three of us got it down to a science, just in and out — as quickly as you can give me your money, I can have you on a scooter,” Mr. Costabile says.

Mr. Costabile has had the store at 524A Northlake Blvd. for five years. Previously he had a location on Dixie Highway for seven years. Mr. Costabile, 36, of Juno Beach, says that many of his customers are seasonal residents. “They live on the island in Jupiter or Palm Beach; sometimes they have (a scooter) for entertainment reasons, or maybe they want to have only one car and they only need to go to the store, the post office or the beach club. A lot of people from FPL drive them also.”

But his clientele has become more diverse: “I’ve been noticing every walk of life, from people who make 30 grand a year to those who make \$30 million a year, coming in. Since gas has been around \$3.95 a gallon, my sales have increased 30 to 40 percent.”

Gianni Giacche of North Palm Beach would be closer to the former group; he’s a manager at Carmine’s restaurant who moved to the area from New York in December and recently bought a new Vespa GTS 300 from Surfside, the official Vespa dealer for the area.

The native of Italy says that in his homeland, “everybody rides a scooter.”

“I’ve been riding Vespas since I was 14 years old. It’s one of the oldest and best brands of scooter in the world,” says Mr. Giacche, 54. So it was natural for him to get one for his short commute; he lives near the shop and takes it daily to the market and restaurant on PGA Boulevard. “For me it is quick with my Vespa to get to work.”

Mr. Giacche already owns one that he uses to get around when he visits Italy for a few months each year. “It’s very useful for the gas mileage. It’s very simple, comfortable to ride; you can park it anywhere. Particularly here in Florida, with the weather, I mean, it’s perfect.”

Plus, he says, a \$10 spot goes a long way. “With two gallons, which is the full tank, I can go 110 to 120



A Vespa is parked in front of Surfside Scooters on Northlake Boulevard in North Palm Beach.

miles. It’s perfect,” Mr. Giacche says.

Mr. Costabile agrees that, “Gas mileage is huge, 100-plus miles per gallon on some bikes.” That, of course, is mostly what’s driving higher sales — but scooters also are just much more economical to own and maintain.

Mr. Costabile says his most popular brand is Vespa. “The Italian bikes are number one here just because of the demographic. Also Genuines are very popular. I also carry the Taiwanese product, the Hard Working Man bike. The Vespa is more toward the Bentley driver, and the Genuine is toward the Honda Civic driver.”

His price range for new scooters starts at \$1,799 and tops out around \$8,000. A 125cc bike “will start at about \$2,199, and the Vespa starts at \$3,199, or \$4,399

“With two gallons, which is the full tank, I can go 110 to 120 miles. It’s perfect.”

— Gianni Giacche

for a 150cc,” Mr. Costabile says.

Hard Working Man scooters cost \$1,799 for a 50cc and top out around \$4,000, for a 150cc or above. Surfside also carries used scooters; their prices range from \$2,000 and up for Vespas, and \$1,500 and up for other brands.

Many of his customers come in having educated themselves on their choices through the Internet and know exactly what they want. Surfside has a comprehensive website at surfsidescooters.com. Others “come in multiple times, and it might take them four or five visits,” he says. Some finance, but many pay cash.

Some customers balk at buying a scooter with an engine more powerful than 50cc because then they’d have to take a state-required course to get the state’s motorcycle endorsement on their driver’s license, so, Mr. Costabile tells them, “I’ll take it off the price of the scooter — \$250 for the motorcycle course.”

Surfside also offers servicing for every scooter it sells. Store hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call 842-3004 for more information.

Power & Play Warehouse in Lake Worth also is seeing a run on scooters.

Manager Robin McCombs attributes it to reasonable deals being offered and depressed economic conditions locally.

Power & Play patrons mostly are working people who are serious about finding less costly transportation than a car, says Ms. McCombs.

Nigel Sutherland, 40, of Lake Worth was having his QLINK 49cc scooter serviced to give him a bit of a power boost. He doesn’t like to be late to work; living in Indian Pines, he rides to Yamato Road in Boca Raton every day and has already put 75,000 miles on his year-old bike. But sometimes traffic delays him.

He spent \$1,600 on the scooter and swears by the incredible mileage he gets, as well as the service he receives at Power & Play. Mr. Sutherland says he fills up every other day or so — for \$3 or \$4 (the gas tank holds only a gallon). “I used to have a Honda Sonata,

“Gas mileage is huge, 100-plus miles per gallon on some bikes.”

— Joe Costabile,
Surfside Scooters

but I gave it to my girlfriend to drive,” he says.

Ms. McCombs, 28, of Pompano Beach, says the Lake Worth location has been open more than three years; the owner, Tom McMann, has a store in Pompano Beach. “We grew up together and have been friends for about 13 years,” she says.

She says the store has been very busy almost since it opened, especially recently, when 10-15 scooters per week have been going out the door. “Just since gas prices have been going up, what is it, 5 cents a week, the sales have increased tremendously,” Ms. McCombs says.

As for the top sellers — “they’re all top sellers,” Ms. McCombs says. “We carry something from every price range, starting at \$1,199. So obviously, right now, people buying cash-price bikes, your \$1,199 scooters are generally the most popular.” That’s for a 49cc scooter like Mr. Sutherland’s, she says.

And, she adds, 90 percent of her buyers do pay cash, because if they own the scooter outright, no insurance is required, although she still recommends they purchase a basic policy to protect against theft.

One recent buyer at Power & Play



Robin McCombs, manager of Power & Play Warehouse in Lake Worth, says her most popular sellers tend to the \$1,199 scooters.

CHRIS FELKER / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Warehouse, Deborah O’Byrne of Boynton Beach, came in with three friends after they all decided together that they’d buy scooters with their tax refunds, and she says Ms. McCombs gave them a great deal. Ms. O’Byrne says the particular bike she bought was

“exactly what I was looking for, with really wide motorcycle-style handlebars. The front of it looks like a Vespa, but the bike itself resembles a motorcycle a little bit more.”

She and her friends use their scooters for errands and also take rides

together on weekends in downtown Lake Worth or Delray Beach, and Ms. O’Byrne says, “We just love them.”

Power & Play Warehouse is located at 1828 N. Dixie Highway; call 459-5747 for more information, or see powerandplaywarehouse.com. ■

Something to “COO” about in West Palm Beach



PHOTO: ARTHUR CICONI, GOLF SHOTS

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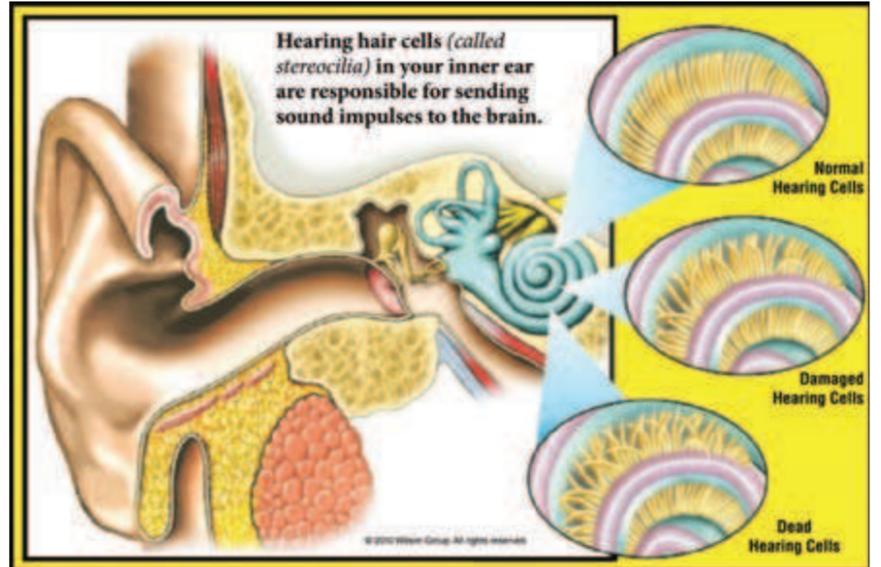
Study by Cambridge University in England Reveals Key Answer

Until recently, there was no practical way to identify dead regions of hearing cells in the ear. However, a new British-developed procedure using standard test equipment now allows for identification of dead hearing cell regions. The study suggests that the presence or absence of dead regions may have serious implications in the fitting of hearing aids.

This research reveals that amplifying dead cells is a mistake which will result in poorer speech understanding in noise. A new type of digital programmable microcircuit is now available using nanoScience technology that can be programmed to bypass the dead cells. As a result, the patient's usable hearing cells receive amplification, thereby improving speech understanding in noise.

"We are employing a like method in our diagnostic sound booths using a sound field speech in noise procedure," said Dr. Mel Grant of Audiology & Speech Pathology. "This test simulates hearing in a noisy crowd. We are able to determine maximum speech understanding by frequency shaping this new hearing aid."

The results have been phenomenal. For the first time, a patient is able to actually realize the exact percentage of speech understanding improvement in noisy listening environments. These new products come in all shell sizes, including the smallest



digital models, with the prices starting as low as \$750. During its release, Starkey is offering the new frequency-shaping hearing instrument on a 30-day satisfaction trial.

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lindaLIPSHUTZ

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The torrential rains wouldn't let up. Gary Walker looked out the window and knew his golf game would be canceled. He knew Thursday was the day his wife, Marge, had Zumba and bridge, he was reluctant to ask her to cancel her plans. She'd gotten huffy, almost belligerent, the last time when he had asked her to give up her plans to spend the day with him. She would once again recite how she'd been on her own all the years while he was absorbed in his career or perfecting his golf game. She'd always add how she'd had to develop friendships and activities because he was never around, and she wasn't about to give up what was important to her now, just because it was convenient for him.

Since Gary's retirement two years ago, and their move to South Florida, the two of them had been at odds. Although they'd excitedly anticipated the move for many years, they had never imagined that it would be so stressful to balance their activities and time. At first they felt like pinching themselves: they were in love with their new home and the country club community they had selected. The other residents were friendly, and the Walkers had more invitations than they could possibly accept.

But as the days passed he had the distinct feeling that Marge was becoming increasingly annoyed that he was underfoot. Clearly, they each had habits that were getting under the other's skin. He had envisioned relaxed home cooked dinners. They had a spiffy grill and he looked forward to throwing on some steaks. So, it really annoyed him when Marge strolled in after six, assuming they'd go out for dinner.

Frankly, he had never noticed the clutter around the house when he was working. But now, the piles of paper irritated him and he had trouble keeping his mouth shut. Although they'd planned their finances carefully, he was still a worrier. He knew he shouldn't pore over every credit card receipt, but he couldn't turn off his inner accountant.

Marge indignantly insisted that she only bought items on sale, but it rankled him when she bought a new pair of shoes. She would mutter under her breath that she had managed a company, raised three children and ran a household without much input from Gary and she didn't need his supervision now.

Although retirement provides the opportunity to leave the exertions and stress of employment behind, for some families it can bring unexpected challenges and irritations. Although couples may have assumed they had a shared vision of how to map out their retired lives, and how much time they will share with each other, their differences may have turned out to be more pronounced than they'd anticipated.

Despite active planning, individu-

als may not have considered the emotional toll of making a major life transition. After the novelty has worn off, they may look at each other and ask "Now what?" People who have spent a lifetime defining themselves by their career identities may become quite distressed to lose the roles they've always known. It may be difficult to shake the feeling they've lost their importance and prestige and that their "opinions" are no longer of value.

When people have lost a sense of purpose and worth, they may be prone to anger or depression. There may be resentment felt towards a spouse who has adapted with greater ease, and has assimilated more readily into a different routine. There may be worries about one's health, mortality or financial security that keep them up at night. It will make a huge difference if both parties are sensitive to the stresses and make a concerted effort to support each other.

When couples are immersed in raising a family and earning a living, they often sweep issues of incompatibility under the rug. They may deny or overlook differences, avoid each other or distract themselves from facing unpleasanties. They may never have learned how to respect each other's point of view, or find ways to problem solve and come up with mutually acceptable solutions. They may have lived side by side for decades, sadly, without maintaining a relationship nourished with sufficient affection or admiration. When they finally have the time and opportunity to spend quality time with each other, they may not have a solid basis of friendship and support.

It may still not be too late for them to develop a relationship based on mutual respect. There are steps each person can take to not only meet their own emotional needs, but to value the wishes of their partner. Demonstrating a sincere interest in what the other has to say and listening without judgment can create an atmosphere of mutual respect and camaraderie. Modifying expectations and being open to their partner making choices that they wouldn't have previously agreed to will go a long way in smoothing conflicts. Letting go of the small things, but not letting the big things fester, requires diplomacy and care. Holding back sarcastic remarks and criticism obviously makes a difference.

If retirees view this next chapter in their lives with a spirit of adventure, they may open themselves up to challenging new possibilities. They may have an opportunity to try on new roles and commit to projects that can offer a sense of purpose and esteem. And finally, they may have the time and access to endeavors previously out of their reach. ■

— 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 at palmbeachfamilytherapy.com.

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Ibis tourney raises breast-cancer funds

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Ibis Golf and Country Club recently hosted 224 women golfers, and 112 men golfers for the "Play for P.I.N.K." golf tournament to support breast cancer research. Play for P.I.N.K. (prevention, immediate diagnosis, new technology and knowledge) is an independent, grassroots organization that now has more than 200 clubs raising funds through tournaments. Thanks to the underwriting of the Estée Lauder Foundation, Bloomberg Foundation and Wilson Sporting Goods, 100 percent of the funds raised at Ibis will go directly to breast cancer research in Florida.

