

# NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY™

YOUR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

WEEK OF DECEMBER 25-31, 2008

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BY NANCY STETSON

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“Christmas decorations are about magic,” says Mark Vanagas.

Those who step into the Neapolitan home he shares with wife Dot Auchmoody can't help but agree.

Every December the couple transforms their home into a Christmas fairyland.

Visitors, children and adults alike, tend to respond the same: Jaws drop. Eyes widen in wonder, trying to take it all in.

The main Christmas tree in the living room — there are two more trees in the family room — is chock full of fanciful ornaments, feathers, beads, garland, tree branches, grape vines, birds' nests and white lights. You can look at it for more than an hour and still discover something new, much like a three-dimensional version of those children's books that cram diverse items into one picture and then

SEE FAIRY, A8 ►

## INSIDE



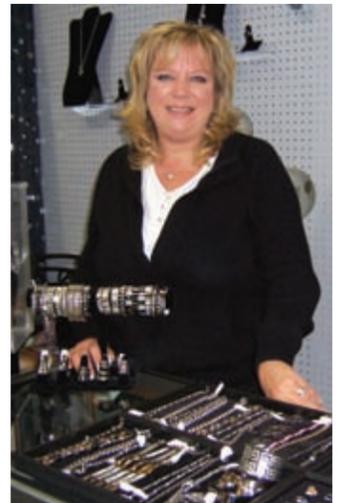
### Happy New Year!

Our guide has tips for stepping out and for staying at home. **C12-19** ►



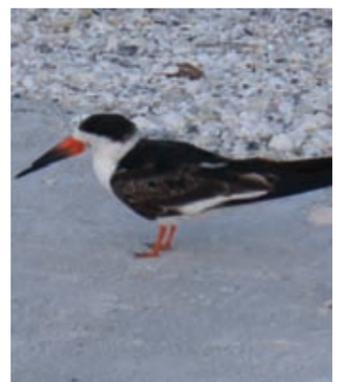
### Young Professionals at Saks Fifth Avenue

And other festivities all around town. **C20 & 21** ►



### Big fans of Big Cypress

New entrepreneurs are sold on this new market place. **B1** ►



### Avian eating manners

Birds' beaks serve an important purpose at mealtime. **A12** ►

## Plant researchers turned on by LED technology

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

While holiday lights have taken a shine to light-emitting diodes as replacements for incandescent bulbs, University of Florida researchers are celebrating LED technology for another application: better-growing crops.

In addition to staying cool to the touch, lasting longer and using up to 90 percent

less energy, LEDs can also be designed to emit specific frequencies of light that promote plant growth.

“Everyone knows about greenhouses or home growers that use these special fluorescent white lights or filtered light to help plants grow,” says Kevin Folta, a horticulture researcher at the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. “Light

is the language plants listen to when deciding how to grow... and we're learning how to speak these various ways to make plants do what we want them to do, when we want them to do it.”

In a paper published in a special December issue of the journal HortScience, Mr.

SEE LED, A8 ►

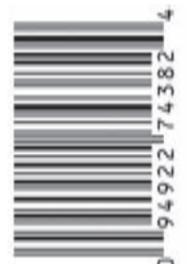
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NAPLES' HISTORY	A10	REAL ESTATE	B11	CUISINE	C23

HEALTHY LIVING	A18	ARTS	C1
BUSINESS	B1	EVENTS	C6 & 7
NETWORKING	B8 & 9	SOCIETY	C19, 20 & 21
REAL ESTATE	B11	CUISINE	C23

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# COMMENTARY

## Book it



**rogerWILLIAMS**  
rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

The fact is, books are relevant only to young people. There's no point in reading anything serious when you get older, because you're not going anywhere except the grave, and you know it.

That makes older people hypocrites when they start championing books, which I am about to do.

When I was young just last week, all the books in the world were in libraries and each seemed important. And they're still in libraries and bookstores, but now you can locate them in 60 seconds on a computer and order them delivered to your door.

The idea is to get a couple of really good books, read them, and then change your life for the better, or at least feel good for the rest of the day.

But which books?

Those you'll find recommended on [www.readingtrails.com](http://www.readingtrails.com), of course.

This Web site is the brainchild of a genius named Nick Romeo and a friend. Not only is Mr. Romeo physically Godlike and deeply compassionate, but he has an IQ of 460. He's well read and witty, too.

He's also my nephew, but when it comes to reading there's no such thing as nepotism, even though I'm a nepotistic maniac.

Nick and his sister, the genius Lia Romeo (she's a playwright with an IQ of 461 who looks like Botticelli's Venus would have if she'd jogged), have a book coming out from Abrams Image press in a few weeks, called, "11,002 Things To Be Miserable About."

Readingtrails.com is not one of them. It's a place where very smart people will tell you what books they like, and why, and sometimes show you their pictures and tell you what else they do besides read, like garden organically.

Once you locate a book that attracts you, people who have read it and others like it will lay out their reading trails for you. A trail is a series of books that have something in common: Love. War. Death. And variations on those themes: food, art, theology, philosophy, history and politics, poetry and music, chick-lit, Western lit. The South, North, East and West. The earth, sea, wind and sky.

My wife, The News-Press columnist and public radio essayist Amy Bennett Williams (WUCU 90.1 FM Naples and Fort Myers, or WMKO 90.7 FM, Marco), even lays out a couple of trails at [readingtrails.com](http://readingtrails.com) — one about food and one about Florida, with a variety of books in each. (And she really is a genius, so pay attention.)

Better yet, on Mr. Romeo's Web site there are links to companies that will ship you the books in a couple of days, if you want to read.

But why would you, unless you're still young in body or mind?

Here's my problem with book reading. When you get older, nothing you could possibly read is very serious, anyway. Not if you assume that

books are serious the way vitamin pills are serious, or exercise and sex and philanthropy and a night at the symphony are serious.

They can be hugely entertaining or nourishing. But they're just not very serious when you pass 50 or even 10 or 12, depending on where you've lived and what's happened to you.

When you've lived in the world for awhile — kicked a hard rock or touched a hot fire — what's the point of reading Homer, Aristotle, Plato, Virgil, Lucretius, Boethius, Sun Tzu, Confucius, the King James Bible, Buddha's writings, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Augustine, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Defoe, Cervantes, Martin Luther, Donne, Milton, Johnson and Boswell, Locke or Jefferson or Hume, Wordsworth or Coleridge or the Shelleys, Dickens, Darwin, Dickinson, Bronte, George Eliot, Mark Twain, Hawthorne, Stowe, Margaret Fuller, Karl Marx or anybody at all from the 20th or 21st centuries? We've been there and done that.

And what's the point of current events books or non-fiction commentaries by brilliant people like novelists Dave Eggers or Barbara Kingsolver or Joyce Carol Oates, or by Thomas Friedman or John Bove or a hundred others? Is the point facts — new information?

Books are not ultimately about facts, though, because the fact is, you're alive and a book is not. Life is not about facts, either.

So how does it help you to read when you've experienced privation, catastrophe, despair, discrimination, physical and mental anguish, and unaccountable failure, on the one hand; or success, good fortune, joy,

pleasure, passion, warmth, friendship, love and hope, on the other?

Because you get the best that's been thought and said? Well, that's nice. Somebody can tell you eloquently why chocolate or wine tastes good and rot doesn't. But you already knew that.

A good book then becomes a mirror of the things you already know — many of which you may not want to be reminded of again.

The only exception to all of this is Shakespeare. Go figure, or go read.

Still, literature offers more than most of us have once we've set sail from our youths.

How else can you afford to travel to every corner of the globe or the mind, which "is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell or a hell of heaven," as Milton said?

You can't. With this economy, you probably can't go anywhere but home for Christmas or Hanukkah.

I once heard the philosopher and didact Mortimer Adler claim that the only reason to read what he called "the great books" the first time, was to read them again later, when you'd lived a little.

So if you haven't, go live a little. Pick any three: Walk across North America, Africa or Europe, or fall in love and remain in that fine country for a decade.

And if you're back, then what are you doing? Are you loafing in a café or the living room or a store lobby or your office, or perched on a toilet with your fists wrapped around this enlightening column? Well, get the hell off. Book it, baby.

And go sign on. [Readingtrails.com](http://Readingtrails.com). ■

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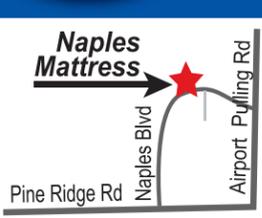
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**OPINION****Many have an inner Blagojevich**

BY RICH LOWRY

When Franklin Roosevelt was pounding on the evils of business at the height of the New Deal, the great economist John Maynard Keynes tried to pull him back: "It is a mistake to think businessmen are more immoral than politicians."

At a time when the titans of American finance have become synonymous in the public mind with recklessness and greed, here comes Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich to confirm Keynes' long-ago wisdom. Mr. Blagojevich's greed wasn't just open and ham-fisted, it was remarkably petty — one scheme he discussed was selling President-Elect Barack Obama's Senate seat for a mere \$150,000 annual salary for his wife on a corporate board. If that's all Mr. Blagojevich could get for a coveted Senate seat, he wasn't even very good at corruption.

That he was from Chicago was key. The city has never had a reform movement that has overturned the old-school, ethnic-based machine politics. It used to be said that Chicago was the only East European city governed by Irishmen. Its politics became more open by cutting new groups into the loot. Mr. Blagojevich's conversations were probably most

spectacular for having been caught on tape, not for their F-bomb-laden, grossly self-interested nature.

All of this would represent a threat to Mr. Obama only if his team were caught up in deal-making with Mr. Blagojevich. Mr. Obama denies it, and Mr. Blagojevich cursed Mr. Obama for offering nothing but "appreciation" in return for offering to appoint his favored candidate, Mr. Obama's long-term aide Valerie Jarrett. But the scandal is a reminder of the dirty Chicago political ether through which Mr. Obama rose without a trace — never challenging the corruption — in the course of a career notionally devoted to reforming politics.

One of the most intriguing questions about Mr. Obama in the mess is, "What made him think Valerie Jarrett was qualified to be appointed to the U.S. Senate?" Mr. Obama clearly wanted to reward a friend. Hey, that's how politics works.

It'll be interesting how the natural transactional aspect of politics is distinguished in the Blagojevich case from rank criminality. Was it a crime for Senate Candidate 5, Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., allegedly to offer to raise \$500,000 for Mr. Blagojevich in exchange for the Senate appointment, or just an overly explicit act of nor-

mal horse-trading?

If Mr. Blagojevich's instinct for enrichment rose to criminality, it's hardly unusual. Even the most impeccably liberal scourges of greed manage to get rich quickly after public life. In a 2½-year period between working in Former President Bill Clinton's White House and running for Congress, Mr. Obama's new chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, made \$16.2 million in investment banking at the small firm of Wasserstein Perella. All it took, surely, was hard work, a little luck — and knowing Clinton fundraiser and Wall Street mogul Bruce Wasserstein.

As the debate over private-sector excess and greed continues, it's useful to remember most politicians have an inner Blagojevich — because they are just as human as the private malefactors they denounce. To paraphrase the late Soviet dissident Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the line between good and evil doesn't run between the public and private sector but "through the heart of every man." Especially in Chicago. ■

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

**GUEST OPINION****End of the oughts, start of the teens**

**danRATHER**

Special to Florida Weekly

The beginning of 2009 is in sight, and the end of the '00s is at hand.

We Americans tend to think of our popular culture in decadal terms: "The Fifties," "The Eighties" and so on, with each span conjuring up its own stew of fashions, songs and movies in the mind's eye. Since this way of thinking is ultimately more about retrospective attempts to capture a national mood or spirit of the times than it is about historical precision, the images and events we summon don't always line up with the round-numbered years. It has been noted, for instance, that when we think of "The Sixties" in terms of music, we are usually talking about little more than a five-year stretch, from The Beatles' arrival in 1964 to Woodstock in 1969.

In political terms, however, The Sixties started right on time, with the youthful John F. Kennedy taking the torch from the quintessential Fifties political icon, President Dwight David "Ike" Eisenhower. The current decade, which some call "The Oughts," had a similarly prompt beginning, with the disputed 2000 presidential election the perfect open-

ing scene to the division, paranoia and bare-knuckled executive spin to come — but this decade's curtain is falling a year early.

And not just the political decade, but the decade as a whole. With the other elements of popular culture too balkanized to garner mass recognition (perhaps the biggest identifiable trends of The Oughts have been the nonstop arrival and departure of niche "microtrends" ... and blogging — generally by and for devotees of these same microtrends), the Bush presidency has had the decadal stage pretty much to itself.

Like all snap historical judgments, this is subject to revision, but when one looks back on this decade in future years, it seems likely one will think of 9/11, Iraq, Afghanistan, Hurricane Katrina, the ongoing financial meltdown and little else — all framed and surmounted by the actions and reactions of the Bush White House.

When 12:01 p.m. of Jan. 20, 2009, rolls around, we will still be at war with the perpetrators of 9/11, American troops will still be in Iraq and Afghanistan, New Orleans will remain forever changed, and our economy will still (almost certainly) be in shambles. But George Bush will no longer be president. Mentally and emotionally, America will be looking, as we are already, to the next era. For better or worse, "The Teens" — or, at very least, "The Tweens" — will

have begun.

We can only guess what woes or good fortune may befall us in this next era. Will The Teens — and their new president — remain overshadowed by the geopolitical and economic challenges imposed by The Oughts? Or will policy and politics cede the decade's spotlight to stunning new scientific developments or exciting new movements in the arts? There will be "change," to be sure, but don't believe those who say they know exactly what form that change will take.

If we are to venture guesses, we can only do so in reaction to what has come before. In this spirit, we might imagine that The Teens will be, in their earliest years, characterized by thrift at home (look for a mass return to the DIY — "Do It Yourself" — aesthetic) and a self-conscious desire for comity and multilateralism abroad. In all spheres, one can bank on a widespread yearning for that legendary decade known as "The Good Old Days," the precise dates of which correspond to the childhood years of whoever is doing the yearning.

