

PALM BEACH GARDENS & JUPITER
FLORIDA WEEKLY[®]
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WEEK OF MAY 17-23, 2012

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**MAN'S BEST FRIENDS SERVE
 THOSE WHO'VE SERVED**

BY ATHENA PONUSHIS
 aponushis@floridaweekly.com

SITTING ON THE PATIO OF A SOUTH Dixie delicatessen, Luke Young drops his cellphone on the ground. He does so intentionally. He does so more than once. It's just a flip-top phone. It's already chipped, anyway. Chipped because he drops his phone on purpose. He drops his cellphone for the dog at his feet to fetch. And for the soldier this dog might one day assist.

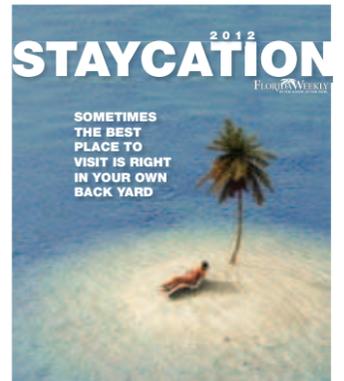
Mr. Young volunteers through Paws 4 Liberty, a local nonprofit

SEE DOGS, A8 ►

Gale Eyer, top, and Chuck Strolla, bottom, sit with Buddy, and Joe Rainey, middle, sits with Tanker, trained by Paws 4 Liberty.

KINGA NOWICKA/FLORIDA WEEKLY

INSIDE



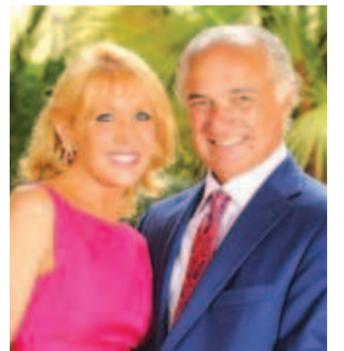
Staycations

Get away from it all in your own back yard. **Special Section ►**



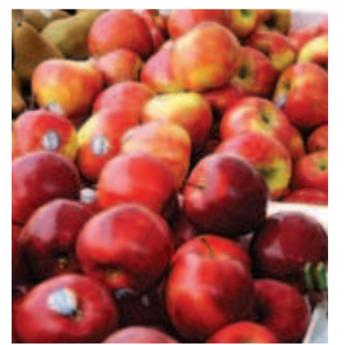
Take a class!

Summer is the perfect time to find your inner artist. **A25 ►**



Society

See who was at the Place of Hope dinner and other events. **A36-38 ►**



Market mania

Green markets continue through the summer. **A39 ►**

Publix donates more than \$2 million to county United Way

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

United Way of Palm Beach County has announced receipt of the largest contribution to its 2012 annual fundraising campaign — more than \$2 million — from Publix Supermarket Charities and Publix Associates.

“The phenomenal success of the Publix Workplace Campaign and the generosity of the Publix Supermarkets Charities gift both demonstrate a genuine caring for our community and a selfless dedication to the United Way for which we are truly grateful,” said Chuck Anderson, president and CEO of

United Way of Palm Beach County.

The gift was delivered by Chuck White, regional director of Publix Supermarkets. As of this year, Publix has been United Way of Palm Beach County's leading corporate campaign for 14 consecutive years.

“Publix associates take great pride in our United Way workplace campaign and we are pleased that our participation has increased by 11 percent this year,” said Kim Reynolds, Publix's Miami media and community relations manager.

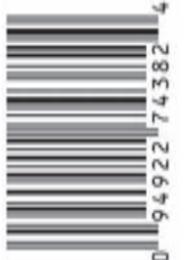
For more than 80 years, United Way of Palm Beach County has been dedicated to improving lives and advancing the com-

mon good in our community. Funded by the generosity of donors and volunteers, United Way strategically invests in crucial efforts and programs that support the building blocks for a good life — education, financial stability and health. United Way works on a local level to help provide lasting solutions to the root causes of the county's social issues, from promoting access to education and healthcare to ending hunger and homelessness.

To learn more on how to give, volunteer or advocate for the United Way, call 375-6600 or see unitedwaypb.org. On Facebook: Unitedwaypb; on twitter: twitter.com/#!/UnitedWayofPBC. ■

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COMMENTARY

The un-American award of the year



One of the terrible burdens sometimes placed upon me as a columnist — weightier than the mortgage, grimmer than a draft notice, even less appealing than cleaning the chicken coop — is this: I have to cast the first stone.

That's right, I often criticize my fellow Americans for doing exactly what I have done, in direct disobedience of the famous Biblical imperative located deep in the Gospel of John or the bowels of a whale or a similarly obscure location.

It's a job hazard, pure and simple. But as burdens go, this one is easy to execute: It requires little more than sheer hypocrisy. As you may have noticed, hypocrisy is one of the most essential tools of good parenting.

That's why I feel perfectly comfortable criticizing the Brevard County Public Library, championed by front-man and county spokesman Don Walker.

Are Brevard officials just a bunch of Commie pinkos?

That's a question my drill instructors once asked of me after one discovered "a platoon of little green men" formed up inside my rifle barrel during a spit-and-polish drill-deck inspection.

Let me just say with stern finger-wagging admonishment: Censorship is un-American, Don, just like platoons of little green men excavating your M-14.

But Don and Co. made *The New York*

Times recently for practicing classic censorship — they banned a book on our behalf so none of us can be sullied by "pornography."

Thank you, Don. You may now report back to the early 17th century to take up life among your purse-lipped kind, the Puritans.

Meanwhile, here in the 21st century, we're left with Don's ringing defense of censorship, quoted in the *Great Gray Lady* as the *Times* is euphemistically and perhaps pornographically called: "We view this as pornographic material. I have not read 'Fifty Shades of Grey,' but I've read reviews of 'Fifty Shades of Grey.' From what I understand, it's a lot about male dominance and female submissiveness."

And we're not supposed to read about that if we want to, in Brevard?

No. Don and Co. said we couldn't.

What about in other counties?

As a proud Floridian (American by birth, Floridian by the grace of I-70 east and I-75 south), it hurts me to admit that Brevard is not unique.

In Lee County, for example, my son took up one of the few Florida-set novels that deserves a place in the opus of American Literature, "A Land Remembered," by Patrick D. Smith.

His fourth grade teacher introduced it to the class — in abridged form.

Abridgement is always a euphemism for one of two things: either editing for length, or censorship, the latter pornographic itself. In this case, I'm afraid it was censorship.

The boy found the original on our shelves and read the whole damn 403-page thing, about a pioneering family here. Meanwhile, the teacher, a capable person, read the abridged version out loud to the class.

People swear. People die in this book. People meet actual Indians, and have sex with them and spawn their children. And some people lose their tempers and murder other people who hurt pregnant women.

But a lot of that mirror-held-up-to-nature fiction, including the union between Indians and whites and the swearing, was censored from the book presented to the class.

It's safer that way. Some parents might object, for goodness sake. And, as the teacher pointed out, "There's bad language."

But even if the sweet-sweat-and-sour of struggling lives appears unvarnished in a story, so what?

Those who don't want to read it — Brevard county officials, for example, or any public school committee members who pick fiction for fourth graders — don't have to.

Before I decided to throw this stone, I called my son over and asked him what specifically had been left out of "A Land Remembered," — a book published in the land of the free, the home of the brave and the cradle of the First Amendment.

Then I wrote down what he said, word for word.

"They never said Zech and Towanda had a baby," he told me.

"We read to the part where Zech comes back to the Indian village, and he randomly finds he had a son. And the thing was, Dad, he never had a son with Towanda (in the abridged version), so that's physically impossible.

"I'd rather they cut out the entire part about Toby the boy. It's a pitiful way to recreate the story.

"They also censored the swearing."

What swearing, I asked?

"Hell, sonofabitch, bastard, things like that," he told me.

Terrible. I'll bet none of us has ever heard those words, especially used well when the stakes are mortal — and neither has he.

"And it cuts out that part when Frog found the man who made Glenda have the dud baby that died, and he brings him back and says, 'What are we going to do with him?'"

"And Zech drags him out in the woods and kills him, and the only thing left is his limp body. It left all that out."

Zech ain't perfect, son. Neither am I. Pick up your dirty clothes.

The censors also left out the first and last chapters of "A Land Remembered," my son told me.

In an elegant and old-time storytelling symmetry, the novel starts in a Rolls-Royce overlooking Key Biscayne and ends only a short time later on a Cracker front porch, as a man dies in a stampede of his memories.

It's poignant and beautiful, and it moved my son deeply. He was sobered. He talked about it for days. He'll remember it all his life, I know from experience.

But if the real book, not the censored book, hadn't been sitting on our shelves, he'd never have known.

And the story would never have given him that special insight into himself and all of us who live here on the surface of real men and women, those who came before.

And now, if my son asks to read "Lolita," or "The Complete Kama Sutra," or "Lady Chatterly's Lover" — all books available at libraries everywhere — there can only be one answer: Absolutely not.

Not until he's old enough to vote. ■

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OPINION**The end of China envy?**

China-envying *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman likes to muse about how wonderful it would be if the United States could be like China for a day.

The scandal engulfing former rising star Bo Xilai, the cashiered Communist Party boss of the city of Chongqing, suggests how this magical day might go down.

A popular governor who rose to prominence based on his anti-corruption campaign while illicitly enriching himself would fall from grace. His wife would be accused of murdering a foreign businessman. His security chief, whom he relied upon to run an extensive spying operation on potential foes, would seek asylum at a foreign consulate, fearing for his life. State and federal security forces would have a standoff outside the consulate.

The entire nation would become obsessed with the case, but the government would prevent anyone from searching the Internet for information about it. Everyone would assume that the government would control the political fallout by arranging a nice show trial for the

disgraced governor.

Such would be the joys of China-for-a-Day, according to the Bo Xilai script. The Bo affair doesn't truly tell us anything new about China. But the lurid details — the body of the allegedly murdered British businessman cremated without an autopsy; Bo's privileged son partying as a student at Oxford and Harvard — might jolt some China-enviers out of their feverish delusions about the glories of the "Beijing Model."

It's not just Thomas Friedman. Andy Stern, the former president of the Service Employees International Union, wrote an op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal* titled "China's Superior Economic Model." He cited Bo — and his "people-oriented development in Chongqing" — as one of the impressive assets of "Team China." President Barack Obama has used China's public investments as a prod for adopting similar policies at home and said longingly of one of China's technological advances, "That used to be us."

The Bo scandal shows the Chinese system to be as thoroughly rotten as one would expect of a kleptocratic police state. What is unusual is only that it wasn't kept under wraps.

If China's economic rise has been something to behold during the past three decades, it is not a tribute to the

technocratic proficiency of China's rulers. In China's mixed system, it is the genuinely private companies that are more economically efficient, according to The World Bank.

China's economic miracle may well stall out before we get the opportunity to emulate its supposed wonders. China can't convert agricultural workers into manufacturing workers and suppress domestic consumption in the cause of creating an export-driven juggernaut forever. The World Bank report recommends that China move to the next stage of development by "reforming and restructuring state enterprises and banks, developing the private sector, promoting competition, and deepening reforms in the land, labor, and financial markets." In other words, it should learn from the U.S.

The existence of China envy is a testament to the allure of 9 percent GDP growth coupled with a few fashionable policies like support for high-speed rail and solar energy. On this basis, Friedman calls China's rulers a "reasonably enlightened group of people." Their spectacular repression, greed and Sopranos-like power struggles notwithstanding. ■

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

Coal, foreclosures and Bank of America's extraordinary event

Shareholder meetings can be routine, unless you are Bank of America, in which case it may be declared an "extraordinary event." That is what the city of Charlotte, N.C., called the bank's shareholder meeting this week. Bank of America is currently the second-largest bank in the U.S. (after JPMorgan Chase), claiming more than \$2 trillion in assets. It also is the "too big to fail" poster child of Occupy Wall Street, a speculative banking monstrosity that profits from, among other things, the ongoing foreclosure crisis and the exploitation of dirty coal.

North Carolina, which went for Barack Obama in 2008, is a swing state in this year's presidential election. Current polls indicate the Tar Heel State is a tossup. To boost its chances there, the Democratic Party has chosen Charlotte to host this summer's Democratic National Convention. In preparation, the Charlotte City Council passed an amendment to the city code allowing the city manager to declare so-called extraordinary events. The ordinance is clearly structured to grant police extra powers to detain, search and arrest people who are within the arbitrarily defined "extraordinary event" zone. The ordinance reads, in part, "It shall be unlawful for any person ... to willfully or intentionally possess, carry, control, or have immediate access to any of the following" and then lists a page of items, including scarves, backpacks, duffel bags, satchels and coolers.

Wednesday's protest outside the Bank of America headquarters, with hundreds marching, was peaceful and spirited. The colorful array of creative signs was complemented by activists inside the

meeting, who, as shareholders, were entitled to address the meeting. George Goehl of National People's Action, who was inside, told CNN about Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan's reaction: "Dozens of us were able to speak, but Moynihan mostly dodged, deflected and denied. He looked visibly uncomfortable the entire time."

Many activists expressed outrage at the bank's role in the subprime mortgage industry and the foreclosure crisis it helped spawn. As part of a federal settlement over widespread mortgage fraud, Bank of America agreed to hand over \$11.8 billion. Just two days before the protest, the bank announced it was contacting the first 5,000 of 200,000 mortgage customers who are eligible for a loan modification, with a potential decrease in their mortgage principal of up to 30 percent.

Last week, Rainforest Action Network members climbed 100 feet to suspend a banner on Charlotte's Bank of America Stadium, where President Obama is scheduled to make his nomination acceptance speech on Sept. 6. The banner read "Bank of America" with the word "America" crossed out and replaced with "Coal." RAN is part of a broad coalition fighting the destructive practice of mountaintop removal. RAN Executive Director Rebecca Tarbotton told me: "Bank of America is the lead financier of mountaintop-removal mining, which is a practice of mining which is really the worst of the worst mining that we see anywhere, essentially blowing the tops off of mountains in Appalachia, destroying people's homes, polluting their water supplies. And that's even before it gets into the coal plants, where it's burnt and creates air pollution in inner-city areas and all around our country ... (it's) the canary in the coal mine for our reliance on fossil fuels."

The broad coalition in and out of the shareholder meeting demonstrates a key

development in Occupy Wall Street's spring revival, and also foreshadows possible confrontations with the Obama re-election campaign this fall.

President Obama clearly responds to pressure. Look at the issue of marriage equality. In 1996, while campaigning for state senator in Illinois, Obama wrote he supported same-sex marriage. While campaigning in 2008, then-U.S. Sen. Obama stated, "I believe that marriage is the union between a man and a woman." This week, he told ABC News, "It is important for me to affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married."

Given the political climate, it certainly is brave for Obama to endorse marriage equality, especially just hours after the voters of North Carolina voted in favor of a state constitutional amendment that bans same-sex marriage. But he was once a community organizer, and no doubt recalls the words of Frederick Douglass: "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did, and it never will." The LGBT community was organized and vocal, and the president's position moved.

Those gathered inside and outside the Bank of America shareholder meeting this week — homeowners fighting foreclosure, environmentalists, Occupy Wall Street activists — will take note of the president's change. They are sure to continue their struggles, right through the Democratic National Convention, making it truly an "extraordinary event." ■

— 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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BY DR. MARTY BECKER

Universal Uclick

Do you know what you spend on your dog? Some of us prefer to remain blissfully unaware, while others track every penny. Most of us are probably somewhere in the middle, with a general idea of annual costs that we don't think of much — unless we're hit with something out of the ordinary.

Trade groups that track these things put the "start-up" costs of a dog (not accounting for the cost of purchase or adoption) at around a thousand dollars on average, with annual upkeep of about \$700 per year. Bear in mind two things: first, that costs often are higher in urban areas and on both coasts, and less expensive in rural areas and in the Midwest and South; and second, that "average" includes people who frankly are barely spending enough on their dogs to keep from being hauled in by humane officers and charged with neglect.

If you opt for a high-quality diet (recommended), a solid preventive-care regimen from your veterinarian (also recommended) including parasite control (protecting your dog and your human family, too), along with some "fun" purchases that can also make your life easier and keep your home cleaner, you can easily double those guesstimates — and still be hit with some big expenses that can be financially and emotionally devastating.

Is a dog worth it? That's a question only you can answer, but if you think you want to have a dog in your life, be prepared to spend



The tight economy has led many people to cut preventive care for pets — a decision that can backfire.

some money on your pet. A high-quality diet and good preventive care may seem like two areas where you can scrimp, but they're really not. Taking good care of your dog every day is a good long-term strategy, not only for avoiding budget shock down the road, but also for keeping your pet happier, healthier and longer-lived.

Cut the budget in other places if you must — no dog was ever hurt by an owner who buys in bulk — but make sure you can cover the basics. As a veterinarian, I've seen too many times the predictable outcome of people who don't — and I'd just as soon you not have to be in that boat.

Above all, plan to avoid the worst outcome of all: Choosing euthanasia over treatment for no reason except expense. I doubt

there's a veterinarian alive who hasn't donated care or cut costs to help out a long-term client in a jam, but these days, veterinarians are just as hard-hit by the economy as everyone else is. And that means we can't give away our services and keep the doors open.

Pet health insurance has been growing in popularity, and for good reason: It's saving the lives of pets.

Check it out. You'll want to look at all the companies and policy options, talk to your veterinarian, read the reviews and fiddle with the online formulas to see what company and choices fit best for your pet.

It's the perfect partner to planned preventive care, and if you need it, I guarantee you'll be grateful you have it. Your veterinarian will be, too. ■

Pets of the Week



>>Goober is a 7-year-old neutered Beagle mix. He likes life easy and slow. He's good with other older pets, and would do best in a home without young children. He can be adopted through the senior to senior program; adopters 55 and over pay no adoption fee.



>>Jay is a 6-year-old neutered male. He weighs 17 pounds. He loves affection and purrs like a champ. Jay qualifies for the senior to senior program; adopters 55 and over pay no adoption fee.

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

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SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Helen K. Persson has been named a 2012 recipient of the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Designed to pay homage to the immigrant experience, as well as for individual achievement, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor are awarded to U.S. citizens from various ethnic backgrounds.

The honorees are Americans who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage.

Mrs. Persson, of North Palm Beach, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Nursing School as a registered nurse and went on to serve as head nurse in pediatrics.

She joined the Navy during World War II and served in the Navy Nurse Corps, where she rose to the rank of lieutenant commander. While stationed as a Navy nurse in California Mrs. Persson's commanding officer heard her sing and encouraged her to audition for the San Francisco Opera Chorus, resulting in a main-stage lead role opposite Lily Pons in Delibes' "Lakmé."

Her love of the arts has not abated, and she remains a staunch supporter of the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, the Metropolitan Opera and Palm Beach Opera. Palm Beach Atlantic University named a recital hall in her honor. The Helen K. Persson Recital Hall includes studios, practice space, classrooms and offices.

Her commitment to health and well-being presaged her strong support of Sloan-Kettering in New York, Good



COURTESY PHOTO

Helen K. Persson

Samaritan Hospital in Palm Beach County and recently Cape Cod Hospital in Hyannis, Mass.

Florida Atlantic University College of Nursing honored her by inducting her into the university's chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society.

Among the many awards Mrs. Persson has received are the Outstanding Philanthropist Award from the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, an honorary degree from Palm Beach Atlantic University and the 2010 Muse Award as Civic Leader, presented by the Palm Beach County Cultural Council.

Established in 1986 by National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic.

The award event is held each May on Ellis Island. ■

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DOGS

From page 1

better described as growing than small. P4L trains service dogs to retrieve cellphones, credit cards, keys and the like, as well as help with mobility and balance, wheelchairs and canes. These service dogs can open drawers and deliver remote controls. They can turn on a light switch or pull off a sock. They know how to help their handlers up if they fall down. And when they sense stress or emotion, they nudge, lick or paw, shifting their handler's focus back to the present moment, "I'm here, not there. I'm just right here, right here with my dog."

P4L paired one service dog with a military veteran in Maryland, wheelchair-bound after the loss of his legs. Another service dog went to a veteran in Texas, a man diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. With eight dogs nearing graduation — what trainers refer to as deployment — P4L would like to place their service dogs with local veterans in need, but half their dogs have yet to be placed.

P4L wants Palm Beach County to know, "We are here and we have dogs." The West Palm Beach Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center will not help them with their plight. VA administrators see service dogs as an adjunct therapy, not a proven treatment. Until the VA sees more research, the center will not recommend a service dog for a veteran, unless the veteran verbalizes interest in a service dog first.

But to those who think they need to see more science, veterans concede the truth, a truth which might embarrass them, but a truth they cannot ignore: They fall down and their service dogs help them up. They "drift off" and their service dogs bring them back.

Working with a budget of less than \$150,000, P4L has been able to breed, raise, train and place a dozen service dogs. Executive Director Heidi Spirazza says the national average cost to train a service dog ranges from \$25,000 to \$30,000. A typical wait, she says, can range from six months to five years.

But she has dogs now, ready to go. And she would like to have more. The 501(c)(3) wants to bring in \$350,000 annually, enabling them to deploy 20 service dogs a year to the veterans of wars past and to the men and women coming home.

To soldiers who may be hesitant to be seen with a dog, soldiers who may be hesitant to say they need help, one soldier who was blown off his tank says: "Whenever I fall, it's not pretty. And as a Marine, and as a proud Marine, it's hard for me to accept help and quite embarrassing not to be able to stand up on your own two feet."

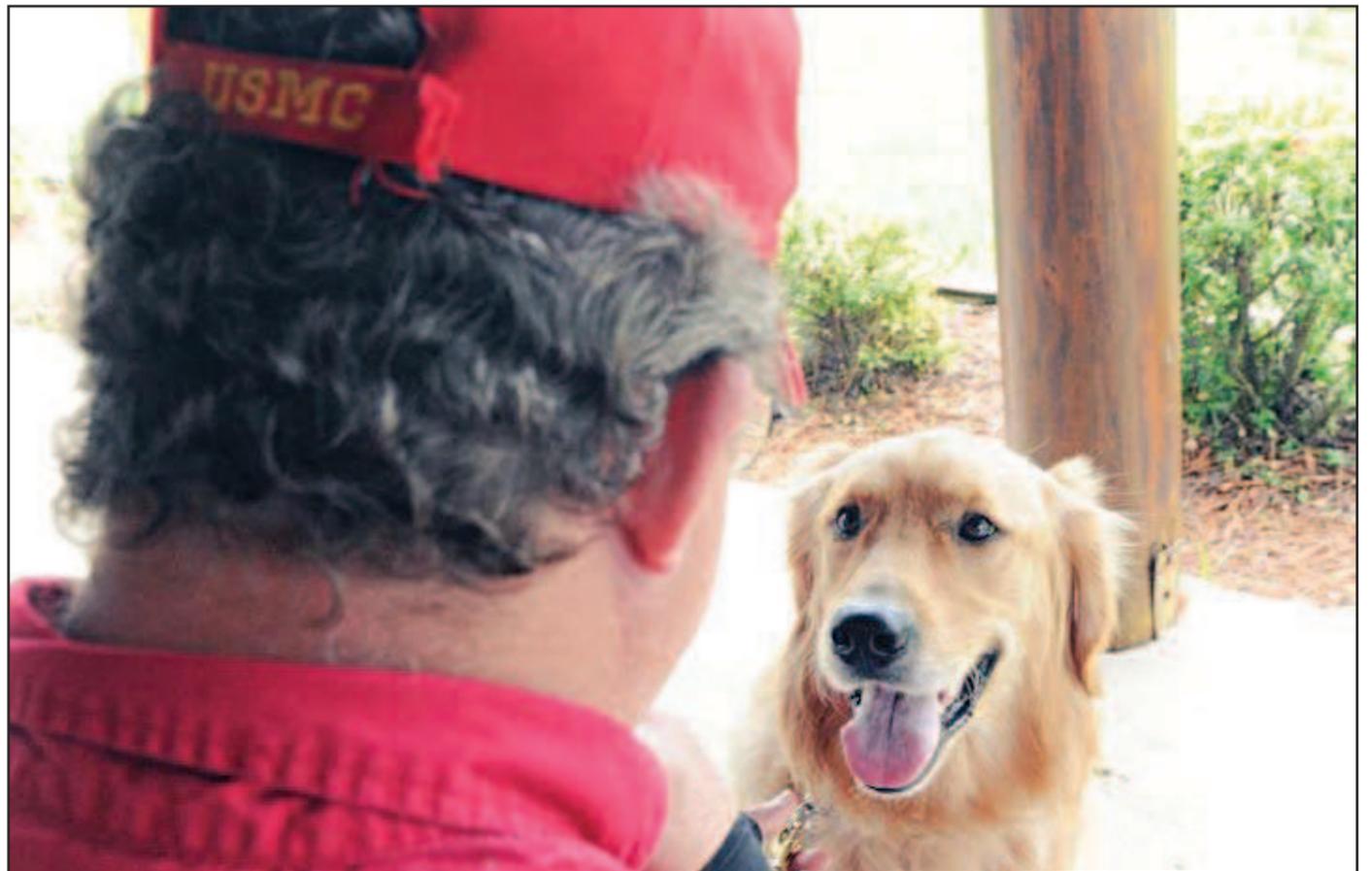
Of P4L and his service dog named Tanker, this soldier says it simply, "Tank's helped me."