There were shotgun starts for both the male and female participants, with a luncheon and awards

presentation following play, attended by West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio.

Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw was also on hand with his pink Ford Explorer patrol vehicle.

"We are extremely proud of our membership and the community here at Ibis," said Brad McCollum, PGA director of golf at Ibis. "Great things can happen when everyone comes together to support a cause, and our membership has been a leader in South Florida when it comes to contributing to breast cancer research. We look forward to continuing the Ibis tradition of supporting the Play for P.I.N.K. foundation." ■



COURTESY PHOTO
West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio poses with the pink Palm Beach County Sheriff patrol vehicle at the Ibis Golf & Country Club "Play for P.I.N.K." tournament.

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Wednesday, April 25, 2012 | 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm | *Ablbin Building, 2nd floor, Esselen Room 3*

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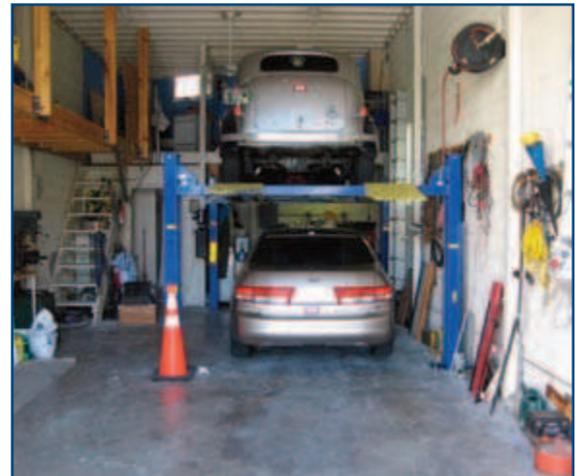
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April 10 — 7 p.m.
 First Presbyterian Church Fellowship hall. Call Terry Brady for more information, 627-0478.

■ **Free Heart Attack Risk Assessment**
April 25 — 7:30 a.m.-noon
 Conference Room 3, at the center. Free screening includes blood pressure, cholesterol, triglycerides, glucose, body mass index. To register call 625-5070 or see pbgmc.com.

■ **Free Bone Density Screening**
April 26
 Outpatient entrance at the center. Free screening consists of a heel scan to measure bone density levels. Space is limited. To register, call 625-5070 or see the Web site.

■ **High Blood Pressure**
April 27
 Noon-1 p.m., Classroom 3, at the medical center. Dr. Jaideep Puri, Nephrologist will speak on high blood pressure and will answer questions.

■ **Free CPR/AED Training Course**
May 22 — 6 p.m.
 Palm Beach Gardens Fire Station 5. In partnership with Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue. Space is limited. Call 625-5070.

■ **Free Heart Healthy Cookbook**
 For a free heart healthy cookbook, call 625-5070.

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center is at 3360 Burns Road in Palm Beach Gardens. For more information on these events call 625-5070 or see the medical center's Web site, pbgmc.com. ■

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2007



2008



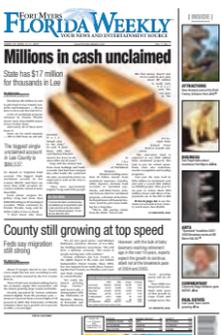
2009



2010



Fort Myers Florida Weekly hits the stands April 5, 2007



Naples Florida Weekly launches Oct. 1, 2008



Punta Gorda/Port Charlotte Florida Weekly publishes July 1, 2009



Circulation hits 50,000 - Jan 13, 2010



Palm Beach Gardens/Jupiter Florida Weekly hits the stands Oct. 14, 2010



RATINGS 5 YEARS OF IN THE KNOW, IN THE NOW



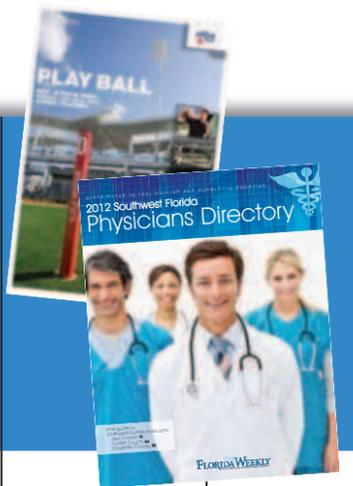
FLORIDA WEEKLY
IN THE KNOW. IN THE NOW.



2011



2012



Named best weekly newspaper in Florida by the Florida Press Association – June 2010; In addition, Florida Weekly won 19 individual writing and design awards.



January 2011 Florida Weekly becomes the first newspaper in South Florida to use a special UV coating on its newsprint that keeps the ink from coming off on your hands when you read.



May 2011 Florida Weekly becomes the first publisher in South Florida to offer its complete newspaper in an easy-to-read iPad application.



June 2011 For the second consecutive year named best weekly newspaper in Florida by the Florida Press Association.

Bonita Springs Florida Weekly launches Nov. 3, 2011



Circulation hits 80,000 – March 21, 2012



Space Coast Florida Weekly opens its office in Brevard County March 23, 2012

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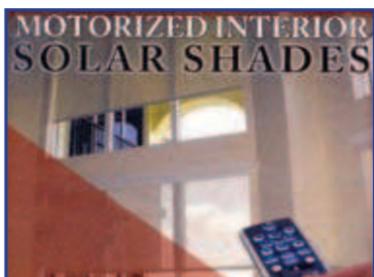
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Jupiter Medical Center goes tobacco free on May 1

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Jupiter Medical Center is implementing a tobacco free policy effective May 1, the medical center announced in a prepared statement. JMC said, "as a healthcare leader in the community, Jupiter Medical Center is committed to providing the safest and healthiest environment for all its team members, patients, visitors, physicians and physician office staff."

According to the Florida Hospital Association, tobacco use is responsible for nearly one in five deaths; an estimated 440,000 deaths per year, or 1,200 people each day in the United States, the statement said. The majority of the hospitals in Palm Beach and Martin counties have voluntarily adopted 100 percent tobacco free policies in an effort to promote the health and safety of their communities. The Tobacco Free Policy applies to all team members, patients, physicians and visitors. JMC reports.

John Couris, JMC president and CEO, said in the statement, "It's important that we follow in the footsteps of other healthcare facilities and stop the use of tobacco products on our campus to promote a safe and healthy environment. The new Tobacco Free

Policy helps us carry out our mission of delivering excellent, compassionate health care and advancing the well-being of the people we serve."

As of May 1, use of tobacco products is prohibited on Jupiter Medical Center's campus, including parking lots (and inside vehicles), surrounding sidewalks, the 1000, 1002, 1004 buildings, Foshay Cancer Center and Pavilion. JMC staff members are not permitted to use tobacco at any JMC workplace or offsite locations, i.e., the GE Building, 3000 building, Sleep Center, Niedland Breast Center, Outpatient Imaging, and all Outpatient Rehab Facilities.

JMC sponsors smoking cessation classes for any interested staff member and the community. The next seven-week series of cessation classes begins April 30. For more details or to sign up, contact Lorraine Brokaw atlbrokaw@jupitermed.com or call 263-4351. ■



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Affiliate Groups

Wednesday
North Palm Beach Breakfast: 7:30 to 9:00
North Palm Beach Lunch: 11:30 to 1:00
North Palm Beach Country Club
951 US Highway 1
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Thursday
Jupiter Breakfast: 7:30 to 9:00
Abacoa Golf Club • 105 Barbados Drive • Jupiter FL 33458
Jupiter Lunch: 11:30 to 1:00 • Out of the Blue Restaurant at the Loggerhead Marina in Jonathans Landing 3238 Casseekey Island Rd, Jupiter, FL 33477
West Palm Beach City Place Lunch: 11:30 to 1:00
McCormick & Schmick's Restaurant
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WEEK OF APRIL 5-11, 2012

A GUIDE TO THE PALM BEACH COUNTY BUSINESS INDUSTRY



Equipment sifts freshly roasted beans.

ROASTED PURE AT OCEANA

Tequesta coffee café owners passionate about roasting their own beans.

BY BRADFORD SCHMIDT
bschmidt@floridaweekly.com

Scott Angelo pulls a sample scoop from the 15 pounds of Kenyan coffee beans he's roasting at Oceana Coffee in Tequesta and inhales deeply.

"It's just between wet grass and hay right now," he says. "Next is baked bread."

Not smells most people associate with coffee, these are three of the stages that coffee beans pass through during the roasting process as they go from their raw green state to the smooth, consistent shade of brown that marks properly roasted coffee.

To the untrained nose, though, the smell is reminiscent of well-popped popcorn. Mr. Angelo suggests waiting a bit and then taking a deeper sniff.

"At this point," he says, offering a sample a bit later, "you can begin to pick out the complexities. We're at the baked bread stage, but I'm getting strawberries in this."

Sure enough, there it is: a warm sweetness like baking bread with subtle notes of fruit. An unexpected and fascinating surprise from a bean that many people know only in its most common forms: ground and bagged months before making it to a kitchen counter, or over-roasted and served in cups that hold close to a quart of liquid.

It's an eye-opening experience that challenges even a coffee addict's idea of what coffee is, elevating it to something with the sort of depth and complexity most associate with crystal goblets, not porcelain mugs.

Mr. Angelo and his wife Amy, who opened Oceana Coffee together late last year, discovered they both had a passion for those complexities a few years ago after purchasing fresh-roasted coffee from a supplier on the west coast.

"It was some Sumatran that did it," says Mr. Angelo. "One sip, and it was like: 'Now, how do we do THAT?'"

"It was the first time I really, really got it," adds Ms. Angelo. "I tasted apples in the coffee. You might think that wouldn't work, apples and coffee, but it was amazing."

So the Angelos began their own roasting journey, starting with a popcorn popper that Mr. Angelo, a naval engineer, converted to roast beans a quarter-cup at a time. But those sorts of quantities couldn't supply the friends and family that started making requests, so the Angelos upgraded to a Weber grill that he modified.

Friends and family became friends of friends and other referrals, and after three years of honing their art and building a loyal customer base, it was time to take the next logical step: they would open a retail location and share their passion, by the cup as well as by the pound.

Their love of coffee and roasting is apparent the moment you walk in. The bright green Diedrich



Amy and Scott Angelo stand near the coffee roaster at Oceana Coffee in Tequesta.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOANNA SCHMIDT



Scott Angelo checks the aroma of freshly ground coffee beans.



Light- and dark-roast beans at Oceana Coffee.

roaster (yes, they've retired the popcorn maker and Weber) sits prominently in the front of house just feet from one of the tables. A beautiful espresso machine and pour-over equipment sits behind a counter dotted with locally made baked goods and snacks.

The couple is warm and welcoming; both love to share their knowledge with customers and will happily explain things like bean selection, brewing techniques, or the differences between arabica (good) and robusta (not so good) beans. Oceana uses the former exclusively.

But it's one thing to hear about how regions or brewing techniques differ, and quite another to experience it. Each bean, for example, will yield a different cup of coffee depending on how it's brewed.

To demonstrate, Ms. Angelo prepares a cup of Kenyan coffee using the pour-over technique, in which a filter is placed in a cone-shaped holder and suspended above an individual cup. Water is then carefully poured over the grounds in a fine stream, filtering through at a controlled rate that is moni-

tored with a stopwatch.

She then takes the same roast and prepares a shot in the espresso machine, "espresso is a brewing technique, not a roast," she says, and uses it for an Americano, adding hot water after the pull to create a cup of comparable strength.

The two techniques are now offered for a back-to-back tasting, and the experience is revelatory — the resulting cups are tremendously different, though both are delicious. Ms. Angelo is clearly pleased to be sharing this experience.

"The flavors will change as the coffee cools, too," she says smiling, "and you'll find other notes in there that you hadn't noticed."

While the couple occasionally disagree about their favorite brewing method (he's currently leaning towards pour-over, while she's enjoying espresso), they are in lockstep on the question of quality control. They learned early on that theirs are the only palates they can trust after being stuck with 150 pounds of beans that they found unacceptable and refused to sell.

They now have private cupping, or tasting, sessions of every variety they're considering before committing to a purchase, the primary criterion for selection being a great cup of coffee.

"We buy some fair trade, we buy some organics," says Mr. Angelo, "but in the end what matters is the quality of the coffee. Any of our coffees, pour-over or espresso, will each be uniquely delicious."

Mr. Angelo pulls another sample of beans from the roaster and examines them closely.

"Not quite there," he says. "What we're looking for is a smooth finish and consistent color across the whole bean. Another 90 seconds or so."

He deposits the sample back into the roaster, waits a bit, then checks one last time.

"They're done," he says opening the door, the freshly roasted beans, smooth and perfectly brown, cascading onto the cooling tray where fans draw the heat away as arms slowly rotate and stir.

He watches them for a moment then looks up, distilling the couples' goals into a simple sentence.

"A coffee expert from anywhere in the world should be able to walk in to Oceana, order a cup of coffee, and say 'wow.'"

He looks back at his most recent batch for a moment, pleased with what he sees and smells, then heads to the back to select more beans for the next roast. ■

in the know

>>Oceana Coffee is located at 221 Old Dixie Highway, Tequesta. Hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday; Saturday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. After Easter, they'll be open on Sundays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Their coffee is also served at Coolinary Café.