For a nation on the verge of a new era, the picture remains unclear. But for individual Americans facing a new year, the hopes stay the same: Peace, Health and Happiness — and these I wish to you in this holiday season and in the year to come. ■

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# 15 MINUTES

## A short history of a jolly fat guy

FLORIDA WEEKLY STAFF REPORT  
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He comes but once a year on his nocturnal flight to spread cheer and joy to the world.

And Florida Weekly has it on good authority that his flight plan has been filed and he has clearance right into Southwest Florida.

So, whether you call him St. Nicholas, Father Christmas, Sinterklaas or just plain Santa, the jolly old man with his pack full of goodies will be tramping on roofs come Christmas Eve.

Yet the history of Old Saint Nick is as diverse and multicolored as the melting pot we call America.

Santa's origins go back to the 4th century when an Turkish bishop became well known for his generosity, especially to children. Years later, St. Nicholas of Myra was hailed as the patron saint of children and orphans. Even thieves prayed

to the compassionate saint for guidance and protection.

The date of his death, Dec. 6, came to be celebrated as the beginning of the medieval Christmas season and the Roman Catholic Church declared it his feast day.

As time went on, adults began to dress in bishop's clothing and carry staffs to emulate the good-natured St. Nicholas. They paraded from house to house, asking if the children had been good. Sweets and trinkets were the rewards.

In the 16th century, after the Protestant Reformation, the veneration of Catholic saints was forbidden. But people had become used to the annual visit of the gift-giving saint and they didn't want to lose the meaning he gave to the holiday.

Although the holiday now took on a nonreligious form, it was still a time for compassion.

In some countries, St. Nicholas Day and Christmas were merged into one cel-

ebration that reflected the generous nature of the season.

In England, he appeared as Father Christmas, in France he's known as Pere Noel, and in Germany he's Weihnachtsmann.

Santa's American history began with the first immigrants to the New World.

Scandinavians brought their gift-giving elves, the Germans gave us Christkindle (meaning Christ Child), who accompanied St. Nicholas on his annual rounds.

In the 17th century, the Dutch introduced Sinterklaas (meaning St. Nicholas) to the colonies. Many English-speaking children had trouble pronouncing the name and it evolved into today's Santa Claus.

Washington Irving described Santa Claus as a jolly Dutchman who smoked a longstem clay pipe and wore baggy breeches. He would bound over the treetops in a horsedrawn wagon, dropping gifts down the chimneys of his favorites. That was in 1809.

In 1822, Clement Clarke Moore penned the immortal "A Visit From St. Nicholas," more commonly known as "The Night Before Christmas."



Artist Haddon Sundblom added the final touches to our modern image of Santa in 1931. Mr. Sundblom created an advertising campaign for the Coca-Cola Co. that firmly planted the current image in the minds of the public.

In his poem, Mr. Moore gave us the more traditional form of Santa Claus.

Although Moore's poem gave us a newer image of Santa, much of it was still left up to individual interpretation. Then in 1863, Thomas Nast, a German cartoonist for Harper's Weekly, published a drawing of a portly Santa Claus in a red robe, with white hair and a long beard, smoking a long pipe.

Artist Haddon Sundblom added the final touches to our modern image of Santa in 1931. Mr. Sundblom created an advertising campaign for the Coca-Cola Co. that firmly planted the current image in the minds of the public.

The twinkle-eyed, cheery fellow is now recognizable to millions of children and adults throughout the world. ■

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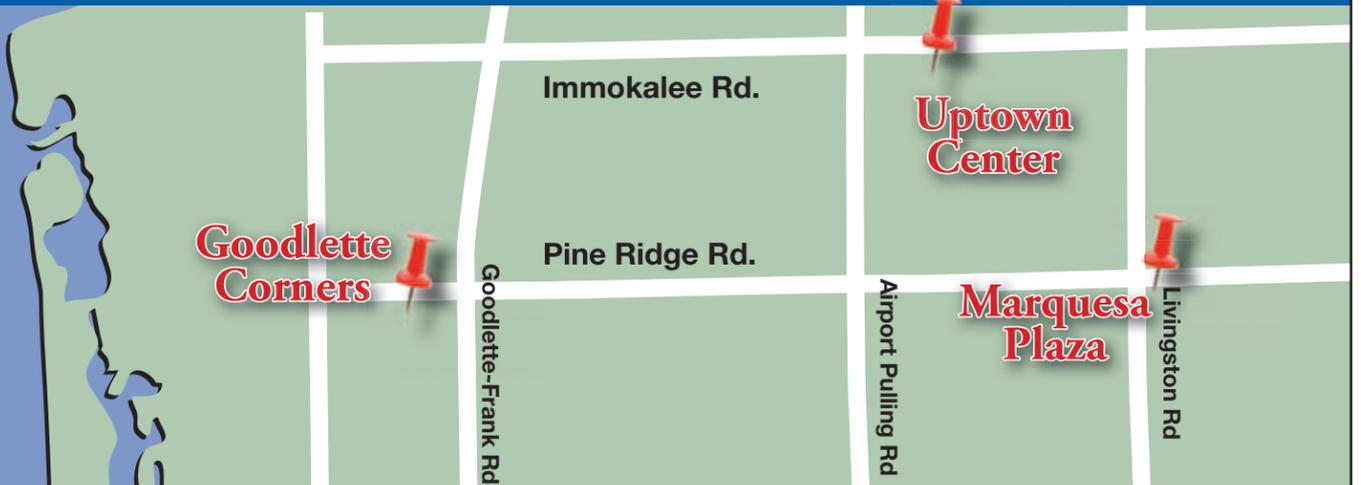


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## FAIRY

From page 1

ask you to hunt for them.

Study Mark and Dot's main tree intently and you'll find: a full-sized birdhouse, a hedgehog sitting atop a fan mushroom, peacock feathers, a silver spider web made of bugle beads (hand-crafted by Dot), clusters of Lucite grapes, Santa riding a giant flying goose, a moose, seed pods and mushrooms turned into tiny homes.

And fairies. Fairies galore.

There's a fairy in white hovering near the ceiling, by the top of the tree. And another standing at the base, also in white; she's touching the tree, starting a string of white garland that spirals to the top.

"We wanted them to look like snow fairies making the garland turn to ice," Mark says. "So everything they touch, and everything the garland touches, is white."

Mark created many of the fairies himself. "All anatomically correct," he points out.

There's a fairy that's half-man, half-frog.

There's a nude fairy holding a bird in her hands.

And a blue fairy in a bird's nest, holding a stone and sitting next to a blue egg with brown speckles. When told that this particular fairy looks like someone out of "Star Trek," Mark admits to having had a "Star Trek" themed tree one year.

They've also had a medieval tree, and one devoted to the six wives of Henry VIII, Dot adds. "We have boxes and boxes of old Victorian things," she says. As well as old-fashioned bubble lights and ornaments from when Mark was a boy. Some of his treasured childhood stuffed animals are in repose around this year's main tree.

"We had a tree with everything natural: huge, wild seed balls, ornaments filled with seeds, everything earthy, natural," Dot says. One year they had a tree that was completely white, including bleached seashells and starfish.

"We've done tons of theme trees," she says.

"This is what happens when you get two old retail display people together," Mark says happily.

The couple, who have been together for 25 years, both worked in visual merchandising in the Northeast for 18 years, creating displays for G. Fox in Hartford, Conn., and Filenes in Boston.

"Beautiful display is a dying art," Mark says. "You go to an average mall here... and it's so generic. No individual creativity is encouraged. When's the last time you saw something that made you stop and say, 'That's amazing!'"

Back in the day when they were designing store windows and displays, Dot says, "It was about display and not visual merchandising. It was about creating ambience and excitement in the stores. It has somehow turned into visual merchandising... less of the creative and more about presenting existing merchandise."

It used to be about creating environments that were exciting, she says. "Now that type of creativity isn't there." She al-



FLORIDA WEEKLY STAFF PHOTOS

Every year, Mark Vanagas and his wife Dot Auchmoody transform their Neapolitan home into a Christmas fairyland. They are photographed here with their dogs, Ceirin and Nixie, in front of the main Christmas tree in the living room. The tree is chock full of fanciful ornaments, feathers, beads, garland, tree branches, grape vines, birds' nests and fairies.

lows that perhaps some New York store still have display departments that do that kind of work. But that's the exception, not the rule.

Mark now works as an interior designer for Landmark Designs in Naples, and Dot is the costume designer/shop supervisor for the Naples Players at the Sugden Community Theatre.

And instead of turning stores into Christmas wonderlands, they now transform their own home.

"It's a magical time of the year, and we want to bring the magic in," says Mark.

They literally bring the outside in, as part of their Christmas decorations.

Underneath the tree moss, pinecones, bark, dead leaves and dried mushrooms create a realistic environment for the various deer and hedgehogs stuffed toys. The grapevine that winds its crooked way around the tree is from Massachusetts.

Other major displays around the house — there's something special in every room — include branches with fairies, dragonflies (more than a few found right outside the front door) and lights in a corner by the doorway to the master bedroom, a similar fairyland over the dining room buffet, and an artful arrangement of greenery and elves standing tall in a living-room corner.

### A labor of love

The initial bulk of the decorating work gets done Thanksgiving weekend, but Dot and Mark continue working over the eirin

following weekends, whenever time allows. "We both like doing it," Dot says. Of course it's work though, Marks hastens to add, joking that birds don't fly down and help them decorate the tree while butterflies flit about, a la Disney.

Undoing the decorations after the holidays isn't easy either.

"Everything is delicate; you can't yank it down," Dot says, adding it takes a whole day to take the main tree down. Then there's the full-sized tree in the family room decorated in traditional German and Lithuanian ornaments, a tribute to Mark's heritage. A table in the same room holds yet another tree, this one about three feet tall and considered "the dogs' tree," referring to Nixie and Ceirin, their beloved Schipperkes.

After the holidays, both Dot and Mark enter into their busiest time of the year. Mark, who acts with the Naples Players, is usually in their big spring musical, so he begins rehearsals in addition to working full time. Dot has her hands full as well, because a big musical means a big cast to costume.

So sometimes their Christmas trees stay up long past the holiday season. "That's why we don't have real trees," Dot says about the longevity of the artificial variety. Even into March some years, the magic of Christmas thrives all through the house.

"We do it for the love of it," Mark says. "We pour ourselves some cocktails and sit and enjoy it, and we enjoy other people enjoying it." ■

## LED

From page 1

Folta and undergraduate researcher Kayla Shea Childers report on progress made using combinations of LEDs to direct plant growth. They report using specific light frequencies to restrict flowering in the early life of strawberry plants, causing the plants to divert their resources to growing more runners and leaves.

Growers could employ such techniques to encourage stronger plants

that produce more fruit. Farmers might even want to employ colored mulches and reflective panels to supplement the effect.

"We still have a lot to learn before we can start using these techniques on a large scale, but it is certainly looking more and more attractive," Mr. Folta says. "Overall consumer demand for LEDs is beginning to make the technology really inexpensive, so it's not inconceivable to picture acres of crops spurred on by LEDs," he adds.

Similar studies are taking place around the planet on crops such as rice, peas, tomatoes and maize.

One of the most prominent uses of the technology, however, could someday be off-planet. Future astronauts could use the same technology used to light Christmas trees to grow their own trees and plants in space.

"As we start to explore space for longer periods of time, we're not going to be able to just take food with us. We'll have to grow it," Mr. Folta said. "Crops have evolved to need the specific kind of light they get on Earth — not on, say, Mars," he adds. "We'll have to give it to them to ensure that desirable plant products are there in space when we need them." ■

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## UNDERCOVER HISTORIAN

# A Cracker is all they're cracked up to be

BY LOIS BOLIN

Special to Florida Weekly

Cracker is one of the oldest “epithets” for hardworking, white Southerners who have an abiding tie to the land. For many, there is a mystery to the origin of a word that might be described best through lifestyles than by its historical development.

*I swanny, I was pert near to finshin' my writin' 'bout a good ol' boy when I thought: I reckon I ought to do better by these here folks what's done so much for us and learn a bit more 'bout my kin folk and neighbors.*

### Cracker origin theories

There seems to be three main assumptions on the origin of the word Cracker — four if your count mine.

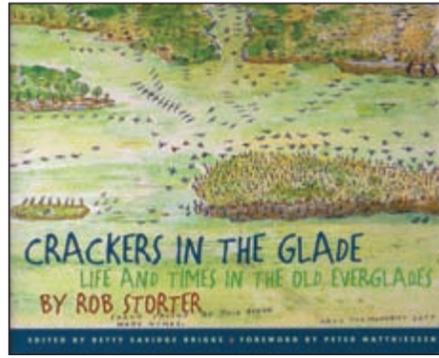
- Assumption one: Cracker comes from a Celtic word meaning braggart or loudmouth. This theory, according to The American Dialect group, which is dedicated to bridging the gap between the scholarly and literary worlds of dialectology, doesn't explain why the word would be applied to the usually reserved folk of the Florida backwoods. I guess they never actually talked to a Cracker.

Although I hail from South Carolina, I consider myself a Cracker and wear the label as a badge of honor. Our basic philosophy is: “Take a breath, lose a turn.” All's fair in the fine art of story telling.

- Assumption two: Cracker comes from the practice of “corncracking,” or grinding dried corn that's used as grits — which is always plural *mind you*. When Cracker is used in this sense, it refers to somebody who can't afford any other food. Well, if you know how to cook grits the right way, what else do you need?

- Assumption three: According to the The American Dialect group, Cracker has been used since the early 1800s because it was the sound of the whips the Florida cattlemen used to drive their cattle and oxen. Actually, at the end the whip was a tip called a cracker, so perhaps this was also a reason.

- Assumption four from the Undercover Historian: From 1718-1775, Anglo-Saxon refugees of the Norman Conquest called Scots-Irish settled in the Appalachian backcountry. Not afraid of hard work, they came to America looking for a good life and a good fight every now and again. Florida was a natural progression for these folks who were looking for a piece of land and looking to be left alone. When they came, they brought their American Old English (also called American Anglo Saxon) with them and turned it into what we now call Appalachian English, an archaic variety of the language that still preserves many features that date back to the development of the English language in Britain. This sweet form,



which is often thought to be substandard today, is actually the outmoded standard of yesteryears.