Four-legged therapy

Mr. Young, of Lake Worth, the P4L volunteer who drops his cellphone for the sake of training, wishes "someone" would have told him about service dogs three years ago, when he was transitioning back into civilian life. He would have wanted one, "but I didn't know."

He found out about service dogs because he wants to be a veterinarian, not because he was a veteran. When he told a social worker at the West Palm Beach VA about his college studies, the social worker told him about P4L.

Sitting on a South Dixie patio, green hedge to his back, golden retriever at his feet, Mr. Young speaks about joining the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 19. He was first deployed to Beirut,



COURTESY PHOTO

Tanker weighs 80 pounds and is able to support Marine Joe Rainey when he falls.

the Marine talks out loud about needing help.

"As a Marine, as a veteran, you look out for one another," Mr. Rainey says. "And I would like to help not only other Marines, but other veterans get the help that I get."

That help comes in the package of Tanker, an 80-pound, 2½-year-old golden retriever able to support Mr. Rainey, 200-plus pounds, when he falls.

"He will stiffen up and brace me when I go to fall. And he helps me up from the ground, whenever I do fall," says Mr. Rainey, sitting on the front porch of P4L, wearing a brace on each leg, a brace on each wrist, Tanker right by his feet.

"He's my best friend. He's right by my side. He can sense when I'm upset, he's right there with his head in my lap. Yes, you can," he says, turning to his dog. "He's got this little ball he'll bring up and throw it at me, he'll bring out one of his toys, bring it over to me, give me something else to think about," instead of thinking about not going overseas, or how he still would go, if only the Marine Corps would still take him.

A Marine since 1983, Mr. Rainey, of Greenacres, was blown off his tank, friendly-fire, stateside. The 47-year-old answers all questions, "Yes, sir," or "Yes, ma'am," and when someone thanks him for his service, he says, "You're welcome, I'd gladly do it again," the hurt of being willing, but not being able, heard in his voice.

Since being blown off his tank, injuring his ankles, knees, lower back, shoulders and neck, he says, "I have gotten worse and worse, to the point where I just can't get around good," he takes a hard breath, "I'm a wreck."

Tanker's head in his lap, his eyes finding his soldier's, Mr. Rainey goes on, "I don't know a good way to put it, whenever I met Tanker," then met the executive director and founder of P4L Heidi Spirazza, "what she's done for me with Tanker, all I want to do is get the word out to other vets, other people who have disabilities. There is somebody out there to help you. And they're local."

A small entity, P4L can assess an individual's personal pet and see if their pet would make a good service dog. Training pets would not be P4L's primary objective, but such was the



KINGA NOWICKA/FLORIDA WEEKLY

Heidi Spirazza founded Paws 4 Liberty when she realized returning soldiers would need support dogs.

then Iraq. He says when you're overseas, "you're surrounded by people who you know have your back, no matter what ... But when you get out, it sort of goes away."

Now 27, leash in his hand, he remembers coming home, feeling isolated, feeling disconnected, social situations feeling awkward. As he speaks, lunchtime diners walk out onto the patio, eager to set down their sandwiches and pet Louie, short for Lieutenant, the biggest and blondest golden retriever in his P4L graduating class.

By taking Louie out for the day, Mr. Young helps socialize the service dog, forever thinking of the soldier "who may not have been as fortunate as me." Being in public reinforces Louie's training, particularly, how to create a perimeter around his handler, so his handler may feel safe and independent, being out in public. Louie gently keeps a crowd at bay.

"Good boy," Mr. Young says over and over again, as Louie sits, stays and picks up everything.

To Mr. Young, service dogs like Louie and organizations like P4L mean a way for veterans to re-acclimate with a four-legged therapy, rather than a list of prescription medications. The things a service dog can do, he says, are immeasurable. They can walk in ahead of their handler, turn on the lights and inspect each room for a soldier still wary of the enemy. They can be that tactile, familiar thing in a moment of vulnerability. But soldiers are not meant to be vulnerable, sug-



KINGA NOWICKA/FLORIDA WEEKLY

Buddy knows when to comfort Gale Eyer: "He reorients me, where I am."

gests Mr. Young, implying a reason why P4L may have yet to place their service dogs.

"Being in the military, being tough, you don't want to come out and say, 'I have a problem,'" he says, wrapping Louie's leash around his hand like gauze, "You don't want to say anything's wrong. I think that's an issue."

From visible to proud

Joe Rainey knows well the pride that feels stripped when walking beside a dog in a service vest. He knows, too, the pride such a dog can restore. Trained to do anything for his country,



FLORIDA WEEKLY
Combat veteran Luke Young volunteers by taking Louie to a restaurant for socialization.

case with Tanker.

“There’s a huge benefit here, because a bond has already been established,” says P4L Director of Training Jennifer Bielen. “The challenge would be: ‘Does the dog have the proper drive and motivation to perform the duties necessary?’”

A gift from a friend to help Mr. Rainey get up and moving again, young Tanker had the drive. Researching where he could train his pup, Mr. Rainey found organizations in Tampa, Jacksonville and New York, but such training came at a cost.

“The national average to train a service dog would be \$25,000 to \$30,000,” reiterates Ms. Spirazza. But she does not charge her veterans, just like she did not charge a young woman born with a degenerative disease or a young man, paraplegic after a car accident.

“There’s not a cost,” says Ms. Spirazza, who considers each applicant, military or nonmilitary, on a case-by-case basis. “I mean if someone were to pull up here in a Mercedes and live in a million dollar house, it might be different.” But typically, she relies on the charity of her donors, she cleans her own kennel, writes her own grants and asks her recipients if they would be comfortable attending events in the community, raising awareness and garnering donations.

Mr. Rainey’s more than comfortable, seen everywhere beside his dog in a vest, camouflage print with an embroidered dog tag. What he may have once

KINGA NOWICKA/FLORIDA WEEKLY
Director of Training Jennifer Bielen, in the wheelchair, and volunteer Barbara Wilkinson work with Paws 4 Liberty dogs. The non-profit organization is hoping to spread the word so that more service dogs can be placed with soldiers and veterans.

perceived as a sign of vulnerability, has since given him an invulnerable security. He remembers one weekend at the West Palm Beach VA when he fell. “There was no one around to help me back up. I had to sit and wait ‘til somebody ...” his words trail off. “Tanker’s brought back a lot of pride.”

So now he takes Tanker to the VA with him, as much for his benefit, as for the benefit of his peers.

Regimen through friends

The West Palm Beach VA serves seven counties — north to Vero, south to Boca, west to Okeechobee. According to 2010 figures, Palm Beach County has 115,494 veterans. A 2011 tally counts 181 veterans in the county as homeless.

The center’s Public Affairs Patient Relations Officer Mary Ann Goodman says P4L may have a surplus of service dogs for a number of reasons. In short, she says not all veterans want a dog. Some veterans may not like dogs. Many veterans do not want to take on the responsibility of taking care of a dog. They may not have space for a dog. What if a family member’s allergic? What if the veteran’s allergic? The veteran has to be physically able to care for the dog. Cognitively, too. What if the veteran were to become incapacitated? Somebody would have to take care of the dog. “We’re talking about a commitment of eight to 13 years.”

So the West Palm Beach VA does not recommend service dogs to veterans, because, “It’s a personal decision the patient needs to make,” says Ms. Goodman, further adding, “The verdict’s still out” on the therapy service dogs lend, meaning the VA needs more research before it can better support the assistance of service dogs.

During a telephone conference call, Ms. Goodman and three other administrators agree, the VA sees service dogs as an adjunct therapy to rehabilitative treatment. A tool, not a substitute. Service dogs are not their priority, they would rather discuss West Palm Beach’s specialized services like its

mental health program or its blind rehabilitation center, one of only 13 such centers in the country providing rehabilitative care to visually impaired veterans.

To be clear, guide dogs are different than service dogs — guide dogs assist individuals who are blind or visually impaired; service dogs assist individuals with psychiatric conditions like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or physical conditions other than blindness. But even when it comes to guide dogs, Zaskia Diaz, chief of the Blind Rehabilitation says, “We do not recommend guide dogs.”

Once a veteran expresses interest in a dog, feeling they might benefit from a guide dog or a service dog, then the VA provides the relevant information and helps to facilitate the process.

One P4L trainer likens this scenario to having a sinus infection, going to a primary care physician, but having to ask, “Oh by the way, could you do a culture?”

But the VA administrators say, “Word gets out.” Service dogs can be seen around their campus. Veterans talk to one another. They learn of service dogs through “word of mouth.”

Serving those who served

A Marine with a service dog in training, Gale Eyler takes his Siberian Husky with him to the VA. His Husky, named Buddy, has one eye blue and one eye brown.

“I drift off,” says the Marine who has been diagnosed with PTSD. “And he brings me back,” he says of his dog, “just by laying his chin on my hand.”

Mr. Eyler describes his PTSD as like a daydream, but more like drifting off, “That’s what I call it,” he says. “It’s not a daydream because a lot of times daydreams don’t make sense, it’s more like memories than anything else.”

Serving in the Marine Corps in the late ’60s and early ’70s, his memories are of Vietnam. And when those memories come at night, Buddy wakes him up.

“I no longer sleep soundly. I’m very light-sleeping now, have been,” says Mr. Eyler, of Okeechobee. When his dog wakes him up, “He reorients me, where I am.”

Mr. Eyler says his dog began waking him up intuitively, on his own accord, on more than one occasion, even before Buddy started training through P4L.

But P4L means everything to Mr. Eyler, because that camouflage, service-dog vest means: “I can have Buddy with me at all times. When I need him, he’s there. I may not need him most of the time, but when I do, he’s there.”

Confessions like this strengthen P4L’s deep-down why. Ms. Spirazza had the vision to establish the nonprofit while sitting in her Lake Worth, log-cabin living room, watching the Twin Towers fall.

“I had the foresight to know we would have a lot of military coming back,” she says. “We were going to be going to war.”

Looking for something she could do, the occupational therapist — who has been helping people gain independence and movement through the assistance of animals and various modalities for more than 25 years — began training dogs.

She knew there were big companies already doing this, “but there still was a waiting list.”

With eight of her service dogs now nearing deployment, she’s ready to pass the leash. ■

in the know

How to help

Some P4L volunteers liken their service to being a grandparent, saying, “You take the dog out, you give the dog back.” Other volunteers feel more beneficial with social media, helping to raise awareness or organize fundraisers.

To learn more, sponsor a service dog, raise a puppy in training, provide veterinary care, donate or volunteer, contact Heidi Spirazza by calling 644-6292 or visit paws4liberty.org.

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD
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Jesus java

Britain's ITV1 television network announced plans in April to accept "prop placements" to blend into production of its new reality talent show in which actors compete for the lead role in the musical "Jesus Christ Superstar." The network said, for example, that it was seeking coffee machines, which piqued the interest of the De'Longhi brand manager, who offered its top-of-the-line Magnifica ESAM4200

and, according to its public relations firm, suggested perhaps interrupting the play's climactic song "The Crucifixion" while Jesus savors a cup brewed from the Magnifica. An April report in London's *The Independent* noted that the opera's composer, Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber, was on board with the idea, but that the original lyricist, Sir Tim Rice, called it "tasteless" and "tacky." ■

What goes around

Note: From time to time, News of the Weird reminds readers that bizarre human adventures repeat themselves again and again. Here are some choice selections of previous themes recently coming around again (plus a couple of updates on earlier stories):

■ Each spring in Dongyang, China, the aroma of urine is in the air — specifically, the town's specialty of eggs boiled in the discharge of young boys (under age 10, typically gathered "fresh" from toilets at local schools). Townspeople have believed for centuries that the eggs, properly cooked, bring health and prosperity. "By eating these eggs," one shopper told a Reuters reporter in March, "we will not have any pain in our waists, legs and joints. Also, you will have more energy when you work." In fact, Dongyang officials have proudly proclaimed "virgin boy eggs" as an "intangible cultural heritage."

■ And once again this spring, the Chinese marked the Qingming holiday with celebrations honoring the dead by making offerings to their deceased relatives. At the "tomb-sweeping" festival, people present paper replicas of items their ancestors are believed to need in the afterlife. Uncreative relatives give play money, but the offerings can be elaborate, such as shoes, cars and TV sets, or this year's hot item — paper

iPads, which were selling in Hong Kong for the equivalent of about \$3.

■ With Afghanistan's moralistic Taliban in retreat, one social scourge grows stronger than ever (according to an April *Washington Post* dispatch from Deh-razi): "bacha bazi," which are Afghan men's "dancing boys." Underage, often poor or fatherless kids become willing "companions" of wealthy men, often for sex. Since young girls are sheltered and chaperoned, only boys are available. Said one man, "You cannot (even) take a wife with you to a party, but a boy you can take anywhere." The usefulness of a bacha bazi typically ends when he starts growing facial hair, and the boys often drift into becoming pimps or prostitutes.

■ The most recent government employee to defraud his agency's worker compensation program (according to prosecutors in Los Angeles) is firefighter Rafael Davis, 35, who received disability payments for about 30 months during 2008-2011 while at the same time engaging in mixed martial arts matches as "The Noodle." Mr. Davis' record (according to *LA Weekly*) was 12-2, with seven of those matches coming during his disability period, including six victories. "MMA" (as noted by the newspaper) requires similar "stamina, muscle and coordination" as is required for firefighting. ■

What's in a name

More and more newspapers are assigning reporters to pore through local birth records to sample the diversity of names parents are giving their kids these days. An *Edmonton Journal* reporter noted in March that the nearly 51,000 babies born

in the province of Alberta in 2011 included a boy named Moo, two girls named Unique, an Einstein, a Messiah, a J-Cub, a Smiley, a Tuff, a Tuba, a Jazz, a Camry, an Andromeda and an Xxavier (sic), and a boy named R and a girl named J. ■

Least-competent criminals

■ In Twin Falls, Idaho, in April, Dylan Contreras, 19, became the most recent person arrested while trying to avoid police by giving a fake name ("Velesco") even though his real name (the one on outstanding warrants) was tattooed in plain sight on his forearm.

■ In April, a teller at Chicago's North-west Side bank became the most recent to thwart a robbery simply by telling the perp (who had presented a holdup note) that the bank is now closed and suggesting that the robber come back the next day. (The perp walked out and did not return.) ■

Fine points of the law

■ A woman who was injured while traveling on business in November 2007 in New South Wales, Australia, was denied worker's compensation by the workplace safety tribunal on the grounds that the injury occurred in her motel room while she was having sex. (A wall light fixture came loose as a result of the pair's vigorous antics.) However, in April 2012, Australia's Federal Court overturned the decision and granted the compensation, ruling that since the woman was on assignment at the time, the overnight stay, and even the sex, were "ordinary incidents."

■ A New York City system-gaming

public school teacher, Alan Rosenfeld, 66, continues to show up for make-work (such as photocopying "duty"), at a salary of \$100,000 a year. Mr. Rosenfeld was accused in 2001 of making lewd comments to female students in his typing class and removed from classroom duty, but he protested and continues to exercise his union "due process" rights. In a status report, the *New York Post* noted that Mr. Rosenfeld could have retired four years ago, but that by remaining on the "job," the value of his pension increases, and enables him to conduct his real estate business while at "work." ■

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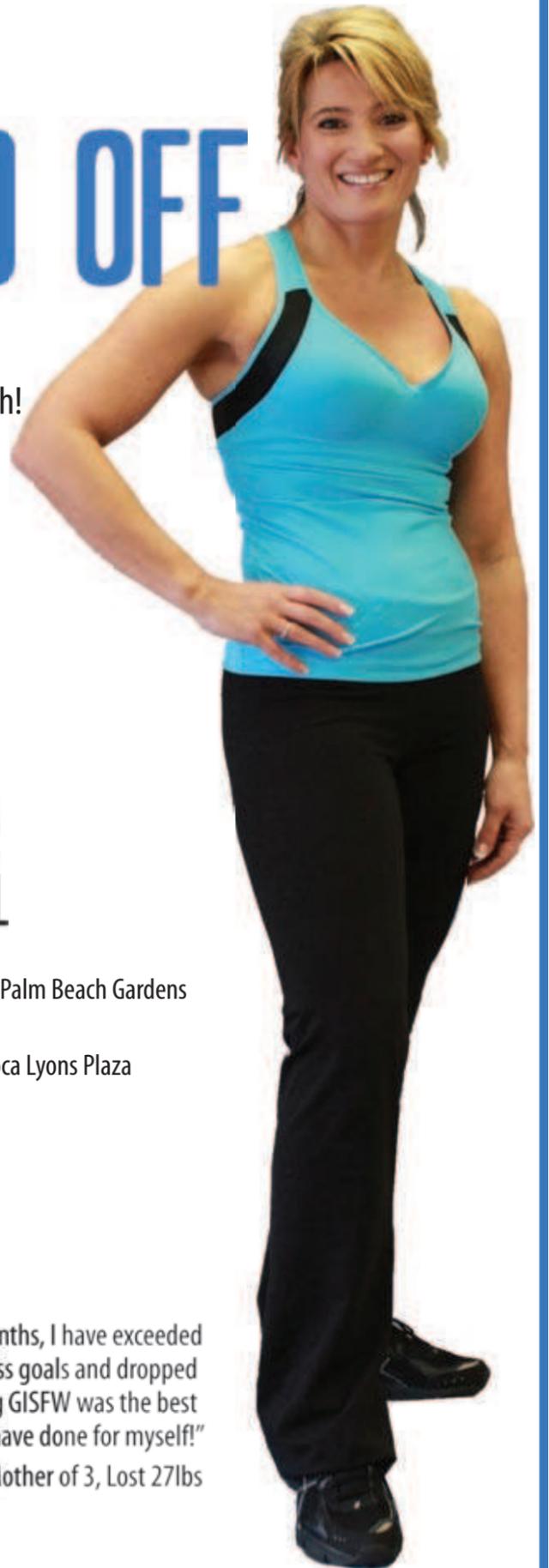
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Marshall Foundation's Gehring honored; two named to group's advisory council

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Eric Gehring, Arthur R. Marshall Foundation director of education, is the recipient of this year's conservation educator of the year award from the Florida Wildlife Federation.



GEHRING

"Eric is a remarkable individual who truly deserves to be recognized for this outstanding award. I know firsthand the role he has played in developing and implementing meaningful Everglades Educational Programs for all ages," said Nancy Marshall, president of the foundation that champions the restoration and preservation of the greater Everglades ecosystem.

"The growth of the Everglades education programs has increased every year since Eric joined us in 2007," Mrs. Marshall said in a prepared statement. "Through his dedication, our Everglades education programs increased from 400 students in 2004 to 25,000 participants in 2011. Furthermore, in partnership with the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and McArthur State Park, Eric developed and directed valuable Everglades workshops for educators."

Mr. Gehring also spearheaded the technological effort that provided live broadcasts directly into classrooms during the Marshall Foundation's annual River of Grass Canoe Expeditions, enabling nearly 4,200 students in 26

schools to communicate with scientists, educators, artists and journalists.

"In addition, since joining the Marshall Foundation five years ago, Eric Gehring has successfully integrated Everglades education into all of our restoration programs, and he has coordinated volunteers for our periodic tree plantings and annual trail spruce-up and cypress harvest," said Mrs. Marshall.



LAMBERT

Mrs. Marshall also announced the addition of two new members to the non-profit organization's 27-person advisory council.



SUSCHAK

Monte Lambert is vice president of Forte Interactive and is active with numerous local non-profit organizations, including the Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach Rotary Club, The American Lung Association Board, Boy Scouts of America and the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Paul Suschak is a stylist at Kaffee's Garden Spa in West Palm Beach, where he serves a group of private clients. A supporter of environmental causes, he finds great joy in the Everglades and is passionate about educating people about its ecological importance. ■

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First online tax deed sale set for Palm Beach County

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Palm Beach County Clerk and Comptroller Sharon Bock has announced that the clerk's office is moving tax deed sales from the courthouse to the Internet, with online auctions scheduled to begin in June.



BOCK

The online auctions will save time and resources for the clerk's office, at no additional cost to taxpayers. The online tax deed sales will be facilitated by Grant Street Group, which also supports online foreclosure sales for the clerk's office.

Tax deed sales are the auction of properties on which tax certificates have been sold by the tax collector's office for delinquent real estate taxes. The clerk's office conducts the sale.

"Online foreclosure auctions have helped us and our customers to be more effective and efficient, and I expect our online tax deed sales will have similar impact," Ms. Bock said in a prepared statement. "This also brings a heightened level of transparency to the process, which is very important to our office."

Holding tax deed sales online will save time for the clerk's office, since conducting sales in person requires three to four clerks to spend between four to six hours working at one auction. It also will allow more people to take part in the sales, since bidders won't have to come to the main courthouse to participate.

"Online foreclosure auctions have helped us and our customers to be more effective and efficient, and I expect our online tax deed sales will have similar impact."

— Sharon Bock
Palm Beach County Clerk and Comptroller

The tax deed sales, currently held once or twice a month on Wednesdays in the cafeteria of the main courthouse in West Palm Beach, will move to mypalmbeachclerk.clerkauction.com. The first online tax deed sale will begin at 9 a.m. on June 13.

The clerk's office will hold three training sessions for anyone interested in learning more about online tax deed sales. The sessions are scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. on May 17, and 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on May 18.

The training sessions will be in the office's learning center on the fifth floor of the courthouse, 205 N. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. To register for a training session, call 355-3312.