NETWORKING

Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County Beacon of Light Awards dinner at Lake Pavilion in West Palm



1



2



3



4



5



6

1. Rick Morgan, Old Port Cove, winner for Marine Project of the Year, and Efram Zimbalast III
2. Dawn Pardo, Marine Advocate of the Year; Greg Reynolds, Lagoon Keepers, and Amy Tolderlund, Sea Tow
3. Tamra Fitzgerald and Jay Cashmere
4. Mike Antheil and Jay Cashmere
5. Tracie Graziotto and Ray Graziotto
6. Alyssa Freeman and Jim Bronstien, winner of Member of the Year award

COURTESY PHOTOS



James Schearer, Dana Romanelli, Michele Jacobs and Bob Jacobs

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FLORIDA WEEKLY NETWORKING

Quantum 15th anniversary awards breakfast at the Kravis Center



1. Stephen Moore and Kerry Diaz
2. Liz Henderson, Carolyn Carter, Ronald J. Wiewora, Anne L. Hedges, José A. Rodriguez, Tanya Greer, Maureen Agnello and Robin Kish
3. Richard Sussman, Ethel Isaacs Williams, Anthony McNicholas III, Jeannette Corbett, James Kintz, Donna Mulholland, William Meyer, Stephen Moore, Kerry Diaz and Stephen Levin
4. Darlene Kostrub, Gayle Howden and Cheryl Crowley.
5. Judith Goodman and Lew Crampton
6. Stephen Moore, Darlene Kostrub, Anne Hedges, Pam McIver and Kerry Diaz
7. Richard Sussman and Tomas Boiton
8. Keith James, Kathy Adams and Bob Bertisch
9. Ethel Isaacs Williams, William Meyer and Jeri Muoio

COURTESY PHOTOS



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REAL ESTATE

A25

WEEK OF APRIL 5-11, 2012

A GUIDE TO THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY



Magnificent Manalapan estate

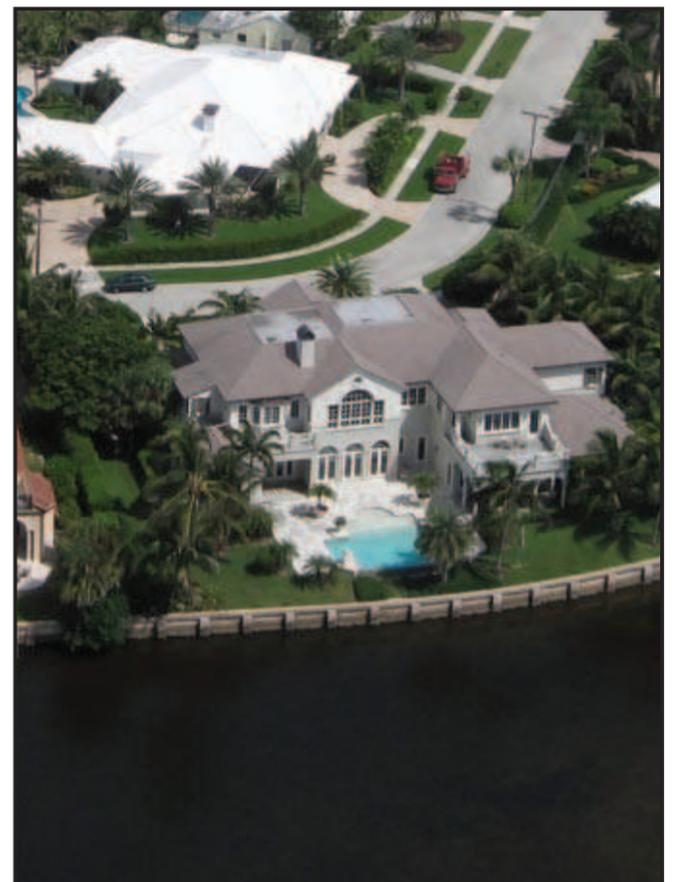
SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

With 265 feet on the Intracoastal Waterway, this elegant 9,746 square-foot, five-bedroom estate with a two-bedroom guesthouse is set on a beautifully landscaped lot with truly unparalleled water views. The estate is at 69 Curlew Road in Manalapan. The entry foyer features marble floors with a mosaic inset, a two-story ovoid rotunda and a grand staircase embellished with wrought iron. A step down and across the main gallery is the elegant living room with a marble floor, massive fireplace, wainscoting, a coffered ceiling and French doors in archways that open to the pool. The media/theater room has a coffered ceiling, parquet floors, paneled wainscoting, built-in cabinetry and a full-service wet bar. The formal dining room includes white wainscoting, a vaulted ceiling, an alcove and decorative molding, and a large arched window — all of which overlook the front courtyard with a fountain. The large open family room features walnut floors, a piano niche and a beamed tray ceiling. The entire west wall is glass, offering views of the loggia, water and pool. The professionally equipped gourmet kitchen has granite countertops, center island, double sinks, double dishwashers and antiques custom cabinetry which opens up to the breakfast

room that is crowned with a lattice-vaulted ceiling.

Point Manalapan, part of a ribbon of land once owned by the Vanderbilts, is located on the southernmost tip of Hypoluxo Island between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway in central Palm Beach County. On 66 acres, with a population of 320, Manalapan offers its residents the opportunity to live an exclusive luxury waterfront lifestyle in an ultra-private and tranquil enclave, close to pristine beaches, entertainment, cultural venues and boating activities. Residents of Manalapan enjoy private club privileges to the Ritz Carlton Hotel's La Coquille Club, with state-of-the-art spa and fitness center, tennis courts, pool and beach facilities.

Within short driving distances are world-renowned Palm Beach, the resort towns of Delray Beach and Boca Raton, as well as international polo in Wellington and golf courses around the county. The West Palm Beach International Airport is conveniently located just eight miles away. This estate is listed at \$6,795,000 by Fite Shavell & Associates. Listing agents are Jack Elkins, 561-373-2198, jelkins@fiteshavell.com, and Bunny Hiatt, 561-818-6044, bhiatt@fiteshavell.com. ■



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**2012 Cotton Report:
Market bottomed in 2011**

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The U.S. real estate market has been under pressure since the downturn in 2005, but a national research survey shows a market recovery may be underway and the bottom may have been reached in 2011 for bargain-seeking investors.

The 2012 Cotton Report is the fourth annual survey focusing on buyer confidence and attitudes about market recovery of roughly 1,400 individuals pursuing a real estate purchase. The survey was conducted in February by Cotton & Company.

"The 2012 data indicates that 54 percent of the respondents in the market are seeking a primary residence, with 67 percent of these buyers requiring mortgage financing."

Laurie Andrews, COO of Cotton & Company, said in a prepared statement. "Over the past several years, the primary market has been relatively stagnant throughout the country, and the lack of mortgage availability was outweighed by a pessimistic buyer sentiment." The company said the three-year trend of the survey reflects a more optimistic viewpoint on non-controllable political and economic factors, with a substantial increase of personal choice as the primary factor in their decision. The data also reflects a decrease in respondents who are waiting for better pricing, demonstrating the stabilization of pricing throughout many markets.

2012 Cotton Report Findings

* 54 percent of the market is seeking primary housing, rising sharply from 38

percent a year ago.

■ 3 percent of the primary market is "upsizing," reversing the trend for smaller residences.

■ 66 percent of vacation homebuyers are moving for "geographic relocation," with 68 percent of this market ages 45-64 years old.

■ 33 percent must sell their current home to make a move, a reduction from 42 percent a year ago.

■ Only 12 percent of survey participants state "investment/rental income" as their motivation, continuing a four-year steady decline from 23 percent in 2009.

■ 53 percent of the respondents with more than \$100,000 household income believe we have reached the bottom of the market.

For the first time, the Cotton Report also analyzed the impact of technology on the real estate sales environment. Although the Internet captures 70 percent of the market as the initial research tool for available homes, newspapers rebounded from 3 percent share in 2009 to 8 percent in 2011, a further indicator of the primary market return.

Social networks have reached critical mass with Facebook interaction now encompassing 66 percent of overall respondents.

Moreover, 78 percent of the Facebook respondents were over age 45, indicating the significant penetration into the mainstream residential real estate market.

For more, see thecottonsolution.com.



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<p>PGA NATIONAL-BARCLAY CLUB</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>Three bedroom/two bath charming home in world renowned PGA National. Completely renovated home with light and bright gourmet kitchen. This is a rare find in PGA. Furniture is negotiable. \$260,000 CALL KAREN CARA 561-676-1655</p>	<p>TEQUESTA - RIVERBEND</p> <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>Long golf views from this light, bright well-maintained townhome in Riverbend Country Club. This two bed, two and one-half bath with two screened covered porches is offered furnished and move-in ready. \$89,500 CALL HELEN GOLISCH 561-371-7433</p>

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—Mike and Susan

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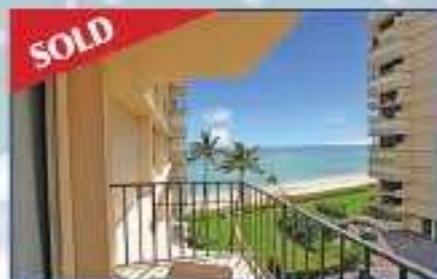
—Margareta and Joseph

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RARE 3BR/4.5BA. Gorgeous views of ocean & intracoastal. 2 parking spaces and cabana
\$751,000



Beachfront PH03
3BR/3.5BA Spectacular views from every room with poolside cabana!
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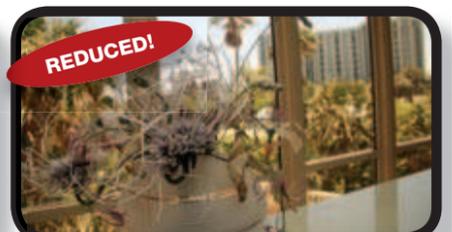
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RARE 4BR/5.5BA
DIRECT OCEAN with Poolside Cabana.
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Martinique PH WT 2601
Penthouse 2BR/3.5BA with beautiful views of ocean and intracoastal.
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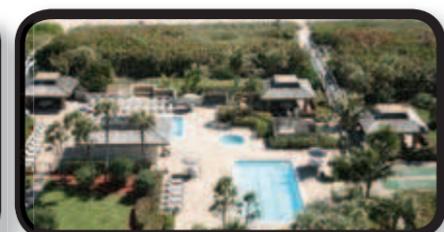
Oasis 2A
PRICED TO SELL.
3BR/3.5BA 4000+ sq. ft.
\$899,000



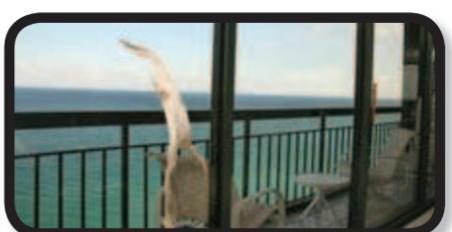
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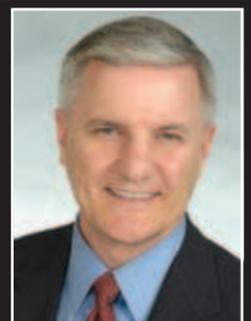
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WEEK OF APRIL 5-11, 2012

COURTESY PHOTOS

Celebrating 75 fabulous years at the ...

Shell Factory

The factory's sign on U.S. 41 in North Fort Myers was built in the 1950s.

A group portrait in front of the original gift store. Owner Harold Crant is top right.

The original Shell Factory in Bonita Springs opened in 1938.

The video arcade in the factory today.

BY EVAN WILLIAMS
ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

"A SURVIVOR FROM FLORIDA'S ROADSIDE-ATTRACTION ERA," SAYS Fodor's travel guide, the Shell Factory & Nature Park on U.S. Route 41 in North Fort Myers is 75 years old this year. Its history is the ongoing story of Lee County itself, and that of coastal counties north and south of here: how the tourist trade and real-estate deals shape the place we live; and the people who migrate here and persist because of it, with the sunshine, beaches, gorgeous winters and palm trees.
Dianne DeBoest,
SEE SHELL, B12 ▶

INSIDE



Hideously creative
"Wrath of the Titans" has great monsters. **B9▶**



Society
See who's out and about in Palm Beach County.
B10-11, 17-18▶



Critters collectible
Antique garden bunnies, dogs and deer can have value. **B4▶**



Bad egg on menu
If only it would be easy to not choose the wrong man. **B2▶**



COURTESY PHOTO
Sheldon Nierman bats with the Egg Cream Trophy in the foreground.

A league of their own

Stickball keeps this group of a certain age forever young

BY CHRIS FELKER
cfelker@floridaweekly.com

It's just like when they played stickball back in their old neighborhoods of the Bronx and Boston, when they formed teams with kids living down the street and played the traditional baseball-like game in the street.

Except it's not. Now everybody's 50 years older; they've worked all their lives, retired and are enjoying the Florida sunshine at Wycliffe Golf & Country Club in Wellington with their spouses, if they're lucky enough to have them still. And the guys play in a parking lot that the village set aside for them, even putting up covered bleachers, fences and a "Stickball Blvd." sign.

But they get almost as giddy as they

did back then, the Wycliffe Stiffs do, when game day comes during their November-through-March regular season.

Marty Ross is known as the "Com-mish" to his neighbors and friends in the Wycliffe Stiffs Stickball League because he so energetically keeps his fellow players motivated and in shape to play, ready to have fun.

The Stiffs, a bunch of "geezer jocks" who now prefer to be called "forever young," just completed their 10th season. They still root for the underdog and love a good pennant race.