Other relatively isolated mountain areas show a similar preservation of archaic speech. Linguist Mario Pei says the speech of the Ozarks comes closer to Elizabethan English than the speech of modern London. *Now ain't 'dat sumpin'?*

### Crackers in our neck of the wood

One of the most revered books on the Florida Cracker culture is Rob Storter's “Crackers in the Glades — Life and Times in the Old Everglades.” At age 70, Mr. Storter, whose family settled Everglade (later renamed Everglades City by Baron Collier) in the late 1800s, spent the last 15 years of his life drawing his memories of growing up around the turn of the century in the last frontier in America. By the time of his death,

he had amassed a collection of folk art and interpretations that depicts a time when people lived in sync and worked with the natural cycle of nature on a small scale within a very unique ecosystem. Mr. Storter passed in 1984, leaving us a matchless perception of a Cracker's life and time.

### A mystery no more

We are all beholden to the likes of the Storters, Franks, McSwains, Captain Morgan, the Beckfords and others. These Cracker gentlemen raised their families and left a legacy in their own way, a way that still charms and intrigues us today. Those who worry that the term might be considered derogatory should be reminded what Will Rogers said: “If you ain't got no malice in your heart, you can't have none in your gag.”

Well, there's no malice in my heart for hardworking Crackers like my family or my adopted extended family in Naples — so I reckon they are all they're cracked up to be — and oh so much more. ■

*Lois Bolin is the co-founder of Naples Cultural Landscape, a fund at the Community Foundation of Collier County. Naples Backyard History is the fund's educational initiative. For more information, visit the NBYH Mini-Museum at 1300 Third St. S., call 594-2978 or visit [www.naplesbackyardhistory.org](http://www.naplesbackyardhistory.org).*

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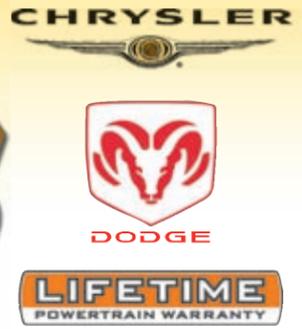
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# OUTDOORS

## How do birds eat with no hands? Cleverly!

BY LEE BELANGER  
lungwort@aol.com

Have you ever tried bobbing for apples? With our blunt human teeth and mouths smaller than an apple, this is not easy. Fortunately, when we're not playing games we can use our hands to eat an apple. Birds do not have that advantage. So how do they eat?

Through the ages, birds have developed other specialized appendages to take the place of hands. In the beginning, young birds use a small, sharp "egg tooth" on their upper bill to chip out of their shell. Soon after hatching, the egg tooth drops off and, for most birds, the bill becomes the most important aid in feeding.

Bird diets vary widely, and so does the shape and size of their bills, which gives good clues to what and how they eat. Consider the white ibis, *Eudocimus albus*, which feeds in shallow fresh and salt marshes and along coastlines, digging in mud or sand for burrowing crabs and worms. It's easy to guess that its very long, curved orange bill is used to probe. The brown pelican, *Pelecanus occi-*



Ibis

PHOTOS BY LEE BELANGER

dentalis, uses its long bill and deep pouch to collect both fish and water. Once the fish is safely in its large bill, the pelican drains the water out and swallows the fish. Watch a brown pelican dive, surface, pause (drain the water) and then tip its head back to swallow the fish. Well-



Black skimmer

meaning fishermen occasionally toss fish or fish carcasses to pelicans. Unfortunately, the pelican's beak can hold more than its throat can; large fish or fish bones often get lodged in their throats and cause a painful death.

Guess how the black skimmer, *Rynchops niger*, eats? Using its unique bill, the bird slices through the water (bill open, lower bill under water), scooping up small fish on the fly. As soon as a fish touches the lower bill, the top bill clamps shut and the skimmer has his meal, in flight or just after landing.

Many of us feed songbirds from feeders. We buy a seed mix and wait for birds to come. In New England, where I'm from, a seed mix will draw finches, evening grosbeaks, and northern cardinals. All these birds have strong, cone-shaped beaks that act as a vise, crushing seeds. But swallows, swifts and phoebes will not visit feeders. That's because they are flycatchers, using their wide mouths to scoop up insects in the air.

Dabbling ducks eat by tipping upside down and using their fringed bills to strain plants, seeds and small animals from the water. Woodpeckers use their chisel-like bills to hammer holes in dead trees looking for grubs. They then stab the grubs with their long, barbed tongues. Their bills have a special shock absorber that prevents injury to their brain.

Hummingbirds use their long, tubular bills as a straw to sip nectar from deep inside flowers. They use the same technique when drinking from a hummingbird feeder. (If you feed hummingbirds, it is important you use commercially prepared liquid food or boil your own sugar/water mixture to kill any bacteria that might harm the birds. Be sure to change the liquid at least once a week.) Hummingbirds will also catch and eat insects for extra protein, particularly when the hummers are about to migrate.

Hawks, eagles, osprey and other birds of prey use their powerful, hooked bills to tear off pieces of meat small enough to

swallow. Egrets, herons and kingfishers spear fish, frogs and crayfish with their sharp beaks. Mergansers use serrated bills to hold fish tightly.

How can bills take all this abuse? The answer is they continue to grow throughout a bird's life. As you can imagine, this is as important for birds as continuously growing teeth are for a beaver.

Now go have fun looking for some of the specialized techniques we've discussed here. A good place to start is in one of the many parks in Southwest Florida. You're in a birder's paradise. Enjoy! ■

— Lee Belanger is a volunteer at Collier-Seminole State Park.

### Get out and explore the great outdoors

Collier-Seminole State Park has several activities on the schedule this and for those who want to spend some quality holiday time in the great outdoors:

>> Guided night hikes on which park naturalists take brave souls where no city lights interfere set out from park headquarters at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 27 and 28. This two-hour outing is fun for ages 6 and older; \$10 per person.

>> Guided canoe trips through the mangroves along Blackwater Ridge push off from park headquarters at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Monday and Wednesday, Dec. 27, 29 and 31. Listen to stories of Seminole survival and keep your eyes peeled for colorful crabs, tarpon and even manatees. The three-hour trip is appropriate for ages 6 and older; \$25 per person in your canoe or a park canoe. Special group, family or club trips can also be arranged.

Entrance to Collier-Seminole State Park is at 20200 U.S. 41 in East Naples. To sign up for a canoe trip or night hike, call Lee Belanger at 394-3397.

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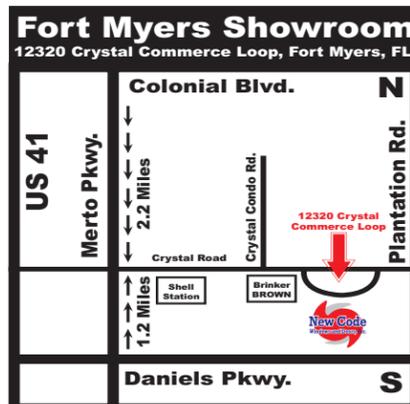
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# Get into the Garden over holiday weekend

Naples Botanical Garden invites the community to register for a visit to the Tropical Mosaic Garden between 9 a.m. and noon Friday and Saturday, Dec. 26-27 or between 1 and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28.

The Garden is closed to the public while expansion is under way, but special times for free tours are scheduled. Although there is no charge for these visits, registration is required in advance by calling 643-7275.

After this coming weekend, the next tours will be Saturdays, Jan. 17 and 24, Feb. 14 and March 7 and 21; Mondays, Jan. 19 and Feb. 16; and Wednesdays, Feb. 25 and March 11. Times are 9 a.m. to noon.

The Garden is in the process of creating a world-class tropical garden paradise that will feature cultivated gardens of Asia, Brazil, the Caribbean and Florida, plus and a hands-on Children's Garden and 90 acres of restored natural habitats.

For more information, call 643-7275 or visit [www.naplesgarden.org](http://www.naplesgarden.org), where the Garden is virtually open. ■



COURTESY PHOTO

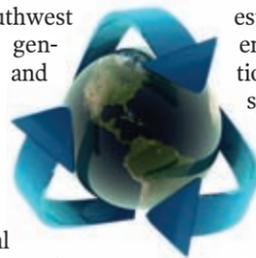
# Conservancy courts future conservationists

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida is inspiring future generations of conservationists and conservation-minded citizens with a new program for middle schoolers. The Environmental Leader program emphasizes hands-on learning and environmental stewardship and gives students a chance to explore careers in environmental science.

Spaces are still available for interested students in the next two sessions of the program.

So far, participants have gotten up close with nature by helping tag gopher tortoises in Collier County and measuring crabs from Estero Bay. They've also met some of the region's foremost environmental leaders and learned extensively about the plants and animals in the Everglades ecosystem.

"Our nation is experiencing a significant shortage of students who are interested in science careers," said Troy Frensley, Conservancy environmental education and Nature Discovery Center manager. "We hope this program may reinforce that inter-



est in students who want to pursue environmental science or conservation as a course of study or perhaps spark a greater interest in those who have been considering it."

The 40-hour, eight-week program explores stewardship, environmental sustainability, decision-making and leadership.

It includes interactive classroom lessons, community service and stewardship projects, field trips and a chance to interact with environmental experts from the Conservancy and throughout the region.

The next two Environmental Leader sessions will be held Jan. 6-Feb. 26 and Jan. 26-March 25. The program meets from 4:30-6 p.m. twice a week (Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday). Each session also includes two full Saturdays. The cost is \$399 for Conservancy members. Sessions are limited to 12 students.

For more information or to register, call 403-4238 or e-mail [bethf@conservancy.org](mailto:bethf@conservancy.org). Details and an application form are also available at [www.conservancy.org](http://www.conservancy.org). ■

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# Smart and fast, two cars offer options at Winter Wine Festival

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Go fast or go green are two options for bidders at the 2009 Naples Winter Wine Festival. Among the items up for auction on Saturday, Feb. 7, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples, are an Audi R8, nameplate winner of five races during this decade at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and a Smart Passion Cabriolet convertible, an eco-friendly automobile for two that made its U.S. debut in January.



The Audi R8

finest wines produced in the world, the 1989 Petrus and 1990 Lafite, and a Patek Philippe "Twenty-4" ladies' watch with stainless-steel bracelet, black dial and 36 diamonds.

Up for raffle is the 2009 Lexus GS 450h. Its 3.5-liter V6 engine and compact electric motor produce 340 horsepower, while still delivering up to 30 percent better fuel efficiency than a similarly powerful V8 engine. The raffle package includes hospitality access passes, hotel accommodations and four tickets to the 2009 U.S. Open Championship in Farmingdale, N.Y.

Raffle tickets are a \$3,000 minimum suggested donation or two tickets for a \$5,000 minimum. No more than 350 tickets will be issued, and the ticket holder need not be present to win.

The Naples Winter Wine Festival was founded by and is hosted by trustees of the Naples Children & Education Foundation to raise funds for area charities that assist underprivileged and at-risk children. For a schedule of 2009 festivities, a complete listing of the 65 auction lots and more information, visit [www.napleswinefestival.com](http://www.napleswinefestival.com) or call (888) 837-4919. ■

"These two auction lots couldn't be more different: The R8 can take its owner from 0 to 60 mph in 4.4 seconds, while the Smart car maxes out at 90 mph.," said Tom Galloway, chair of this year's Naples Winter Wine Festival and a trustee of the Naples Children & Education Foundation. Added to the Cabriolet auction lot are two bottles each of the

COURTESY PHOTO

## Create A Holiday Miracle.



Bernice was on her way to visit family in Iowa and rushing to her flight. Struggling to catch her breath, she knew something was wrong.

After an appointment with her primary care physician and a series of tests, she was scheduled for double bypass surgery and correction of her mitral-valve. Six hours of surgery *saved* Bernice's life.

Now 83 years old and going strong, Bernice is looking forward to spending the holidays with her family.

Your donation to cardiac care, or another area you feel passionate about, makes an incredible difference in the lives of people in our community.

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## HEALTHY LIVING

# The bad side of HOLIDAY FEASTING

Feeling ill? It might not be from the flu, but the food you've been wolfing down

BY HELENA OLIVIERO  
Cox News Service

It's time for holiday parties — Swedish meatballs, bite-size quiches and homemade eggnog. And if the host isn't careful, it's also a time for making guests sick.

Dr. Frank Rasler of DeKalb Medical Center in metro Atlanta, like many emergency room doctors, witnesses a jump in patients with flulike symptoms in December. But in many cases, the culprit in all that suffering is not a virus. It's food poisoning — stemming from something they've eaten, such as undercooked meat or potato salad or other holiday party foods left out for hours and hours, he says.

Body aches, fatigue, vomiting and fever are common symptoms for the flu and food poisoning, according to doctors.

"We see it every day, and often times, it's hard to tell the difference from the symptoms," he says. "I'll ask, 'Have you been to a holiday buffet?' ... Sometimes a whole family will get sick and it will be like a mini-epidemic, and I will ask, 'Where did you eat last night?'"

While people can get foodborne illnesses from get-togethers any time of year, holiday festivities can be breeding grounds for bacteria because food sometimes stays out on platters for several hours while partygoers snack and mingle.

Doctors say resting and drinking plenty of fluids (not just water but also sports drinks and other liquids to replenish potassium and sodium) are the keys to recovering from food poisoning, which can strike within two hours after leaving a party or be delayed for 24 hours.

Recovery should take place within a couple of days. Anyone who suspects serious dehydration or cannot keep liquids down for 24 hours should seek medical attention, doctors say. ■



PHIL SKINNER / COX NEWS SERVICE

Over the holidays, emergency rooms see many patients who think they have the flu but who are actually suffering food poisoning.

## Need diet going into holidays? Here are some simple rules

BY CAROLYN O'NEIL  
Cox News Service

The holidays may not seem like the ideal time to start a diet. After all, isn't this the season when platters of cookies litter the office and neighbors invite you over for huge holiday buffets? Add to that the family celebrations with your aunt's triple chocolate fudge and uncle's rum-soaked eggnog, and the holidays can be a minefield of fattening foods.