For more information about tax deed auctions, see mypalmbeachclerk.com-taxdeedsales.aspx or call 355-2962. ■

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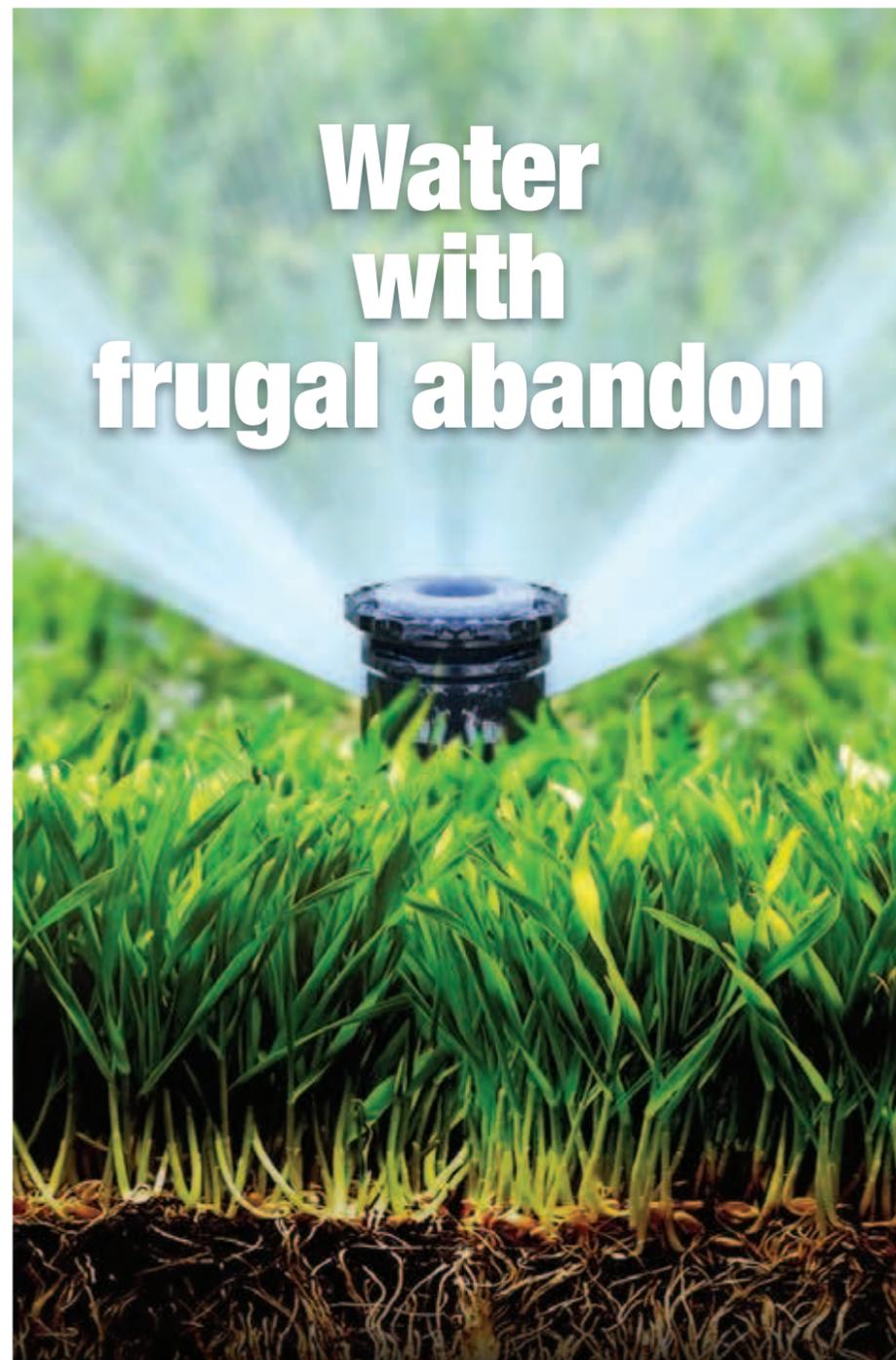
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HEALTHY LIVING

Blended families can adjust more easily if they recognize rocky road ahead



lindaLIPSHUTZ

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No, Barbara's cellphone didn't ring. Although she said she didn't expect a Mother's Day call, she was secretly hoping Ashley would reach out to her. If only this year would be different and the two of them could become closer.

When she married Larry four years ago, Barbara knew it wouldn't be smooth sailing with his teenage daughter Ashley. Larry had gone through a bitter divorce with his ex-wife, Sheila, and Ashley had suffered terribly.

Although Barbara and Larry had met months after Larry had moved out of the house, both Ashley and Sheila blamed Barbara for causing the divorce. Barbara had tried everything she could think of to win Ashley's affection — shopping sprees, manicures, heart to heart conversations — but nothing seemed to make a difference.

No matter how hard Barbara tried, Ashley had not only kept her at arm's length, but was often disdainful, and sometimes even down right hostile. Barbara hated how Ashley would call Sheila (always in earshot) to complain about Barbara or to share hilarious private jokes. The giggling had a mean-spirited tone and the conversations always ended with loud kisses and sentimental "I miss you's."

Barbara did not have children of her own, and privately worried that she didn't have maternal know-how. When she tried to explain her disappointment to Larry, he just didn't seem to get it. Whenever there was a conflict, it seemed like he always took Ashley's side, even though half the time, he wasn't even in the room when Ashley was the meanest. Larry would get annoyed and tell Barbara to grow up. He repeated over and over that Ashley only visited two weekends a month and he wasn't going to ruin things with an argument. Barbara ended up feeling hurt and defensive and blamed Larry for not being more supportive.

As one of the most maligned and misunderstood groups of all, stepmothers often get a bum rap. These women may have had the best of intentions of lovingly assuming the role of coparent to their new husband's children. Understandably, they are hurt and bewildered if their stepchildren are less than enthused. Women tend to

pride themselves on the quality of their interpersonal relationships. When there are struggles with stepchildren, it's not uncommon for a woman to take it poorly and to blame herself, rather than the realities of the situation, for the failures.

So many couples anticipate that they and their children will adjust seamlessly to the challenges of integrating into a cohesive new entity. They may pay lip service to the assumption: "Of course, we'll have some issues," but at the end of the day, they often assume that love will prevail and in THEIR case, if they try hard enough, things will work out fine.

The stark reality is that even if two people fall madly in love, neither can expect that the entire family constellation will readily have affection for each other. Stepparents can't will themselves to love their partner's children any more than the children can be expected to readily bond with a parent's new spouse. On the contrary, there are powerful forces that often work against this happening.

The newly blended family is unfortunately compromised by the hurts, misunderstandings and resentments that preceded it during the breakup of the original family. Not only are the children reeling from their own reaction to the breakup, they are also sorting out their feelings toward the way their biological parents are relating to each other and adjusting to their hurts.

When the biological parents are hostile towards each other, it inhibits the children from comfortably reaching out to their stepparents. The unfortunate truth is that many stepmothers actually bend over backward in their efforts to woo the affections of their new family, and are hurt and discouraged by cool civility or blatant hostility.

Acutely sensitive to hurts and rejections, stepmothers are likely to respond emotionally to the landmines along the way. And although her husband and confidantes may reassure her things will ultimately improve and urge her to not take it personally, of course she will take it personally! She may blame herself for not trying hard enough or doing things all wrong, when, in fact, she did the best she knew how.

Newly formed families will fare better when the parents are reassured that there are certain challenges that are quite common and are to be expected. They should remind themselves over and over again that it takes quite a bit of time for everyone to adjust to the changes and to become comfortable with each other's personality quirks,

habits and points of view. Sadly, in some cases, the parties are just never able to warm up to each other. Parents must understand that sometimes, no matter how many hoops the stepparent jumps through to build close bonds, it just isn't going to happen. In those cases, it might be sufficient to set a more realistic goal that the parties should be cordial and respectful of one another.

If only new stepparents had the benefit of the stark conclusions of several longitudinal reports that studied these very issues, they might have been better able to put the stresses in context. Studies have shown that the age of the children at the time of the remarriage may impact on the adjustments. Some reports have shown that when children are younger, new stepfamilies can anticipate some behavioral problems at first. After a number of months, though, tensions should begin to ease somewhat, as family members become more comfortable and there is a more cohesive feeling.

Often-cited research by Mavis Hetherington addresses the particular struggles faced by stepmothers and their husbands' teenage daughters. Hetherington concludes that stepmothers are frequently singled out for poor treatment by children who pick up on their natural mother's resentment, and the child becomes a proxy in their father's household.

It stands to reason that daughters who are close to their mothers are likely to identify with them at puberty, and may have difficulty adjusting to either their mother's new partner, who may be perceived as direct competition, or their father's new wife, seen as a threat to her mother. Warmly accepting a stepparent may feel like a violation of trust to their natural parent of the same sex.

Teenagers often have tremendous difficulty sorting out their familial loyalties, and may act out their discomfort by showing hostility or sullenly retreating. All teenagers face the developmental task of taking steps to form their own identity apart from the family. It can feel overwhelming to integrate into the new family at this demanding time when they are navigating the ups and downs of peer relationships.

When all the adults are able to clarify firm and consistent guidelines for parenting and discipline, the households will fare the best. It also helps for the biological parent to make it clear that they are committed to their new spouse and will show support in conflicts. Oftentimes, when the children sense they have the power to drive a wedge

in this relationship, they might unfortunately work it to their advantage. A stepmother may feel like an outsider in her own home, as the children snuggle with their father on the couch, leaving no room for her.

The biological parent will often set the stage for eventual blended family adjustment. It's not uncommon for tensions to escalate to a point where a parent enters the trap of feeling he must choose between his spouse and children. There may be a push to define who is more important when, in fact, we shouldn't attempt to compare a marital relationship with a parent-child relationship. When a spouse reassures his partner with words and actions, he takes a critical step to protect the marriage.

It's also important for him to clearly state to his children that he loves his new partner and understands that it will take time for everyone to adjust. He must further emphasize that he is counting on respect and cooperation. It's not uncommon for a parent to send a more passive, ineffective message in a misguided attempt to ease the children's adjustment. A strong couple relationship should set the stage for eventual family adjustments. It can also be tremendously reassuring to the children to know that the parents work as a team, in a loving way, and will not be undermined by obnoxious, disruptive behavior.

At the same time, it can be enormously helpful for the father to make sure he has sufficient one-on-one time with each of his children, so they each feel uniquely loved and appreciated. There is a delicate balance between encouraging one's children to meet and spend time with one's new partner and the young people feeling that this new, unasked-for person has been shoved down their throats.

If stepfamilies can let go of the myth that they will become one big happy family right away, they may better be able to relax, have a sense of humor, and let go of the irritants that get in their way. ■

Linda Lipshutz, LCSW, ACSW, is a psychotherapist serving individuals, couples and families. She holds degrees from Cornell and Columbia and completed post-graduate training at the Ackerman Institute for Marital and Family Therapy in Manhattan. She can be reached in her Palm Beach Gardens office at 630-2827, and at palmbeachfamilytherapy.com.

Scripps Jupiter Florida scientists identify neurotransmitters that lead to forgetting

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

While we often think of memory as a way of preserving the idea of who we are, little thought is given to the importance of forgetting to our well-being.

Despite the fact that forgetting is normal, exactly how we forget — the molecular, cellular and brain-circuit mechanisms underlying the process — is poorly understood.

Now, in a study that appears in the May 10 issue of the journal *Neuron*, scientists from the Jupiter campus of The Scripps Research Institute have pinpointed a mechanism that is essential for forming memories and, as it turns out, is equally essential for eliminating them after memories have formed.

"This study focuses on the molecular biology of active forgetting," said Ron

Davis, chair of the Scripps Research Department of Neuroscience, who led the project. "Until now, the basic thought has been that forgetting is mostly a passive process. Our findings make clear that forgetting is an active process that is probably regulated."

To better understand the mechanisms for forgetting, Mr. Davis and his colleagues studied *Drosophila* — or fruit flies — a key model for studying memory that has been found to be highly applicable to humans. The flies were put in situations where they learned that certain smells were associated with either a positive reinforcement like food or a negative one, such as a mild electric shock. The scientists observed changes in the flies' brains as they remembered or forgot the new information.

The results showed that a small subset of dopamine neurons regulate the acquisition of memories and the forgetting of these memories after learning, using a pair of dopamine receptors in the brain. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that plays a role in many processes, including punishment and reward, memory, learning and cognition.

But how can a single neurotransmitter, dopamine, have two seemingly opposite roles in both forming and eliminating memories? And how can these two dopamine receptors serve acquiring memory on the one hand, and forgetting on the other?

The study suggests that when a new memory is first formed, there also exists an active, dopamine-based forgetting mechanism — ongoing dopamine neu-

ron activity — that begins to erase those memories unless some importance is attached to them, a process known as consolidation that may shield important memories from the dopamine-driven forgetting process.

The study shows that specific neurons in the brain release dopamine to two different receptors known as dDA1 and DAMB; these densely packed networks of neurons are vital for memory and learning in insects. The study found the dDA1 receptor is responsible for memory acquisition, while DAMB is required for forgetting.

Authors of the paper include Jacob Berry, Isaac Cervantes-Sandoval and Eric P. Nicholas, also of Scripps Research. The study was supported by the National Institutes of Health. ■



Know heart attack symptoms, then head immediately to accredited chest pain center

mikeCOWLING
CEO, Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center



Chest pain is one of the most common symptoms of a heart attack and one of the most common reasons people visit the emergency room. Each year more than 1 million Americans have a heart attack. Emergency room physicians will tell you that for a heart attack to be treated effectively, the treatments must start within one hour from when the symptoms start.

As your heart hospital that specializes in cardiac care, we at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center encourage you to be able to identify the symptoms of a heart attack, because when it comes to heart attacks, knowing the symptoms and getting prompt medical attention can make a significant difference in the outcome. One of the most common symptoms of a heart attack is chest pain or discomfort, which is usually in the center of the chest and may last a few minutes or come and go. People often describe the feeling as uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

Chest pain should be taken seriously, and it is at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center. In fact, the hospital is accredited by the Society of Chest Pain Centers, which means it meets or exceeds quality-of-care measures associated with diagnosing and treating heart attacks. As an Accredited Chest Pain Center, Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center

has demonstrated its commitment to providing quality cardiac care and has the resources available to rapidly diagnose and treat patients.

A study published in the July 2008 issue of the American Journal of Cardiology found that hospitals accredited by the Society of Chest Pain Centers perform better on the heart attack measures established by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as compared to non-accredited facilities. These core measures represent best practices in the care for heart attacks.

Hospitals that have received SCPC accreditation have achieved a higher level of expertise in dealing with patients who arrive with symptoms of a heart attack. They emphasize the importance of standardized diagnostic and treatment programs that provide more efficient and effective evaluation as well as more appropriate and rapid treatment of patients with chest pain and other heart attack symptoms. They also serve as a point of entry into the healthcare system to evaluate and treat other medical problems, and they help to promote a healthier lifestyle in an attempt to reduce the risk factors for heart attack.

What we want people to recognize is that the sooner a heart attack is treated, the less damage to the heart and the better the outcome for the patient. Our message to the community is to go to the nearest hospital, and if possible, the nearest Accredited Chest Pain Center, immediately if they experience chest pain or any symptoms of a heart attack. ■



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Camp fees start at \$180 for members per weekly session. For complete program descriptions and to register online, visit our website today: Marinelife.org/camp

- June 11-15:** Two age groups
Turtle Adventures: 7-10 years & 11-14 years
- June 18-22:** Two age groups
Explore Florida! 7-10 years & 11-14 years
- June 25-29:** Two age groups
Turtle Adventures: 7-10 years & 11-14 years
- July 2-6:** Two age groups
Explore Florida! 7-10 years & 11-14 years
- July 9-13:** Two age groups
Turtle Adventures: 7-10 years & 11-14 years
- July 16-20:** Two age groups
Explore Florida! 7-10 years & 11-14 years
- July 23-27:** Two age groups
Turtle Adventures: 7-10 years & 11-14 years
- July 30 - August 3:** Two age groups
Explore Florida! 7-10 years & 11-14 years
- August 6-10:** Two age groups
Turtle Adventures: 7-10 years
Field Experience: 15-17 years



WEEK OF MAY 17-23, 2012

A GUIDE TO THE PALM BEACH COUNTY BUSINESS INDUSTRY



Leadership award winners to be honored by chamber

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce will present its annual Leadership Awards Dinner on May 31 at The Borland Center, beginning at 6 p.m.

The event is sponsored by Roger Dean Stadium and catered by Cafe Chardonnay.



HEARING

Widely known as northern Palm Beach County's premier business event, the leadership awards will treat guests to complimentary cocktails, a three-course meal and live entertainment.



SMALLRIDGE

The 2012 award winners are: Small Business of the Year — STORE Self Storage & Wine Storage; Business of the Year — Downtown at the Gardens; Community Leader of the Year — Don Hearing of Coteleur & Hearing; Gaeta Chairman's Award of Excellence — Kelly Smalldridge, Business Development Board.

Sponsorships of various levels are available.

For more information on becoming a sponsor, contact Noel Martinez at Noel@NPBChamber.com.

For information, call the chamber at 694-2300. ■



COURTESY PHOTO

The Tuscany Center office complex is at 8845 N. Military Trail in Palm Beach Gardens.

Medical Tourism Association leases space in Tuscany Center in the Gardens

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Bill Reichel, president of Reichel Realty, announced that the Medical Tourism Association, an international non-profit association for the medical tourism and global healthcare industry, has leased space for its headquarters at the Tuscany Center office complex located at 8845 N. Military Trail in Palm Beach Gardens. The association will occupy 3,600 square feet in the building, which is owned by Reichel Development 2 LLC.

The Medical Tourism Association, which is relocating from offices in West Palm Beach, is the first membership-based international non-profit trade association for the medical tourism and global healthcare industry. Its members include top international hospitals, healthcare providers, medical travel facilitators, insurance companies, and other affiliated companies and individuals working to promote quality and transparency in healthcare for patients in a global environment.

Founded in 2007, the association has established locations throughout Europe, South America, Asia and the Middle East.

Worldwide, more patients are seeking healthcare options beyond their own country's borders, according to Renee-Marie Stephano, president of the Medical Tourism Association.

"As we work with governments, hospitals and insurance companies that are striving to serve diverse international patients, our growth calls for larger office and training facilities," she said. "The new office's strategic location and Class A environment are a great fit with our global brand."

The Medical Tourism Association builds consumer awareness of international healthcare options, with initiatives including the association's Health

& Wellness Destination Guides and the No. 1 rated Internet portal for healthcare consumers www.MedicalTourism.Com.

The association's 5th Annual World Medical Tourism & Global Healthcare Congress is scheduled for Oct. 24-26 in Fort Lauderdale.

Based in Palm Beach Gardens, Reichel Realty is a full-service commercial real estate company founded in 1987 by Bill Reichel.

The firm services institutional, individual and corporate clients with sales and marketing, leasing, tenant representation, asset/property management, tax appeal workouts, receivership for circuit and federal courts, property assemblage, zoning, regulatory and government consulting, construction management and rehab and tenant improvements.

For more information, see www.reichelrealty.com or call 478-4440. ■

Property tax delinquencies up; deadline to pay is June 6

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Palm Beach County Tax Collector Anne Gannon reported on May 2 that 33,270 property owners were currently delinquent, representing \$108,479,992.50 in uncollected revenue. Last year, 26,709 tax certificates were sold for \$99.6 million. Ms. Gannon reminds property owners that the deadline to pay delinquent property taxes is 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 6. After that date, all unpaid taxes will be listed for sale at the annual Tax Certificate Auction on June 7.



GANNON

"The law requires tax collectors hold an annual Tax Certificate Auction to recover the uncollected revenue," says Ms. Gannon. "This revenue has already been obligated to fund essential services to our community such as law enforcement, fire, EMS, public health and education."

A tax certificate, also called a first lien, is placed on a delinquent prop-

erty and sold through a competitive bid process. The party who purchases a tax certificate does not own the property. They own the tax certificate, the first lien.

By law, a property owner has two years to redeem a tax certificate. Once a tax certificate is sold, interest and advertising fees are applied to the amount owed.

On average, the amount owed increases by a minimum of 10 percent. These costs can rise due to increases in interest rates awarded during the period of time between the tax certificate sale

and the redemption date.

Payments may be made either in person at a service center or by mail. Mailed payments must be received, not postmarked, at Ms. Gannon's office no later than 5 p.m. June 6.

Delinquent taxes cannot be paid online. Payments must be made with cash, bank draft, certified check, money order, cashier's check or U.S. bank wire transfer. Wire transfers from foreign banks can be accepted only if they are in U.S. funds. Property owners can stop by a service center to pay; drop boxes are located at each center. ■

MONEY & INVESTING

Managing your portfolio and managing your expectations

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A fundamental concept in investing is that the future is unknown. Portfolios should be constructed with that in mind.

Sure, investors want to think that they can figure out the future. They will listen to cable news to hear many an economic prognostication and asset class forecast. But what they're getting might be just high-end marketing, selling or info-taining.

Chances are very good that, even if the perfectly right scenario was laid before an investor, it would be tossed into the forecast heap and never become actionable.

The important thing for an investor to decide is whether his asset mix will serve him well over the long run... in a variety of economic, interest rate, inflation and liquid environments. A portfolio is not created to do well for a short-term market environment or for what might happen next month.

Constructing the portfolio is generally a factual, unemotional, logical process. It can be done alone, but is better done with several advisers' review.

Because the future is unknown, the return of and return on any investment capital is at risk.

The degree of risk varies by asset class and varies by selections within the asset class. For instance, within the risk class of U.S. equities, the sector of technology is of greater risk than utilities; further, within those subcategories, individual stocks have different risk levels.

Risk is a very important element of investing. To the ordinary investor, it means the possibility of loss or (losses in excess of capital if so applies,) ultimate return of investment funds, liquidity, transparency, volatility, ability of the asset to regain value after losses, among other risk characteristics.

For instance, if you lose money in a bond that has defaulted, the chances of you getting your full principal back are slim versus a loss in equities due to a poor earnings release or a write-off, as the company might well have the capacity to grow and rebound in value over time.

Most investors need to first figure out if they can take investment risk. If they cannot afford to lose principal, then their investment choices are very few — possibly: CDs, short-term U.S. Treasuries, annuities, etc.... all the while remembering: there are limits on bank CD guarantees; that even the U.S. government debt has been downgraded; and that there are risks inherent with an insurance company's credit. Bottom line, even the riskless assets can have risk.

Investors then need to determine how much income they need and, given their risk profile, what income sources best suit them. If they are working in a secure job, then there is less dependence on investment income. If they are retired, then they are very dependent on retirement sources of income.

For retirees, once their income needs are met (whatever the reliable source) and if they have emergency cash (or assets easily transferred into cash) sufficient to handle a several month or several year period, then they can take a look at adding layers of risk investments.

The first natural extension of the port-

The important thing for an investor to decide is whether his asset mix will serve him well over the long run.

folio might be into corporate bonds and U.S. corporate equities paying dividends. Obviously, those equities offering a dividend will help satisfy the need for income and offer the potential for capital gain. Those who can take risk might reach for higher yielding plays and those who want less risk might be looking at companies that have never missed a dividend and have a long record of increases.

The young investor, those still employed, and/or investors with very large portfolios (young or old) can assume more risk such as technology, foreign equities, illiquid private equity, hedge funds and other alternatives.

Technically, you might be able to handle additional risk, but if you know your personality is such that a loss changes your disposition, your lifestyle and your approach to investing, then you might have to rethink your portfolio risk tolerance. Visiting with several investment advisers could assure that your approach is reasonable.

Now, some investors say, "I know the future! X, Y, Z will happen and I am making a great allocation to asset classes A and B and lightening up on asset classes C and D." This rearranging of the deck chairs is not advisable for most. Yes, that is how money can be made... or lost. Make and stay with allocations that make long-term sense.

Besides setting up the right portfolio mix, setting up the right expectations is equally important. If you think every asset class is going to be in the plus column every quarter or every year, you probably do not have the right expectations.

For instance, foreign equities have been faring poorly lately with U.S. equities doing better; so, ditching your foreign allocation to further allocate to U.S. equities would be chasing performance and derailing a long-term allocation strategy. Do not expect very different types of investments to march in cadence e.g. private equity does not perform like hedge funds, real estate or corporate bonds.

If you have a portfolio allocation that makes sense, then assess the portfolio in total. As a point of reference, the standard time frame used by institutions to assess an investment manager is not a matter of months or a year, it is generally three years.

Consult your advisers as to accuracy of the above and suitability. ■

— *There is a substantial risk of loss in trading futures and options on futures contracts. Past performance is not indicative of future results. This article is provided for informational purposes only. No statement in this article should be construed as a recommendation to buy/sell a futures/options contract or to provide investment advice.*

— *Jeannette Showalter, CFA, is a commodities broker with Worldwide Futures Systems, (239) 571-8896. For midweek commentaries, write to showalter@wwfscsystems.com.*

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I received a referral from a longtime client currently residing in New York City. The referral was a business associate named Mr. Thompson. He had been to the area several times in the last year. When I spoke with Mr. Thompson on the telephone, he was very friendly, but insisted that he would only work with me if I showed him NEW properties he had not seen previously.

Of course I agreed, and asked him to kindly forward me all of the properties he had seen. He wanted to fax the information because that was easiest for him; he had organized the information in a very particular manner. I gladly provided the office fax number.

Three hours later, my office called. The faxes had not stopped coming in!

The office manager told me there were more than 60 faxes. 60!

This gentleman had seen more than 60 homes? I was impressed!

He remembered each individual property with his specific notes on each of the listing pages — usually the homes begin to look alike after the first five.

Although I appreciated the details, I had to call and ask him to stop faxing. It was starting to jam the machine. I assured him we would find the right property for him and his family when they arrived on the weekend.