This year a 75-year-old perennial also-ran came from behind to win his first championship in nine tries.



SEE STICKBALL, B14 ▶

SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

Making wise choices in food and relationships



I recently bought an \$8 carton of eggs. Read that again. Eight dollars. I asked the man at the farmers market for a dozen and handed him a twenty without asking the price. He handed me back \$12. It wasn't until I walked away and counted my change that I realized — *hot damn* — I just bought a carton of eggs for the price of a movie ticket. And the worst part? I wasn't even upset. They were free-range and organic, after all.

Here's the thing: I've cleaned up my eating in the last few years. I eat more fruits and vegetables, I cook at home when I can, and I buy organic when the prices don't give me cardiac arrest (eggs excluded).

I stopped drinking coffee and stocked my cupboards with green tea. I cut out a lot of sugar and flour, and I eat fewer processed foods. I've learned to make good decisions when it comes to the way I eat.

If only my choices in men could be so healthy.

Like a lot of us, when I'm con-

fronted with a bad-for-me partner I feel powerless to resist. It's like facing down a double cheeseburger: delicious for a little while, but destined to corrode my arteries. I wish I could walk away from these men the way I can now walk away from a box of Twinkies.

It turns out I can, says author Katherine Woodward Thomas in her book "Calling in 'The One': 7 weeks to Attract the Love of Your Life" (a feng shui-meditation-psychotherapy-decluttering-karmic guide to relationships).

"On the most fundamental

level," she writes, "keeping your life free of the messes and entanglements that unwise choices create is actually one of the best things you can do to prepare yourself for love."

Yes, but how? I always seem to reel in the same self-centered types.

Ms. Woodward Thomas says that we all have a fantasy that once we see our unhealthy patterns — double cheeseburgers, Twinkies, men who don't listen — and commit to doing things differently, we believe that only good

things will come into our path. Our lives will be filled with microgreens and supportive partners.

"This is rarely the case," she says in her book. "What is more likely to happen is that, instead of immediately attracting a whole new kind of person into our lives, we find ourselves attracting exactly the same kind of person."

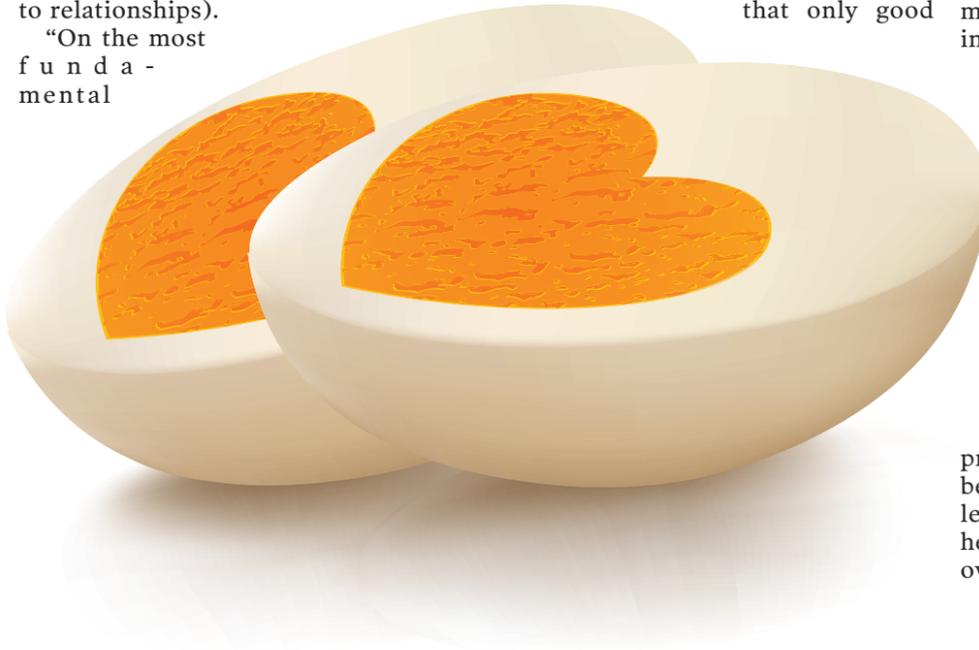
The difference? We're wiser now, she says.

"This time we know exactly where a particular path will lead. We must make the more difficult choice by saying no to the enticement of doing the exact same thing while hoping for different results.

"Let's learn to value the making of the 'right' choice not because it's the right choice for others, not because it's the expected choice, the easiest one, or the path of least resistance.

No, let's instead learn to value the making of the right choice because it is the right choice for us."

If I can choose to buy outrageously priced eggs because I know they're better for me, then perhaps I can learn to choose a man who is equally healthy. Maybe he'll even have his own organic farm. ■



April 5

The Legendary JC's

It all started with some sharkskin suits and Otis Redding tunes. Since then, The Legendary JC's (commonly, The Joint Chiefs) brand of soulful rocking blues and sweaty grooves will have you ready for lift-off.



April 12

Uproot Hootenanny

Uproot Hootenanny is one of the most unique and sought-after bands in Florida with its blend of Folk, Classic and Modern Rock, Pop, Celtic, Bluegrass, and Country music — a "hootenanny" of such diversity it's "a sound you could work up a sweat just listening to.



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CONTRACT BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

Famous hand

This is a favorite story of George B. Coffin, for many years a well-known author and publisher. The bidding went as shown, but after East bid seven diamonds, West quickly passed, not waiting for South to bid. Not only that, but East-West then improperly exchanged hands, a common practice in some games.

South, a stickler for the rules named John Lawman, who by nature was inclined to exact his pound of flesh when an irregularity occurred, now said: "Just a second, please. I haven't passed. In fact, I'll bid seven notrump!" West doubled, and, after two passes, South redoubled! West then led the king of spades.

"Just a second," said South again. "Both of your hands are exposed because you've seen each other's cards, and I'm entitled to call your plays in any way I see fit."

So Mr. Lawman directed West to lead the ten of spades instead. He took the ten with the jack, continued with the nine, calling for West's eight, then cashed the seven of spades, calling for West's six.

As the spades were being led, declarer forced East to discard the A-K-Q of clubs! Mr. Lawman then cashed the J-9-7 of clubs, compelling West to play the 10-8-6 in that order, and East to discard the A-K-Q of hearts.

The same process was then repeated in hearts, declarer cashing the J-9-7 of

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	4 3 2	♠	—
♥	3 2	♥	A K Q
♦	9 8 7 6 5	♦	A K Q J 10 3 2
♣	4 3 2	♣	A K Q
WEST		EAST	
♠	A K Q 10 8 6	♠	—
♥	10 8 6 4	♥	A K Q
♦	—	♦	A K Q J 10 3 2
♣	10 8 6	♣	A K Q
SOUTH			
♠	J 9 7 5	♠	—
♥	J 9 7 5	♥	A K Q
♦	4	♦	A K Q J 10 3 2
♣	J 9 7 5	♣	A K Q

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
7♦		Pass	

that suit. On the hearts, East, who at this point was nearing a state of apoplexy, was forced to discard the A-K-Q of diamonds.

Mr. Lawman next cashed his heart and club fives, collecting East's J-10 of diamonds. Dummy's 9-8 of diamonds then scored the last two tricks to make the redoubled grand slam! ■

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KOVELS: ANTIQUES

Garden critters still popular after four centuries

terryKOVEL

news@floridaweekly.com



If you don't already have rabbits hopping around your garden, you might want to buy an antique garden rabbit to fool your friends. The wealthy English and French of the 17th century liked formal gardens with paths, fences and planned flower beds. They put urns, statues, fountains, sundials, gates, furniture and odd pieces such as finials and wall sculptures into their gardens. In America, ornaments and furniture were being used in gardens by the 1600s. A brass sundial from 1630 is the earliest American garden piece that still exists. A wooden bench from the 1700s is the earliest known wooden piece. Gardens first had wrought-iron furniture and gates in the 18th and early 19th centuries. By the mid-19th century, most garden pieces were made of cast iron, not wrought iron, because cast iron was stronger. Gardens were filled with iron ornaments and fences. Full-size deer, dogs and other animals, tiered fountains, iron benches made to look like twining vines or tree branches, obelisks and sundials were all made of cast iron. So were armillary spheres that help map the "movement" of the stars around the Earth. In the 1930s, there was even more interest in cast-iron objects. Inside houses you could find cast-iron doorstops, bookends, planters, hardware and toys.

And in today's gardens, life-size rabbits,

squirrels, frogs and even alligators and tall birds are among the many iron guests. Many of these figures were made years ago and have survived with just a little loss of paint. A vintage rabbit or squirrel can cost from \$50 to \$200 today. A full-size deer or dog sells for \$500 to \$2,000, and a three-tier iron fountain with a bird pedestal and leafy edges costs \$3,000. Look in back yards when you go to a house sale. You might find a garden figure no one noticed.

Q: I have four cafe-style chairs, each marked with a paper label that says "Jacob Josef Kohn & Mundus." The chair-backs have a bentwood frame with three horizontal splats. Can you tell me age and value?

A: Your chairs were made after 1914, the year Mundus, a German chair-manufacturing conglomerate, merged with Jacob & Josef Kohn, a competitor based in Vienna. And they probably were made before 1923. Thonet, the company whose founder invented the bentwood chair in the 1830s, merged with Mundus in 1923. Many different styles of bentwood chair-backs have been made. If yours are in excellent condition, each one would sell for about \$100.

Q: I own a square porcelain platter with flowers painted around the border and a central scene of two young girls playing in a grassy field. It's marked "PM" on the bottom. I was able to do enough research to learn that it was made between 1895 and

1910 by the Moschendorf Porcelain Factory of Hof-Moschendorf, Bavaria, Germany. But I can't find another platter like it online, and I'm hoping it's rare and worth a lot. Is it?

A: No. Your platter is in a traditional Victorian style popular at the turn of the 20th century. Assuming it was made by the factory you identified, the dish is not by a famous manufacturer and it's probably not part of a set that can be matched with other dishes. It would sell today for \$25 to \$50. But do take another look at the mark. Other

German companies used marks that ended in "PM." One of those was the Royal Porcelain Manufacturing Co., which marked its wares "KPM."

Q: I have a small collection of vintage molded glass religious figurines. There's one that's a mystery to me. It's a 7½-inch light-blue glass sculpture of a standing Madonna and Child. It's signed "P. d'Avesn." I have learned that Pierre d'Avesn once worked at Lalique, but I also found his name connected with Daum art glass. So I'm confused. Can you help?

A: Pierre d'Avesn designed for Lalique in the early 1920s, then later that decade became a designer and manager at Daum. He managed Daum's factory at Croismare, near Luneville, France, from 1927 until 1932. The factory specialized in making decorative but affordable glass pieces that were marked in various ways. One of the marks is the "P. d'Avesn" signature on your figurine. Pieces

made at the Croismare factory do not sell for as much as other prewar Daum designs. Your Madonna and Child figurine, if perfect, could be worth \$100 to \$150.

Q: I have a set of dishes marked "Losol Ware, Chusan, Keeling & Co. Ltd., Burslem, England." I would like to know more about them and if they are valuable. They are in perfect condition with no chips.

A: Keeling & Co. was one of many potteries that once operated in Staffordshire, a county in England. Keeling was in business from 1886 to 1936. Pottery marked "Losol Ware" was made from about 1912 until the pottery closed in 1936. "Chusan" is the pattern name. Not all Keeling marks include the pattern name. Sets of dishes don't sell well. Serving pieces do better. A few show up at auctions. A 7⅝-inch Losol Ware pitcher sold for \$59 last year, and a 5⅞-inch milk jug sold for \$150.

Tip: Silver saltshakers should be emptied after every use or lined with gold plating to avoid corrosion. ■

— Terry Kovel answers as many questions as possible through the column. By sending a letter with a question, you give full permission for use in the column or any other Kovel forum. Names, addresses or e-mail addresses will not be published. We cannot guarantee the return of any photograph, but if a stamped envelope is included, we will try. The volume of mail makes personal answers or appraisals impossible. Write to Kovels (Florida Weekly), King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.



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Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum seeking volunteers for various jobs

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Loxahatchee River Historical Society is looking for friendly folks to volunteer for various positions on weekdays or weekends at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum. Volunteers should have a friendly smile, willingness to work with the public, and have an interest in local history. Students 15 or older may also volunteer year-round and receive community service hours for school.

Volunteer positions include: Lighthouse tour guides, nature tour guides, school group tours, gift shop and admissions, museum front desk, Tindall Pioneer Homestead, Bessie's Sweet Shop, weddings, moonrise tours and special events.

Meet folks from every part of the

world while volunteering at the nation's first eastern Outstanding Natural Area. Volunteers interested in any positions should stop by and pick up an application, download one from the website or call 747-8380 ext. 101 to have one mailed.

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum offers climbing tours of the landmark 1860 lighthouse.

The lighthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is part of the 120-acre federally designated, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area.

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum is open Tuesday-Sunday year-round and seven days a week from January-April, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., with the last lighthouse tour leaving at 4 p.m. For information, see jupiterlighthouse.org. ■

PUZZLE ANSWERS

S	W	A	B	R	O	T	H	A	L	A	S	V	I	G	O	R					
H	A	R	E	E	C	R	U	O	V	E	R	T	I	N	A	N	E				
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8	3	1	6	2	4	9	7	5
9	6	7	5	1	3	4	8	2
2	1	4	8	9	5	3	6	7
7	8	5	1	3	6	2	9	4
6	9	3	2	4	7	8	5	1
1	5	8	4	6	9	7	2	3
4	7	9	3	5	2	6	1	8
3	2	6	7	8	1	5	4	9

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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

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At the Borland Center

The Borland Center for Performing Arts is at Midtown, 4885 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens. Call 904-3130 or visit www.theborlandcenter.org.