But ask yourself, "Is it really any different the rest of the year?" Every season brings its own temptations from Super Bowl Sunday's snacks to Fourth of July fried chicken and ribs. So why not resolve to recognize these waist-widening challenges and learn to apply some slimming strategies when the landscape is fat with indulgent food choices.

Research shows that the most successful dieters — those who lose weight and keep it off for the long haul — practice healthy eating and exercise habits all year long. They don't have New Year's diet resolutions that lapse by Jan. 31 because they don't make big promises that are impossible to keep.

Instead, set a time limit or portion limit. "I'll only eat french fries once a month." Or "I'll only eat ice cream in a really small bowl."

There's no time like the present to make a fresh start and begin new healthier eating habits — even if you're headed to a holiday party tonight. So hit the reset button and follow the fresh start rules to help your hips survive the holidays.

### Fresh start diet rules

**1. Freshen up your food life.** Keep fresh fruit and other healthy snacks such as whole-grain crackers, nuts and fresh veggies on hand at home. A handful of almonds or walnuts before heading out to a party can calm your appetite so you don't dive into the buffet the minute you arrive. Stock your pantry with whole-grain pastas and brown rice and your fridge with low-fat or nonfat milk and yogurts.

**2. Recognize barriers.** It's going to be tough to say no to holiday favorites like chocolate fudge and that creamy, cheesy, hot artichoke dip. Know your splurge foods and resolve to enjoy them in small quantities. Use a small plate to serve yourself. Research shows that your mind will think it looks like a lot more food than the same amount on a large plate.

**3. Enjoy the taste of eating right.** Did you know that the deviled eggs, steamed shrimp, roast beef and chicken on skewers often served at holiday dinner parties are all diet-friendly, lean protein choices? Feel free to add low-cal flavor with mustards, horseradish, cocktail sauce with salsas. Remember that some foods are actually allies in the weight-loss war. Broth-based soups, veggies, fruit and whole grains fill you up without filling you out.

**4. Start new habits.** Keep a list of what you're eating and drinking for a few days. Be as specific as possible on types of foods and amounts. Don't know what a cup of mashed potatoes looks like? Get out some measuring cups and become familiar with portion sizes. This snapshot will help you keep track of overeating, and while you're at it, write down your physical activity. Did you take the stairs instead of the escalator at the mall? That counts, too!

**5. Have a plan.** Eat breakfast. Schedule time to take a walk or go to yoga class. If you're going to a potluck, bring the salad or vegetable side dish. If Friday involves a big dinner party, eat less on Thursday and walk more on Saturday. If it's a three-hour car ride to Grandma's, pack fresh fruit and a turkey sandwich for the road so you don't have to stop at a fast-food joint. Save the calories to enjoy holiday treats when you get to Grandma's. Successful long-term weight control is a balancing act. Keep in mind that most people gain about one pound over the holidays. That doesn't sound like much, but if you don't lose it, after 10 years that's 10 pounds. If you maintain your weight this time of year, that's great! ■

### IS IT THE FLU, OR SOMETHING YOU ATE?

#### The flu

- **Common symptoms:** body aches, headache, muscle aches, fever
- **Less common:** nausea
- **Rare:** diarrhea

*Note:* Nausea and diarrhea sometimes accompany the flu in children.

#### Food poisoning

- **Common symptoms:** body aches, headache, muscle aches, nausea and diarrhea
- **Less common:** fever
- **Rare:** nasal congestion, sore throat

*Sources:* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, DeKalb Medical, MayoClinic.com

### TIPS FOR PREPARING, SERVING PARTY FOOD

- **Safe food handling:** Always wash your hands before and after handling food. Always serve food on clean plates — not those previously holding raw meat or poultry.
- **Cook meat thoroughly:** Beef should reach an internal temperature of 145 degrees. Pork should reach 160 degrees. And poultry should reach a minimum internal temperature of 165 degrees.

- **The two-hour rule:** Foods should not sit at room temperature for more than two hours. Keep track of how long foods have been sitting out, and discard anything left out for two hours or more.
- **Keep hot foods hot; cold foods cold:** Hot foods should be held at 140 degrees or warmer (you can use chafing dishes or slow cookers or warming trays). Cold foods should be held at 40 degrees or colder (you can nest dishes in bowls of ice or use small serving bowls and replace them).

*Source:* USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service

### WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION

- Frequent episodes of vomiting for more than two days
- Vomiting blood
- Inability to keep liquids down for 24 hours
- Severe diarrhea for more than three days
- Blood in bowel movements
- Extreme pain or severe abdominal cramping
- A fever of 101.5 or higher
- Signs or symptoms of dehydration (excessive thirst, dry mouth, little or no urination, severe weakness, dizziness or lightheadedness)

*Source:* MayoClinic.com ■



PHIL SKINNER / COX NEWS SERVICE

Remember to cook meat thoroughly before serving: This pork should have an internal temperature of 160 degrees before serving.

# The Collection welcomes Lifestyle Family Fitness

Lifestyle Family Fitness has opened in The Collection at Vanderbilt. The 31,000-square-foot center offers the latest strength-training and cardiovascular equipment, group fitness programs by Les Mills International that include Bodypump, Bodystep, Bodyflow, Bodycombat, Bodyattack, Bodyjam and RPM, certified personal trainers, indoor cycling, tanning booths and a Kids' Club area with supervised care to keep children ages 3 months to 12 years engaged while adults work out. There is also a private personal training area with advanced kinesiology technology.

Founded in Lakeland, Fla., in 1982, Lifestyle Family Fitness owns and operates 56 locations in Florida, Ohio, North Carolina and Indiana. Approximately 190,000 members take advantage of the company's proprietary approach to fitness, which allows them to choose



COURTESY PHOTO

a path aligned with their individual fitness goals, says Travis Tolson, club manager at the new center at 2349 Vanderbilt Beach Road in Naples.

"The five components of fitness — nutrition, cardio, weight training, supplementation and personal assistance — are a powerful combination in achieving fitness objectives," Mr. Tolson says. Members' progress is tracked

through the Lifestyle Family Fitness LifeCenter, which monitors body fat analysis, body mass index, body weight, blood pressure and heart rate, he adds.

Three levels of membership are available: individual, family and corporate accounts.

The center is open seven days a week, from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 514-7652. ■



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## NON-PROFIT NEWS

### 'A Toast to Leadership' will benefit Boy Scouts

"A Toast for Leadership: Salute to Scouting," a new fundraiser for the Naples Area Boy Scouts, takes place Saturday, Jan. 17, at Bayfront. Tommy Bahama's and Stony's Steakhouse are participating in the food and wine event for which tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. Live entertainment and a raffle will also be part of the evening.

### YMCA ball sneaking up in Naples

The YMCA Sneaker Ball is a relaxed fundraising event for which guests "dress up" in casual attire from head to sneaker. The fifth annual event begins at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at the Greater Naples YMCA. Catering will be by Tony's Off Third, and music will be by DJ Kevin Schell. The evening will include both a silent and live auction, along with various opportunities to support early childhood education and youth programs. Tickets are \$175 per person.

All proceeds benefit underprivileged children, teens, families, adults and seniors in our community through values-based programs including early childhood education, summer camp, youth and adult sports, teen leadership, water-safety and swimming lessons, family wellness and outreach programs. The primary goal is to ensure that no one is turned away for an inability to pay. For more information, call Angie Kastning at 598-5143.

### Just ducky for the Children's Museum

Ten thousand "adopted" rubber ducks will race to the finish line for numerous prizes and a chance to win \$1 million as part of The Great Venetian Duck Race at The Village on Venetian Bay on Saturday, Jan. 17.

Ducks can be purchased for \$10 each at [www.naples.com](http://www.naples.com), where packages include "Flying Solo," "Six Quack," "Quaker's Dozen" and the "Flocks." All proceeds from duck sales will benefit the Children's Museum of Naples.

### Pedaling for bike and pedestrian paths

Naples Pathways Coalition, a group working to make a safe network of sidewalks, bike lanes, bike paths and multi-use paths and greenways for cyclists, pedestrians and other non-motorized users throughout Collier County, is having its third annual Pedaling for Pathways bicycle ride and brunch on Sunday, Jan. 25.

More than 500 riders participated in last year's event, and organizers are planning for 700 this year. Registration is open now; those who sign up before Jan. 11 are guaranteed a T-shirt.

The fully supported road ride starts and finishes at Lowdermilk Beach Park, where continental breakfast will be served beforehand. Brunch on the beach will be provided by Moe's Southwest Grill after the ride. ■

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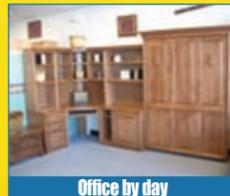
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# PET TALES

## Puppy, no!

By DR. MARTY BECKER  
and GINA SPADAFORI  
Universal Press Syndicate

As adorable as puppies can be, anyone who's raising one will tell you they can drive you crazy. To get through those sometimes trying months and come out with the dog you want, always remember two things in dealing with puppies: Be patient and be positive.

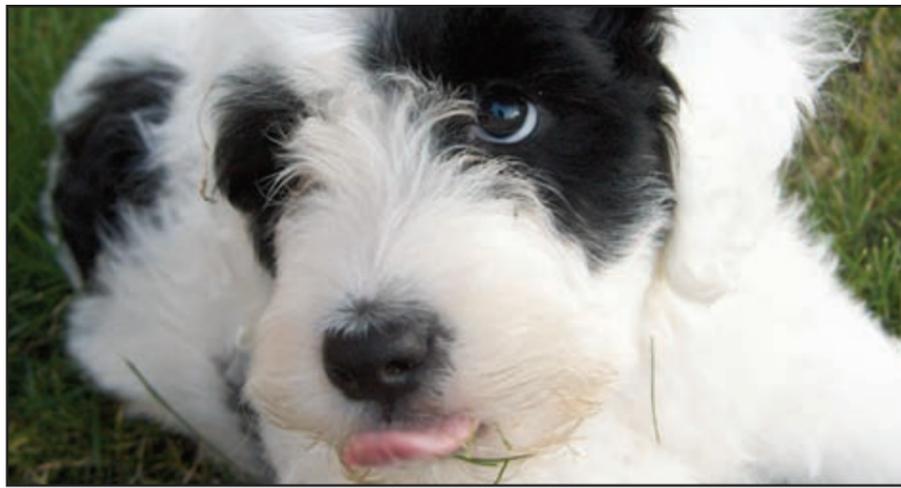
Every puppy needs to be guided on the road to good behavior, and along the way many a puppy strays off the path into trouble. The best way to avoid problems is to set up your home and your handling of the puppy so his only choice is to do what's right and get praised for it.

But what if your puppy makes a mistake? A verbal correction, properly timed and correctly delivered, is usually all you need. Speak low and sharply, but don't yell at your puppy. Really, all you need to do is to provide a distraction to stop and then redirect the errant behavior.

Here are two more ways to send a clear message of disapproval:

- Distract and redirect. Especially useful for the young puppy, this technique stops a behavior you don't want and guides the puppy to one that's acceptable. For example, if your young puppy is chewing on your nice leather shoes, make a noise to startle and distract him — slap the counter or clap your hands — and then give him something you do want him to chew on, such as a toy. When he takes it, praise him for redirecting those sharp puppy teeth.

With older puppies, you can often stop



Puppies need a lot of time and energy to become well-mannered pets.

a bad behavior by asking for a better one, and praising him. Ask the puppy who's jumping up to "sit," and praise him or give him a treat for doing so. Tell him once, and if he doesn't mind you (to be fair, be sure he understands what you want), gently guide him into a sit, and then some praise and a treat.

- The time-out. Puppies thrive on your attention, even if it's negative. The time-out removes this reward. This technique is especially good for a puppy who doesn't want to keep his mouth to himself, a bad habit for any dog to get into where people are concerned. When the puppy starts nipping, tell him "no," and then clam up, pick him up and put him in a crate or other small, safe area for a few minutes. Ignore the cries and whimpers. After a few minutes of quiet, let him out without fanfare and let him hang out with you gently for a while. The message: When the teeth touch skin, it's "game over."

If your puppy has been running around

for a long time and just seems bratty, he may be tired. If that's the case, put him down for a nap in a crate or small area, along with a chew toy. Again, ignore his fussing. Chances are, he'll be asleep in a few minutes.

Corrections have their place in puppy-raising, but in general, a positive approach is preferred by today's dog-training experts. Positive dog-training isn't about letting your puppy or dog be boss, but rather about setting limits without yelling or hitting. If you find yourself resorting to any of these techniques constantly, you could probably do with some help from a trainer to spot what you're doing wrong with your puppy and to make some constructive suggestions.

Don't let your puppy grow up to be a monster. Be patient and positive, and be fair with corrections. And don't forget: Get help at the first sign of trouble, and you'll save yourself a lot of trouble down the road. ■

## Community blood drive

The Community Blood Center needs donors now through the New Year holiday to ensure local supplies remain adequate for area patients. Here is a partial listing of places and times to donate:

- Community Blood Center: Medical Plaza Building, 311 Ninth Street N., 436-5455. Regular hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday. The center is closed Christmas and New Year's days and will be open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31. Through Jan. 2, donors will receive a \$10 gas card.

- Hollywood 20 Theaters: Donors from noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 26, 27 and 28 will receive a free movie ticket.

- Tropical Smoothie Café, Carrillon Plaza: Donors will receive a \$10 gas card and a low-fat smoothie from noon to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29.

- My Angel's Attic, Mission Square Plaza: Donors will receive a \$10 gas card from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30.

- Church of Latter Day Saints, Naples and Golden Gate: Donors will receive a \$10 gas card from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Donors must be at 17 years or older and weigh at least 115 pounds. For more information and a complete list of places and times to donate, call 436-5455 or visit [www.givebloodcbc.org](http://www.givebloodcbc.org). ■

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# HOLISTIC HEALTH NOTEBOOK

## Avoid the Christmas weight-gain; eat more



carolSIMONTACCHI  
csimontacchi@earthlink.net

In golden days long since past, the fattened, roasted goose was fine fare for Christmas. We do not eat much goose these days. I don't know why. I tried to buy a duck the other day but was put off by the amount of chemicals injected into it. I do not know where to buy organic duck or goose but I would like to try them one day.

Our problem is not fattened geese, however. Our problem is that WE become the fattened goose over the holidays.