Mr. Thompson and his family were due to arrive at 8:30 on a Friday morning and I had scheduled showings beginning at 10:30 that same day — giving them enough time to get a quick bite

to eat prior to viewing the homes.

I picked them up at the airport and they piled into the car with the two most adorable young daughters. They were staying at The Breakers and I assumed we would eat on the Island, close to the hotel.

“Is there an Original Pancake House here?” Mr. Thompson asked. I truly wasn’t sure where one was, but I quickly found it on the GPS and we were off to the nearest location — 20 minutes north.

It was almost refreshing to see a family arrive with their Louis Vuitton luggage, check in at The Breakers and request to go to the Original Pancake House. Four pancake breakfasts later and two chocolate milkshakes to go, we began our search.

I had eight homes to show the Thompsons over the next two days. I was determined to find them a home and went through the faxes several times to ensure that every detail was considered — and that I was certain not to show them a home they had already seen.

It was the third house of the day and they fell in love! I knew from the listing broker that there was another interested couple, but no offers yet. I relayed this to the Thompsons but they wanted to continue on and see the other homes prior to making any decisions.

The following day after we viewed all of the homes, and they decided to put in

an offer on the third home we viewed the day prior. I presented the offer to the listing broker and unfortunately learned that it had just gone under contract.

The buyer was currently in the inspection period so the broker would keep us updated during this time — the Thompsons waited anxiously over the next 10 days.

The inspection period for any contract is extremely important for a number of reasons. According to the Florida Association of Realtors “AS IS” contract that is commonly used today, the seller is not obligated to repair anything on the inspection report, but the buyer has the right to cancel the contract during their inspection period if they are not satisfied with the report.

I was fairly certain in this case that the inspection report would be clean, based on the condition of the home — the sellers kept the home in remarkable condition.

I followed up with the listing broker every day and was told after the

inspection that there were only four items on the inspection report that needed attention. One of those items was a missing screw in the master bath shower. It didn’t look good for the Thompsons.

The next day I received a call from the listing broker. Much to my surprise, the contract was canceled because the buyer asked the seller to replace the missing screw and the seller said no. The contract was “As Is” and the Thompsons then able to purchase the home!

The Thompsons were extremely happy to be the buyers of this home and did not ask the sellers to repair anything on their inspection report, accepting the home “As Is.”

When entering into an “As Is” contract, be prepared for some repair costs on the home. The beauty of each home is that there is not one exactly like another. They are built by hand and maintained by their owners. At times there will be improvements necessary to repair a home. Keep in mind if a buyer loves a home, a major detail for one could be a minor detail for another. ■

Heather Purucker Bretzlaff is a broker and Realtor Associate at Fite Shavell & Associates. She can be reached at 722-6136, or at hbretzlaff@fiteshavell.com.

KOVELS: ANTIQUES

Garden Ware features sneaky, surprising critters

terryKOVEL

news@floridaweekly.com



Art pottery made by Weller is a favorite among collectors. The company made art pottery in Zanesville, Ohio, from 1893 to 1948. From the 1920s to the 1940s, Weller also made less sophisticated pottery for the yard called “Garden Ware.” Stone-colored birdbaths, sprinklers, fountains, toadstool seats, sundials and urns were available. Large, colorful Garden Ware figures were the most unusual. They were made in several sizes: 4, 7½, 10 and 18 inches. Life-like dogs, roosters, birds, cats, rabbits, pelicans, ducks, frogs and squirrels were produced, along with humorous frogs, gnomes and unusual “Pop Eye” dogs. All of these figures were made to be half-hidden among plants, a surprise to be glimpsed from a garden path. Many of the figures were created by Dorothy England Laughead. She worked at Weller Pottery from 1925 to 1960. Today a 4-inch Coppertone frog sells for about \$300 and a 4-inch Pop Eye dog for \$300, but a 19-inch “Gnome on Tree Trunk” is worth more than \$5,000. Most Garden Ware has cracks and chips from living outdoors, but minor damage does not change the price very much.

Q: I was given a four-piece set of patio chairs by a family friend who said the set originally came from an

old motel in Miami Beach. I have been trying to decide if I should restore the chairs or sell them. The metal frames have some rust and several of the chairs’ vinyl straps are missing. The straps are fastened onto prongs on the frame. I have yet to find anyone who has ever heard of prong connections for straps, and everyone I have asked thinks the set is very old. Is there any way to find the age and value of these chair?

A: Old lawn furniture doesn’t sell for high prices unless it’s marked with the name of a famous designer or maker. It’s probably not worth the time and money it would take to restore it. The rust must be sanded or scraped off the metal frames. Then the frames should be painted with a rust-preventative base coat and a finishing coat of paint. In order to consider restoring the chairs, you would have to find a source for new straps. You can buy vinyl strips in various lengths, but it might be difficult to cut the kind of holes needed to fit around the prongs on your chairs. In order to avoid sagging straps, the vinyl strips have to be cut 10 percent to 15 percent shorter than the actual measurement needed. Then the vinyl has to be boiled briefly to make it

pliable enough to be stretched to fit the frame. Vinyl tightens as it cools. If you can find the supplies and do the work, you still have chairs that will be very hard to sell.

Q: What are the fancy decorations and handles on silver trays made of?

A: If the tray is sterling silver, its handles probably are sterling. The handles on silver-plated trays are often made of spelter, Britannia metal or another low-grade metal and then plated when the rest of the tray is plated. Be careful. We know of someone who put a silver tray in the oven to keep food warm. The heat melted the handles and they fell off.

Q: I would like to know how to clear the water in old snow domes. The water in mine has gotten very cloudy.

A: The liquid would have to be replaced. There are a few repair services that will do it, or you can attempt to do it yourself. But it’s difficult. Hold the snow dome upside down before you try to separate the top from the bottom. If it’s glued together, you may be able to soften the glue first by immersing the snow dome in hot water. Snow domes with black plastic bases or brown pot-



This Pop Eye dog made by Weller Pottery is only 4 inches high. It sold for \$360 at a 2011 Humler & Nolan auction in Cincinnati.

tery bases made in the 1930s and 1940s were held in place by plaster of Paris, which can be carefully chipped away. Domes with new shiny black plastic bases, black pottery bases (1940s), or cobalt blue bases (1920s) cannot be opened unless they have a threaded base, and very few did. If you can open yours, pour the original liquid through a cloth so that the “snow” is separated from the liquid. Use distilled water to refill the dome. Adding about 1/2 teaspoon glycerin to the water will make the “snow” fall more slowly. Snow domes should not be stored in the dark. Exposure to light keeps the liquid clear. But don’t keep them in direct sunlight. The glass can magnify light rays and may start a fire.

Tip: A diamond ring is durable but not indestructible. Don’t wear it when using chlorine bleach that can discolor the mounting. Have a jeweler see it once a year to check for loose prongs or worn mountings. ■

— 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 email 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 Kovel, Florida Weekly, King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

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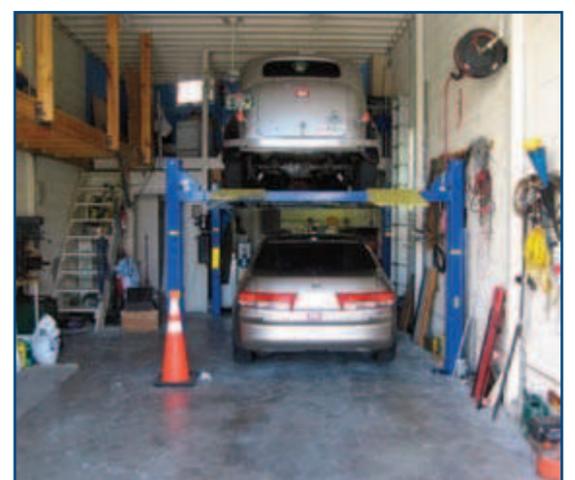
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NETW

“Guy’s Night Out” fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Clubs, at Provident Jewelry in Jupiter



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2. Makepeace Charles, David Liporace, Nick Linca, Robert Ritter and Chris Ramsey
3. David Hand and Victor Concepcion
4. Nick Linca, Seth Berman, Rob Samuels and Scott Diament
5. Richard Sloane, Howard Siegel, Chris Olschewsky, Chad Prandi and Kevin Sloane

COURTESY PHOTOS

We take more society and networking photos at area events than we can fit in the newspaper. So, if you think we missed you or one of your friends, go to www.floridaweekly.com and view the photo

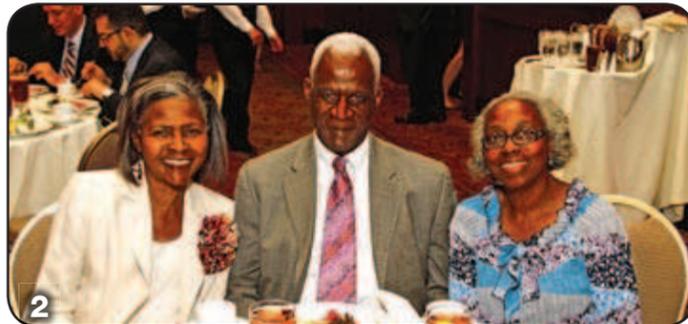
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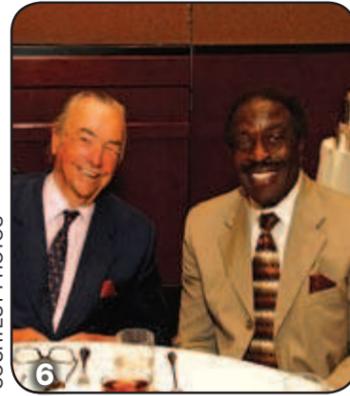
WORKING

Appreciation luncheon for Kravis Center board of directors, life trustees and standing committees



1. Jane Mitchell, Sarah Collins and Judy Goodman
2. Connie Ward, John Jenkins and Zenetta Miller
3. Mark Levy, Mayor Jeri Muoio and Bill Meyer
4. Laurie Silvers and Ted Mandes
5. Paul Leone and Judy Mitchell
6. Stanley Rumbough and John Howard
7. Gary Lickle and Lee Wolf
8. Stuart Frankel, Alec Flamm and Stephen Brown
9. Ron Meshberg, Helen Persson, Barbara Golden, Mia Matthews and Marcie Gorman-Althof
10. Zachary Berg, Jeffrey Pheterson and Richard Sloane

COURTESY PHOTOS



Albums from the many events we cover. You can purchase any of the photos too. Send us your society and networking photos. Include the names of everyone in the picture. E-mail them to society@floridaweekly.com.



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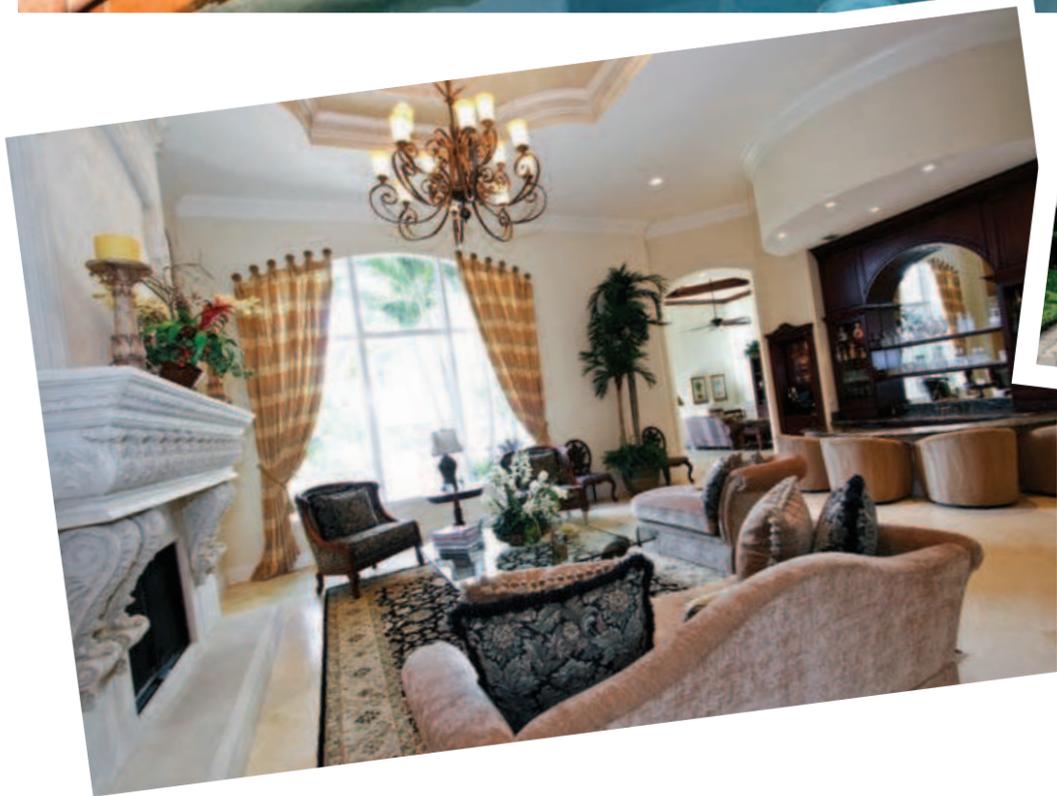


REAL ESTATE

WEEK OF MAY 17-23, 2012

A GUIDE TO THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY

www.FloridaWeekly.com



COURTESY PHOTOS

Magnificent in Mirasol

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

This custom Mirasol estate was built by Mustipick, and provides a sought-after golf equity membership. This home at 126 Playa Rienta features almost 6,000 square feet under air on one level, with four bedrooms, 5.5 baths, 23-foot ceilings, custom details in each room, a state-of-the-art theater and arched, floor-to-ceiling windows. The light-filled gourmet kitchen features two Sub-zero refrigerators with drawers, two freezers, two dishwashers, two ovens, a 6-burner gas stove-top with custom hood, light granite countertops and cabinets and a breakfast bar. The large breakfast room offers pool views through seamless butted windows. The dining room features beveled glass mirrors and decorative lighting with ceiling medallion and faux painting. Rich custom built-ins in the office include book-

shelves, file drawers and two computer workstations. Other features includes Saturnia floors with inlays, Bose surround sound, a grand fireplace, a well-appointed custom wet bar with rich wood built-ins, wine storage, marble shelves with lighting in the oversized living room and a home theater. The elegant master suite features dual baths and closets and overlooks a peaceful waterfall spa in a tropical setting. The private oversized patio is surrounded by lush landscaping and includes a built-in summer kitchen with a stainless-steel barbeque, Sub-zero refrigerator, cabinets and decorative tiles. The heated pool offers rock waterfalls and an inviting spa. The home features a three-car garage. Fite Shavell & Associates lists the home for \$2,295,000. The agent is Linda Bright, 561-629-4995, lbright@fiteshavell.com. ■

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WEEK OF MAY 17-23, 2012

A GUIDE TO THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE

TAKE A CLASS



Summer is the time for rest and for revealing our creative sides

BY SCOTT SIMMONS
ssimmons@floridaweekly.com

Season is over and it is time for full-time residents to get a little me-time.

That means lines are shorter at area stores and restaurants.

And it means there is more space available for classes at area cultural institutions.

So instead of reading about art, why not create a little art of your own?

"It's a great way to stay inside and stay cool during the summer," said Katie Deits, executive director of the Lighthouse ArtCenter in Tequesta. "Unless you want to take a *plein air* class and stay in the shade with Ted Matz."

Mr. Matz is one of the art school's favorite instructors, Ms. Deits said, and he will challenge students to develop compositional skills, all with his calm, friendly demeanor.

At the Armory Art Center, south of downtown West Palm Beach, which offers 8 Weeks of Art, students can take a whirlwind tour of the school's offerings in drawing, painting, printmaking, digital photography, fiber arts, hand-building and wheel-throwing in ceramics and sculpture.

SEE CLASS, A28 ►



COURTESY PHOTOS

TOP: Students participate in a photo-editing class at the Palm Beach Photographic Centre in downtown West Palm Beach.

ABOVE: Ceramics instructor Justin Lambert works with a student at the Lighthouse ArtCenter in Tequesta.

LEFT: Students participate in a sculpture class at the Armory Art Center in West Palm Beach.

Northwood's RAW Gallery sets reception for new artist

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

RAW Gallery and Studio in Northwood will have a gallery reception from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on May 25 — in conjunction with the Northwood Village Art and Wine Promenade — to welcome Nancy Blair as its newest gallery member.

As a *plein air* painter, Ms. Blair's expressionistic style captures the light, movement and color of Florida's natural landscape.

Ms. Blair's work along with the other gallery members can be viewed at the RAW Gallery and Studio located at 508 Northwood Road, West Palm Beach.

Dee Carnelli opened the gallery and studio in November. An artist and custom lampshade maker, she

says she needed a studio from which to operate her business.

The gallery concept grew as a "sharing the space" with other artists. The front gallery is designed to feature a collection of artwork by eight wall artists with floor space for 3-D artists.

The artists' styles vary from traditional to contemporary to the zany.

The studio is open for the public to view and buy from. Browsers and watch Ms. Carnelli make a lampshade or work on one a drawing. She offers classes in lampshade making, basket weaving and other art forms.

Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday 2-9 p.m.

For more information call 252-1435 or email rawgallery508@yahoo.com. ■



COURTESY IMAGE
This landscape by Nancy Blair is representative of the works that she will be exhibiting at Raw Gallery in West Palm Beach's Northwood neighborhood.

SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

And pooch makes three



The first time I met my boyfriend's dog, Lucy, there was the usual jumping, face licking and excited whining. I patted her flank and called her a good girl and made like we'd get on famously. Which we did. Until she realized I wasn't leaving. She stood in the doorway to the kitchen as I helped my boyfriend unload the groceries, her furry face tilted to one side and her ears cocked as if to say, "Wait. She's staying?"

There comes a momentous time in every relationship when a new partner meets the established pet. It's like meeting future in-laws or future stepchildren. The moment is weighted with significance, everyone eyeing everyone else, the whole crowd waiting to see if the union might be a good fit.

With dog owners the question is always: *Will this new person make a good addition to the pack?* (Cat owners are another story; and let's be honest — cats don't really care.)

Later that same evening, my boyfriend and I stretched out on the couch to watch a movie. Lucy stared, incredulously, from the floor.

"What's the matter with her?" I asked. My boyfriend lifted his head from the pillow to get a better look.

"You're in her spot," he said matter-of-factly.

"Should I move?"

"No, no," he said. He laid his head back against the cushion. "She can lie on the other side."

He patted the empty couch on his right and Lucy

hopped up. She set about licking his face and neck.

"Should I give you two a moment alone together?" I said, joking but with a jealous edge.

They looked at me with the same wounded expression. Or, I should say, almost the same. My boyfriend's face said, "Don't overreact. I'm just glad to see my dog." But Lucy's said, "Maybe you should give us a moment alone."

I laughed as I realized I could never compete with her. I reached across my boyfriend's chest and rubbed Lucy

behind the ears. She gave me a

contented lick before burrowing down, and soon she was snoring through the movie. There we were, the three of us, with my boyfriend happily ensconced in the middle.

I had been outdone by a 60-pound mutt. But how?

Like this: Lucy loves my boyfriend unconditionally. If he comes home late, if he leaves his dirty socks on the floor, if he's cranky or irritable or tired, if he wants to go for a run or a W-A-L-K, it's all the same to her. She'll still lick his face; she'll still wag her tail. She'll be just as happy and excited and full of love for him.

Which perhaps is a good lesson for all of us.

We're so demanding in relationships. We demand that our partners love us unconditionally, no matter what kind of mood we're in or how we've misbehaved. We demand that they love us

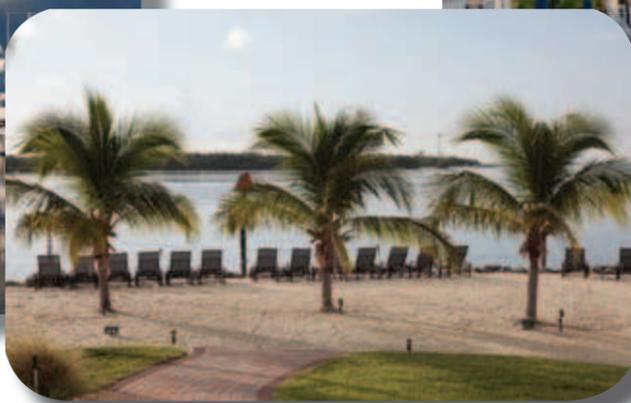
whether we've earned it or not.

Lucy never demands anything. She gives her love generously, unreservedly. And my boyfriend? He treats her with the same tail-wagging, face-licking affection that she dishes out.

And that's something we could all use more of. ■



See Things Our Way at Key West Harbour



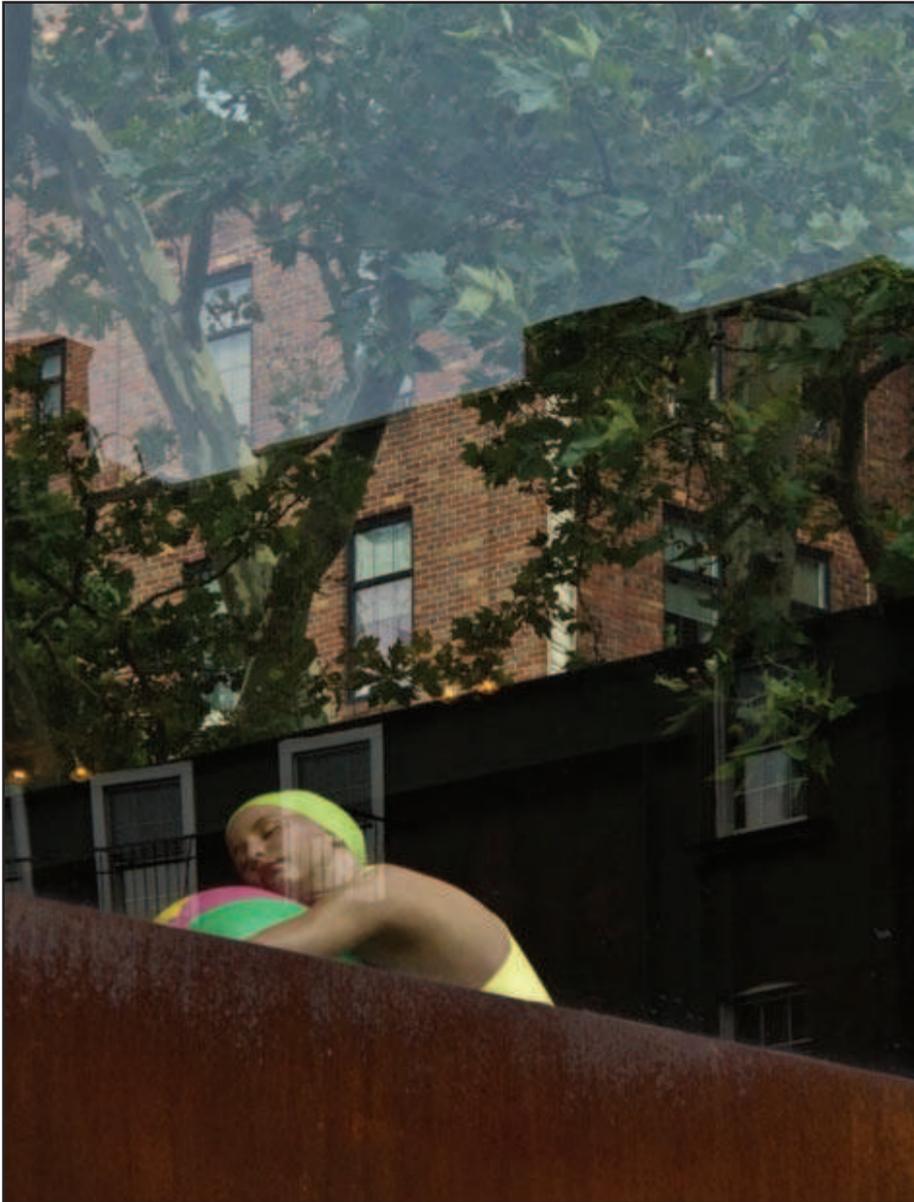
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COURTESY IMAGES

Elle Schorr, *Summer in the City, 2011*; single image digital photograph, 40 x 30 inches

Cultural council hosts exhibitions by two local artists

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Palm Beach County Cultural Council, the official arts agency that serves non-profit cultural organizations and professional artists throughout the county, is hosting solo exhibitions by two local artists — Elle Schorr and Mark Forman.