At the Eissey

The Eissey Campus Theatre is at Palm Beach State College, PGA Boulevard, Palm Beach Gardens. Unless otherwise noted, call 207-5900 or visit www.palm-beachstate.edu/eisseycampustheatre.

■ **Treasure Coast Youth Symphony presents From The Soul** — The music of Schubert, Dvorak, Rimsky-Korsakov and Bach, and special guest Hannah Geisinger performs a viola concerto by Walton at 7 p.m. April 9. Tickets: \$18, students \$7.

■ **Ballet Folklorico** — The music, performed live on authentic stringed instruments, punctuates the meticulous movement, colorful costumes and perfect pulse established by these dancers from Mexico at 8 p.m. April 11. Tickets: \$25-\$30.

■ **The Benjamin School presents Spring Music Festival** — Features the Band, Chorus and more from the Upper & Middle School at 7 p.m. April 12. Tickets: \$5; 472-3476 or visit The Nook, 11000 Ellison Wilson Road.

At the Kravis

The Kravis Center is at 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. For tickets, call 832-7469 or log on to www.kravis.org.

■ **African American Film Festival** — "Something the Lord Made," with host AnEta Sewell, 7 p.m. April 5 in Helen K. Persson Hall. Tickets: \$10.

■ **"South Pacific"** — Based on the 2008 Tony Award-winning Lincoln Center Theater production, directed by Bartlett Sher. 7 p.m. April 5, Dreyfoos Hall. Tickets: \$25 and up.

■ **FestOval of Dance, 2012** — West Palm Beach's cutting-edge contemporary dance company, O Dance, founded and directed by internationally known choreographer Jerry Opdenaker, performs at 7:30 p.m. April 6, 2 and 7:30 p.m. April 7 and 3 p.m. April 8, Rinker Playhouse. Tickets: \$35.

■ **Bill O'Reilly** — 8 p.m. April 6, Dreyfoos Hall. Tickets: \$25 and up.

■ **Pink Martini** — 8 p.m. April 7, Dreyfoos Hall. Tickets: \$20 and up.

■ **Palm Beach Symphony, Gala Benefit Concert** — 8 p.m. April 10, Dreyfoos Hall. Program includes Tchaikovsky's "Piano Concerto No. 1" and Dvorak's "Symphony No. 8." Jahja Ling is guest conductor and Russian pianist Lola Astanova is soloist. Tickets: \$30 and up.

■ **Sergio Mendez with special guest Jon Secada** — 8 p.m. April 11, Dreyfoos Hall. Tickets: \$25.

At the Maltz

The Maltz Jupiter Theatre is at 1001 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Call 575-2223 or visit www.jupitertheatre.org.



Pink Martini performs at 8 p.m. April 7 in Dreyfoos Hall at the Kravis Center. Tickets are \$20 and up.

■ **"Hello, Dolly!"** — Jerry Herman's show stars Vicki Lewis and Gary Beach. Marcia Milgrom Dodge directs. Showtimes vary; through April 1. Tickets start at \$43.

At the Mos'Art

The Mos'Art Theatre is at 700 Park Ave., Lake Park. Call 337-OPOD (6763) or visit www.mosarttheatre.com.

■ **Films** — April 5: "Detachment" and "We Need to Talk About Kevin." April 6-12: "A Separation" and "The Matchmaker." Various times.

Thursday, April 5

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

■ **Sailfish Marina Sunset Celebration** — 6 p.m. Thursdays. Shop for arts and crafts made by artists from around the country. Sailfish Marina, east of the Intracoastal, just south of Blue Heron Boulevard, Palm Beach Shores; 842-8449.

■ **Mainstreet at Midtown Music on the Plaza** — 6-8 p.m. Thursdays. Beer, wine and food from Chuck Burger Joint's kitchen; prices under \$10; free parking; 629-5191. Near Military Trail and PGA Boulevard.

■ **Dance Tonight** — Open Latin/ballroom mix party features live music by Jimmy Falzone every Thursday. Group lesson 8-9 p.m.; party 9-10:30 p.m.; admission \$15 for entire evening, includes light buffet; 914 Park Ave., Lake Park; 844-0255.

■ **Clematis by Night** — Live music 6-9 p.m. Thursdays, Clematis Street at the Waterfront, downtown West Palm Beach. April 5: Solid Gold. April 12: Big Al & the Heavyweights. April 19: Chad Hollister. April 26: Boss Groove. Free; 822-1515 or visit www.clematisbynight.net.

Friday, April 6

■ **Lake Park "Super" Market** — 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Fridays through October; Kelsey Park, 725 Lake Shore Drive, Lake

Park; 881-3319.

■ **"Friday Night Dance Party"** — 8-10 p.m. Fridays, Alexander's Ballroom, 651 W. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Cost: \$15 per person; 747-0030 or alexandersballroom.com.

■ **Downtown's Weekend Kick-off** — Singers perform 6-10 p.m. Fridays. April 6: Sound Proof. April 13: Groove Merchant Band. April 20: The Party Dogs. April 27: Samantha Russell Band. Downtown at the Gardens' Centre Court, 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Drive, Palm Beach Gardens; 340-1600.

Saturday, April 7

■ **Town of Jupiter Annual Easter Egg Hunt** — Children are separated into age groups to frolic through the grass and find treasures, treats and more. Bring your basket and bonnet. There also will be face painting, bounce houses, arts and crafts and a special toddler play area. It's 9:30 a.m. April 7 on the lawn of the Jupiter Community Center at 200 Military Trail. Call 741-2400 or visit www.jupiter.fl.us.

■ **West Palm Beach Greenmarket** — 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays through April 14 at the Waterfront Commons, 101 S. Flagler Drive, downtown West Palm Beach; free parking in Banyan Street garage until 2 p.m.; call 822-1515.

■ **The 3rd Annual Pirate's Well Pirate Fest** — Shop arts and crafts and merchandise vendors, see pirate costume contests, play games for the young and the young at heart, including an Easter Treasure Hunt, Water Battle, Live Mermaid, Dunk Tank and Blackbeard's Pirate Ship. It's noon-2 a.m. April 7, Pirate's Well, 9477 Alternate A1A, Lake Park; www.pirateswellpiratefest.com

■ **Documentary films** — The Sierra Club will present two documentaries on environmental hazards, "End CIV" and "BAG IT!" Green Cay Nature Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Road, Boynton Beach. Showtime is 11 a.m.-2 p.m. April 7. Information: 907-2329 or jaynenote@yahoo.com.

■ **Kids Story Time** — 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Loggerhead Marinelife Center, 14200 U.S. 1, Juno Beach; free. Visit www.marinelife.org.

■ **Ginger's Dance Party** — 8-10 p.m., first Saturday of the month: April 7. Enjoy free-style dancing and easy-to-learn line dancing; free; visit www.wpb.org/waterfront. Outdoors at the Centennial Square, West Palm Beach.

■ **Public Fish Feedings at the Loxahatchee River Center** — 2 p.m. Saturdays at the Wild & Scenic and Deep Marine Tanks, Burt Reynolds Park, 805 N. U.S. 1, Jupiter; 743-7123; or visit www.loxahatcheeriver.org/rivercenter.

■ **Celebrate Saturdays at Downtown** — Singers perform 6-10 p.m. Saturdays. April 7: On the Roxx. April 14: Raquel Williams. April 21: Noel Lorica. April 28: Jason Colannino and 4 Peace Band. Downtown at the Gardens' Centre Court, 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Drive, Palm Beach Gardens; 340-1600.

Sunday, April 8

■ **Palm Beach Gardens GreenMarket**, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays through May 6; City Complex, 4301 Burns Road; 756-3600.

Monday, April 9

■ **Newplicate Bridge** — Informative lesson, 1-1:30 p.m.; games 1:30-4:30 p.m. Sanctioned duplicate bridge games for new players with fewer than 100 master points. Fee: residents, \$6; non-residents, \$7; call Jennifer Nelli, 630-1146 or go to www.pbgfl.com. Lakeside Center, 10410 N. Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens.

■ **Timely Topics Discussion Group** — Lively discussion group covers the most up-to-date topics faced by our local community, including national affairs and foreign relations as they relate to Israel and the United States; free/Friends of the J; \$18 annual fee/guests; call 712-5233. JCC North, 4803 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens.

Tuesday, April 10

■ **Pirate's Cove Resort Marketplace** — Visit the Dockside Marketplace Vendors the second Tuesday of each month. Next event: 5-9 p.m. April 10. At Pirate's Cove Resort 4307 SE Bayview St., Stuart; 792-9260.

■ **Mah Jongg & Canasta Play Sessions** — Tables grouped by game preference (mah jongg or canasta) and level of skill. Coffee, cold beverages and a variety of goodies provided. 12:15-3:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; JCC North, 4803 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens. Price: Free/Friends of the J; \$5/guest; 712-5233.

■ **Stayman Memorial Bridge** — Supervised play sessions with Sam Brams, 10 a.m.-noon Tuesdays; JCC North, 4803 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens. Play party bridge in a friendly atmosphere while benefiting from expert advice with judgment calls and hand rulings; no partner necessary; coffee and light refreshments provided. Price: Free/Friends of the J; \$6/guests; 712-5233.

■ **Zumba class** — 7:15-8:15 p.m. Tuesdays and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Burns Road Recreation Center, 4404 Burns Road, Palm Beach Gardens. Drop-in fee, \$12; resident discount, \$10. Call 630-1100 or visit www.pbgfl.com.

Wednesday, April 11

■ **"Break Up Support Group"** —

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

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.

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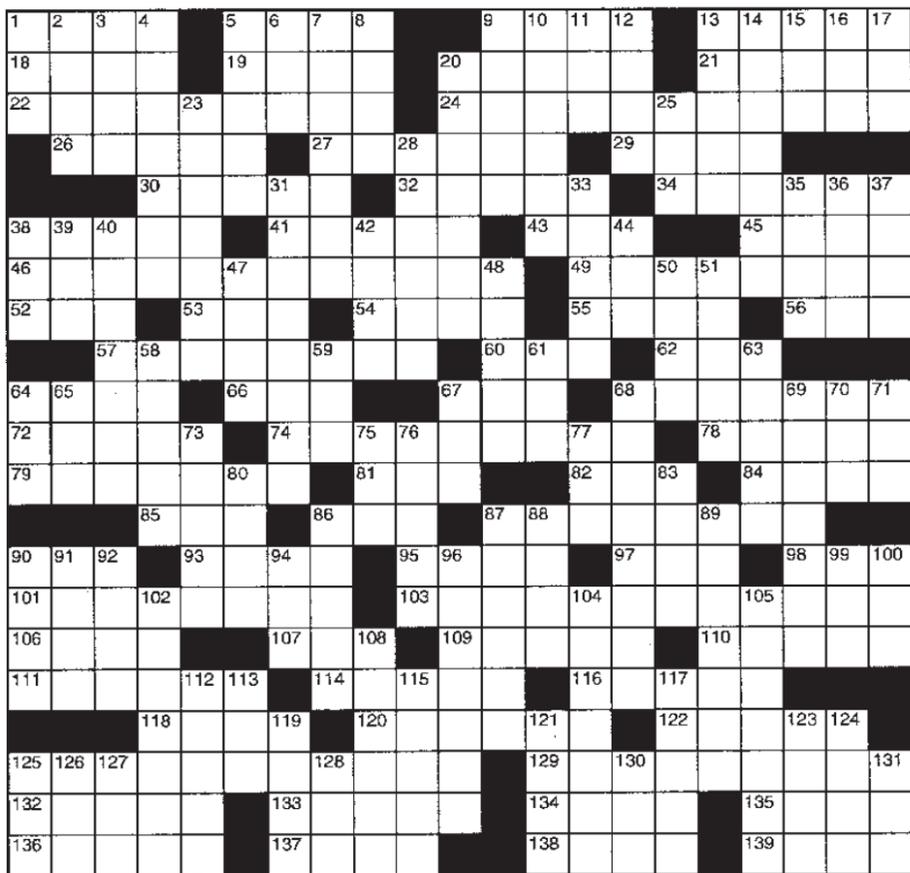
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 A family gets caught in a tornado in Kansas.