So the question is, "How can we get through the holidays without getting fat?" Or to put it more delicately, without plumping ourselves up.

My strategy for avoiding weight gain may be surprising to those who think that weight management can only be solved by starvation. "Don't eat this! Don't eat that!" No one likes to live like that and it does not work anyway. I can encourage you to avoid the eggnog but the chances are that you will fill your cup to the brim when the opportunity arises.

But instead of thinking of "dietary subtraction," think "dietary addition" and the problem is solved. What does that mean?

Instead of eating three meals a day,



eat six meals a day. Instead of reducing your intake, include four servings of protein, spaced out over a 12-hour day. Prepare a savory stir-fry for lunch, and indulge in some fresh fruits and nuts for a mid-afternoon snack. Enjoy a protein-rich breakfast each morning to balance your blood sugars throughout the day. Eat a small snack before bedtime to help you sleep more soundly.

By eating more — but with totally natural foods — your appetite is satisfied and the sugary, unhealthy treats are not as appealing. Yes, really!

Don't go to an event hungry. Eat before you go. Don't shop hungry. Don't

party hungry.

As a matter of fact, just don't let yourself get really starving from now until New Year's Day, because temptations are more easily avoided.

If you are going to be away from home for long periods of time, pack little bags of raw nuts or raw fruit to munch. Choose restaurants that serve fresh food. In other words, satisfy — don't starve. ■

— Carol Simontacchi is a certified lifestyle educator at the offices of Dr. Alan Gruning in Fort Myers.

## AAUW offers aid for women going back to school

The Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation is accepting applications for local scholarship candidates. Tuition scholarships are awarded to eligible women seeking an associate or a baccalaureate degree. Candidates must be 21 years of age or older, currently enrolled in a program of study at an accredited college or university and a resident of Collier or southern Lee county. They must have a demonstrated need for financial assistance and a satisfactory academic record.

Greater Naples AAUW President Vi Steffan urges all qualified candidates to apply. "Our program is designed to assist mature women who are re-entering the academic world after some time spent in the workforce, raising a family or both," she says. "Many of these women have the added pressure of being single with a family to support; others have been laid off and are returning to the classroom to learn new skills."

For more information and an application, visit [www.aauwgnb.org](http://www.aauwgnb.org). Recipients will be notified no later than March 21, 2009. ■

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# MUSINGS

## Middle way somewhere



**T**his pirate's throne is in the middle. There is a mirror in front and a mirror behind. So the vision is infinite. I find myself going and coming in this middle way. There is plenty of room even in my little ordinary body life events. And even though there is little rest in this room I find it vastly superior to my friend Plato's cave. In there it feels very limited to be shackled to the one vision of only the shadows on the wall in front. There even the light behind is too bright, too insistent to be of any help in seeing.

It is clear that being in the middle has its benefits. But it is definitely not an upwardly mobile location. That doesn't bother me at all. I like the half way up and half way down.

Just as in A.A. Milne's childish poem, I am simply in the place where I sit, no other place quite like it, not at the bottom, not at the top. And like in the Milne poem I have all sorts of funny thoughts run round my head.

I think about things like tattoos and sand paintings.

Can you be a pirate without a tattoo? That seems highly unlikely. Tats bring stability to the pirate life style. When

faced with an ever-changing surround of light and dark, sea and sky, and the internal shifting of funny thoughts, pirates need stability written into the flesh.

In the mid 18th century Captain James Cook brought the tattoo experience from Polynesia to Europe. Since then the wonder of inserting ink under the skin has been with us. Our chosen image becomes part of our body self, stable and embracing. It is like the comfort of a child's favorite toy, but better. It is inseparable, and cannot be lost or stolen. The word "tattoo" itself is a calming onomatopoeic lullaby. Our word comes from the Polynesian "ta ta u," which literally means "hand, hand, color." The word mirrors the repeated insertion of color by hand beneath skin.

I can hear the gleeful affirmation of the ancient Greek philosopher Parmenides. For him, being is timeless, unchanging, motionless, uniform. For him, being itself is of the nature of tattoo. In the space of the tat, becoming is being and death is stamped out, pacified through the repeated application and subsequent appreciation of color.

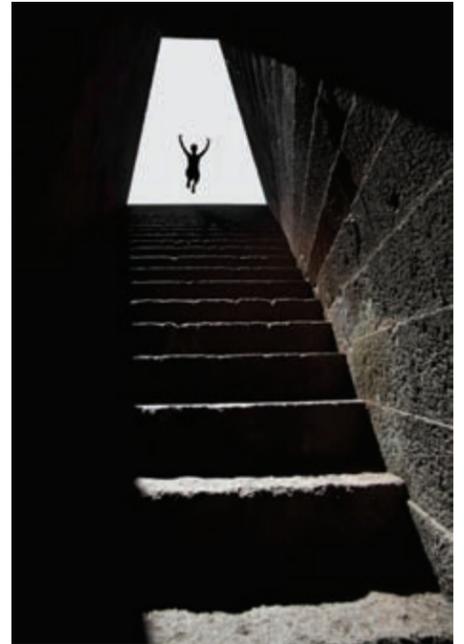
Tats are the bottom line art of choice of the Parmenides position, the mirror behind in my rest room. Sitting as I am on the middle stair, I must also find the perfect representational form of the mirror in front. And I would say that the form of the mirror in front is the sand painting.

"...Halfway up the stairs isn't up  
And it isn't down....  
And all sorts of funny thoughts  
Run round my head.  
It isn't really  
Anywhere!  
It's somewhere else  
Instead!"

— A.A. Milne

Sand painting is found in many places in the world: in the southwest Native American tribes, in Tibetan monasteries, among Australian aborigines, in Christian Latin America, in India. These paintings can be healing tools or portals into worlds. They are of many different designs. But the bottom line is their quality of impermanence. After long painstaking execution, the paintings are simply blown away, like soap bubbles on the wind. There is a joy in the dissipation.

Sandpaintings are the bottom line of the Heraclitus position. Heraclitus is the ancient Greek philosophic foil to Parmenides. He is the mirror in front position to Parmenides claim to the mirror behind. Parmenides is permanence. And Heraclitus, like sand paintings, tells us that we cannot step into the same river twice. In fact later continental philosophers took it a fashionable step further:



You cannot step into the same river once.

So on my pirate throne, I am. In body and mind I am still and moving endlessly. In the middle between mirrors I have it all, instantly and simultaneously. And I throw my head back, laughing on the middle stair, not really anywhere, just somewhere else instead.

Yo ho! ■

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

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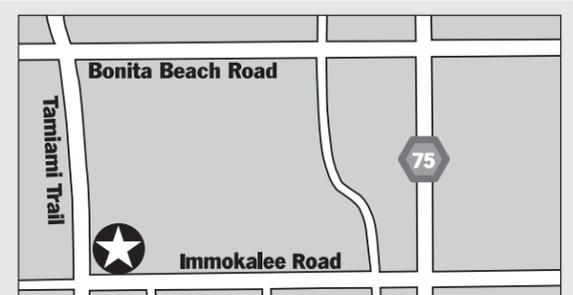
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# BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE

WEEK OF DECEMBER 25-31, 2008

A GUIDE TO THE NAPLES BUSINESS INDUSTRY



Martha Kilbane at Simply Steel Magnolias.

ALYSIA SHIVERS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

## WEEK at-a-glance



**Chamber holiday cheer**  
And other business celebrations around town. **B8 & 9** ▶



**Dennis Gilkey's new gig**  
Former Bonita Bay Group executive is organized for the future. **B2** ▶



**On Treasure Cove**  
\$24,900,000 Port Royal property has Christie's seal of approval. **B10** ▶

## Brave entrepreneurs believe in Big Cypress Market Place

Despite weak economy, these new retailers report business is strong

**ALYSIA SHIVERS**

news@floridaweekly.com

In this economy you'd be hard-pressed to find 9-to-5ers willingly saying goodbye to the comfort of a regular paycheck and hello to the roller-coaster ride of entrepreneurship. Yet there are still those who are willing to take a chance and follow their passion, and providing a home for these risk-takers is Big Cypress Market Place on U.S. 41 four miles east of Interstate 75.

Big Cypress has approximately 150 merchants, a sports bar, a produce market, a winery, a soon-to-open food court and an entertainment stage, all under one roof. It's a flea-market atmosphere in fully enclosed, air-conditioned comfort.

### A lot like mom's

"When the opportunity became available, we decided to open up shop knowing it was a bad economy... it was all on a wing and prayer," said Deb Underwood about her and her husband Gary's decision to open up Deb's Touch of Florida. The concept, originally her mom's, flourished at other area markets for 13 years until her mom's recent passing. Mrs. Underwood revived the successful shop, keeping some well-known items, including vinyl etchings, screen magnets and Keller Charles table accesso-



ries, while mixing in some of her own selections like Jelly Bean rugs. "I have no touristy items," she noted. "I'm trying to make it a place where people will want to come every day."

A true people person, Mrs. Underwood quickly made the transition from real-estate agent to shop owner and admits to loving every minute. But while exciting, this career move has come with its share of difficult lessons. "My trial-and-error has been a nightmare," she laughed. "I didn't have a clue what we were getting into, but we are happy."

SEE **BIG CYPRESS, B9** ▶

## International trade is focus of 'Innovation through Export'

**SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY**

The Economic Development Council of Collier County has begun an international trade initiative designed to identify and capitalize on opportunities for export trade development and foreign direct investment. The program, called "Innovation through Export" to signal its correlation with Project Innovation, the EDC's major economy-building effort, will take place in the first quarter of 2009. It is funded by a grant from Enterprise Florida.



"We believe international trade will serve an important role in creating a sustainable economy for Collier Coun-

ty," says Susi Winchell, the EDC's senior business relationship manager. In the inaugural program, "Innovation through Export" will target specific countries based on input from Collier County businesses, Ms. Winchell says, adding, "We intend to learn from this experience and expand to other markets in the future."

The program is being conducted in conjunction with Enterprise Florida, the United States Department of Commerce, and the Florida Export Finance Corporation. Four core activities will

help achieve international trade development objectives: outreach to existing local businesses, creation and distribution of marketing and trade event materials, market development with trade partners, and a potential outbound trade mission.

"Businesses that export generally grow faster, are more profitable and pay higher-than-average wages," says Manny Mencia, Enterprise Florida's senior vice president. "Just as important, they are better positioned to

SEE **EXPORT, B14** ▶

# BUSINESS PROFILE

## Seeing the future of Florida in sustainable developments

BY EVAN WILLIAMS  
ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

Dennis Gilkey was at the forefront of Southwest Florida development during his nine-year reign as president of the Bonita Bay Group (23 years with the company in all). He oversaw the building of 10 residential communities, more than 13,000 acres of master-planned development in Lee and Collier counties.

But in 2007, Mr. Gilkey, 57, gave up the position and created the Gilkey Organization, a sustainable land development consulting firm with real-estate services that specializes in planning mixed-use communities for landowners.

"It was always a dream of mine to be an independent small-businessman," he says. "I figured I should do that while I still had a few years left."

Mr. Gilkey is mild-mannered, courteous and soft-spoken if somewhat blunt. His company offices in Bonita Springs are small, and his wife and son make up a third of his staff.

It might appear Mr. Gilkey downshifted his ambitions. But in reality, the Gilkey Organization is taking on long-term, large-scale development projects that eclipse anything he did previously. Clients include landowners in 20 Florida counties, including Lee and Collier, who collectively own about 1,000,000 acres. Mr. Gilkey will help create their

business plans and then guide them through every step as they develop their properties.

Mr. Gilkey also plans to be a part of land developments in Georgia. Ultimately, he aims to orchestrate environmentally friendly, mixed-use developments: the kinds of residential communities that he says help reduce urban sprawl and add value to the property. The living space is compact, with homes designed above or near shopping centers and businesses; and instead of yards, there are plenty of walking trails and green space.

He believes such communities represent a part of Florida's future. But he also understands that they'll succeed only if they're appealing to the people who end up living in them. "That's what it boils down to," he says. "We still have to keep our finger on the pulse of the customer." He suspects baby boomers' children will enjoy the mixed-use developments more than their parents, because they'll be better adapted to a lifestyle based on conserving energy.

Mr. Gilkey sees his main advantage as his breadth of experience: 33 years of local expertise and connections made in land development, highway, building and utility projects. When he started with Bonita Bay Group in 1984 it had only six employees, the same number as his company now. By the time he



Dennis Gilkey

COURTESY PHOTO

something he's comfortable with. "My work ethic has always been more blue collar," he says. "I've always worked long hours."

Maybe it came from his upbringing in Fort Pierce, where his father was a laborer on the Florida East Coast Railroad, and his mother a secretary. Neither of his parents went to college; Mr. Gilkey bucked tradition and graduated with a degree in civil engineering from the University of Florida in 1973.

After that, he spent a decade as a consultant to officials in Jacksonville on warehouses, highways and bridges. Then he moved to Clearwater and focused on land development, including the kinds of gated communities he would later build in Bonita Springs.

He's active in groups including the Bonita Springs YMCA and engineering societies and organizations that sponsor sustainable development. He's been a commissioner on the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida since 2005 and was co-chair of the Lee County Smart Growth Advisory Committee from 2002 to 2005.

When he's not working, Mr. Gilkey likes to go boating and fishing. Sometimes he takes a break at his second home north of Tampa in Crystal River. But for now, he's ready to get to work building Florida's future in sustainable developments. ■

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# ON THE MOVE

## Non-profits

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Junior Achievement has recognized JA of Southwest Florida and its staff — Victoria Stephan, Stephanie Schultz, Cecilia St. Arnold, Karen Hargrove and Jodie Greenhoe — for their dedication to excellence with the 2007-08 Peak Performance Team Award. The announcement was made at the recent regional conference awards banquet in Nashville, Tenn. The Peak Performance Team Award was created to recognize outstanding performance by a local Junior Achievement office during the past fiscal year. To qualify, a JA office had to earn the Summit Award during the past two years, as well as experience positive student growth during 2007-08. Summit Award recipients recognized with the PPTA also achieved the highest combined level of student growth, increased market



Greenhoe

share and total revenue growth. Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy. Through a dedicated volunteer network, Junior Achievement provides in-school and after-school programs that focus on work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. In the 2008-09 school year, more than 9,500 students in Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties will be reached.