The exhibits run through July 2 and are on display in the council's exhibition space at its new headquarters, 601 Lake

Ave., in Lake Worth. Ms. Schorr, a Lake Worth resident

and a nationally acclaimed artist, calls her photographs "contradictions and overlapping impressions of city life." Her works often appear to be photo collages but they are always single-image digital photographs capturing the essence of a place in a split second.

Mr. Forman's art has been included in national competitions and juried exhibitions all across the United States. The Boca Raton resident began his career working in clay and later sought new formats and turned to canvas. He challenges the ideas of Expressionism and Reduction to define and interpret this relationship within the world in which he lives. Forman's work is defined by the search for truth, utilizing reductive and profound concepts interpreted through minimally variable colorations.



Mark Forman; #317, 2012; acrylic paint on canvas; 60 x 48 inches

"Solo Exhibitions offer artists special recognition of their work in an intimate setting and help to build their résumés," said Rena Blades, cultural council CEO, in a prepared statement. "Our new exhibition space is the ideal setting to exhibit and support artists who live and work in this county."

Artists interested in learning more about the Palm Beach County Cultural Council's solo exhibitions are asked to contact Nichole M. Hickey, the council's artists services coordinator at 472-3336, or nihickey@palmbeachculture.com.

The council building is open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., ■



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CLASS

From page A25

“Essentially, participants can take a romp through the campus,” said Talya Lerman, the Armory’s director of education, adding, “It’s great for new students. It’s also great for students who maybe are dedicated to one area but want to branch out.”

The Palm Beach Photographic Centre, in downtown West Palm Beach, also embraces students of all skill levels.

“I love the fact that it doesn’t matter whether you are a staunch amateur or a serious professional wanting to expand your knowledge in photography. We have something for everyone,” said Fatima NeJame, president and CEO of the school and museum.

All three institutions have summer camps, but summer classes for adults offer a certain cachet.

They are smaller, for one.

The Armory averages eight to 10 students for classes in summer; figure on a dozen or so attendees for workshops.

“During season, it’s quite a bit different,” Ms. Lerman said. Class sizes can be quite a bit larger then.

Those workshops are popular, and offer an opportunity for students to try new things.

“We try to spread them around in the different art areas,” Ms. Lerman said.

One workshop, Fusing in a Flash, offers lessons in fused glass.



GARTEL

Want to create, but can’t draw? The Armory promises to teach students enough basic drawing techniques in a three-hour workshop to inspire them to create.

Workshops also are a spring and summer staple of the Photographic Centre, where attendees can learn everything from the basics (classes such as Intro to Digital Camera and Learning to Use Your Point & Shoot Digital Camera) to advanced skills (Painting Expressively from Photographs using Photoshop CS5).

“This summer, we have digital fine printing. We have a Cuban photographer coming who will be doing an artist in residence,” Ms. NeJame said. “We’re going to be adding programs in Spanish. He’s coming from Cuba and will be here for three months and we’re very excited about that.”

Photo camp will be taught by a National Geographic photographer, who also will lead some of the Photographic Centre’s adult classes this summer.

And Laurence Gartel, who worked with Andy Warhol and is considered the father of the digital art movement, will lead some classes as well.

“We always have lots of fun things going on,” said Ms. NeJame. “We decide we’re going to do something and it gets put on the schedule. It’s really cool with today’s social media, and all those things, and word of mouth. Someone suggested a one-day flower class and two weeks later, it sold out.”

Excitement is the watchword at the Lighthouse ArtCenter, which has offered classes for nearly half a century.

“I think one of the most exciting things is our sculpture class, with Nilda Comas teaching for us. All of the people who have been taking our classes are extremely enthusiastic about it. That will be in August,” Ms. Deits said.

The ArtCenter also will offer students some of the fundamentals, including drawing classes in June with Pat Crowley.

“It’s a foundation of art, with figure



Instructor Ted Matz works with student Dr. Elise Hillmann during a painting class at the Lighthouse ArtCenter’s School of Art. COURTESY PHOTOS



Master sculptor Nilda Comas teaches students to sculpt in clay during a class at the Lighthouse ArtCenter.



Students use computers to edit images during a class at the Palm Beach Photographic Centre in downtown West Palm Beach.

and portrait drawing,” Ms. Deits said.

And having Mr. Crowley teaching is a bonus for students.

“He’s a lot of fun, and is an extremely talented artist. He teaches you facial expressions, action, poses, and how to capture and interpret the human form,” she said.

And in addition to the traditional drawing, painting and ceramics classes, the ArtCenter will offer a jewelry class in which students combine sea glass and shells. Tracey Roedl will teach the

class, which was inspired by a workshop.

“They can come in and make a beautiful necklace,” Ms. Deits said.

All three institutions offer summer camps, so it’s possible for a parent or grandparent to drop children off for a camp session and take a class while the kids have their fun.

The ArtCenter’s adult classes will be held in the studios to the rear of the museum on Tequesta Drive — the School of Art’s building on Seabrook

Road will be used for summer camps for kids ages 4-12; internships are available for older students. ArtCamp runs June 11-Aug. 17.

The Photographic Centre offers its FOTOCamp in two-week sessions starting June 11.

“We get kids of all ages from 6 up to 17, 18. They can come get taught by master photographers,” said Irma Hale, administrative assistant at the Photographic Centre. “They go on field trips, then they’re taught all the things on the computer. We’ll provide them with a good SLR camera for the photo camp.”

The Armory will have an open house on May 19 for its summer camps, which were designed for kids ages 4½ to 17, and will be held June 11-Aug. 10.

But for the young — or young at heart — the classes offer a chance to refresh the soul.

“It’s a really great way to meet new people and the summer, in my eyes, tends to be a more relaxed time of the year,” said Ms. Lerman. “People tend to get out more and be more active. You can meet new people or get your group of friends to come take a workshop. It’s a time to pursue your passion.” ■

in the know

>>What: Armory Art Center classes
>>When: Various dates; classes begin around June 18 and continue into August.
>>Where: 1700 Parker Ave., West Palm Beach (between Okeechobee Boulevard and Belvedere Road)
>>Cost: About \$300 per class
>>Info: 832-1776; www.armoryarts.org

>>What: Lighthouse ArtCenter classes
>>When: June 4-30, July 9-Aug. 4, Aug. 6-Sept. 1
>>Where: Gallery Square North, 373 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta
>>Cost: Various prices. Four-week sessions may cost \$140 members, \$165 nonmembers.
>>Info: 748-8737; www.lighthousearts.org

>>What: Palm Beach Photographic Centre
>>When: Various dates/times
>>Where: 415 Clematis St. (in the West Palm Beach City Center), downtown West Palm Beach
>>Cost: Prices vary. For example, Photoshop class with Laurence Gartel is \$825 for members, \$895 for nonmembers, and Photoshop Basics, taught by staff is \$145 for members, \$195 for nonmembers.
>>Info: 253-2600 or workshop.org

CONTRACT BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

Thirteen — the magic number

Bridge is an easy game to play well — if you put your mind to it.

For example, take this deal where South was in four spades and West led a heart. East won with the jack, cashed the ace, West discarding a diamond, and continued with the king. When declarer trumped with the eight, West overtrumped with the ten and shifted to a diamond, won by declarer with the king.

South played the K-A of spades -- both opponents following -- then cashed the ace of diamonds and led the jack of clubs. West covered with the king, taken by dummy's ace, and declarer returned to his hand by ruffing the ten of diamonds.

Next came the four of clubs, and when West played the deuce, South successfully finessed dummy's seven! Declarer then claimed the rest of the tricks, making four spades.

How did South know he should finesse the seven on the second round of clubs? Was it just a lucky guess? Had he caught a glimpse of an opponent's hand? The truth is that it was neither. It was really just a matter of counting up to 13.

South learned at trick two that East had started with seven hearts. At trick six he learned that East had started with two spades. When he ruffed the diamond ten at trick nine, he learned that East had started with three diamonds.

With 12 of East's cards in three suits fully accounted for, it therefore followed that East had started with only one club. Finessing the seven of clubs was thus not

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	2 ♥
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠			

Opening lead — six of hearts.

as peculiar a play as it seemed.

Observe that West could not have averted this outcome by playing the eight of clubs rather than the deuce at trick 10. In that case, declarer would have won with the ten, returned a spade to the jack and finessed the club seven at trick 12 to produce the same result.

Indeed, West's best chance was to play low on the deuce and hope South had not counted to 13. ■

PUZZLE ANSWERS

A	J	A	R	B	R	E	R	A	T	O	P	E	W	E	L	L				
L	O	M	A	T	U	B	E	S	P	A	G	O	D	A	L	A	I			
B	A	M	M	R	U	B	B	L	E	P	U	L	L	A	G	A	P	E		
A	D	O	B	E	S	I	T	K	A	E	A	T	A	N						
D	E	J	E	C	T	E	D		N	E	T		G	I	N					
I	W	O		H	E	R	O	N	G	L	I	B		E	V	I	C	T		
V	A	S	T		P	I	T	A	S		S	O	S		E	T	H	O	S	
A	N	T	O	N		E	V	I	T	A		T	H	E	S	A	I	N	T	
A	W	A	S	H		A	T	A	N		C	O	P		S	T	Y	E		
B	O	R		G	A	A	B	L	A	C	K	S	H	E	E	P		T	A	M
R	A	B	E		R	D	A		R	I	A	L		S	E	A	M			
A	S	U	N	C	I	O	N		S	T	R	A	P		T	I	B	E	T	
D	I	C	T	A		N	A	M		A	V	A	N	T		L	A	V	A	
S	K	I	R	T		L	U	L		E	L	I	O	T		N	I	P		
B	Y	E		B	L	A	C	K		B	I	R	D		A	N	T			
A	R	E		D	U	O		E	N	U	R	E		O	M	A	H	A		
R	O	M	A	N		N	C	A	R		S	I	N	G	P	R	I	S	O	N
A	K	E	L	A		T	O	R	A		S	E	D	E	R		N	T	W	T
B	E	N	E	T		S	A	I	L		D	O	M	O		I	O	L	A	

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

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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Please send calendar listings to pbnews@floridaweekly.com.

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.

■ **"Guys and Dolls"** — Presented by the Atlantic Arts Academy and The Atlantic Theater and Performance Companies, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. May 19. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 students/children.

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/eisseycampus theatre.

■ **8th Annual Spring Showcase** — Presented by the Palm Beach Suzuki School of Music. Includes collaborations with Florida Dance Conservatory and Exclusively Argentine Tango at George's, 7 p.m. May 18. Tickets: \$12 and available at night of showcase only; 818-9121 or www.pbssm.com.

At The Kravis Center

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

■ **"Le Misérables"** — The new 25th anniversary production, various times, through May 26, Dreyfoos Hall. Tickets: \$27 and up.

■ **"Hoztage"** — The stage play by: Genji Jacques, 7:30 p.m. May 19, Rinker Playhouse. Tickets: \$27.

At The Maltz

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

■ **"Pippin"** — Student production of the Broadway show, 7:30 p.m. May 18-19. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 children.

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** — May 17: "The Perfect Family" and "In Darkness." May 18-13: "A Bag of Hammers," "In Darkness" and "Take Me Home," various times.

■ **Live:** "Disney's Jungle Book," 1 and 5 p.m. May 19 and 3 p.m. May 20.

■ **Ballet on Cinema:** "La Fille Mal Gardée," 6 p.m. May 20.

Thursday, May 17

■ **Gardens Summer Market Nights** — 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays, May 17-Aug. 16, 4301 Burns Road, Palm Beach Gardens. Hear live music and shop for prepared food and drink items,



COURTESY PHOTO

A premiere arts and crafts show with Sailfish Marina sunset water views is held on Thursdays from 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

plants, flowers, produce and handmade crafts. No pets allowed. Information: www.pbgfl.com, email recinfo@pbgfl.com or 630-1146.

■ **Bridge Classes with Liz Dennis** — Third Thursday of the month (May 17) through May. Pre-registration required. \$25 admission. JCC North, 4803 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens. Call Rhonda Gordon at 712-5233.

■ **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.

■ **Advanced Computer Class** — 6 p.m. May 17, Lake Park Public Library, 529 Park Ave., Lake Park. Call in advance to reserve a seat; space is limited. 881-3330.

■ **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.

■ **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. May 17: Band: Marijah & the Reggae Allstars. May 24: Jesse Young Band. May 31: Riptide. Free; 822-1515 or visit www.clematisbynight.net.

Friday, May 18

■ **Lake Park "Super" Market** — 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Fridays through Oct. 26; Kelsey Park, 725 Lake Shore Drive, Lake Park; (203) 222-3574.

■ **Discussion to target bullying** — The School District of Palm Beach County and new local Action Alliance for Mental Health invite parents, educators, counselors, nonprofits and community leaders to a Community Action Workshop 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. May 18 at the Safe Schools Institute, 1790 NW

Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton. Free; RSVP is requested at btpalmbeach1@gmail.com.

■ **AJ Brockman** — Solo art exhibit, presented by VSA of Palm Beach County, 6-8 p.m. May 18, 2728 Lake Worth Road, Lake Worth. Free.

■ **"Friday Night Dance Party"** — 8-10 p.m. Fridays, Alexander's Ballroom, 51 W. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Cost: \$15 per person; 747-0030 or alexandersballroom.com.

■ **Downtown's Weekend Kickoff** — Downtown at the Gardens' Centre Court, 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Drive, Palm Beach Gardens; 340-1600.

Saturday, May 19

■ **Armed Forces Day** — The Historical Society of Palm Beach County commemorates World War II with reenactors and a lecture about the Tuskegee Airmen from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 19, at the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum, 300 N. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach; 832-4164.

■ **2012 Learning for Life Fire-matics Competition** — Competition consists of five different firefighting drills, which simulate what firefighters do on an emergency scene. The top three teams will receive an award for their Department with the first place team given the honor of displaying a four foot traveling trophy at their department for one year. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. May 19, Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue, 5161 Northlake Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens.

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

■ **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. Sat-

urdays. April 28: Jason Colannino and 4 Peace Band. Downtown at the Gardens' Centre Court, 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Drive, Palm Beach Gardens; 340-1600.

Monday, May 21

■ **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, May 22

■ **Ovarian cancer symposium** — 6-8 p.m. May 22, Rodney B. Fink Auditorium, Scripps Research Institute, 120 Scripps Way, Jupiter. Light refreshments will be served; RSVP to Betsy, (954) 763-6776 or email betsy@gildasclubssouth-florida.org.

■ **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** — 11 a.m. Tuesdays, Alexander's Ballroom, 651 W. Indiantown Road, Jupiter; 747-0030.

■ **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, May 23

■ **"Big Shot" Photography Exhibit** — Opening reception for Artists Association of Jupiter, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. May 23, A Unique Art Gallery, Center Park Plaza, 226 Center St., Jupiter. Visit www.artistsassociationofjupiter.com or call Susan at (954) 588-7275.

■ **Basic Computer Class** — Noon-1:30 p.m. May 23, Lake Park Public Library, 529 Park Ave., Lake Park. Call in advance to reserve a seat; space is limited. 881-3330.

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

■ **Hatchling Tales** — 10:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Loggerhead Marinelife

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Center, 14200 U.S. 1, Juno Beach. Free; www.marinelife.org.

■ **Bridge Classes with Sam Brams** — 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays — JCC North, 4803 PGA Blvd. Six-week session \$72 or \$15/class. Pre-registration appreciated. Call Rhonda Gordon, 712-5233.

Ongoing Events

■ **The Bamboo Room** — May 17: Soul Rebels, 8:30 p.m. May 18: Uproot Hootenanny, 9 p.m. May 19: The Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash, 9 p.m. The Bamboo Room is at 25 S. J St., downtown Lake Worth. Tickets: Various prices; 585-BLUE, www.eventbrite.com or www.bamboorm.com.

■ **Palm Beach Photographic Centre** — “Insights & Surprises” — “Color Light Abstractions” by mid-20th-century photographer Wynn Bullcock. Show runs through June 9. The Photographic Centre is in the City Center, 415 Clematis St., downtown West Palm Beach. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; call 253.2600 or visit www.workshop.org or www.fotofusion.org.

■ **“Field of Colors”** — Art exhibition by Zivi Aviraz, through May 31, lobby gallery, Eissey Campus Theatre, Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens; 207-5905.

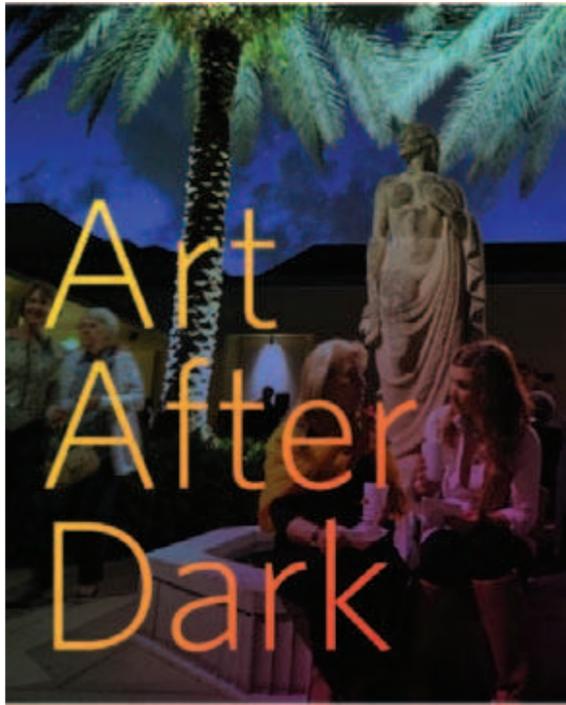
■ **“New Eyes”** — The exhibition showcasing the fine-art photography of Barry Seidman that is presented by The Lighthouse ArtCenter and Harris Private Bank, has been extended through Oct. 31. It's at Harris Private Bank, Phillips Point, 777 S. Flagler Drive, Suite 140E, West Palm Beach. By appointment only. Call Christi Thompson at 366-4218 for information.

■ **Jazz on the Palm** — West Palm Beach's free outdoor Jazz concert series 8-10 p.m. the third Friday of the month on the Palm Stage on the Waterfront Commons, downtown near Clematis Street.

■ **Palm Beach Improv** — May 18-20: Bruce Bruce. May 24: Dean Napolitano. At CityPlace, 550 S. Rosemary Ave., Suite 250, West Palm Beach; 833-1812 or www.palmbeachimprov.com.

■ **Lighthouse ArtCenter** — Through May 23: 42nd Annual Kindergarten to 12th Grade Community Student Exhibition. Museum is at Gallery Square North, 373 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Cost: Members free, \$5 non-members ages 12 and up. Free admission Saturdays; 746-3101 or www.lighthousearts.org.

■ **Norton Museum of Art** — Through May 27: “Beth Lipman: A Still Life Installation.” Through May 6: “Tacita Dean.” Through June 24: “Decoding Messages in Chinese Art.” Through May 27: “Studio Glass: Works from the Museum Collection.” Art After Dark, with music, art demonstrations, is 5-9 p.m. Thursdays. Admission: \$12 adults, \$5 visitors 13-21; free for members and children under 13. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. second Thursday of the month. Closed Mondays and major holidays; 832-5196.



COURTESY PHOTO

Art After Dark at the Norton Museum has activities, tours and culinary treats Thursdays from 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

■ **Society of the Four Arts** — Art Exhibition: “Recapturing the Real West: The Collections of William I. Koch,” through May 13. Admission: \$5; free for members and children 14 and under. Tickets: \$15; free for members. Complex is at 2 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach; 655-7227 or fourarts.org.

■ **Palm Beach's Living Room Jazz Series**—Presented by JAMS and The Four Seasons. \$25 JAMS members/\$35 non-members/\$15 students. Concerts start at 8 p.m.; doors open at 7 each Saturday. Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach, 2800 S. Ocean Blvd. Tickets 877-722-2820 or www.jamsociety.org/MOREJAZZ.

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

■ **Fitness classes for women** — Classes are sponsored by the Jupiter Recreation Department. Aerobic Dance is 8:30 a.m. Mondays, Total Body Toning is 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and Zumba Latin Fitness Workout is 9:45 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. First class is free to new students. Cost of a five-class fitness card that allows for flexible attendance is \$26.50 for Jupiter residents and \$33 for non-residents. A five-class Zumba card is \$31.50 for Jupiter residents and \$39.50 for non-residents; 10-class cards also are available. Classes meet in the community center, behind the Police Department on Military Trail, Jupiter. For information, contact instructor Kathy Andio at 236-4298 or www.empoweringsolution-swithkathy.com.

■ **“Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee”** — Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum, 500 Captain Armour's Way, Jupiter, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. 747-8380, Ext. 101; www.jupiterlighthouse.org.

■ **Children's Research Station** — Loggerhead Marinelife Center program is designed to exercise children's science skills through an experimental lab. Each child receives a lab coat, veterinary instruments, a worksheet and

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

Books Groups around the country and by groups and classes in colleges and universities. Free; 624-4358.

■ **Ginger's Dance Party** — 8-10 p.m., first Saturday of the month: June 2. Enjoy free-style dancing and easy-to-learn line dancing; free; visit www.wpb.org/waterfront. Outdoors at the Centennial Square, West Palm Beach.

■ **Adult Discussion Group** — Contemporary topics of philosophical, political, socio-economic and moral implications. 6:30-8:30 p.m. the first Thursday of each month (June 7) in the conference of the Jupiter Library, 705 Military Trail; call Irene Garbo at 715-7571.

■ **River Totters Arts n' Crafts** — 9 a.m., second Wednesday of each month (next session is June 13). Arts and crafts for kids. Loxahatchee River Center, 805 N. U.S. 1, Jupiter. Cost \$3; call 743-7123.

■ **Jupiter-Tequesta Orchid Society** — 7 p.m., second Wednesday of the month (next meeting is June 13). Jupiter Community Center, 200 Military Trail, Jupiter. Call 746-7363.

June Events

■ **The Great Books Reading and Discussion Group** — meets at 10 a.m. the first and third Thursday of each month in the coffee shop at Barnes & Noble, 11380 Legacy Ave., Palm Beach Gardens. Discussion follows the “Shared Inquiry” format promoted by The Great Books Foundation and used by more than 800 Great

■ **Screen on the Green** — Films are shown on the second Friday of each month from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. on the Waterfront Commons Great Lawn, downtown West Palm Beach. June 8: “E.T.” Guests are encouraged to bring blankets, lawn chairs and coolers. Food and beverages can be purchased on-site. Visit www.wpb.org/waterfront.

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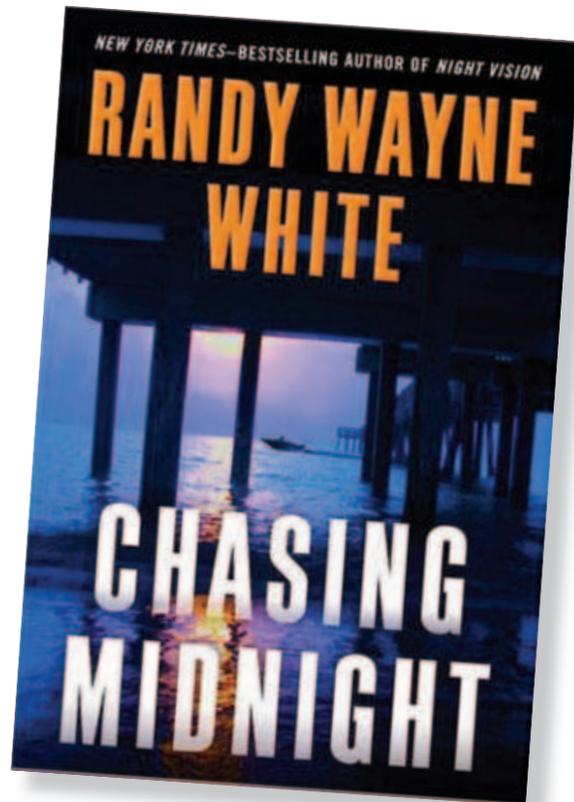
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FLORIDA WRITERS



Doc Ford's adventure runs aground in Randy Wayne White's latest



philJASON

pkjason@comcast.net

■ **"Chasing Midnight" by Randy Wayne White. Putnam. 336 pages. \$25.95.**

Like some other recent novels in his Doc Ford canon, this latest thriller from Pine Islander Randy Wayne White deals in painstaking detail with a very brief time period and, almost literally, a ticking clock.