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FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES

TEA PARTY



- ACROSS**
- 1 Clean the decks
 - 5 "Portnoy's Complaint" author
 - 9 "Woe is me!"
 - 13 Strength
 - 18 — Krishna
 - 19 Neutral tone
 - 20 Manifest
 - 21 Pointless
 - 22 What the Three Stooges drank
 - 24 What Yo-Yo Ma drank
 - 26 — pole
 - 27 "American Pie" singer
 - 29 Overshoe
 - 30 Range rope
 - 32 Synthetic fiber
 - 34 Brahman or lama
 - 38 Broadway backer
 - 41 Vulgar
 - 43 He may woo ewe
 - 45 Concerning
 - 46 What Sasquatch drank
 - 49 What Queen Victoria drank
 - 52 Oklahoma city
 - 53 Bull in a china shop
 - 54 Exploit
 - 55 Crucifix
 - 56 "Howards —" ('92 film)
 - 57 Had a hunch
 - 60 Nonclerical
 - 62 Assumed mane?
 - 64 German chemist
 - 66 Hound or hamster
 - 67 Forbid
 - 68 Outtake
 - 72 On the ball
 - 74 What F. Lee Bailey drank
 - 78 Billow
 - 79 Longed for
 - 81 Address abbr.
 - 82 Exist
 - 84 Tragic fate
 - 85 What's between Serena and Martina
 - 86 Bat wood
 - 87 — clover
 - 90 Paddle
 - 93 Siren
 - 95 Steel support
 - 97 Myriads of moons
 - 98 — Jima
 - 101 What Isaac Newton drank
 - 103 What Martha Stewart drank
 - 106 Reside
 - 107 Eyebrow shape
 - 109 The sky, at times?
 - 110 Beginning
 - 111 Bright inventor?
 - 114 Make Fido fetch
 - 116 Starts a lawn
 - 118 Banyan or baobab
 - 120 Refer (to)
 - 122 — point
 - 125 What Lech Walesa drank
 - 129 What Gregor Mendel drank
 - 132 Saying
 - 133 Take the reins
 - 134 Pennsylvania port
 - 135 Atty.-to-be's ordeal
 - 136 Steven of "Wings"
 - 137 Guam, for one: abbr.
 - 138 Horned vipers
 - 139 Actress
 - 140 Veronica
 - DOWN**
 - 1 "Quiet!"
 - 2 Stick around
 - 3 Singer
 - 4 '60s phenome-
 - 5 French city
 - 6 "Fall back" mo.
 - 7 Aftershocks
 - 8 Former Cong. group
 - 9 For the birds
 - 10 Loewe's lyricist
 - 11 — deco
 - 12 Pencil piece
 - 13 Sun screen
 - 14 First
 - 15 Gangster's gun
 - 16 TV's "— Step Beyond"
 - 17 Singer
 - 20 Supervise
 - 23 Property professional
 - 25 "Alley —"
 - 28 Endured
 - 31 Paul of "A Man for All Seasons"
 - 33 Storch or King
 - 35 Punta del —
 - 36 Actress
 - 37 Warty one
 - 38 Flock o' docs
 - 39 Wordless greeting
 - 40 Grinds
 - 42 — -de-camp
 - 44 Herd word
 - 47 Interstate exit
 - 48 Dwight's competitor
 - 50 Cry of distress
 - 51 "Later, Luis!"
 - 58 Remove a morsel
 - 59 Sault — Marie, MI
 - 61 Pangolin's morsel
 - 63 Dutch export
 - 64 Possessed
 - 65 Citrus cooler
 - 67 Deli choice
 - 68 Kind of clasp
 - 69 Makes money
 - 70 — trip
 - 71 Sleep stage
 - 73 Roman fountain
 - 75 Helium or hydrogen
 - 76 Plant pest
 - 77 — Claire, WI
 - 80 "L'—, c'est moi!"
 - 83 Wells creatures
 - 86 In pieces
 - 87 Feast's alternative
 - 88 City near Provo
 - 89 Produced a cryptogram
 - 90 Eye amorously
 - 91 Parched
 - 92 Sitarist
 - 94 "Cry — River" ('55 song)
 - 96 "El Libertador"
 - 99 Elfin
 - 100 — bran
 - 102 Trace
 - 104 Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy
 - 105 Teach
 - 108 Kilauea, for one
 - 112 Court cry
 - 113 Teachers' org.
 - 115 "Doe, —, a female . . ."
 - 117 Rapiers
 - 119 Formerly, formerly
 - 121 Perlman of "Cheers"
 - 123 "— Heartache" ('78 hit)
 - 124 Shipbuilding wood
 - 125 Shorten a slat
 - 126 Horatian creation
 - 127 Research site
 - 128 Ideologue's suffix
 - 130 Tear
 - 131 Demolished dessert

SEE ANSWERS, B5

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HOROSCOPES

- **ARIES (March 21 to April 19)**
The Lamb loves to be surrounded by flocks of admirers. But be careful that someone doesn't take his or her admiration too far. Use your persuasive skills to let him or her down easily.
- **TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)**
This is a good time to begin setting far-reaching goals and connecting with new contacts. Aspects also favor strengthening old relationships — personal and/or professional.
- **GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)**
A personal disappointment should be viewed as a valuable learning experience. Go over what went wrong and see where a change in tactics might have led to a more positive outcome.
- **CANCER (June 21 to July 22)**
Don't leave projects unfinished or personal obligations unresolved, or you might find yourself tripping over all those loose ends later on. A relative has important news.
- **LEO (July 23 to August 22)**
Expect a challenge to the usual way you do things. Although you might prefer the tried-and-true, once you take a good look at this new idea, you might feel more receptive to it.
- **VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)**
Much work has yet to be done to polish a still-rough idea into something with significant potential. Expect to encounter some initial rejection, but stay with it nonetheless.
- **LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)**
There still might be some communication problems in the workplace, but they should be resolved soon. Meanwhile, that "tip" from a friend should be checked out.
- **SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)**
A new relationship appears to need more from you than you might be willing to give right now. Best advice: Resist making promises you might not be able to keep.
- **SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)**
That restless feeling encourages you to gallop off into a new venture. But remember to keep hold of the reins so you can switch paths when necessary.
- **CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)**
A demanding work schedule keeps the high-spirited Goat from kicking up his or her heels. But playtime beckons by the week's end. Have fun. You earned it.
- **AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)**
You're beginning to come out from under those heavy responsibilities you took on. Use this freed-up time to enjoy some much-deserved fun with people close to you.
- **PISCES (February 19 to March 20)**
Before you get swept away by a tidal wave of conflicting priorities, take time to come up for air, and reassess the situation. You might be surprised by what you'll find.
- **BORN THIS WEEK:** Your leadership qualities are enhanced by a practical sense of purpose that keeps you focused on your goals.

By Linda Thistle

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

Puzzle Difficulty this week:



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

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ Expert

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SEE ANSWERS, B5



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LATEST FILMS

'Wrath of the Titans'

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★★★★

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

"Wrath" means "revenge driven by anger," but when it appears in a movie title, good things happen. "The Grapes of Wrath" (1940) is an all-time classic. "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan" is the best of that franchise and a darn good movie. "Wrath of the Titans" joins that company; it's a solid action film with a decent enough premise and visual effects that are stunning for a very specific reason (more on that later).

The sequel to 2012's "Clash of the Titans," it picks up with demigod (half man/half god) Perseus (Sam Worthington) 10 years later. Living among men, he is a single father of Heliuss (John Bell) and works as a fisherman. But with the gods losing their power due to lack of human prayer, Perseus finds himself having to rescue his father, Zeus (Liam Neeson), from the capture of Hades (Ralph Fiennes) and Ares (Edgar Ramirez). Helping Perseus are Queen Andromeda (Rosamund Pike) and Poseidon's (Danny Huston) son Agenor (Toby Kebbell), who has a dubious reputation.

OK, so the story is just serviceable. That's all it's supposed to be. Give credit to scribes Dan Mazeau and David Johnson for not having any hideously stupid dialog, and to the actors for not letting any potentially stupid dialog come through in the delivery. Also give credit to the actors for working so well while knowing half the visual effects-filled picture (if not more) would be added in post-production. If you think acting is easy, try being scared to death or screaming at a blue screen, hoping the monsters created by design gurus six months later will warrant your fear.

In this case, warrant they do.

But it's not just the creativity of the monsters — which include a two-headed wolf-like animal with a bad attitude, giant Cyclopes and demonic soldiers with two front sides and no rear. It's

the details in the visual effects that make them great. Note the way our first descent into the underworld is an unbroken shot that takes us from ground level all the way down to Hades' realm. Note the individual hairs on Zeus' beard as they go from brown to gray, and the destruction of the fire-spewing, mega-monster Kronos as it spreads everywhere. This is detailed, time-consuming work at its finest.

Best of all — and this is what's really impressive — director Jonathan Liebesman is able to hold on extensive visual effects shots for longer than normal.



Whereas some directors edit action scenes so quickly that it's all a blur, Liebesman patiently moves the camera with Perseus as he evades and then encounters the two-headed monster. Specifically because of this lack of over-editing, other moments palpably register as well.

"Wrath of the Titans" has everything you want in this type of sequel: It's bigger and louder, but also more visually dynamic and, therefore, better than its predecessor. ■

in the know

>> As it did in the 2010 film, the mechanical owl Bubo from the original 1981 version of "Clash of the Titans" makes an appearance.

CAPSULES

The Hunger Games

★★★★

(Jennifer Lawrence, Liam Hemsworth, Josh Hutcherson) Set in the future, Katniss (Lawrence) leaves her friend Gale (Hemsworth) behind to fight to the death with Peeta (Hutcherson) and 22 other young adults in the titular "Hunger Games." It takes too long to get to the games, but once there, it's sufficiently exciting and suspenseful. Based on the Suzanne Collins novel. Rated PG-13.

21 Jump Street

(Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum, Ice Cube)

Youthful police officers Schmidt (Hill) and Jenko (Tatum) go undercover at a high school to infiltrate a drug ring. Off-the-wall funny and with great spirit, this serves as proof that cruddy old TV shows can make darn good movies. Rated R.

Seeking Justice

★★★★

(Nicolas Cage, January Jones, Guy Pearce) After his wife (Jones) is savagely attacked, Will (Cage) makes a deal with a stranger named Simon (Pearce) to "take care of" the assailant. But when Will has to return the favor, trouble ensues. It's a good, tense thriller that'll have you questioning your own morality when it's over. Rated R. ■

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- 3. George Douma and Louise Douma
- 4. Michelle Foti and Emily Foti
- 5. Leeta Martin, Chris Martin and baby Julianna Martin
- 6. Nicole Handy and Kristi Wilson
- 7. Scott Rowe, Sarah Rowe and Katie Doyle
- 8. Tiffany Puhiman and Mike Rendes

KELLY LAMONS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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Downtown

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at Mommy and Me

Ride Buttercup
on the carousel

Get my hair cut
at Cartoon Cuts

Susy's birthday party
at A Latte Fun

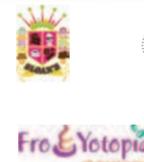


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- 6. Pauline Zaros, Mara Hoeffler and David Hoeffler
- 7. Rick Warren and Amy Warren

RACHEL HICKEY / FLORIDA WEEKLY



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SHELL

From page B1

the daughter of the Shell Factory's founders, Harold and Mildred Crant, lives with her husband in Alva (east of Fort Myers). When she was a toddler, her parents left Niagara Falls, Canada, by car and settled in Bonita Springs. Her father had sold his sightseeing business in Niagara Falls. That's most likely where he got the money to buy "all four corners" of Terry Street and Old 41 in Bonita, she said.

The late Mr. Crant was born in Nova Scotia, the oldest of 10 children, Ms. DeBoest said. And all those siblings ended up moving to Lee County and went into "the shell business." Her dad ran the Shell Factory on that corner until the end of 1952, along with other attractions, including an "Indian Village" and a restaurant.

"He was quite friendly with the Seminole Indians," Ms. DeBoest recalls. He hired some to work at the village — an authentic touch for tourists. "Probably totally politically incorrect these days."

Mr. Crant was a major employer in Bonita until his Shell Factory burned down in the early morning on New Year's Eve, 1952, the same year Ms. DeBoest graduated from high school (early, at age 16, she said).

He rebuilt in North Fort Myers, where the Shell Factory has remained, its internationally recognized 1950s-era roadside sign a beacon — or "tourist trap" — for traffic on the Tamiami Trail. Mr. Crant's decision to leave Bonita was not without consequence.

"In Bonita Springs, it was the star attraction," remembers long-time Lee County Commissioner Frank Mann. "(Some Bonita residents at the time) were very saddened about it because it was a landmark there and it was a big tourist attraction and it provided jobs."

Ms. DeBoest has an old picture of herself under her father's sign, which still features a 52-foot-tall arch and a giant pink conch sculpture underneath. In it she's young, sitting in a convertible.

Ms. DeBoest's first husband, the late Richmond Powell, worked for her father. They eventually bought the Shell Factory, and had five children before divorcing in the 1960s. Her father thought he'd get more traffic at the North Fort Myers spot, she said. But later Interstate 75 diverted travelers and sent business into a tailspin.

Ms. DeBoest hasn't been involved in the business since she and Mr. Powell went their separate ways.

The business changed hands a number of times, then fell into the hands of Martin Beitler, who owned an insur-



The Shell Factory's float in The Edison Festival of Light Grande Parade sometime before 1953, when the business moved to North Fort Myers.

COURTESY PHOTO



Bumper boats are one of the factory's modern-day attractions.



Tom Cronin has a huge collection of exotic taxidermied animals, including a number of lions, on display in the gift shop.

ance company.

"I was b.s.'d into buying (the Shell Factory) by this attorney," Mr. Beitler said over the telephone. "He was going to flip it and all that baloney... What can I tell you? It was not a good experience. I finally unloaded the place to some bankers who had their eye on the property, and we worked out some terms that made some sense for both parties and I was gone."

Mr. Beitler complains that a slick, dishonest lawyer had initially urged him to buy the Shell Factory, with the promise that he could "flip" it for a profit. Now 85, the lifetime New Jersey resident still lives there, in Edgewater with his wife. They are predominantly retired.