## Marketing

**Leo Zimmerman** has been named creative director at Image Marketing Associates, a full-service advertising, marketing and public relations agency based in Bonita Springs. An international award-winning writer, creative director and documentary producer, Mr. Zimmerman has led branding projects for Xerox, US Homes and U.S Cellular as well as GE Lighting. Prior positions include vice-president/creative director of Stein & Company Communications, vice-president/creative director of Digital Navigation, and advertising manager for Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital (University Hospitals of Cleveland).

## Ecological Consulting

**Marijke Noens** has been promoted to the position of ecologist at Passarella & Associates, a full-service ecological consulting firm dedicated to helping clients

achieve a sustainable balance between development and Southwest Florida's unique environmental resources. Ms. Noens is responsible for wetland jurisdictional determinations and permitting;



Noens

environmental construction inspections; environmental impact assessments; ecological assessments; listed species surveys; and wetland monitoring. A graduate of University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in wildlife ecology and conservation, she joined Passarella & Associates as an environmental technician in late 2007. She is pursuing a graduate degree at Florida Gulf Coast University, where she is part of a Coastal Watershed Institute project designed to determine to the optimum volume and timing of fresh water releases into the Caloosahatchee River. She is a member of the Florida Association of Wetland Professionals and the Society of Wetland Scientists. She has completed several continuing education courses, including Environmental Permitting 101 with the South Florida Water Management District and plant identification training.

## Banking

**Kerry A. Edwards**, senior portfolio manager/senior vice president of Bank of Florida Trust Company, has earned the Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst designation for alternative investment practitioners. The designation certifies a mastery of the concepts, tools and practices essential for under-



Edwards

standing alternative investments such as hedge funds, managed futures, private equity, commodities and real estate, and promotes adherence to high standards of ethical, professional conduct. A finance graduate of Hillsdale College in Michigan, Ms. Edwards joined Bank of Florida Trust Company in March of 2007 with more than a decade of banking and trust experience. She is a Certified Financial Planner and a Chartered Financial Consultant.

## Real estate

### Rod Robinson



Robinson

Bentley Sales Group has been appointed vice president/director of sales for Aqua, a new waterfront condominium residence and deepwater yacht harbor at Wiggins Pass in North Naples. Mr. Robinson most recently was associated with Premier Properties' Strateca Division, where he was responsible for communities including Treviso Bay, Bella Baia, Lemuria and Andalucia. He previously spent 20 years in Sarasota and served as president of the Florida division of Taylor Woodrow Homes. A graduate of Colorado State University, he belongs to the Naples Area Board of Realtors, the Urban Land Institute and the American Society of Landscape Architects. ■



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# Fifth Third Bank offers consumers tips for times of financial uncertainty

Fifth Third Bank has launched its Dream Guard initiative, a campaign that includes tools, tips and information to help consumers navigate today's financial uncertainty. Dream Guard materials explore practical ideas for dealing with stress, following a budget, talking to your kids about the economy and more. Everything is available online at [www.53.com](http://www.53.com) as well as at any of Fifth Third's 63 branch locations.

"We understand that consumers may be concerned about the economy and how it may impact their financial goals and dreams," said David Call, president and CEO. "We're looking to help consumers with ideas on how to save more, spend less and guard their dreams in the process."

"While we have always provided this type of guidance to our customers, we wanted to take this opportunity to be

"We understand that consumers may be concerned about the economy and how it may impact their financial goals and dreams."

— David Call, Fifth Third Bank

more proactive and enhance our planning tools so that consumers know we're here to help."

Dream Guard marks Fifth Third's second company-wide proactive awareness campaign. The first, You Have Options,



was launched earlier this year to educate and communicate with customers who might be having difficulty making mortgage, credit card or other loan payments.

The Dream Guard initiative takes a broad and more informational approach than previous outreach efforts; materials will be updated over time to reflect the variety of issues this climate may present.

Fifth Third Bancorp is a diversified financial services company headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. The company has \$116 billion in assets, operates 18 affiliates with 1,306 full-service banking centers and more than 2,300 ATMs in Florida, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Tennessee, West Virginia,

Pennsylvania, Missouri, Georgia and North Carolina. As of Sept. 30, Fifth Third has \$196 billion in assets under care, of which it managed \$30 billion for individuals, corporations and non-profit organizations. ■

## Are you uncomfortable with current markets?

If you are concerned about current market conditions, you may be surprised to learn that you can invest in securities, known in the marketplace as "Principal Protection Notes", that offer similar return potential as traditional investments, yet also provide principal protection against a market decline when held to maturity (subject to the credit risk of the issuer).

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Principal Protection Notes can give you exposure to a wide variety of underlying investments or strategies, including benchmark indices, stocks, interest rates and even commodities or currencies.

**To learn more about how these investments may be able to help you pursue your financial objectives, contact**

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The returns on the Principal Protection Notes described herein are linked to the performance of the underlying instruments. Investing in Principal Protection Notes is not equivalent to investing directly in the underlying instruments. Principal Protection Notes are sold by prospectus only - investors should contact their financial advisors for more information. Investing in Principal Protection Notes involves risks. Investors should carefully read the detailed explanation of risks, together with other information in the relevant offering materials.

The secondary market for Principal Protection Notes may be illiquid or a market may not develop at all. Investors should be willing to hold the Principal Protection Notes until maturity.

Neither UBS Financial Services Inc. nor its employees provide tax or legal advice.

You & Us



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## Fool's School

### The Earnings Yield

Looking at a company's price-to-earnings ratio, or "P/E," to get an idea of its relative price, can be useful. Calculating the P/E's inverse — the "earnings yield" — can be enlightening, too.

As an example, to calculate the P/E of Home Surgery Kits Inc. (ticker: OUCHH), you simply divide the current stock price by the annual earnings per share (EPS). If its current annual EPS is \$2 and the stock is trading for \$80 per share, the P/E is 80 divided by \$2, or 40. While 40 seems steep, it's not meaningful until you compare it with the P/E ratios of industry peers and consider the firm's health, competitive position and growth prospects.

To calculate Home Surgery Kits' earnings yield, just reverse the P/E ratio, dividing the annual EPS by the current stock price. \$2 divided by \$80 equals 0.025, or 2.5 percent. Compared to risk-free Treasury bond rates of roughly 3 to 4 percent, this doesn't seem like a bargain. But remember: Whereas bond

rates are fixed, earnings typically grow. If Home Surgery is expected to increase earnings by 10 percent per year, in 10 years its EPS should grow to \$5.19. If we bought our shares at \$80, our effective earnings yield would become 6.5 percent, considerably better (\$5.19 divided by \$80 is 0.065).

It can be instructive to see how long it takes for the growing earnings yield to pass the current 30-year bond rate, or your target rate. If your desired rate of return for your invested dollars is 12 percent, it will take about 18 years of earnings growth before the earnings yield of Home Surgery beats that target — if earnings actually grow at the estimated pace. You can probably find other investments that will get you there more quickly. With riskier companies, you might look for them to pass your target rate sooner rather than later.

The earnings yield can help you think more clearly about your expectations for investments. But remember to always examine many measures of a company, and not just one or two. ■

## My Smartest Investment

### Worth Hanging On

Years ago I bought 400 shares of Telefonos de Mexico for \$1 per share on the recommendation of John Templeton. It was soon worth less than a dime per share and wasn't worth selling, so I hung on. In a retooling of shares, I ended up with 140. As Mexico's economy improved, so did the company. My shares are now worth about \$13,000, and I've received far more than my original investment in dividends alone. It just took a little patience.

— Robert P., Landis, N.C.

**The Fool Responds:** It's been nearly a decade since you sent us this story — but it contains a lesson that bears repeating. And if you're still hanging on to your shares, they've more than doubled since then. Patience is indeed a critical quality of great investors. As Sir John himself urged: "Invest — don't trade or speculate. The stock market is not a casino, but if you move in and out of stocks every time they move a point or two, or if you continually sell short, or deal only in options or trade in futures, the market will be your casino. And, like most gamblers, you may lose eventually — or frequently ■



Do you have an embarrassing lesson learned the hard way? Boil it down to 100 words (or less) and send it to *The Motley Fool* c/o *My Dumbest Investment*. Got one that worked? Submit to *My Smartest Investment*. If we print yours, you'll win a Fool's cap!

## Last week's trivia answer

I was founded in 1868 on a salt dome island in Louisiana by a guy who made a sauce out of peppers from Mexico or Central America and French wine vinegar. Legend has it that he first packaged the product in used perfume bottles. In 1892, he founded a bird colony on the island to protect egrets that were being killed for their decorative feathers. He soon added plant life, and today his famed Jungle Gardens and Bird City attract visitors from all over the world. Each of my 2-ounce red bottles contains at least 720 drops. Who am I? ■

(Answer: McIlhenny Co.)



Write to Us! Send questions for *Ask the Fool*, *Dumbest (or Smartest) Investments* (up to 100 words), and your *Trivia* entries to [Fool@fool.com](mailto:Fool@fool.com) or via regular mail c/o this newspaper, attn: *The Motley Fool*. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

## What Is This Thing Called The Motley Fool?

Remember Shakespeare? Remember "As You Like It"? In Elizabethan days, Fools were the only people who could get away with telling the truth to the King or Queen. The *Motley Fool* tells the truth about investing, and hopes you'll laugh all the way to the bank.

## Ask the Fool

### The Long and Short of Pair Trades

**Q** What's a "pair trade"?  
— R.K., Fairfield, Calif.

**A** It's the practice of making two related trades at the same time. One is a "long" position (i.e., buying a stock with the expectation that it will increase in value) and the other a "short" position (where you borrow and sell a stock you expect will fall, planning to buy it back later at a lower price). The two securities will have a strong relation to each other.

For example, when the price of oil recently began falling, some people expected gold to rise. If so, they may have done some pair trading, buying gold-related securities and shorting oil-related ones.

**Q** What's a company's "burn rate"?  
— W.G., Decatur, Ill.

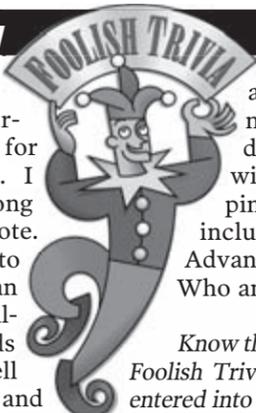
**A** It refers to how quickly the company is burning through cash. This isn't often an issue for large, established companies, but with small and quickly growing ones, a glance at the burn rate can be valuable. The number to examine is free cash flow, which is income from operations, less capital expenditures.

For example, imagine that in its most recent quarterly report, the Meteorite Insurance Co. (ticker: HEDSUP) reported negative \$20 million in free cash flow, as its cash balance fell to \$80 million from \$100 million in the previous quarter. It's not unusual for firms to lose money in their early years, but it's also what puts many of them out of business. In HEDSUP's case, at its current burn rate, it'll use up its cash in just a few quarters. To stay alive, it will have to reduce spending (possibly resulting in slower growth) or find some more money (perhaps taking on debt or issuing additional stock, diluting value for existing shareholders). ■

Got a question for the Fool? Send it in — see *Write to Us*.

## Name That Company

In 1886, I was founded by a man as the California Perfume Co. I'm "the company for women," with a female CEO. I offered women an income long before they were allowed to vote. In 1939 I changed my name to the home of a famous European playwright. My more than 5 million sales reps distribute hundreds of millions of catalogs and sell beauty products, fashion jewelry and



apparel in more than 100 nations. I'm the largest direct seller in the world, with annual revenues topping \$10 billion. My brands include Anew, Skin-so-Soft, Advance Techniques and Mark. Who am I? ■

Know the answer? Send it to us with *Foolish Trivia* on the top and you'll be entered into a drawing for a nifty prize!

## The Motley Fool Take

### Change Comes to Wal-Mart

Change is in the air these days, and Wal-Mart (NYSE: WMT) recently announced that CEO H. Lee Scott, who has led the company for almost nine years, plans to retire. With Wal-Mart firing on all cylinders lately, Scott is leaving while it's all on a roll.

He departs on Feb. 1, 2009, when the company's fiscal year ends. His replacement, Mike Duke, currently CEO of Wal-Mart's international segment, is coming in at an interesting time. Although Wal-Mart has been a bright spot in these tough economic times, it recently indicated that it may not be bulletproof — or recession-proof — as

consumers struggle with their budgets. Meanwhile, although it's been much easier to lure customers focused on cost-cutting these days, one can only hope Wal-Mart won't lose sight of the importance of protecting its brand while not seeming to do its business in a thugish manner, which has often been a problem in the past. Plus, with the new Democratic administration coming in, an increase in the power and influence of unions could present a challenge for Wal-Mart.

If Wal-Mart can continue to make good changes (it recently announced plans to use wind power to power some stores, for example), any market share it steals during the recession might stick. ■

# BUSINESS MEETINGS

■ The next **Accelerated Networking Luncheon** for members of the **Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce** takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at M Waterfront Grille in The Village on Venetian Bay. Admission is \$15; reservations must be made by Thursday, Jan. 1, at [www.napleschamber.org](http://www.napleschamber.org).

■ The Southwest Florida Chapter of the **Florida Public Relations Association** presents PR University 2009: "Weathering the Storm," a one-day seminar for public relations professionals, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at Hodges University in Fort Myers. Public relations professionals from throughout Florida will share their insights and innovations about crisis management, surviving tough economic times and fool-proofing your career in a series of dynamic,

fast-paced presentations. Attendees will also hear from a lively keynote speaker and participate in a crisis-related tabletop exercise. To register or find more information, visit [www.fprawsfl.org](http://www.fprawsfl.org).

■ **Catch the Buzz** and **Young Professionals of Naples** are planning "Diamonds are Forever," an evening of mixing and mingling, along with food, wine, music and diamonds, from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at The International Diamond Exchange. For more information, e-mail JoeJo Jennings of YPN at [JoeJoJennings@yahoo.com](mailto:JoeJoJennings@yahoo.com).