When environmental do-gooders, some of them crazed, manage to inject themselves into a secret meeting of kingpins in the beluga sturgeon (caviar) industry, Ford and his buddy Tomlinson discover there's a plot to blow up the meeting and it might involve a large boat carrying a huge tank filled with a new sturgeon breed.

The explosion is set for midnight. The kingpins holding the meeting are competitors, and one of them claims his new breed will revolutionize the caviar industry by replacing the threatened beluga that is nearing extinction from overfishing. The ultra-extreme environmentalists, actually rank amateurs at terrorist doings, take control of the meeting and threaten to kill people off — one an hour — until their demands are met. At midnight, the time for capitulation runs out.

Ford and Tomlinson conceive a plan of investigation and counteraction that just about exhausts the clock — only to learn that the extremists had set their explosive on West Coast time. The adventure is then reset for three more hours of action-filled exploits and heart-pounding suspense.

For several reasons, the formula in "Chasing Midnight" produces a less exciting, less rewarding result than Mr. White's readers have previously enjoyed. More has become less, as readers encounter excessive repetition of boat-driving maneuvers, employments of a heat-sensitive optical device, descriptions of weaponry and examples of Ford's skills of improvisation and calcula-

tion. Every step shouts its importance in a way that levels them all so that, after awhile, none seems important.

In addition, Ford's character — who he is and why we should care about him — is not sufficiently developed, especially for initiates to the series.

The cast of grotesques with whom Ford and Tomlinson are at war seems overdrawn. It's hard not to want to laugh at the threat provided by the dwarfish, unstable Neimabor brothers and the dead brother who supposedly speaks through one of them. Their associates in do-gooder terrorism seem even less equipped to battle the forces of the wily Russian named Viktor Kazlov and the other menacing overlords who constitute the "big four" of the beluga caviar trade. Although they are interesting as individuals, there are just too many of them (along with bodyguards and other underlings) to focus and hold attention.

The same may be said of the constellation of female characters. More once again becomes less. Though there are four new female characters of potential interest in the novel, each remains little more than a plot element. This disappoints, because one of Mr. White's strong points is his building of strong, nuanced and memorable women (something that's exceptional in male-oriented genre fiction).

The author's descriptions, especially of his beloved Southwest Florida island domain, remain remarkable. However, the various story-telling ingredients just don't add up to a complete, unified dish. If there were a writing cable channel that had competitions similar to those like "Chopped" on The Food Network, I think the judges would, with regrets and platitudinous praise, chop the meal Chef White has prepared while applauding his inventiveness, his skills and perhaps the appetizer and dessert courses.

I'm voicing these reservations as a devoted fan of Randy Wayne White. I've seen his craft mature, along with the challenges he has set for himself, over the long journey from fishing guide to best-selling and critically acclaimed author. This, his 19th novel featuring Doc Ford, is something of a dud in spite of many first-rate scenes. Its weaknesses are probably the result of the grinding "book-a-year-while-the-author-is-hot" race so many successful novelists have to run — or choose to run. I hope Mr. White returns to form soon. ■

Registration is open for 2012 Jr. Marine Biologist Summer Camp!



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Students participating in the Jr. Marine Biologist Summer Camp Program will gain an understanding of various nature-related topics such as (but not limited to) ecology and marine biology, with an emphasis on conservation. Camp hours are 9am-4pm, with late pick-up available.

Camp fees start at \$180 for members per weekly session. For complete program descriptions and to register online, visit our website today: Marinelife.org/camp

June 11-15: Two age groups
Turtle Adventures: 7-10 years & 11-14 years

June 18-22: Two age groups
Explore Florida! 7-10 years & 11-14 years

June 25-29: Two age groups
Turtle Adventures: 7-10 years & 11-14 years

July 2-6: Two age groups
Explore Florida! 7-10 years & 11-14 years

July 9-13: Two age groups
Turtle Adventures: 7-10 years & 11-14 years

July 16-20: Two age groups
Explore Florida! 7-10 years & 11-14 years

July 23-27: Two age groups
Turtle Adventures: 7-10 years & 11-14 years

July 30 - August 3: Two age groups
Explore Florida! 7-10 years & 11-14 years

August 6-10: Two age groups
Turtle Adventures: 7-10 years
Field Experience: 15-17 years



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COURTESY PHOTO

Robert Prester will perform at First Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Pianist-composer Robert Prester performs May 18 at First Unitarian

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Robert Prester, pianist and composer, offers a solo performance of classical favorites and jazz at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palm Beaches on May 18 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 and may be reserved in advance by calling the church office, 627-6105, or may be purchased at the door on the evening of the performance.

This is the fourth and final concert in a series featuring Mr. Prester, who also is the music director for First UUPB.

In addition to works by Bach, Chopin, Mendelssohn, Porter and Gershwin, Mr. Prester will play his newest classical composition, a solo piano sonata, premiered at the Festival Internacional de San Miguel de Allende in Mexico, and performed at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C.

He now resides in South Florida, teaching, recording, composing and concertizing.

First UUPB is at 635 Prosperity Farms Road, North Palm Beach. For more information, see uunpb.org. ■

Tickets for Cathy Rigby in "Peter Pan" on sale May 19

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Tickets to "Peter Pan," starring two-time Tony Award winner Cathy Rigby, go on sale May 19 at 10 a.m.



RIGBY

The production is Aug. 1-5 at the Kravis Center.

Tickets start at \$25 and are available at the Kravis Center's official web site, Kravis.org/peterpan; at the Kravis Center

Box Office, 832-7469 or 800-572-8471, and at all Ticketmaster outlets.

"Peter Pan" is a family friendly attraction of spectacle and fantasy. The thrill of flying, timeless magical moments and a captivating hook will mesmerize young and old alike.

Since 1990, "Peter Pan" starring Ms. Rigby, has made four stops on Broadway, garnering four Tony nominations.

Performances run Wednesday, Aug. 1 at 7 p.m.; Thursday, Aug. 2 at 7 p.m.; Friday, Aug. 3 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 4 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 5 at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Group orders of 10 tickets or more receive a discount and may be placed by calling 651-4438 or 651-4304. ■

Village Players seeks youngsters for "The Wizard of Oz"

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Auditions for The Village Players summer children's play, "The Wizard of Oz," will be May 20 and 27 at 5 p.m. in the North Palm Beach Community Center, 1200 Prosperity Farms Road.

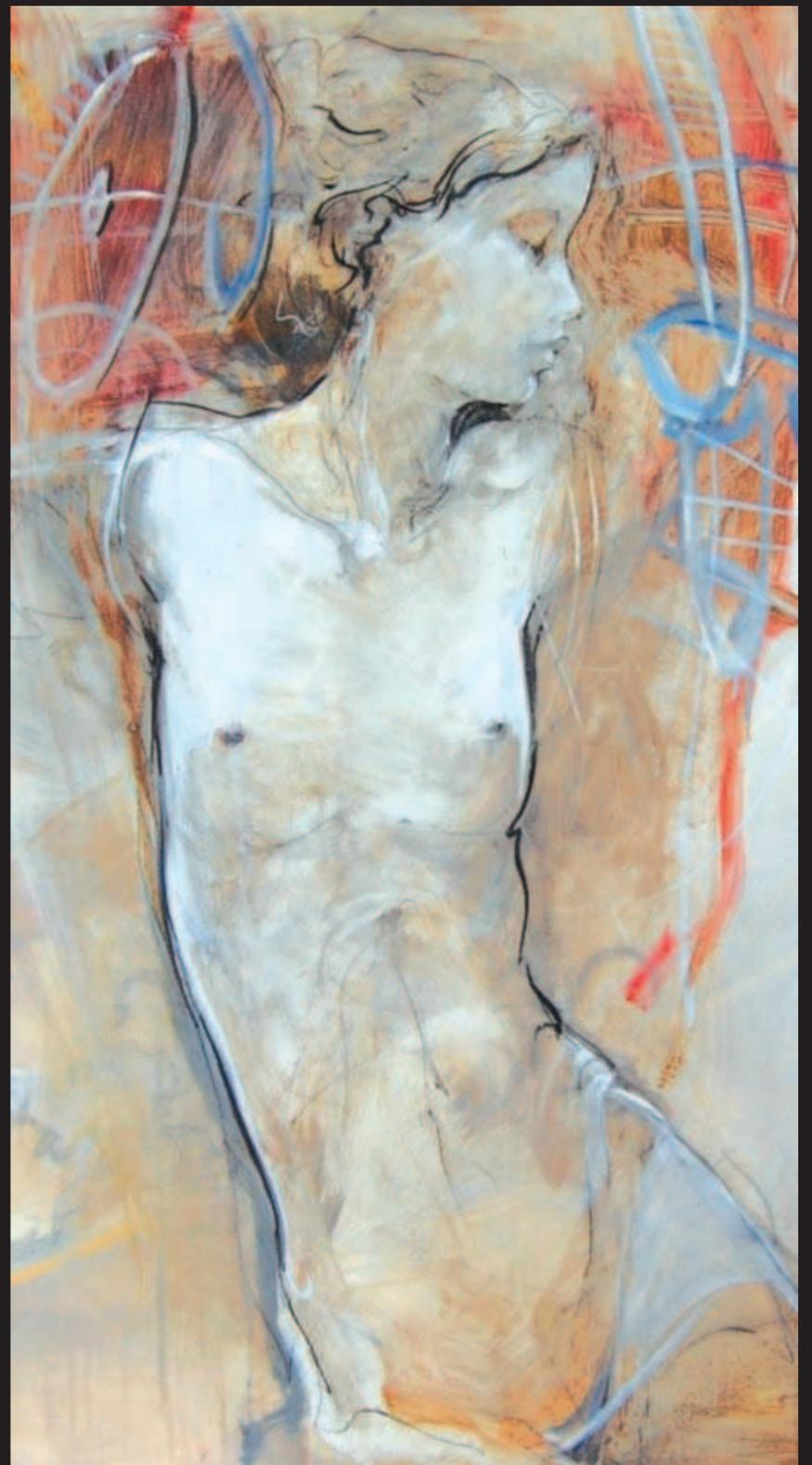
Play dates are July 13-15 and July 20-22. Seventeen children ages 6 and older are needed. Marjorie Mann is the director.

For more information call 641-1707 or see villageplayersofnpb.com. ■



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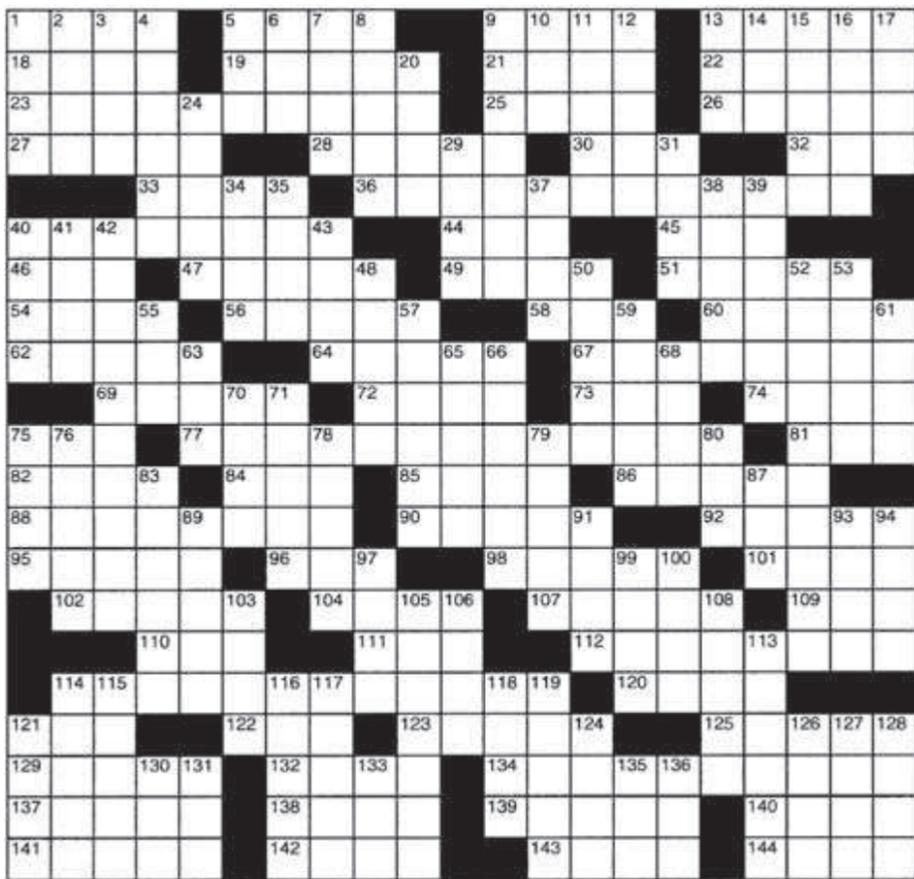
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FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES

ONCE IS ENOUGH



- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Not quite closed | 1 Jessica of "Dark Angel" |
| 5 "Song of the South" title | 2 "The Grapes of Wrath" surname |
| 9 Perched on Tom of "Baretta" | 3 Snowballs, sometimes |
| 18 — Linda, CA | 4 Wander |
| 19 Snorkel and straw | 5 A/C measure |
| 21 Capital of American Samoa? | 6 Massage |
| 22 — Lama | 7 Peters out |
| 23 "The Flintstones" kid? | 8 Antique |
| 25 Word on a door | 9 Garments |
| 26 Dumbstruck | 10 Homeric character |
| 27 Hacienda material | 11 Looked like Lothario? |
| 28 New Archangel, now | 12 — bear |
| 30 Devour | 13 Author LeShan |
| 32 Summer shade | 14 Greyhound's greeting |
| 33 "The — Hurrah" (58 film) | 15 Make merry |
| 35 Golfing legend? | 16 South American capital |
| 40 Crestfallen | 17 Jennifer of "Star Trek: Voyager" |
| 44 Volleyball divider | 20 Son of Adam |
| 45 Bar supply | 24 Attain |
| 46 — Jima | 29 Sergeant Preston's dog |
| 47 Bittern kin | 31 Buster Brown's dog |
| 49 Limber with language | 34 Tread |
| 51 Dislodge | 35 Actress Hatcher |
| 54 Enormous | 101 Stromboli spew |
| 56 Mideastern pockets | 102 Gown part |
| 58 Sea plea | 104 Temporary calm |
| 60 Cultural character | 107 Girl George? |
| 62 Composer Bruckner | 109 Tuck's mate |
| 64 Lloyd Webber musical | 110 Dovecote sound |
| 67 Leslie Charteris creation | 111 "— Rita" (42 film) |
| 69 Overflowing | 112 Contend |
| 72 — impasse | 114 Eddie Cantor song? |
| 73 Toody or Muldoon | 120 Pay to play |
| 74 Eye problem | 121 TV's "People — Funny" |
| 75 NYC division | 122 Pair |
| 77 Robert Conrad series? | 123 Harden |
| 81 Fiat | 125 Brando's birthplace |
| 82 Broccoli — | 129 "Gladiator" extra |
| 84 Nutritional abbr. | 132 Southern st. |
| 85 Tabriz currency | 134 NY correctional facility? |
| 86 Sordid | 137 "The Jungle Book" character |
| 88 South American capital | 138 Martin Balsam film? |
| 90 Subway feature | 139 Passover meal |
| 92 22 Across' home | 140 Pkg. abbr. |
| 95 Proclamations | 141 Stephen Vincent — |
| 96 "Platoon" setting | 142 Cruise |
| 98 — garde | 143 Major — |
| | 144 Kansas city |

SEE ANSWERS, A29

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HOROSCOPES

■ TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
A "tip" about a co-worker's "betrayal" might well raise the Bovine's rage levels. But before charging into a confrontation, let an unbiased colleague do some fact checking.

■ GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
Although a relationship still seems to be moving too slowly to suit your expectations, it's best not to push it. Let it develop at its own pace. You'll soon get news about a workplace change.

■ CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
A continually changing personal situation makes you feel as if you're riding an emotional roller coaster. But hold on tight; stability starts to set in early next week.

■ LEO (July 23 to August 22)
Believe it or not, someone might dare to say "No!" to the Regal One's suggestion. But instead of being miffed, use this rebuff to recheck the proposition and, perhaps, make some changes.

■ VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
You might find it difficult to make a decision about a family matter. But delay can only lead to more problems. Seek out trusted counsel and then make that important decision.

■ LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
Concentrate your focus on what needs to be done, and avoid frittering away your energies on less-important pursuits. There'll be time later for fun and games.

■ SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
Although the conflicts

seem to be letting up, you still need to be wary of being drawn into workplace intrigues. Plan a special weekend event for family and/or friends.

■ SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
Your quick wit helps you work through an already difficult situation without creating more problems. Creative aspects begin to dominate by the week's end.

■ CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Be patient. You'll soon receive news about a project that means so much to you. Meanwhile, you might want to reconsider a suggestion you previously turned down.

■ AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
There are still some aspects about that new job offer you need to resolve. In the meantime, another possibility seems promising. Be sure to check that out as well.

■ PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
Opening up your emotional floodgates could leave you vulnerable to being hurt later on. Watch what you say, in order to avoid having your words come back to haunt you.

■ ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
You might have to turn your Arian charm up a few degrees if you hope to persuade that persistent pessimist to see the possibilities in your project. Whatever you do, don't give up.

■ BORN THIS WEEK: You're usually the life of the party, which gets you on everyone's invitation list. You also have a flair for politics. ■

By Linda Thistle

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

Puzzle Difficulty this week:



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

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ Expert

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LATEST FILMS

Dark Shadows

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★★

Is it worth \$10? No

A recurring theme in Tim Burton's movies is that of an eccentric outsider (often played by Johnny Depp) who helps a group of people who can't help themselves. This structure, combined with Burton's trademark gothic tones, makes for a noble approach, and "Dark Shadows" is no exception.

Too bad "Dark Shadows" is only Saturday afternoon-matinee watchable, though a bigger point should be made: Burton's teaming with Depp is taking on iconic Hollywood status, the likes of which people 50 years from now will remember the same way film buffs today remember the movies of John Ford and John Wayne. And like Ford and Wayne, you know you're getting something intriguing with Burton and Depp, even if with the latter the level of quality varies significantly (from as good as "Edward Scissorhands" to as bad as "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory").

"Dark Shadows" is based on the television series of the same name that ran from 1966-1971. Depp plays Barnabas Collins, an Englishman whose family makes a fortune in the fishing industry after moving to Maine in 1700s. But after Barnabas spurns a witch's advances, he's cursed to be a vampire and buried alive for 200 years.

When he wakes in 1972, he's not exactly impressed with the current state of his family. Elizabeth is the matriarch (Michelle Pfeiffer), and her daughter Carolyn (Chloe Grace Moretz) is a typical '70s teen. Elizabeth's brother Roger (Jonny Lee Miller) is a lying thief and deadbeat dad to David (Gulliver McGrath), so much so that the family has hired a live-in shrink (Helena Bonham Carter) to keep David functional. Throw in a perpetually drunk and indifferent housekeeper named Willie (Jackie Earle Haley), and Barnabas has himself a fine mess to clean up.

Aside from the family, two obstacles

present themselves to Barnabas: his love for the governess Victoria (Bella Heathcote), and competition with rival business maven Angelique (Eva Green), with whom Barnabas has an extended history.

There are some nice sequences, including some quirky humor and inspired montages, but as a whole "Dark Shadows" the movie drags to 113 minutes and never inspires interest. The visual effects, production design and costumes are expectedly eccentric, but as we know with Burton, we can't allow ourselves to be fooled by his style — it's the story



that always matters most. And though he gets nice performances from Green and Depp, they limp through a story that never feels like it's going anywhere and certainly isn't in a rush to get there.

But even if Burton cut a few scenes to quicken the pace, there's still an issue of balance. Some moments are played for laughs, others are straightforward drama, and the laughs come too often to be just comic relief. What this means is that a clear tone (is it campy? is it serious?) is never established, which makes all of "Dark Shadows" feel a bit off. ■

in the know

>> This is the eighth collaboration between Tim Burton and Johnny Depp, and it's the fifth time Burton's wife, Helena Bonham Carter, has joined them.

CAPSULES

Girl In Progress ★

(Eva Mendes, Matthew Modine, Cierra Ramirez) An overworked and distant single mother (Mendes) doesn't notice that her teenage daughter (Ramirez) is acting out. Manipulative and painfully predictable, there is nothing you won't see coming, and none of it is done very well. Rated PG-13.

The Raven ★★★

(John Cusack, Luke Evans, Alice Eve) When a killer uses Edgar Allen Poe's (Cusack) work as inspiration for his crimes, Poe is recruited to help a detective (Evans) solve the whodunit. The tone is appropriately dark and gloomy, but you're never able to make sense of why the murderer would help his pursuers as much as he does. Rated R.

The Avengers ★★★½

(Robert Downey Jr., Tom Hiddleston, Chris Evans) When Thor's (Chris Hemsworth) brother Loki (Hiddleston) tries to take over Earth, S.H.I.E.L.D. Director Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) assembles Earth's finest superheroes for the fight. Hulk has the best moments, and the last half-hour is as exciting as it gets. This is everything a summer movie should be. Rated PG-13.

Think Like A Man ★★★½

(Gabrielle Union, Kevin Hart, Michael Ealy) It's a battle of the sexes when a group of guy friends fall prey to women who use the dating lessons in Steve Harvey's book "Act Like A Lady, Think Like A Man" against them. This is one of the most honest movies about relationships I've ever seen, and it has a superb mix of comedy and sweetness. Rated PG-13. ■

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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

The Lord's Place Cabaret Evening at The Colony Hotel's Royal Room



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FLORIDA WEEKLY
IN THE KNOW. IN THE NOW.

1. Julie Reveley and Robert Reveley
2. Judy Grubman, Denise McCann and Pamela McIver
3. Stephen Brown and Jamie Stern
4. Bruce Bent and Diana Stanley
5. JoAnne Lyboldt and Howard Lyboldt
6. Joyce McLendon and Bob Norris
7. Danielle Moore and Kelly Moore
8. Bob Vila and Diana Barrett

FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

Lake Park Relay for Life in Lake Shore Park

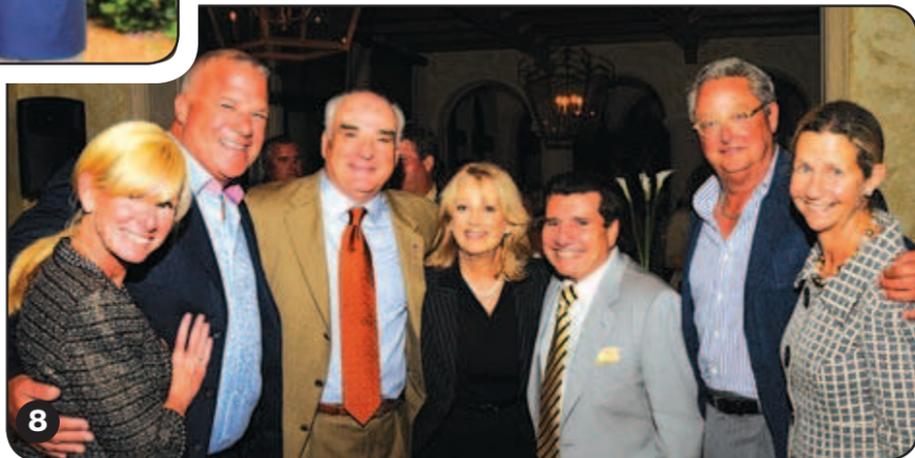


COURTESY PHOTOS

FLORIDA WEEKLY
IN THE KNOW. IN THE NOW.

FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

Place of Hope Eighth Annual Charity Dinner & Golf Invitational at the Old Palm Golf Club



1. Ashlyn Montgomery, Mark Montgomery and Robert Simpson
2. Russell Beverstein, Jason Doyle, Bob Parker and Kelly Doyle
3. Dave Fields, Chuck Wall and Kerry Keena

4. Tom Mullins, G.T. Nicklaus, Gary Nicklaus and Steve Anderson
5. Cheri Martin and Gordon Martin
6. Kieran Duffy, Dave Burke, Bryant Gumbel and Alex Gilmurray

7. Chuck Wall, JB Wall, Ryan Wall, Sarah Grace Wall, Keith Wall
8. Fonda Huizenga, Wayne Huizenga Jr., Tom Mullins, Donna Mullins, Mickey Nocera, Dennis Hammond and Sheila Hammond

COURTESY PHOTOS

FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

West Palm Beach Library Foundation gala at the Mandel Public Library



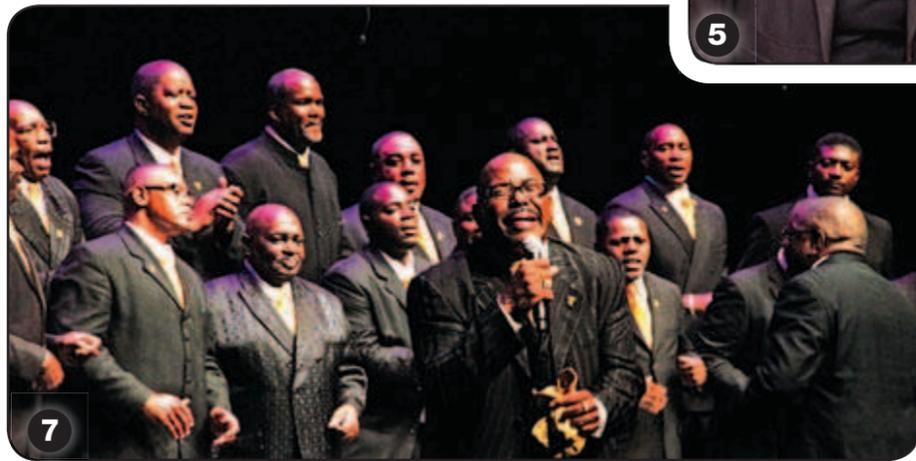
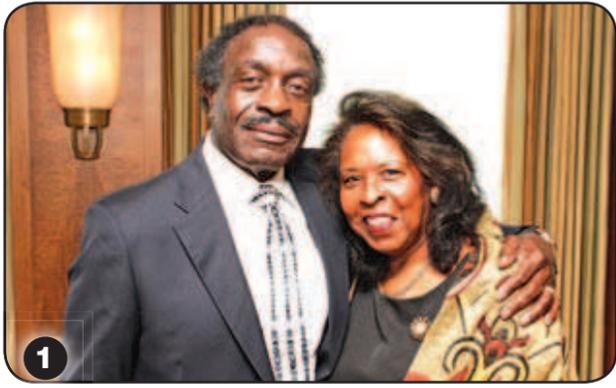
COURTESY PHOTOS

1. Nancy Parker and Ellis Parker
2. Dorothy Bradshaw and Ric Bradshaw
3. Jack Kay and Barbara Kay
4. Sandy Myers, Barbara Mandel, Geri Mouio and Mort Mandel
5. Jeff Sabean, Gina Sabean, Robert Nakushian and Janet Nakushian



FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

Kravis Center's 20th Annual Gospel Gala at the Kravis Center



COURTESY PHOTOS

1. John Howard and Chris Howard
2. Allyson Smith and Seabron Smith
3. John Jenkins, Jane Mitchell and Jeffery Bland

4. John Jenkins, Jessie Jenkins, Marie Sanches and Joe Sanches
5. Gwen McGee and Alyce Foster
6. John Jenkins, Lee Hooks and John Howard

7. Men of Valor of Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church
8. Dimensional Harmony led by Sterling Frederick

FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

Knights of Columbus, Santa Maria Council 4999, 25th Annual Religious Appreciation Dinner at the Doubletree Hotel



COURTESY PHOTOS

1. Sister Joan Dawson and Grand Knight Thomas Conroy
2. Knights of Columbus appreciation dinner
3. Past Grand Knight Jim Joseph

4. Penni Conroy, Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito and Thomas Conroy
5. Father Thomas Lafreniere and Grand Knight Thomas Conroy
6. Shirley Bouchard, Father William O'Shea and Anna Bono

FLORIDA WEEKLY CUISINE

Area markets cultivate a summer season

FLORIDA WEEKLY STAFF REPORT
pbnews@floridaweekly.com

Peak growing season is over for most area farmers.

But continuing a trend that started last year, local markets will pick up where the main seasonal greenmarkets left off, selling fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, flowers, plants and trees and other goodies.

Perhaps the biggest market, West Palm Beach's "Fresh on Wednesday" will be held 5-8 p.m. weekly at the city's Waterfront Commons from May 23-Sept. 19. Like the regular winter GreenMarket, the Fresh on Wednesday market is dog-friendly and free. Those interested can also take advantage of the City's free docking at its three public docks.

For more information about the GreenMarket, visit www.wpb.org/greenmarket.

In Palm Beach Gardens, shoppers can choose from two markets.

Summer Market Nights will be held 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Thursdays from May 17 to Aug. 16, Gardens Park, 4301 Burns Road, Palm Beach Gardens. There will be live music and visitors can shop for prepared food and drink items, plants, flowers, produce and handmade crafts. Call 630-1146 or 630-1107.

The popular Summer Green Market has returned to STORE Self Storage in Palm Beach Gardens. It will be held 8 a.m.-1 p.m. each Saturday through Sept. 15. The market will have more than 40 vendors. This season, organizers say the focus will be on more organic produce, fruit, fresh fish, flowers and plants. Customer favorites include specialty olive oils and spreads, artisan breads, cheeses, handmade pastas and sauces, locally produced honey and custom jewelry. STORE is at 11010 N. Military Trail, just north of PGA Boulevard, Palm Beach Gardens. Visit storeselfstorage.com.

And if those markets are not enough, Lake Park's "Super Market" will continue 5-9 p.m. Fridays through Oct. 26 at Kelsey Park, 725 Lake Shore Drive, Lake Park; (203) 222-3574.

Food and wine with "Friends": The Friends of Jupiter Beach will host their 3rd Annual FJB Food & Wine Festival.

The festival, set for 3-7 p.m. May 19 at Riverwalk Events Plaza, will include a guided wine tasting by Virginia Philip Wine Shop & Academy and tastings of food by Top Chef finalist Lindsay Autry, The Bistro, Guanabanas, Cordon Bleu Catering, Casa Mia Trattoria & Pizzeria, TAlay Thai, Cod & Capers, Schooners, Little Moir's Food Shack and Leftovers



COURTESY PHOTOS

The West Palm Beach GreenMarket will host its "Fresh on Wednesday" market starting May 23.

Café and Coolinary Café, among others.

VIP tickets are \$100; general admission tickets are \$35 adults, \$15 children 12 and under.

Riverwalk Events Plaza is beneath the east span of the Indiantown Road Bridge, at U.S. 1, Jupiter. Tickets available online at www.friendsofjupiterbeach.com.

Restaurant week: The week of June 3 is your opportunity to possibly try the restaurant you've always wanted to.

Restaurateurs throughout Palm Beach County will offer multicourse prix fixe lunch menus for \$20.12 and dinner menus for \$30.12.

Participating restaurants from northern Palm Beach County include Casa Mia, Jupiter Island Grill, Max and Eddie's Cucina, Russell's Blue Water Grill, Seasons 52, Sushi Jo and Verdea. In central county, restaurants range from Jade in Northwood to Café Boulud, 264 the Grill, Ta-boó and The Restaurant at the Four Seasons.

For information on restaurants, visit www.palmbeachesrestaurantweek.com.

Café Boulud sommelier wins accolades: A dozen of the nation's top sommeliers gathered recently in San Francisco for the third annual Top|Somm and TopNewSomm competitions.

After months of competitions at the local, regional and national levels, two emerged victorious, Mariya Kovacheva of Café Boulud in Palm Beach, who won the title of Top|Somm. Roland Micu was

named the country's TopNewSomm. Second and third place in Top|Somm went to Emily Papach of Farmhouse Inn in Forestville, Calif., and Christopher Bates of Hotel Fauchere in Milford, Pa, respectively.

The competitions, hosted by the Guild of Sommeliers and judged by a

panel of Master Sommeliers, required contestants to demonstrate their skills through a series of challenges in the categories of wine theory, beverage service and blind tasting. Top|Somm is open to wine service professionals of all ages, while TopNewSomm is open to those under 30 years old. ■



The popular Summer Market has returned to STORE Self Storage. It will be held 8 a.m.-1 p.m. each Saturday.




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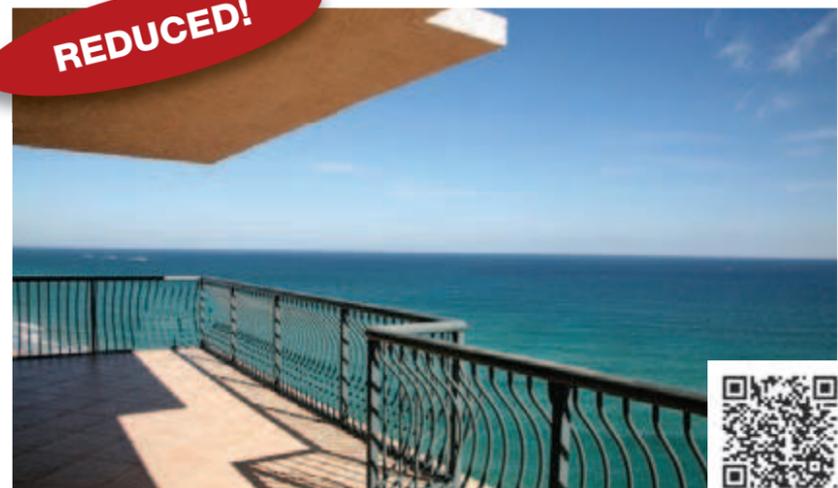
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B2



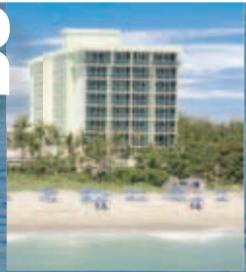
PGA NATIONAL RESORT

B4



HYATT REGENCY BONITA SPRINGS

B5



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B8

COVE INN, NAPLES



B10

PALM BEACH MARRIOTT SINGER ISLAND



B12

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B14

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>> PGA National Resort and Spa, 400 Avenue of the Champions, Palm Beach Gardens 561-627-2000; www.pgaresort.com

Golf – and luxury, too



PGA National Resort

COURTESY PHOTO

The course and others here are the fields for Ryder Cup, Honda Classic and PGA Championship tournaments that bring top golfers and their fans to the luxury resort.

Those who remember key tournament moments can relive them on the resort's web site (www.pgaresort.com) with a group of highlights from the major tournaments told in anecdotes and with slide-shows.

Visitors chat up some of the long-timers here in the pro shop or caddies who can tell you even more stories, unedited.

Those wanting to put their swings to the test on three of the courses will want to check out the special golfer's deal, Summer Escape & Play, giving duffers a rate of \$79 a night that includes all the golf you can play, club storage, and access to the mineral pools, (cart fees apply to first round daily.)

Lessons are a deal, too, with 50 percent off the David Leadbetter Golf Academy Clinics with the package. Comprehensive junior golf clinics are available for entry-level golfers ages 7 to 13 in two-week sessions scheduled in June, July and August.

But knowing the world doesn't live by golf alone, other activities are offered.

A newly redesigned Health and Racquet Club has a 33,000-square-foot fitness center, with 19 clay tennis courts, racquetball and handball courts suitable for any level of play.

Five croquet lawns are expertly maintained to provide the wicket and mallet set plenty of play ground.

Free weights and cardiovascular exercise rooms have professionally certified trainers watching over workouts.

ARE THERE ANY GOLFERS OUT THERE NOT WANTING TO PUT THEIR egos on the line to tackle the mighty Bear Trap — the toughest three courses in U.S. golf? It's central to the PGA Champion, one of five noteworthy courses available for guests to play at the PGA National Resort and Spa in

Palm Beach Gardens.

Certainly not the likes of great names like Palmer, Nicklaus, Watson, Woods and hundreds of others who have put their best golf karma out to master a patch of grass, some water and a little sand at the three-hole monster.

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PGA National Golf Course

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PGA National Guest Room

COURTESY PHOTO

Classes are available. Nine pools, including lap pools and whirlpools, provide a chance to work out or wind down after the exercise.

The 40,000-square-foot European spa, with the noted Waters of the World outdoor mineral pool, are for pampering. There are 32 treatment rooms where guests have more than 100 options for massages, facials, scrubs and body treatments. The café here features spa cuisine, and an in-house salon can add the finishing touches.

Stop by the fun and open I-Bar in the lobby, with a craft-brew list worthy of a brewpub and cocktails expertly stirred and shaken. A craft beer fest and burger bash will be hosted here June 16.

The chic, modern Ironwood Grille is the signature resort restaurant, with a menu at the hands of chef Gordon Maybury that has become Florida- and organic-focused. Crab and watermelon salads, crab cakes with tomatilla salsa and jam, or pan-seared scallops with sweet potato, wheat berries and fig jus are just some of the menu offerings that change frequently with seasonal selections and specials.

The former steakhouse offers quality steaks, osso bucco, coriander dusted lamb loin and braised short ribs, too — along with the Irish chef's comfort dish, shepherd's pie.

For those watching their waistlines, there's spa cuisine with lighter health-forward fare served at the spa café.

Shoppers will like the options at the nearby upscale Gardens Mall, where Nordstrom's, Saks Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdale's and Macy's anchor the numerous stores.

A revived Downtown at the Gardens courtyard mall offers several restaurants and boutique shops as well as a movie theater.

The Commons, a string of outdoor shops and restaurants along PGA Boulevard, provide another choice for browsing and noshing.

For rainy days, nothing beats a bookstore — Barnes and Noble is in the shops at Legacy Place, where the Capital Grill steakhouse hosts a lively happy hour.

Nearby beaches are at Juno Beach and in Jupiter — a public beach where Fido is welcome (on a leash).

Staycations benefit resident Floridians — show that you're from the Sunshine State and take 30 percent off room rates through Sept. 30 at the four-diamond resort, and get a \$25 resort credit if you book two or more nights. ■

— Jan Norris

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Caribbean feel but no passport required

A QUICK, CARIBBEAN GETAWAY IS JUST DOWN THE ROAD between Fort Myers and Naples. If a vacation is an escape from reality, then the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa is just that. Step into the mahogany-laden lobby and feel as though you've arrived on a tropical movie set where Bogey and Bacall could be sipping a cool one at the bar.

But this 26-acre resort nestled on the edge of the pristine Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve is about more than just sipping and relaxing. Activities abound for staycationing families and couples alike.

If the Raptor Bay Golf Club's 18 holes and the indulgent Stillwater Spa are the bookends of luxury and fun, then a plunge down the 140-foot waterslide at the spectacularly designed pool is the unexpected staycation memory. Every detail is tended to at the Tanglewood and Tarpon Bay restaurants, where local and fresh fare are evident priorities. It's no wonder this resort recently was named among Travel + Leisure's 500 World's Best Hotels.

But first: The important part. The rooms. Each of the 450 guest rooms comes with an airy feel reminding you of why you are vacationing here at home with sumptuous linens and down duvets, Wi-Fi and balconies plus an iHome stereo. The views of Estero Bay and the Hyatt's gardens are inspiring, whether you go outdoors or just enjoy the great outdoors from the comfort of the room's armchair. Those who want additional amenities have suite options as well.

Rates vary, and off-season specials are available, such as Hyatt Free Time (a free night and free breakfast for two now through December) or Sunshine on Sale (stay four nights and get the fifth night free). Of note is the Hyatt's commitment to hypoallergenic rooms, with a six-step process to reduce airborne particles and minimize the presence of potential irritants. Also notable for the conscientious traveler is that this Hyatt has received the state-issued Florida Green Lodging Three

Palm eco-friendly certification.

When hunger drives you from your room, you'll find eco-efforts in the restaurants, too, and there are more options than just the Tanglewood and Tarpon Bay, though neither of them should be overlooked. (Don't miss Tarpon Bay's ceviche bar selections or Tanglewood's fish tacos.) The Kofe Nut coffee bar, Mangroves Bar and also poolside dining at Corkscrew all maintain that Bahamian feel while fueling you for a vacation day.

The beauty of the Hyatt Coconut Point's location is what lies off-site as much as what it offers in its preserve-like setting. Gold medal-winning Lovers Key State Park is a mere drive along the bay away, taking you to sandy shores and tidal pools teeming with sea life. Charter captains are set to take you fishing on the flats for snook, trout and redfish. The Everglades lie to the south for a freshwater adventure in the sawgrass.

Prefer to stay urban? Germain Arena is nearby, with entertainment options from sports to concerts. Miramar Outlets and greyhound racing also are close to the resort, which is ideally located about halfway between Fort Myers and Naples.

On site, the Raptor Bay Golf Club was ranked among the Top 10 favorites by Gary Van Sickle, senior writer for Sports Illustrated. Golf legend Raymond Floyd helped design 18 holes of golf that received Audubon International's Gold Signature Sanctuary Certification. The course has an ecological design that preserved the most valuable habitats on site and restored nearly 25 acres of wetlands. With no homes ringing the property, the natural surroundings encourage the appearance of bald eagles, herons and other wildlife.

While the adults are on the links, the kids can enjoy Camp Hyatt and also the 5,000-square-foot lagoon-style pool with that aforementioned waterslide. There's tennis and also the option of kayaking through the mangroves that lace the property. Oh and of course, the Stillwater Spa, which promises a "total immersion



Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa

COURTESY PHOTO

experience" with innovative treatments and therapy.

In fact, a stay at this resort feels like a total immersion into a vacation, even though it's in Southwest Florida's back yard.

— Betsy Clayton



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THE FLASHING BEAM OF THE ICONIC JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE has been a beacon to sailors navigating Florida's hull-crushing reefs and limestone outcroppings since 1860.

When it was built, there was no city of Jupiter — isolated barrier islands, deserted shorelines and stagnant swamps surrounded its island location.

It stands watch today over Jupiter's thriving coastal community, with luxury homes on the north and well-kept beaches to its south.

In its beam sits the Jupiter Beach Resort — a beach lover's paradise at the ocean end of Indiantown Road. Long a haven for protected sea turtles, the property had one of the first turtle walks and dune protection programs in the area.

Tucked among lush, privacy landscaping, the resort transports guests from Jupiter's city life only blocks away to a tropical retreat.

Decked out with a Caribbean island, casual feel with bright colors and woods, rooms and luxury suites provide a respite from cookie-cutter hotels and dark, minimalist décor.

Two restaurants on the property, plus a lounge with live entertainment on some nights, give diners options, though there are several restaurants only a short drive away.

A Floribbean menu is offered at Sinclair's, and includes fresh seafood, steaks and pastas. Outdoor dining is optimal at night with the moonrise over the ocean visible from the patio tables.

The Sandbar, open for lunch and early dinner with drinks and light fare for casual diners, is next to the newly renovated pool deck. Live entertainment is featured on weekends here and guests join locals for the afternoon happy hour.

Spa lovers can be massaged and rejuvenated at the 7,500 square-foot spa and beautified at the full-service salon.

An oceanfront pool, tennis courts, a recreational court

and fitness rooms accommodate the more active guests.

The kids aren't forgotten — activities for the G-rated set include bicycle rentals, basketball, a game room, and family-friendly "dive-in" movies shown poolside.

Guests will find signs around the resort indicating it's "lights out" on the beach — it's turtle nesting season. Lights from hotels and streets are shaded and or turned out from May through December along the coast to avoid confusing baby turtles that follow moonlight to find their way from the nests to the ocean.

Flashlights are provided for night beach walks, and guided talks can be arranged. A special "Lights Out!" hotel package is available — included are luxury rooms, breakfast for two and two tickets for an escorted Turtle Walk at the nearby Loggerhead Marinelife Center (prices start at \$219 — good from June 30-July 28).

Lucky guests at the resort may get a glimpse of the natural wonder as loggerheads come ashore to lay their eggs. Hatchlings appear during full moons, with the tiny turtles racing by the dozens into the water, leaving their

eggshells behind in the nests.

There's plenty to do in the area beyond turtle watching, however.

Start with a tour of the brick red lighthouse (closed on Mondays), and take a stroll through the museum and gift shop for a history lesson and to find unique Florida gifts.

Nearby are some of the best beach parks and swimming around — the Dubois Park is just a bike ride away, with picnic pavilions and grills, as well as a lifeguard-protected natural swimming lagoon and playgrounds for young ones.

A wide beach and fishing jetties for are part of the adjacent Jupiter Beach Park a short walk away. Both are free.

South of the resort along A1A is the long stretch of Jupiter's public beaches — with wide, dog-friendly sands (leashes, please, for Fido).

At the beachfront Carlin park, pavilions with grills and playgrounds and ball fields occupy both sides of A1A.

Kayaks, paddleboards and other water toys are available for rent at Jupiter Outdoor Center. Check out their full-moon paddle tour that includes a marshmallow roast. Guided eco and manatee kayak tours let you see the wild-life and flora of the Loxahatchee River, designated a Wild and Scenic River, at a slow pace from water level.

Three rare sea turtles and a number of plants and animals are in their natural habitat at Blowing Rocks Preserve on Jupiter Island. The Anastasia limestone shoreline is the largest on the Atlantic Coast and is part of the Nature Conservancy.

For rainy days, the Cobb Jupiter 18 Cinema is around the corner, along with top-rated restaurants such as Little Moir's Food Shack with karaoke at Maxi's Lineup next door, or Sala Thai.

Art lovers will want to check out the Lighthouse Art-Center, a museum and gallery in nearby Tequesta, where a lunch is next door at the Gallery Grille.

Craft brew enthusiasts will want to check out Tequesta Brewing Co., where the brewmeister turns out the signatures, Gnarly Barley American Pale Ale and Chancellor Ale.

— Jan Norris



Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa

COURTESY PHOTO

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Lessons in Luxury



Family at the bar at the Waldorf Astoria Naples

COURTESY PHOTO

THE OFFICIAL NAME CHANGE OF ONE OF NAPLES' GRANDEST hotels — The Naples Grande to the Waldorf Astoria Naples — is more than skin-deep. Although operated by the luxury component of the Hilton brand for some years now, the new name, as of Jan. 1, brings even a heightened level of luxury to the former Grande. And its sister property, the Edgewater Beach Hotel, also benefits with the addition of enhanced amenities and services that now include beachfront day beds and cabanas at both destinations. Sigh.

At the now-Waldorf Astoria Naples, some of the changes have occurred where they matter most — the introduction of the brand's signature mattresses and monogrammed linens, and for you hotel toiletries junkies, a switch to Ferragamo products in all suites. Additional changes will be rolled out throughout 2012.

Either property offers a luxury beachfront vacation with a benefit for summertime staycationers: The Waldorf's "Spring into Summer" package, available through September, includes a fourth night free and 25 percent discounts at the onsite Golden Door Spa and the off-property Naples Grande Golf Club, featuring a championship course designed by Rees Jones and renovated last October. A similar package at Edgewater Beach offers the same spa and golf savings and a fifth night free. Think of it as luxury for less.

Visitors to the 474-room Waldorf will notice a tie-in to the famed New York hotel: a replica of the original's storied clock above the concierge desk. A self-contained oasis that's a scenic boardwalk away from the Gulf of Mexico beach, the grand hotel offers guest rooms, bungalows and suites within 23 waterfront acres surrounded by 200 acres of nature preserve and mangrove estuary. There is plenty to do onsite, including three pools — one with a 100-foot waterslide — the first Golden Door on the East Coast and dining options that run the gamut from fine dining at the Manhattan-inspired steakhouse, the Strip House, and Florida fusion fare at Aura (both holdovers from its Grande days) to beach and poolside bars and grills.

Take advantage of the package savings and spend a morning or full day at the spa, a collection of Zen-inspired buildings offering 12 treatment rooms, a "floating" hair and nail salon, sun deck with chaises,



Waldorf Astoria Naples

COURTESY PHOTO

a meditative labyrinth, and steam and sauna rooms. Book the couples villa for side-by-side treatments.