The current owner, Tom Cronin, bought the Shell Factory from Mr. Beitler in 1997 for "50 cents on the dollar" (about \$1.5 million). It was practi-

cally bankrupt. Mr. Beitler was only too glad to get rid of the property to Mr. Cronin's real-estate company (or as he remembers them, "some bankers"), even at a loss.

"Lots of capital investment brought it back," said Mr. Cronin, who invested millions. "It was all personal equity, no bank support."

The great American retailer

Today, the Shell Factory is experiencing something of a comeback, offering bumper boats and a petting zoo; miniature golf and hermit crab races; an Iguana named "Iggy Pop" and even a church service — for dogs — on Sunday. But the Shell Factory's giant retail gift store is its lifeblood, the Grande Dame of Kitsch in her many-splendored glory.

"Every attraction has a gift store,"

Mr. Cronin said proudly, noting that at 68,000 square feet it's bigger than your average Walmart. "We have the largest gift store under one roof as far as we know in the world."

The jellyfish encased under glass is a hot item, as is the Ass Kickin' Hot Sauce. Need flip flops, suntan lotion, jewelry, wooden surfboard postcards, or a selection of thousands of shells and coral from all over the world? Check.

An entire sprawling section is dedicated to Christmas items, year round. There's a fudge and ice cream shop, a Subway, a video arcade, a Pirate Grotto with life-size sculptures, and an old Volkswagen Beetle painted up in full hippie regalia, including the slogan "Make love, not war."

Anne Sheridan is general manager and buyer for the gift store.

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"It's not just shells here, it's everything," she said, sitting in her office. "There's nothing we don't have — unless I don't like it...There's something for everybody here."

There are also rooms full of taxidermied animals, a kingdom of exotic creatures near the video arcade, frozen in various poses.

"It's not politically correct," Mr. Cronin admits of taxidermy, the process of carefully preserving and mounting dead animals. "It's a lost art."

A number of lions and a musk ox don't begin to describe the giant collection, which Mr. Cronin said was mostly inherited from friends who were hunters. It's out of fashion these days, but visitors who see it look on in wonder and take digital photos of themselves with the once-living beasts.

Tom Cronin

Mr. Cronin is originally from Hartford City, Ind. He moved to Lee County with his family in the late 1940s, he said. His mother was a homemaker and his father a taxidermist, "believe it or not."

The family had "a little fishing business on the city pier" in Fort Myers when they arrived. Mr. Cronin guided fishing boats as a teenager. "Women would scream and yell before they got on the boat, 'I'm not getting in with a 13-year-old,'" he said.

His family also worked for years in the wholesale beer business, he said, selling brands such as Regal and Pabst Blue Ribbon. Mr. Cronin took up buying and selling real estate as a side business. That's the source of the family's wealth, he said, not the beer industry.

"But it kept us in bread and beer," Mr. Cronin said. "We drank a lot of beer."

At 73, Mr. Cronin is still a work-a-day manager, spry and energetic. It doesn't hurt, he notes, that "I have a 53-year-old wife."

That's Pam Cronin, who went to hospitality school and now manages the Shell Factory's restaurant, Capt'n Fish-bones Seafood and Steaks.

Mr. Cronin intended to buy, renovate, then sell the Shell Factory, but has now owned it for 15 years.

"The truth of the matter is there are not a lot of buyers out there," he said. "There's so much property out there that's undervalued. I'm not going to give it away; (instead, I'll wait for the right person to come along."

At the park

The dog park and agility course is one of the newest features at the Shell Factory, and there are plans to construct a rain forest attraction by this summer.

"One of those things to keep up, something new," says Rick Tupper, the factory's marketing director.

To that end, Mr. Tupper handles more than 150 events every year at the Shell Factory, updated the website in March, and added a Facebook page.

He took a reporter on a tour of the 18-acre property via golf cart last week. When you step out of your car in the parking lot, you hear nostalgic doo-wop songs and other tunes. The place even has its own funny theme song, written by late Fort Myers musician Gary Link in 1980: "Shell Factory Billboard Blues." You can hear that on YouTube.

In the Nature Park, goats are expecting babies, and there are already two baby lambs.

Elsewhere, lemurs jumped around in their cages. In a separate aviary were leopard geckos, sea urchins, hermit crabs and a bearded dragon. Down the path, a large holding area contained a camel standing next to a miniature horse and a llama.

Near a giant waterfall that spilled into a pool with giant koi, a tame peacock was chilling out by the brick path.

Soothing piano music was coming from somewhere.

In another area, a far corner, there was a Day of the Dinosaur Exhibit.

"I haven't ever been back here," Mr. Tupper said. "I don't know where Tom got all this stuff."

There were plaster mold dinosaurs, including a Tyrannosaurus rex, looming over the path and a soundtrack with roars and Jurassic park-type noises.

Millions of memories

Frommer's Florida 2011 travel guide ignores the Shell Factory & Nature Park completely, but seemingly takes a dismissive swipe at the place by writing that the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum of Sanibel is for "hard-core shell fanatic(s)..." and that "The museum is a far cry from the tourist-trap shell factories you'll see throughout the state."

That hasn't kept the Shell Factory from being visited millions of times over the years.

"To me, what makes it so special is it's that step back in time a bit," said Tamara Pigott, executive director of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau. "I think about those trips we took as a kid... and coming across these places (roadside attractions like the Shell Factory.) To me it's an almost magical part of my childhood."

Ms. Pigott suggests many like her have had similar childhood experiences. Last year, says the Lee County VCB, 11 percent of Lee County visitors said they went to the Shell Factory. The VCB's poll represents the county's 4.8 million visitors in 2011, which means roughly half a million people experienced the Shell Factory & Nature Park that year.

Brooklyn, N.Y.-based blogger Debra Jane Seltzer has taken special note of the Shell Factory on her travels. She's documented an extensive cross-section of America's roadside signs for her website, www.roadsidearchitecture.com.

"(The Shell Factory sign) is an important survivor for several reasons," she wrote in an e-mail. "The business itself is an iconic and rare representative of Florida roadside tourism. Most of these businesses are long gone. The size of this sign is remarkable. I doubt that local ordinances would permit something so huge and garish these days. It is also a good and early example of 'transitional' signs which mix plastic and neon."

Politicians also like to visit the Shell Factory. Senator John McCain was there on his 2008 campaign tour, for example. Many local reps have also visited, including Congressman Tom Rooney (FL-16), who issued a statement through his press office:

"Visiting the Shell Factory brings me back to my childhood. I remember stopping there with my family while we were driving around Florida, and I can't wait to bring my kids to get a taste of the old Americana at the Shell Factory. It's a great asset to the community."

It's also a marker in time for Lee County Commissioner Mann.

"It was the essence of what the tourist trade began as 75 years ago around here," he said. "They sold rubber alligators and T-shirts and hats and Kodak film: that's what tourism was 75 years ago here in Southwest Florida."

And is. Ms. DeBoest occasionally revisits the place her father founded.

"When the children come — well, most of 'em are 50 and older, I do have one son that just turned 46 I think — when they come they always want to go out there and just see what it's like," she said. "They all have fond memories of it when they were growing up here... The grandchildren, the last time the little ones were here we went to the animal park and did the thing with the boats..."

For more information, visit www.shellfactory.com. ■

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“The game is secondary to what we’re doing. This was a game played in the streets of inner cities on the East Coast back in the ’20s, ’30s, ’40s; and in the ’50s, when cars came in, it started dissipating. There are still people playing in inner cities, because it’s inexpensive – a ball and a bat.”

– Marty Ross

STICKBALL

From page B1

Al Chaikin led his Bronx Bombers to a 6-3 come-from-behind win against the regular season pennant-winning Boston Diehards.

“Ten years, and he’s been a captain for nine years,” Mr. Ross said of Mr. Chaikin, “and he went from down in fourth place and came back and won it. We had our best season in terms of no one getting hurt, everyone having a great time together, friendships being built, renewed, extended.”

Now in his 70s, Mr. Ross founded the league in 2002 after an old friend from the Bronx, Alan Halpern, mailed him a stickball bat and pink Spalden ball that he’d found in a hardware store in Harlem, just like the ones they had used in the old neighborhood. (Marty graduated in ’58 from DeWitt Clinton High School, and Alan in ’55 from Taft H.S.) When Mr. Ross received those icons of his youthful games on the Bronx streets, he started showing them to friends and acquaintances here and asking, “What do you know about this?”

He said he “realized from the smiles, memories and stories that people in the 52-to-85 age group showed me that there was a mystique about this and I had a winner.” So he “started on my mission to ‘Keep Stickball a Tradition and Not Just a Game’ (the league’s motto) by creating the Wycliffe Stiffs Stickball League with 106 players and six teams.”

The league now has four teams and only about 80 players, but Mr. Ross said a lot of work goes into running it, which he describes as a “labor of love” for himself and Harry Klaff, 64, director of operations. In 2009, they produced a hardcover book detailing the league’s first few seasons and established a hall of fame.

During the off-season months, league members have a benefit stickball golf tournament and take outings to Florida Panthers games.

“The game is secondary to what we’re doing,” Mr. Ross said. It’s really about socialization and keeping everybody active, he said. “This was a game played in the streets of inner cities on the East Coast back in the ’20s, ’30s, ’40s; and in the ’50s, when cars came in, it started dissipating. There are still people playing in inner cities, because



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it's inexpensive — a ball and a bat.”

The parking lot at Village Park where the league plays, Mr. Klaff said, “is perfect. The field is roughly 75 feet wide, roughly 200 feet long. Since there is no running involved, whether a hit is a single, double, triple or home run is determined by where a ball lands. The ball is pitched on a bounce from the pitcher’s mound, which is about 55 feet. The team at bat has their own pitcher. We have a continuous batting order. We have maybe 15-16 players show up on any given day.”

Mr. Ross noted that the Wellington Parks and Recreation Department has been very helpful in setting up the field.

He added that when they originated the league, “we made the rules to fit the ‘forever young’ age group.” So the game is generally pretty easy on aging bodies.

“We’ve taken 79 people that are part of our league, from Wycliffe, and given them enjoyment that far surpasses the other things that they’re doing,” said Mr. Ross. “First of all, when you’re on the field, playing other sports, you can’t talk.”

Mr. Klaff interjected: “One thing that we’ve been able to do, is that we force people who don’t want to have fun, to have fun. We take all these sourpusses and put them out there, and ... they have fun.”

It certainly works for Norman Graff, who is the league’s oldest player. He was on the winning Congressional Barons last spring and said after that victory: “This feels so good. I am 84, but it feels like I am 14 right now. That’s how all of the guys feel right now. It takes you back to when you were in the schoolyard.” ■



COURTESY PHOTOS

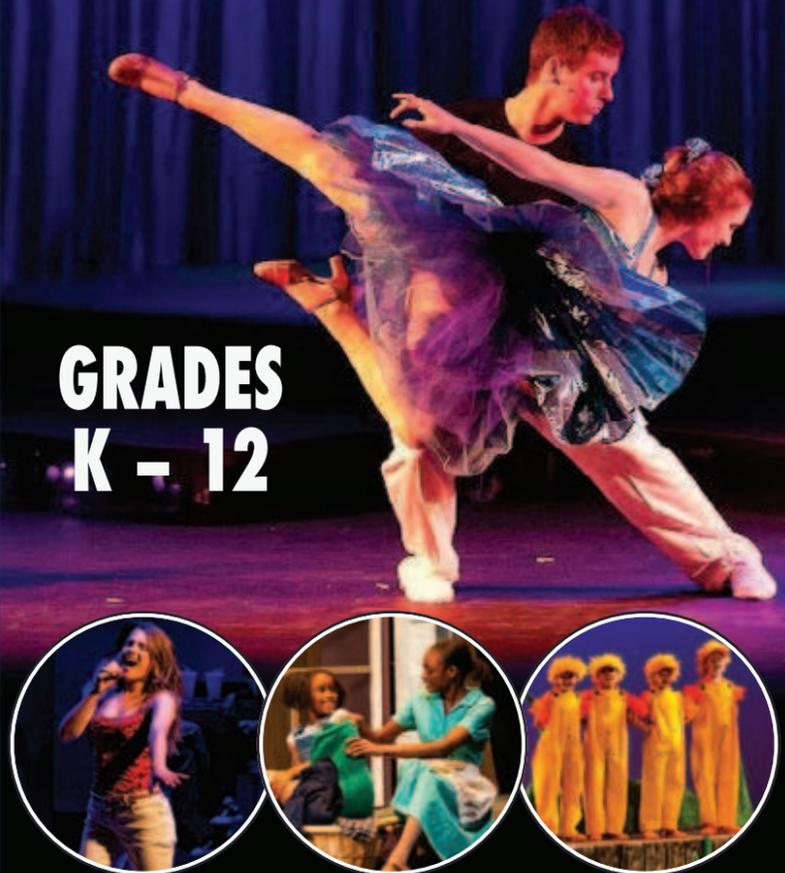
ABOVE: Captain Al Chaikin of the Bronx Bombers holds the Egg Cream Trophy after the Wycliffe Stiffs’ championship game March 22. Players are (from left): Ronnie Halperin; Marty Billick (in sunglasses); Angelo Comachia (front); Ben Pezzino (back); Harvey Glicker (back); Co-Captain Elliot Tuckel (in sunglasses); Mr. Chaikin; Mel Burstein; Bob Male; Norm Primost; Don Berkowitz (in front of Mr. Burstein); Jon Rahan; Bob Feld; Alan Zinberg; and Paul Eidelkind.