■ The **Institute for Responsible Corporate Governance** at the Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University presents "Seismic Changes in the Washington Landscape and Their

Effect on Corporate Governance" from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at FGCU's Sugden Welcome Center. Guest speaker will be John Castellani, president of The Business Roundtable and frequent guest on "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" and "Meet the Press." Cost is \$25. Seating is limited and reservations can be made by calling Kay Wingert at 590-7381 or e-mailing [kwingert@fgcu.edu](mailto:kwingert@fgcu.edu).

■ Practicing psychotherapists, mental health counselors, social workers and marriage and family therapists are invited to "Core Tasks of Psychotherapy," a workshop presented by the **Department of Counseling and Psychological Services** at Florida Gulf Coast University from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at the FGCU Student Union. Clinician and researcher Donald Meichenbaum

will discuss the Constructive Narrative Cognitive Behavior approach to changing behavior. Cost is \$120 for professionals and \$50 for graduate students. Register online For more information, call 590-7950.

■ **Business Network International** holds its weekly meeting at 7:15 a.m. Thursdays at St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, 7100 Airport-Pulling Road N., North Naples. For more information and to make a reservation, call 354-3224.

■ **Goal Setters Business Network International** holds its weekly breakfast meeting at 8 a.m. Wednesdays at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, 1225 Piper Blvd. For information, call Lola Moore at 398-3006 or Kelly Salmons at 597-0787. ■

# NETWORKING

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TAUNA SCHOTT / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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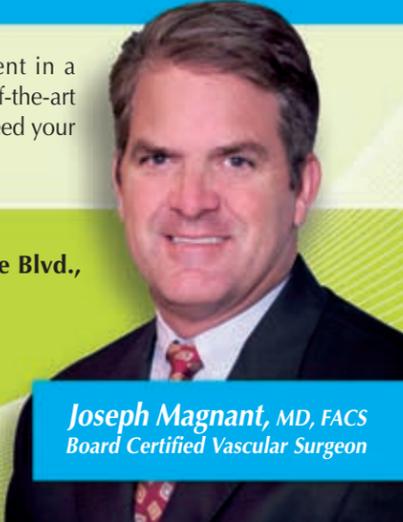
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# NETWORKING

## Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce Holiday Party at the Hilton



Janet Lee, Dirk Saurbier, CJ Houston and Patrick O'Conner



Stefanie Cathbatson, Karl Fry, Kyle and Tara Burke



Nick Weidenmiller, Michele Harrison, Pat Miller, Maria Albert and Wes Weidenmiller



Brian Glaser, Angie Basile and Bruce Gilbert



Jay Wattbilling and David Diamond



Sue Huff and Karole Davis



Jaquelyn Shea, Peter Levenson and Callie Kitis



Sharon Hood, Kelly Townsend, Linda Keutmann and Angela Hinton

# BIG CYPRESS

From page 1

## They'll be back

Martha Kilbane, who was practicing real estate in Ohio and regularly vacationing in Naples, moved here permanently a year ago after hearing about Big Cypress' plans. "I thought the concept was amazing," she said.

New to retail, Ms. Kilbane believed not only in Big Cypress but also in her product: stainless steel jewelry. "They should have been making this 50 years ago," she said, noting that it doesn't tarnish, it's hypoallergenic, and it's affordable.

Since Big Cypress opened in early October, Simply Steel Magnolias has already seen repeat customers.

So has Olga Conde's Big C's Seasoned Salsa. Mrs. Conde has even had had one customer confess his addiction to her homemade concoction of vegetables and spices that took decades to perfect.

Offering her original blended salsa in hot, medium and mild as well as a selection of fresh and chunky salsas, from cucumber to mango pineapple, Mrs. Conde calls Big Cypress "a blessing." Not only was the market open to her manufacturing and selling her product on-site, it allowed her to start a business from the ground up at a very reasonable price.

"Where else can you start up a business for under \$1,000?" she said. "A lot of people are scared because the economy is bad, but if I can make it when the economy is bad, how much more am I going to make when it is good?"

Mrs. Conde introduced her product



Deb Underwood, Deb's Touch of Florida.



Olga Conde, Big C's Seasonal Salsas.



Dennis Parsons, Bikers and Pirates Treasures.

ALYSIA SHIVERS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

to the public at the Naples fairgrounds last year and drew rave review. That gave her the confidence to pursue her salsas as a retail business. "If it wasn't for this little 13-by-11 (square-foot space), I wouldn't have been able to do it," she said.

Dennis Parsons, owner of Bikers and Pirates Treasures, likes the homey atmosphere of Big Cypress where customers can shop and eat in comfort, the vendors are friendly and the managers are open to suggestions.

In spite of the bad economy, Mr. Parsons, a motorcycle fanatic since he was a boy, stared down the scary concept of retail so he could provide his fellow bikers with an affordable alternative for biker wear and accessories. "We're going to ride if it's rainy, cold or hot, because this is our only escape," he

said. "And we like to look good when we ride."

As a member of ABATE, American Bikers Aiming Toward Education, Mr. Parsons is spreading the word throughout the organization about not only his store at Big Cypress but the market place in general. "ABATE knows I am just starting out, and when they come in they don't just support me, but all the vendors here," he said.

## Big Cypress believers

As more booths open for business and more customers discover Big Cypress Market Place, the excitement grows among these new business owners with each transaction.

Mrs. Conde was stunned when a customer told her he drove 20 miles to buy her salsa, and Ms. Kilbane converted a

customer who believed she could only wear gold jewelry into a bonafide lover of stainless steel. "As long as you have a product that you really believe in and it's priced reasonably, you can do this," Ms. Kilbane said.

Ultimately, though, they all believe in Big Cypress. "It's going to be the place to come," said Mrs. Underwood. "You can spend the whole day here eating and shopping."

In support of its community, Big Cypress Market Place plans to host various charitable drives throughout the year, the first of which is a food drive for St. Matthew's House. Now in full swing, the food drive ends Jan. 31. During this time, customers are encouraged to drop off a food item in boxes set around the market or make a monetary donation to St. Matthew's House. ■

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**\$1,695,000**



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#### ST. KITTS

#1601 Panoramic Gulf views! Remodeled. Ready for the season. Rare! 3/2.5/plus 36 ft terrace! Over 2400 sq ft!  
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# REAL ESTATE



## A Christie's Great Estates Property

COURTESY PHOTOS



A bounty of custom touches fill the nearly 16,000 square feet of this grand Port Royal home that's on a waterfront double lot with commanding views of Treasure Cove. The basics include seven bedrooms, nine full baths and four half baths and a separate guest house; the extraordinary extras include a 12-seat theater, a 1,000-bottle wine cellar, a whole-house generator, an air-conditioned six-car garage, a putting green, two summer kitchens, a 40-by-23-foot mosaic tiled pool, a floating dock and direct access to the Gulf of Mexico. The home, a Christie's Great Estates Property, is offered for \$24,900,000. Listing agent is Lindsey Forte Smith of Premier Properties. Call 434-2424. ■

## Survey says Baby Boomers seek smaller, single-story homes

COURTESY PHOTO



The San Rio at The Reserve at Estero

### SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

With 77 million Americans born between 1946 and 1964, it is no wonder that builders and developers look to this generation of Baby Boomers as trendsetters in the housing market. So when Hanley Wood, a business media and information firm, and DYG surveyed Baby Boomer homeowners about what they want in their homes, builders were eager to apply the information.

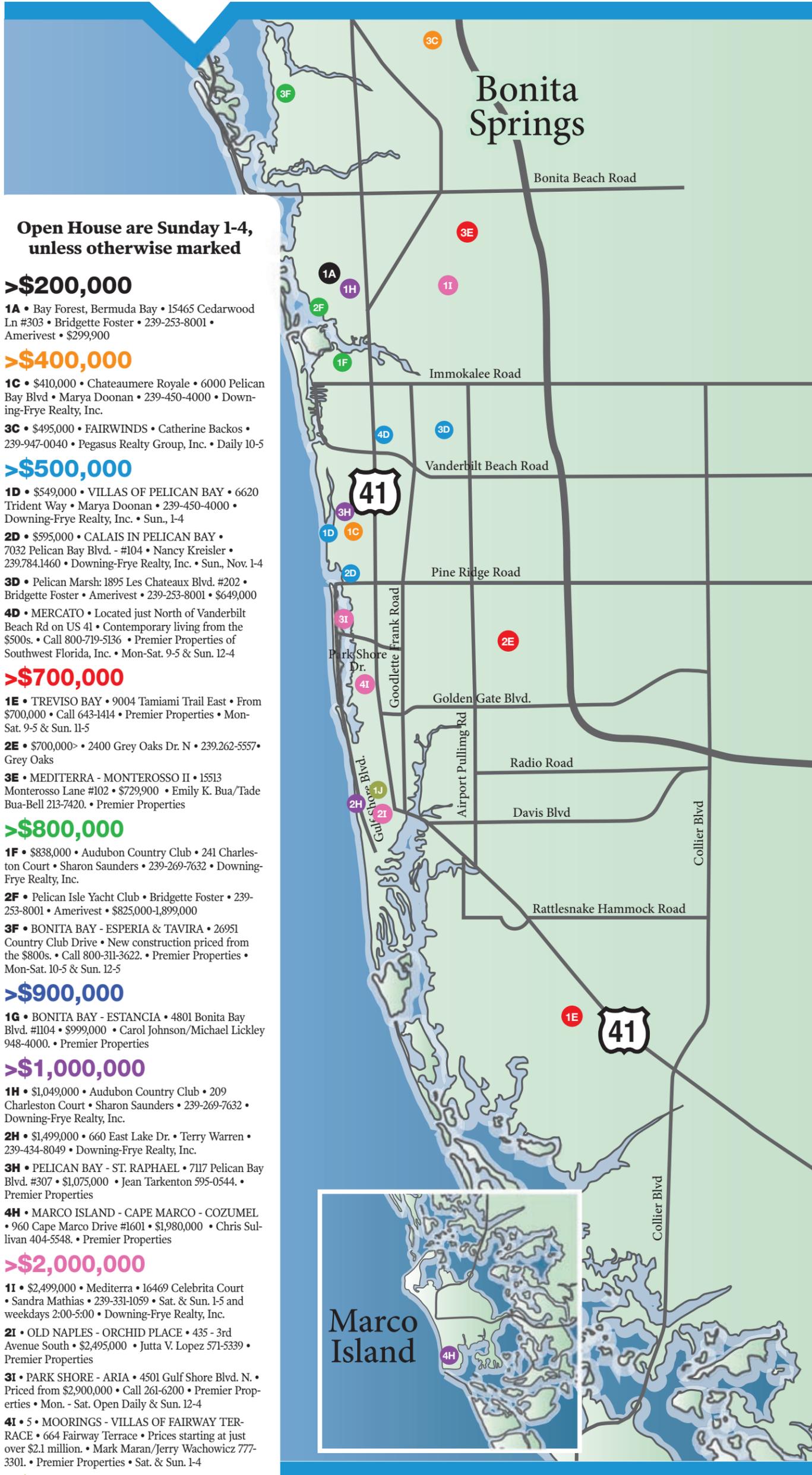
The Hanley Wood survey, published in part in Big Builder Magazine, indicated that 58 percent of those surveyed wanted to move to a smaller

home. More than a third wanted to remodel or move in order to have a single-story home.

Instead of a single, large home, 44 percent of those surveyed indicated they would prefer a second home and "split" the square footage between two houses, prompting many national builders to reintroduce the vacation home — a smaller, lower-priced home. The detached, single-family home was the preferred housing type for 72 percent of the survey respondents. To provide a variety of options for that homebuyer, Toll Brothers has created

SEE BOOMERS, B12 ►

# Florida Weekly's Open Houses



**Open House are Sunday 1-4, unless otherwise marked**

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**2D** • \$595,000 • CALAIS IN PELICAN BAY • 7032 Pelican Bay Blvd. - #104 • Nancy Kreisler • 239.784.1460 • Downing-Frye Realty, Inc. • Sun., Nov. 1-4

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## BOOMERS

From page 1

designs that range from around 1,500 square feet to 2,500 square feet.

"Smaller doesn't mean sacrificing the amenities that buyers are accustomed to in larger homes," said Ken Thirtyacre, president of Toll Brothers Florida West Division. "They still want architectural details, gourmet kitchens and luxurious master baths. They want lots of options, such as custom cabinetry, granite countertops and perhaps a tropical garden surrounding a pool.

"But this all must be available in smaller homes."

At The Reserve at Estero, a Toll Brothers community of single-family homes on Estero Parkway, designs range from 1,473 square feet to 2,545 air-conditioned square feet. The community also includes the type of resort amenities to enhance leisure time, Mr. Thirtyacre said.

The Reserve's 8,000-square-foot Grand Clubhouse has a multi-purpose room for social or business gatherings, a fitness center with cardiovascular and weight equipment, an aerobics room, a media room and a game room with billiards table. There's also a resort-style pool, tennis courts, a sports court and a "tot lot" children's playground.

One of the popular designs at The Reserve at Estero is the San Rio, a single-story, three-bedroom, two-bath home with a family room and breakfast area as well as formal living and dining rooms. The home encompasses 1,981 air-conditioned square feet; a two-car garage, covered entry and lanai bring the total square footages of 2,687 square feet.

Belle Lago, another Toll Brothers community of single-family homes in Estero, offers eight larger villa designs from 2,058 square feet to 3,024 square feet in addition to the community's estate homes. Belle Lago's amenities include a community clubhouse with a multi-purpose room, fitness center with weight and cardiovascular equipment, multi-purpose aerobics studio, library/craft room, game room, billiards room and card/TV lounge. The men's



COURTESY PHOTO

### Belle Lago

and women's locker rooms each have a dressing area and showers. Outdoors, there are lighted Hydro-grid clay tennis courts, a half-court basketball court and a resort-style pool.

Walking trails wind throughout the community and its private parks, offering fitness stations along the way. For those who want to play golf but don't want to live in a golf-course community Belle Lago offers residents the option of membership at the adjacent Estero Country Club, where they can drive their own golf carts along a connecting trail for a round of golf or dinner.