For more active pursuits, hit one of the Waldorf's 15 tennis courts or pay the \$25-an-hour fee for the advanced tennis workout, offered three times a week. The resort's tennis amenities and programs earned it a ranking among the top 25 tennis resorts in the world.

The Waldorf features a full calendar of weekly activities geared to children and adults, although many par-

ents have happily partaken in the complimentary cookies and milk and s'mores offerings. Crafters can create take-home totes and magnets to commemorate their trip (program fees range from \$5 to \$20). Activities for adults focus on more grown-up pursuits, many themed around half-priced libations: Mojito Monday, Craft Beer Tuesday and Wine Down Wednesday.

All of the activities and amenities of the Waldorf

>> Edgewater Beach Hotel, 1901 Gulf Shore Blvd. N., Naples, www.edgewaternaples.com, (239) 403-2000

and the all-suite boutique Edgewater Beach Hotel, right on the sugary sand Gulf of Mexico beaches, are available to guests of both properties. The expanded beach offerings also include water sports rentals, children's activities and causal beach bars.

Edgewater Beach is ideal for families and longer staycationers, who want separate bedrooms and more elbow room. The resort offers on-the-beach and tower suites with one or two bedrooms, a kitchen with a full-sized refrigerator, a 24-hour fitness center and views of the Gulf or twinkling Naples lights.

Both resorts are close to Naples' best shopping and dining: Fifth Avenue South, the Village on Venetian Bay, Waterside Shops and the restaurants and entertainment venues at Mercato.

Look for additional savings and packages on each property's web site.

— Nanci Theoret



Edgewater Beach Hotel

COURTESY PHOTO

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Beyond the Beach: The Quirky, Quaint Cove Inn

THE COVE INN DOESN'T HAVE TO RECREATE THE 1960s — the era when many vacationers first discovered Florida.

The Naples condo-hotel lives and breathes the decade it opened and epitomizes Olde Naples, right down to the seven red letters — COVE INN — that rise from the rooftop, announcing your arrival.

Other than utilitarian repairs and cosmetic improvements like a fresh coat of paint, the property, perched along Naples Bay at Crayton Cove, remains tied to the past. At just three stories and offering accommodations that range from standard hotel rooms to a two-bedroom penthouse, the Cove Inn offers an alternate to those looming beachfront resorts.

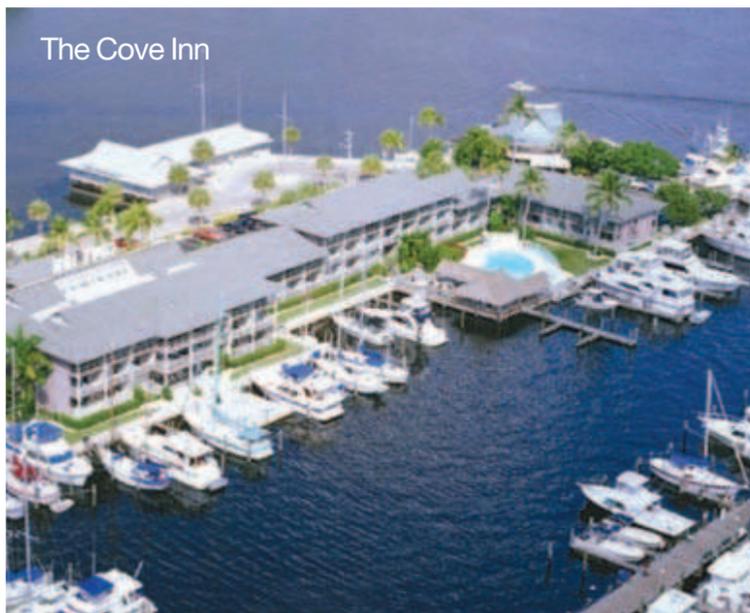
"We're not a fancy hotel," says Miriam Asay, general manager. "What makes the Cove Inn so unique is its view of Naples Bay, the boat slips and marina, which you can see from most of our rooms."

As a condo-hotel, all rooms and apartments are individual homes and decorated by owners who have the option of placing their units in the rental program. Some have undergone major renovations; others harken back to the original kitschy cottagey look, and most have a regular following of repeat guests who reserve their next vacation a year in advance.

Guests can opt for a standard 375-square-foot room (a refrigerator, microwave and the all-important coffee-maker are included in all accommodations) or spread out in larger efficiencies and one- and two-bedroom apartments that provide kitchens complete with all the necessities for cooking and dining in. Rooms overlook the street or bay and offer private breezy balconies.

"They say location is everything, and what makes the Cove Inn so special are the views from the balconies," says Ms. Asay. "Guests like to sit out there with a glass of wine or fresh-squeezed orange juice."

The beach is within reach: just eight blocks away. But it becomes more of an afterthought, often getting pushed back on to-do lists as guest explore the area in



and around the inn, which sits on a natural peninsula on the bay. A second-floor library offers books for those who want to enjoy a good read from their balcony, on the first-floor back deck off the lobby or in the rose garden fountain patio. An onsite pool overlooks the bay and the sailboats and motorboats berthed at Naples City Dock, home to the city's largest charter fishing fleet.

The poolside Chickee Bar is operated independently and open exclusively to its 200 members and inn guests. "Everybody loves it," says Ms. Asay. "It's a great place to enjoy a beverage and overlook the bay and boats."

Sunset and sightseeing cruises can be booked at City Dock. Fishing excursions with a number of local captains are also offered here, and visitors can even arrive

by boat; the dock offers transient slips that accommodate vessels up to 120 feet.

Dining options — including the famous open-air waterfront Dock at Crayton Cove — are adjacent to the inn or within a quick walk. Seafood and tropical cocktails are among the best noshes and libations at The Dock, which also offers a daily raw bar and a bloody Mary bar during its popular Sunday brunch.

The onsite Boathouse, also on the water, is known for its crab dishes — everything from sweet corn and crab chowder to steamed crab combos and seafood macaroni and cheese with a trio of cheeses, lobster and, you guessed it: fresh lump crab. Dine on the open-air deck or in the air-conditioned dining room, where a 1,000-square-foot glass wall and split-level design ensures bay views from almost every table.

Nearby Bleu Provence features authentic French fare (think escargot steeped in Burgundy and butter and crispy duck leg confit) and a boutique wine list heavily favoring the homeland.

For a true taste of the Cove Inn, don't miss breakfast, especially the pancakes, at the Coffee Shoppe, a no-frills spit of a place beloved by locals. Be prepared to wait; it's that popular.

"Our coffee shop is famous," says Ms. Asay. "It's a little hole in the wall and people will wait 45 minutes because the food is amazing. Some of the girls have been here since it opened."

Summertime room rates at the Cove Inn start at \$99 a night, and discounts are available through AAA and AARP and occasionally online.

— Nanci Theoret


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Be a tourist: Florida beckons

KATHERINE HEPBURN USED TO RIDE HER BICYCLE AROUND BOCA GRANDE. PRESIDENT BUSH 41 and Barbara, and Bush 43 and Laura — who could go anywhere they want — all still go there regularly. That should be enough to motivate you to boat or drive out to **Gasparilla Island near Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda.**

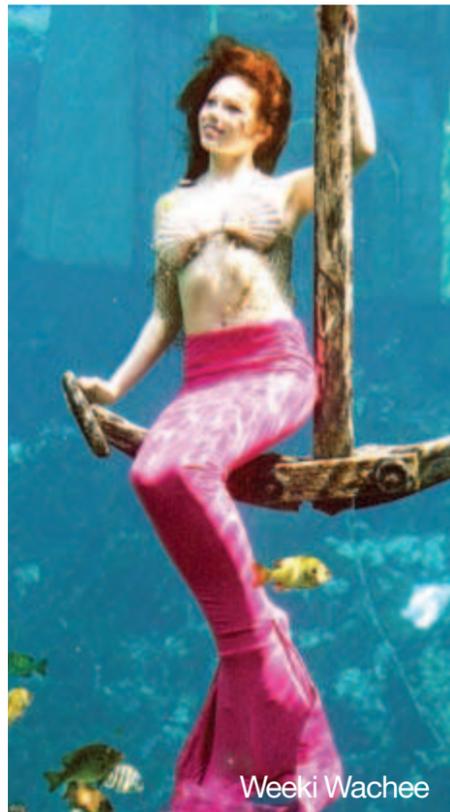
Home to the exclusive enclave of Boca Grande, Gasparilla is one of Florida's coolest Staycation day-trips. Arrange for a full-day golf cart rental and let your day unfold. Take pics beneath the giant banyans. Have a mouth-watering seafood lunch. Tool around and pick out your dream cottage. Hang out with locals in one of the bars.

Boca is lovely, friendly and way beyond photogenic. If you like to fish, you may have found a new favorite place on Earth: Tarpon fishermen take over the place during silver king season. Shoppers also will be happy downtown. But it's the golf cart thing which makes this place a must-do. Like North Captiva Island, its neighbor to the south, Boca Grande's adoption of battery-powered, open-air vehicles puts it high on our list of places which induce that happy vacation feeling.

Southwest Florida has a surprising, little-known attraction called **Koreshan State Historic Park in Estero, between Fort Myers and Naples.** Now uninhabited but open to the public, the Koreshan complex was once the domain of a group of people who were not your average next-door neighbors.

The Koreshans had a rather unique view of the Earth: They believed we all live on the concave inside of the sphere rather the outside. It goes without saying that any group of folks who believed this must have had a pretty interesting life in some other ways, so why don't you check out the beautiful riverfront property which they called home and learn a little more? Koreshan is a perfect place for an inexpensive staycation near Naples and Bonita Springs.

Perhaps it's the American affinity with horror movies that make alligator farms such a big draw — those massive jaws and reptilian hides are pretty creepy, after all. It should come as no surprise that it wasn't until **Bonita Springs' Everglades Wonder Gardens** gave way from gardens to roadside zoo that its popularity soared.



Weeki Wachee

COURTESY PHOTO



19th street Boca Grande

Today, this relic from the past — tucked into the banks of the beautiful Imperial River on "Old 41" in downtown Bonita — is still popular.

Read up on its colorful past and you'll be even more inclined to check out this slice of old Florida. Two bootlegging hotheaded brothers opened the place in 1936. They were basically the swamp version of Steve Irwin, Crocodile Hunter and primitive, machismo management of poisonous snakes, gators, bears and panthers garnered them acclaim and a lot of ticket revenue. The Wonder Gardens' spooky swing bridge over a "swamp" of ravenous gators at feeding time remains the stuff of nightmares for some, the ultimate thrill for others.

If you haven't yet set foot in Miami's decadent **Venetian Pool**, this should be the year. Opened in 1924 by visionary George Merrick as part of a grand design for the City of Coral Gables, the Venetian Pool evokes the grandest aspects of the Mediterranean. This National Register of Historic Places pool is the only one in the states to have that on its resume.

Polarities like Esther Williams and Johnny Weissmuller used to hang out there, and now it's your turn. Coral Gables is definitely worth a visit, and Venetian Pool is unlike any other pool you'll see. Dive right in to this staycation idea.

If you're old enough to remember the first lunar landing — or even if the movie Apollo 13 was your introduction to the United States' pursuit of outer space — it's darn near unpatriotic to never go see the **Kennedy Space Center in Titusville.** Sure, the shuttles have been shuttled off to museums around the country. But nothing takes away from the cool swagger of early astronauts, or the astounding primitive nature of early space suits and vessels.

Don't go here in a hurry — there's a lot to see and do. It's a bona fide education to walk through the many exhibits, and frankly, it's just exciting to see spacecraft up close and personal. Besides, where else can you buy freeze-dried astronaut food for someone special?

While we're on the subject of decadence, when was the last time you set foot on **Worth Avenue in Palm Beach?** Bernie Madoff allegedly decimated more than a few of the city's former big spenders by having recruited his investors through the Palm Beach Country Club. But with any enclave for the wealthy, there's always someone else waiting to pick up the slack.

You don't have to spend a dime, however, to walk the walk of the loaded. Pop

in to Tiffany and see how the other half shops.

Worth Avenue's typical patrons are sidewalk candy worth seeing, even if many of them are products of surgery. They wear their Prada well. And their Gucci, Versace, Choo and Louboutin.

It's fun just to watch the cars, for pete's sake. And if you want to rub elbows, stop in for a drink at the Brazilian Court's Café Boulud or the Leopard Lounge at the Chesterfield. No platinum card required.

Other great staycation road-trip destinations the state include **Weeki Wachee**

Springs on the central Gulf coast, where live mermaids puzzle and enthrall; Central Florida's **Cross Creek**, where the Yearling Restaurant serves "cooter, frog legs, alligator, and quail," and Miami's bizarre **Coral Castle Museum**, where one man toiled over limestone for nearly 30 years, carving 1,100 tons of rock using a secret process that has yet to be unlocked.

— Libby McMillan

COURTESY PHOTO

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Oceanfront getaway

WHY STAY ON SINGER ISLAND WHEN YOU LIVE NEARBY? THE MARRIOTT SINGER ISLAND, where you can be pampered to perfection, might be one answer, but there are several other attractions.

The beachfront and the Ocean Mall have been rebuilt with flair, and bring in bathers, shoppers and seaside diners — but not at the overwhelming numbers of other beaches. Catch it while it's largely undiscovered.

The newest restaurants along the beachfront include a Mexican cantina, Two Drunken Goats and Pop's Costa Rican Creamery, where tropical ice creams take the edge off the heat. At the New York Bagel Café, pick up fresh bagels and hot coffee to take on your beach stroll or pack a sandwich lunch to picnic.

Find creative sushi at the nearby Happy Fish sushi and Thai, along with rehabbed old favorites like Johnny Longboat's, which specializes in seafood.

Other locals' hangouts include Buddy's, which has moved a few doors down from its former diner location in the plaza opposite the Ocean Mall. It's open till the wee hours for breakfast or for a drink. There's Graeter Gator's grocery, where you can pick up choice thick steaks for the grill, along with the charcoal and laundry detergent to wash your apron afterwards.

Where to stay?

The Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island boasts contemporary rooms and sleek, modern décor in a hotel with a boutique feel.

A luxury resort all around, the rooms are more akin to small condo apartments with full kitchens and laundries, making a week-long stay affordable for families who do their own cooking.



Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island

COURTESY PHOTOS

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Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island



Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island

The beachfront resort also has the SiSpa, with a steam room, a number of scrubs, wraps and treatments, along with massages and fitness classes. Special spa packages are among several offered for summer guests.

A fitness center and two pools on site give athletes the chance to work out.

The resort also features 3800 Ocean restaurant. It's a farm-and sea-to-table concept, set in a contemporary space with a chef's community table and ocean views along with patio dining under the moonlight.

A new chef's collaborative menu here gives the guests a chance to sample foods influenced by the regions and countries represented by the resort's chefs - Caribbean cuisine dominates the new Paradise Island Tiki Bar and Grill, with the Coconut Breeze, the signature drink, served in a hollowed out coconut.

Snorkeling on the reef is only a short swim off the property's beach. Learn to dive here with a special summer package - a SCUBA for Two getaway is a special summer deal (there's one for kids, too) starting at \$349 a night, and includes resort diving certification, open water dives over the reef and more.

Other specials include the Girls' Getaway, with a two-night stay in a two-bedroom condo with full kitchen and laundry, and unlimited spa use for four plus a \$100 dining credit and more. Rates are from \$564 per person.

Beyond the resort, there's Ocean Reef Park, a public beachfront park on the island, with picnic pavilions, a playground and lifeguards for swimmers' safety.

Nature lovers won't want to miss John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, where nature trails and a small estuary thick with mangroves afford a chance to see beach critters and sea life. The beach is quieter than many others and rocks jutting out afford some privacy for sunbathers here.

A number of programs for getting in touch with nature are offered - ranger walk-and-talks, butterfly walks, birding programs, guided snorkeling tours and kayak clinics.

There's a summer camp for youngsters, and bluegrass picking held monthly, too (check the park's web site at www.macarthurbeach.org for schedules) - bring your banjo.

At the south end of the island, take a stroll to the park that overlooks the Palm Beach Inlet and watch the big boats, including the floating casinos and freighters, come and go to the nearby Port of Palm Beach.

It's only a short drive over the island's Blue Heron Bridge to board a ship for a day trip to the Bahamas, or just offshore to play the slots.

— Jan Norris

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COURTESY PHOTOS

CENTRAL FLORIDIANS DON'T WAIT FOR A VISIT FROM OUT-OF-TOWN family and friends to enjoy overnight stays on the beaches of Brevard County, and if you live elsewhere in the Sunshine State, you don't have to, either. Along the Space Coast, you can visit places that seem far, far away

without spending much time or expense to travel.

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standard and deluxe floor plans to accommodate as many as 10 guests.

With its own four-story waterslide, oversized swimming pool, lazy river and interactive swim area for the little ones, the beachfront resort offers all the fun of Orlando's water parks without the big crowds and high admission prices.

At the nine-hole miniature golf course, there's no tee time required and no charge for putters and balls. The outdoor playground is always a hit with the kids, but when they've had enough sun for the day, there's plenty to do




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No baggage necessary

COUPLES SEEKING TO GET THE HOME FIRES BURNING AGAIN, OR THOSE WHO JUST WANT TO CHILL out and, ahem, hang loose, may find Fawltly Towers the ideal spot for a staycation.

The resort motel, a fixture in Cocoa Beach since 1988, recently reopened as a “naturist resort.” That doesn’t mean it caters to bird watchers or nature lovers; the term “naturist” refers to those who prefer to vacation au naturel.

With a lush tropical garden surrounding the pool, the 32-room resort offers the perfect opportunity for budding nudists to sun their buns for a weekend. In keeping with the more relaxed, global aesthetic, the authentic Tiki Bar serves a wealth of European beers and ciders.

Daytime guests can pay a \$25 fee to visit the resort and take advantage of the chance to even up those unsightly tan lines, but gawkers and gigglers, be warned: Despite the festive, pool-party atmosphere and relaxed dress code, the resort promotes only “family oriented nudism, which shall be wholesome and non-sexual.”

Single males must qualify to visit, according to the resorts’ singles policy, but all members of the American Association for Nude Recreation or other nudist clubs or organizations are welcome. So bring the kids if you dare and even bring the pets—dogs and cats are welcome in several of the ground floor rooms. Just be sure to keep Fido on a tight leash before he says hello to the neighbors. ■

— Michelle Salyer

inside as well. Young guests can race down the four slides at the resort’s indoor play area, catch their favorite kid flick at the onsite movie theater, play air hockey or pool in the arcade or take part a variety of indoor activities led by resort staff. Basketball, tennis and shuffleboard courts provide even more recreation options for guests of all ages.

Parents seeking a quiet meal, an afternoon to relax at the beach, a few hours in the exercise room, or a soothing massage can take advantage of onsite childcare services provided by a licensed provider.

For many, the best part of vacation is not having to cook. With a choice of seating on the pool deck or indoors, the Ron Jon Surf Grill offers an extensive menu of burgers, sandwiches, pastas, certified Angus steaks and fresh seafood as well as children’s fare. ■

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Tarpon Point Marina and Resort at Marina Village

COURTESY PHOTO

A remote river paradise

Locals may know Tarpon Point is in Cape Coral, but vacationers could associate it with Naples, the luxurious playground 23 miles south. What Tarpon Point is, actually, is a resort that offers boaters a gateway to Sanibel and Captiva while redefining waterfront vaca-

tioning, thanks to its secluded location near the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River in a quiet part of the Cape.

On one site exists the boaters' paradise of Tarpon Point Marina, the Resort at Marina Village (a SunStream-managed hotel) and also condominium homes

at Tarpon Landings. All represent relaxing staycation options.

The marina itself is located just off the Intracoastal Waterway at Marker 92 with a deep-water basin and full-service fuel dock and 175 slips that can accommodate vessels up to 100 feet. Harbormaster Dennis Raney makes sure boaters have red-letter days, whether they are day-trippers or staying at the resort. The friendly atmosphere of the ship's store harkens back to Old Florida customer service while offering restrooms and showers you'd expect to see in a luxury hotel and a selection of marine supplies, sandwiches and drinks that set you up for your outing.

Not a boater? You can become one, thanks to the variety of Tarpon Point's boat rentals. Deck boats and pontoons are perfect for entertaining while center-consoles accommodate anglers. The rental outfit can also provide a captain if you're not comfortable skipping alone. Or charter the Silver King, a 45-foot power catamaran for a private party complete with a dolphin tour. Kayak rentals also are available.

If you prefer to look at the water rather than be on it, other recreation awaits you. Walkways connect the luxury lifestyle at Tarpon Landings to a freeform pool overlooking the marina. The resort-style pool is Junior Olympic-style and set for lap swimming. It's surrounded by a 25,000 square-foot sundeck area, with a separate 12-foot in-ground spa. Tarpon visitors also will find four lighted tennis courts and a fitness center. Don't forget a visit to Esterra Spa & Salon, a signature at SunStream-managed properties.

The Resort at Marina Village is a full-service condominium resort with towering sweeping river views to San Carlos Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. The furnishings and concierge service scream vacation. Guests check in at an octagon-shaped reception area that showcases a stunning water feature that looks like a sparkling beacon you'd look for if arriving by land, sea or air.

There are hotel-style luxuries such as room service and housekeeping. Studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom residences range up to 2,225 square feet, with

An Island paradise atmosphere for every special occasion.

Aside from offering an eclectic, innovative and contemporary menu, the Keylime Bistro boasts a less formal ambience with an uncompromising level of cuisine.

Voted Best Island Dining by the News Press Readers Poll, First Place at the Junior League's 2002 Taste of the Town, First Place People's Choice at the Chef's Auction, the Bistro continues to be a popular destination.

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grand rooms, master suites, guest suites, dining terraces and access to amenity decks. Perhaps the best reason to staycation in the Tarpon Point area, though, is the dining. Sometimes overlooked by locals, the restaurants and bars at this river paradise make it seem as if you are miles from home.

Marker 92 Waterfront Bar & Bistro has an intimate feel, despite its size. Enjoy the cool darkness of the bar, have dinner in the air-conditioning next to picture windows or dine al fresco on the patio. Whether you want wood-fired pizza or steak, or the place's signature sushi dish, you'll find the right wine to go with it, thanks to a varied selection.

Want something a bit more casual? Try the Nauti Mermaid Dockside Bar & Grill. There's no dress code, and certainly no hurry. The causal menu complements the Caloosahatchee atmosphere. Enjoy live music Thursday through Saturday evenings and also Sunday afternoon.

— Betsy Clayton



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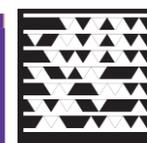
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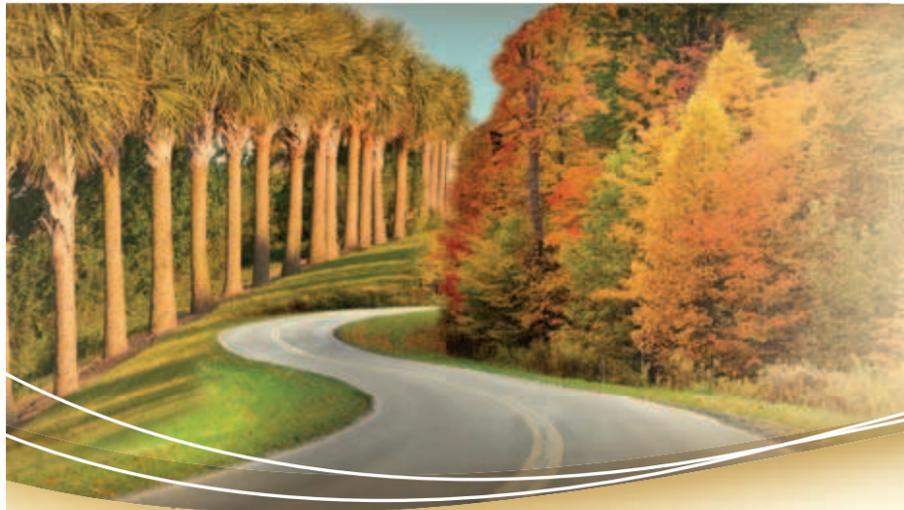
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