LEFT: Brooklyn historian Ron Schweiger (right) presented “The Commish,” Marty Ross (left), with a proclamation lauding him on the Wycliffe Stiffs’ 10th anniversary from Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz.

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Kravis Broadway series offers 6 smash musicals

The Kravis Center has the fifth anniversary series of Kravis On Broadway, which will present six hit musicals.

"The 2012-2013 5th Anniversary Kravis On Broadway season is a powerful lineup that includes four hit Broadway shows that were also award-winning films: 'Catch Me if You Can,' 'Mary Poppins,' 'Billy Elliot The Musical' and 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert.' The upcoming Kravis On Broadway season will also present the return of 'Jersey Boys,' an audience favorite in West Palm Beach and around the world, and the musical 'Jekyll & Hyde,' starring 'American Idol' standout Constantine Maroulis and Grammy nominee and R&B superstar Deborah Cox, now on its pre-Broadway tour," said Lee Bell, the Kravis Center's senior director of programming.

The 2012-2013 series includes:

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN — Nov. 13-18.

Based on the hit DreamWorks film and the incredible true story that inspired it, "Catch Me if You Can" is the new Broadway musical that tells the story of Frank W. Abagnale Jr., a teenager who, with nothing more than his boyish charm, a big imagination and millions of dollars in forged checks, successfully poses as a pilot, a doctor and a lawyer.

JERSEY BOYS — Dec. 19-Jan. 6

"Jersey Boys" is "Working Its Way Back" to West Palm Beach. Close to 50,000 theatergoers cheered when it made its sell-out premiere at the Kravis Center in March 2010. This is the story about Rock and Roll Hall of Famers The Four Seasons.

MARY POPPINS — Jan. 29-Feb. 3
"Mary Poppins" is bringing its own brand of Broadway magic to theaters across the country.

BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL — March 5-10

"Billy Elliott the Musical" is the joyous celebration of one boy's journey to make his dreams come true. Set in a small town, the story follows Billy as he stumbles out of the boxing ring and into a ballet class, discovering a talent that inspires his family and his whole community and changes his life forever.

JEKYLL & HYDE — March 26-31

"American Idol" star Constantine Maroulis is Dr. Henry Jekyll and Mr. Edward Hyde, and Grammy nominee and R&B Superstar Deborah Cox is Lucy. After four years on Broadway this dark love story returns in a new pre-Broadway production.

PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT — April 23-28

Bette Midler presents this story of a trio of friends who hop aboard a battered old bus searching for love and friendship in the middle of the Australian outback and end up finding more than they could ever have dreamed.

Subscribers for the Kravis On Broadway series will receive their renewals in the beginning of April. At that time, Kravis Center donors also will receive information on becoming a Kravis On Broadway subscriber for the 2012-13 series.

Subscriptions for all six productions are \$175 to \$505 and go on sale July 13 at 10 a.m. to the general public. Call 832-7469 or (800) 572-8471, or see Kravis.org/broadway. ■




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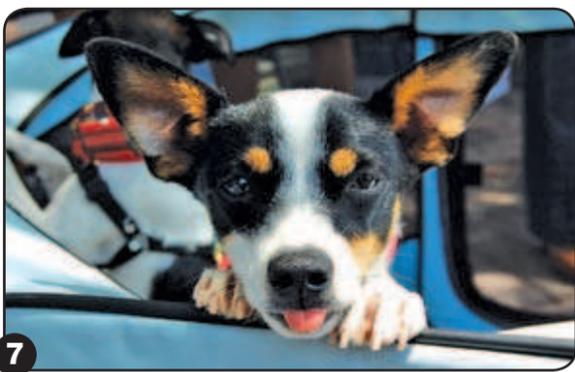
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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

Le Posh Pup Doggie Easter Parade at PGA Commons



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2. Annette Nayman and Napoleon
3. Brygida Trzaska and Snuggles
4. Laura Couza with Gianna and Leonardo
5. Neely Waring with Kanga and Roo
6. Sandee Rogers, Jeremy Rogers and Arianna Rogers
7. An adoptable dog
8. Nicole Crane and Luna
9. Terry St. Angelo and Aspen

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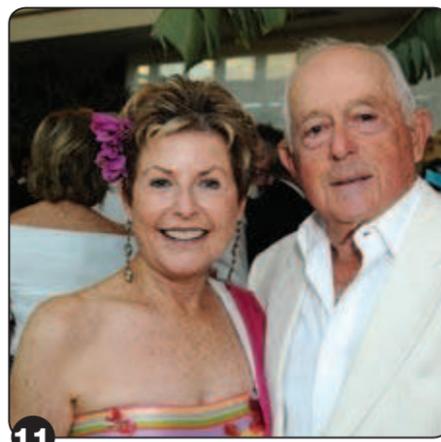
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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

Palm Beach Dramaworks "Hot Night in Havana" gala at the Kravis Center



1. Lee Spiegelman, Linda Binder, Marilyn Meyerhoff and Sam Feldman
2. Ed Ricci and Judge Mary Lupo
3. Sue Ellen Beryl and William Hayes
4. Dr. Sidney A. Lesowitz and Peter Rogers
5. Honorary Chairs Ralph Guild and Calla Guild
6. Tomacito Cruz
7. Co-chairs Jan Willinger, Don Silpe and Linda Silpe
8. Brian McIver and Pamela McIver
9. Steven Caras and Susan Bloom
10. Selma Sitrick and Joe Sitrick
11. Ann Brown and Don Brown
12. Diane Perlberg and Mark Perlberg
13. Nancy Parker and Jay Parker
14. Glenn Glazer and Tasha Glazer
15. Tim Harris and Michael Bakst

West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio and Charles Muoio



FLORIDA WEEKLY CUISINE

Sit back and savor: Rocco's infuses tacos and other foods with South of the Border flavor



PHOTOS BY SCOTT SIMMONS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Rocco's Tacos offers roomy booths for seating indoors, with brick on the walls and punched-tin fixtures for lighting. Masks add a touch of mystery to the space.



Tacos are perfect for snacking or they can make a meal. Pictured are the skirt steak and chicken tacos.

It's more Tex than Mex.

But Rocco Mangel has brought a winner to Palm Beach Gardens with the fourth incarnation of his popular Rocco's Tacos.

And, so it would seem, half of the city's population would agree.

The place is packed nightly, with revelers stopping in for margaritas made from some 225 varieties of tequila, sangria and that oh-so-tasty guacamole that is created tableside.

Outside, there's a large courtyard. A metal sculpture of a Day of the Dead figure dominates one area. There's a bar and a fire pit near the edge of the space, at PGA Commons.

Inside, the space is reminiscent of Rocco's original restaurant on Clematis Street in downtown West Palm Beach. Punched-tin fixtures light the space, which has decorative tin on the ceilings and brick on the walls. Booths surround the perimeter and give way to a large bar and French doors that open onto the patio.

Masks on the walls add a hint of mystery.

But there's no mystery as to why Rocco's continues to draw crowds.

It's the food, pure and simple.

Take the guacamole, for example.

The servers make it tableside, coring and mashing the avocado, then mixing in diced tomato, cilantro and a dash of Rocco's secret spice blend.

It's perfect for dipping with Rocco's chips. The translucent flakes of fried corn batter seem lighter than what we remember tossing back in border towns of Arizona and Mexico. They're topped with a tangy variety of seasonings, too — we tasted cumin, a touch of cinnamon and cayenne. If you don't feel like guacamole, order the chips with tomato salsa (\$3). It's so fresh it tastes like summer.

It's the perfect setup for an entrée.

A woman from Mexico makes the tortillas by hand for Rocco's. She told a

fellow journalist much of the food there is very close to what she has dined on in Yucatán.

That would not surprise us, even with the few north-of-the-border and Caribbean touches on the menu.

The enchiladas verdes (\$13) have been a mainstay for us at Rocco's on Clematis Street, and they did not disappoint in Palm Beach Gardens.

The tender bits of pulled chicken were lightly seasoned and served in corn tortillas and topped with a slightly sweet tomatillo sauce, then baked with

Chihuahua cheese.

The mole also satisfies.

The tangy adobo-marinated chicken in our enchiladas mole poblano (\$14) offered a wonderful counterpoint to the thick, sweet mole. It was served with refried beans and spiced red rice — bad for you, but oh, so good.

And the flautas (\$9 — wonderful tortilla tubes filled with beef or chicken — were loaded with spicy ground beef and queso fresco. The piquant avocado sauce made them perfect for dipping.

The only disappointment was the Chimichanga Nazionale (\$12). It is a burrito that is stuffed then deep-fried, but the burrito seemed doughy and slightly underdone.

The spicy chicken cried out for more spice, though the presentation was beautiful.

That said, you cannot visit a place like Rocco's and not try the tacos.

The carne asada tacos (\$4.25 each) were filled with tender skirt steak, and the pollo (\$2.95 each) had plenty of pulled adobo chicken, greens and cheese. They were a real value, and perfect for enjoying as a meal or sam-

in the know

Rocco's Tacos & Tequila Bar

PGA Commons Central
5090 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens
623-0127

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

>> Hours: 11:30 a.m.-midnight Sunday-Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday

>> Reservations: Accepted

>> Credit cards: Major cards accepted

>> Price range: Moderate. Small plates, \$3-\$13; salads, \$12-\$13; sandwiches, \$10-\$12; tacos, \$2.95-\$4.25; combinations, \$14-\$18; molcajetes, \$22

>> Beverages: Full bar, with more than 225 tequilas, fresh sangria, margaritas

>> Seating: Booths and tables indoors, tables outside

>> Specialties of the house: Tacos and guacamole

>> Volume: It's noisy when it's busy.

>> Parking: Free lot, plus valet

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

pling as an appetizer with a pitcher of margaritas (which start at around \$20).

During visits four years ago to Rocco's in downtown West Palm Beach, service ran the gamut from indifferent to excellent. Rocco's staff has gotten itself in order in West Palm. Management appears to have found a solid wait staff in the Gardens.

Over the course of four lunch visits, service has been uniformly attentive and caring.

Knowledgeable servers made good menu suggestions and checked in regularly. By all accounts, staff has gotten a baptism by fire — Rocco's is a busy place at night.

But lunch is more leisurely, and this is food and service to be savored. ■

Drink up at Legacy event, or have lunch at supper club

BY SCOTT SIMMONS
ssimmons@floridaweekly.com

Eat, drink and help the American Lung Association at Legacy Place Food & Wine Experience.

The tasting, set for 7-9 p.m. April 26 at Legacy Place in Palm Beach Gardens, will offer pairings of food from local restaurants with wines from Total Wine.

Restaurants that have signed on so far range from Bagel Boyz to PGA National's Ironwood Steak & Seafood. Also watch for fare from Russell's Blue Water Grill and Cod & Capers, among others.

Tickets are \$50, or \$75 for VIP tickets, which offer extended hours (6:30-9:30 p.m.) in an exclusive lounge with open bar from Grey Goose, special food sampling from The Capital Grille and goody bag.

Phone: 659-7644 or visitlegacyplacefoodandwine.com.

Supper Club serves lunch: 51 Supper Club resumed its lunch menu.

The restaurant, which lends a retro-swank tone to Downtown at the Gardens, will offer regular menu items and lunchtime-only specials, with soups, sandwiches and flatbreads from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

It's at 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Ave., No. 3102, Palm Beach Gardens. Phone: 622-3500. On the Web at 51supperclub.com.

Gone from CityPlace: After months of rumors that it would close, McCormick & Schmick's has done just that.

The restaurant, owned by Landry's Inc. of Houston, which had sparred with the owners of CityPlace to get a rent reduction, apparently closed down after business on Saturday. Signs have been removed and the windows have been covered. The location has been removed from the Landry's website. It's the second McCormick & Schmick's to close in Palm Beach County; the loca-

tion at University Commons in Boca Raton closed last year.

Landry's completed a tender offer for the McCormick & Schmick's chain in January, and the industry trade website Nation's Restaurant News (www.nrn.com) reported that the company had closed McCormick & Schmick's locations in Birmingham, Ala.; Phoenix and Scottsdale, Ariz.; Burbank and Santa Ana Calif.; and Beachwood, Ohio.

At the former location in West Palm Beach, a sign in the front window refers patrons to another Landry's restaurant, Charley's Crab in Palm Beach. It is the second vacant restaurant space facing Okeechobee Boulevard at CityPlace; Kona Grille closed last year.

Farm-to-table tasting: GULP Food and Libations, Bx Beer Depot and Bedner's Farm invite you to DIG IN! from

noon to 5 p.m. April 22 at Bedner's Farm west of Boynton Beach.

"This will be Bedner's Farm's first farm-to-table event," Coreen Gottschalk, partner in GULP Food and Libations, said in a statement. "Come learn, eat, drink, support your local farmers/purveyors and listen to great music."

Guests will be given a wine glass at registration, and there will be tasting stations designed for savoring farm-fresh recipes, local vegetables and ingredients each paired with a hand-crafted beer, a fine wine or an infused vodka spirit.

"The food and alcohol are carefully paired to bring out the subtle nuances and range of flavors in each," Ms. Gottschalk said.

Tickets: \$55 before the event or \$65 on the day of the event walk-up.

Tickets available at Bedner's Farm, 10066 Lee Road, Boynton Beach, or Bx Beer Depot, 2964 Second Ave. N., Lake Worth, or online at localwineevents.com. ■





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