The Saranac, a detached villa home with three bedrooms, 2 ½ baths and a study, features an open floor plan favored by Baby Boomers. One of the bedrooms easily converts to an office, added appeal to work-at-home pre-retirees. The design has 2,514 air-conditioned square feet and with a covered lanai, two-car garage and covered entry, a total of 3,255 square feet.

Overall, the characteristics described by Baby Boomers in the survey indicated they want homes that are open, airy, user-friendly and that seamlessly mix indoor and outdoor spaces. They want big master suites, spa-like master bathrooms, state-of-the-art kitchens and casual gathering spaces.

A big surprise, perhaps, was the lack of interest in age-restricted communities. Only 13 percent liked the idea, while 56 percent said they wanted multicultural, richly diverse neighborhoods. Outdoor activities ranked significantly higher than golf.

Mr. Thirtyacre said the trend to smaller homes is not just for Baby Boomers, and that creates friendly, multi-generational communities similar to the small town neighborhoods in which many Boomers grew up. "The trend is really toward 'manageable' spaces," he said. "In some cases, retirees and pre-retirees are downsizing or purchasing second homes, but the trend is not limited to that segment of the market. Many families are focusing on their lifestyle, which doesn't necessarily require a large home. They have activities outside the home — travel, sports, hobbies. And in Florida, they also want home spaces that expand their outdoor living area rather than indoor rooms."

Prices at Belle Lago begin in the upper \$300,000s; in The Reserve at Estero, prices begin in the upper \$200,000s. At Firano at Naples, a new Toll Brothers community off Davis Boulevard, prices are from the low \$400,000s. ■



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# Tips can help homebuyers avoid abusive lending practices

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Deciding to purchase a home is one of the most significant decisions a consumer will ever make. While most mortgage industry professionals are honest and ethical, it is still important for consumers to be aware of the following tips as they prepare to enter the largest financial transaction of their lives. By becoming knowledgeable about the mortgage process, they can protect their financial investment and find a loan that will best serve their needs.

The Florida Association of Mortgage Brokers offers the following tips to avoid abusive lending practices during the home buying process:

- Shop around and compare. If you need to borrow money for a home purchase, refinance or home repairs, shop around with different licensed mortgage brokers and lenders. Before making a decision, compare interest rates and find out what the total costs of the loan will be and what your monthly payment will be. You should receive a Good Faith Estimate of costs from each licensed lender or broker you consider.

- Negotiate. Don't let the promise of extra cash or lower monthly payments get in the way of your good judgment. Consider whether the closing costs you will pay for the loan are really worth it. Don't agree to a loan that includes extra products you don't want. Negotiate the terms and agree to a loan amount that will meet your needs.

- Be cautious. Be wary of anyone who calls you on the phone, solicits you in the mail or comes to your door offering "bargain loans." Beware of claims that the offer is only available for a short period of time. Beware of lenders claiming "bad credit, no problem." If the loan terms seem too good to be true, perhaps they are.

- Never act immediately. If the mortgage professional asks for fees up front, ask how the fees will be used and be certain to get the explanation in writing. Are the funds for the appraisal or credit report? Never pay a lender cash for any fees, and always make the check payable to the mortgage firm, not the individual loan officer.

- Understand the terms of your loan. Some loans might sound very attractive because the monthly payment is small. Ask if the payment will adjust during the life of the loan. Make sure you know the dollar amount of each monthly payment. If the loan is adjustable (ARM), make sure you understand how often and how much your payment can change.

- Don't be afraid to ask questions. You have a legal right to know the total cost of the loan, the annual percentage rate, the monthly payments and how long you will make payments on the loan. If you are unsure of any terms of the loan, ask for an explanation. If you don't receive a straight answer, go

else



where for your financing needs.

- Read carefully before you sign. Don't sign any document you haven't read or that has blank spaces that could be filled in after you sign. Don't be pressured into signing anything you don't understand. If you need an explanation of any terms or conditions, talk to someone knowledgeable that you trust. Get copies of everything you sign at the time you sign them.

- Borrow only the amount you need and can afford to repay. Just because you qualify for a certain amount of money doesn't mean you should borrow the maximum. Consider whether you can afford to make the payments. Determine exactly how much money you need, borrow only that amount and find out exactly how much your monthly payment will be. If you are consolidating debt, make sure you will have enough money left after closing costs and loan pay offs to pay any other bills you would like to eliminate.

- Immediately get help if you feel you have been victimized. Contact your local state regulators and/or your local Better Business Bureau to report the individuals and companies you worked with.

The Florida Association of Mortgage Brokers is the oldest state trade mortgage association in the nation. Its members strive to attain the highest degree of excellence and customer service available. FAMB members also subscribe to a strict code of ethics. For more information or to find a mortgage broker in your area, visit the consumer information page at [www.famb.org](http://www.famb.org). ■

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## Premier Properties will handle marketing, sales for The Estuary

The Lutgert Companies' Premier Properties will assume responsibility for the marketing and sales services for The Estuary at Grey Oaks, one of several joint ventures between the Lutgert and Barron Collier families, as of Jan. 15.

To date, the Estuary has been marketed through Grey Oaks Realty, which will continue to market the east side of Grey Oaks.

The final phase of Grey Oaks Country Club, The Estuary was started in 2001. The community has been named one of Travel & Leisure's top 100 golf communities, and was one of 16 nationwide cited by Links Magazine as "Best for Club Life." The Estuary is built around an 18-hole, Bob Cupp-designed championship golf course named the 2005 Florida Golf Course of the Year.

Premier Properties has six full-service

offices in Naples and one in Bonita Springs. The company's commercial and developer services divisions are on Panther Lane.

The Lutgert Companies developed Park Shore as well as the high-rise residences at Bonita Bay. Also within its portfolio are Mercato, the new mixed-used neighborhood in North Naples, The Promenade at Bonita Bay, Neapolitan Way and Crossroads Market shopping centers.

In addition to the development, management and stewardship of land holdings nationwide, Barron Collier Companies has extensive agricultural operations (primarily citrus groves and vegetable farming); commercial, retail and residential real estate development; and oil exploration and mineral management. ■

## EXPORTS

From page 1

sustain sales levels through tough economic times," he adds.

Approximately 500 companies in Collier County are included in the EDC's target industry clusters of health and life sciences, computer software and services and wholesale trade/distribution. Members of the EDC team will distribute export-readiness surveys and conduct on-site visits with these companies to assist in identifying potential business participants.

The EDC and its partners will promote current programs and provide workshops and other resources to prepare those companies interested in beginning an export program and assist those who would like to enhance their current programs.

Companies interested in learning more about the program are encouraged to contact the EDC at 263-8989 or susi@enaplesflorida.com.

Project Innovation kicked off earlier this month with the first in a series of participative work sessions on creating a sustainable economy for the community's future. Additional information is available at [www.projectinnovation.cc](http://www.projectinnovation.cc). ■

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**PELICAN BAY MONTENERO #PH2002** ▲  
Privacy and spectacular views make this 9,715 SF gorgeous penthouse a paradise in the sky. Exceptional extras. \$6,795,000 | Ellen Egglund | 571-7192



**PELICAN BAY - POINTE VERDE** ▲  
This custom designed estate home features volume ceilings, 4 bedroom suites, a home theatre and library. Pool and spa. \$3,995,000 | Barbi/Steve Lowe | 216-1973



**PELICAN BAY ST. RAPHAEL #PH17** ▲  
Panoramic Gulf and city vistas. Spacious floor plan with 4,700+ SF A/C, 5 bedrooms, marble floors, fireplace. \$3,550,000 | Cynthia Joannou | 273-0666



**PELICAN MARSH BAY LAUREL ESTATES** ▲  
Mediterranean-style home with golf views. Saturnia flooring, crown moulding & granite counters. Pool/spa. \$2,695,000 | Michael Lawler/Ray Couret | 571-3939



**PELICAN BAY - GEORGETOWN** ▲  
A stately manor with many new and artful upgrades. Four bedroom, study, media room and pool overlooking lake. A Christie's Great Estates Property. \$2,600,000 | Kathryn Tout | 250-3583



**PELICAN MARSH BAY LAUREL ESTATES** ▲  
Exquisite home with luxurious appointments, 4 bedrooms, crown moulding, Koi pond, side courtyard and more. \$1,999,000 | Ray Couret | 293-5899



**PELICAN BAY - TIERRA MAR** ▲  
Rare 4 bedroom villa with lake view and southern exposure. Large pool in front courtyard, aviary-screened patio in rear. \$1,545,000 | Linda Piatt | 269-2322



**PELICAN BAY ST. MAARTEN #PH5** ▲  
Commanding coastal views from this penthouse with four bedrooms, master is on the 1st floor. Totally renovated. \$1,495,000 | Mary Johnson | 594-9446



**PELICAN MARSH - MUIRFIELD** ▲  
Magnificent custom-built home. Two home theaters, wine cellar, wood floors, granite counters. Pool, waterfall spa. \$1,466,000 | Alison Kalb | 564-0714



**PELICAN BAY - ST. RAPHAEL #406** ▲  
7117 Pelican Bay Blvd. - Beautifully maintained 3 bedroom! Neutral backgrounds, spacious lanai and a Gulf view! Two-deeded parking spaces. \$1,345,000 | Jean Tarkenton | 595-0544



**PELICAN MARSH - TERRABELLA** ▲  
Private 2-story, 4 bedroom plus den and 4+ bath residence. Stunning 14' ceilings and triple-crown moldings. Free-form pool. \$1,299,000 | Rod Soars | 290-2448



**PELICAN MARSH - GABLES** ▲  
Custom built 4 bedroom plus den with a large kitchen that opens onto family room with wood burning fireplace. Lanai overlooks lake. \$1,195,000 | Mitch/Sandi Williams | 370-8879



**PELICAN BAY - BAY VILLAS** ▲  
Beautifully remodeled, 3 bedroom villa with soaring, vaulted ceilings in the great room, master bath, and kitchen. \$1,195,000 | Mary Halpin/Jamey Halpin | 269-3005



**PELICAN MARSH - TERRABELLA** ▲  
Distinctive Communities built home. Cathedral ceilings, fine woodwork, faux paint. Pool/spa in sun-lit courtyard. \$1,185,000 | Rod Soars | 290-2448



**PELICAN BAY - L'AMBIANCE #201** ▲  
Sensational view! Tropical aqua-scape view enhances the open spaciousness of this coach home. Incredible amenities. \$1,100,000 | Ellen Egglund | 571-7192



**PELICAN MARSH - PORTOFINO** ▲  
Tile and marble floors, volume ceilings, and plantation shutters. Private pool and spacious lanai overlook preserve. \$999,000 | Jean Tarkenton | 595-0544



**PELICAN BAY - MARBELLA #1105** ▲  
Wonderful Gulf views from this 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath with approx. 2,000 total SF. Full service building. \$975,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420



**PELICAN BAY ST. MARISSA #2003** ▲  
Gulf views from this residence with an entire new kitchen featuring granite, new cabinetry and new appliances! \$929,000 | Jennifer/Dave Uness | 273-7731



**PELICAN BAY - HERON #502** ▲  
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**PELICAN BAY - POINTE II #101** ▲  
Magnificent 3 bedroom corner residence is bright and sunny. Pristine condition, exquisitely furnished, glassed lanai. \$810,000 | Alison Kalb | 564-0714



**PELICAN BAY - ST. PIERRE #1504** ▲  
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**PELICAN BAY - POINTE II #102** ▲  
Elegant 3 bedroom, 2 bath home features tray ceilings, 18" tile, crown moulding and a large glass-enclosed lanai. \$789,000 | Philip Mareschal | 269-6033



**PELICAN BAY ST. MAARTEN #1705** ▲  
Stunning Gulf, mangroves & Clam Pass views. Remodeled in a modern style with a softer twist. Furnished. \$787,000 | Jerry Wachowicz | 777-0741



**PELICAN BAY GROSVENOR #202** ▲  
Three bedrooms, three baths, views of preserve. Some features include marble flooring, tray ceiling, wet bar. \$745,000 | Lodge McKee | 434-2424



**PELICAN BAY BREAKWATER #101** ▲  
Three bedroom with southeast exposure over lake, 1,831 SF under air plus a 2-car garage. Turnkey furnished. \$729,000 | Jane Darling/Sharon Kipytk | 777-3899



**PELICAN MARSH LES CHATEAU #302** ▲  
Panoramic lake views! Three bedroom plus den PH. Custom paint, oversize tile; premium carpet. Light and bright. \$699,000 | Ray Couret | 293-5899



**PELICAN BAY - BREAKWATER #203** ▲  
Gourmet kitchen, plantation shutters, Italian stone flooring. Two-car garage. Hurricane-glass lanai with lake view. \$699,000 | Janet Rathbun/Linda Piatt | 860-0012



**PELICAN BAY - VALENCIA #103** ▲  
A bright, spacious, 2 bedroom, 2 bath condominium. Just steps to Valencia's pool/spa/fitness center. Newly remodeled. \$619,000 | Mary Halpin/Jamey Halpin | 269-3005



**PELICAN BAY - L'AMBIANCE #202** ▲  
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**PELICAN MARSH - TIMARRON** ▲  
Two bedroom plus den with lake view. Upgrades include hurricane shutters, custom landscaping and new tile/solid wood flooring. \$499,900 | Janet Rathbun/Linda Piatt | 860-0012

## PELICAN BAY

Single Family Homes

**PINECREST 815 Bentwood Drive**  
Extensively remodeled 4 bedroom plus den with a gourmet kitchen, electric shutters and custom cabinetry. \$1,598,000 | Mary Halpin/Jamey Halpin | 269-3005

**OAKMONT 720 Pineside Lane**  
Enjoy your own private pool and spa in this light-filled 3 bedroom plus den, 2.5 bath home on a large homesite. \$1,195,000 | Marion Bethea | 261-6161

**OAKMONT 808 Pine Creek Lane**  
Lovely 3 bedroom residence newly renovated with tile and bamboo flooring. New kitchen, tray ceilings, private pool. \$999,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420

Condominiums/Villas

**COCOBAY 7810 Cocobay Court**  
Expanded Grand Bay Bonaire 4 bedroom and includes a 2 room guest cabana. Furnished. Walk to private beach access. \$1,895,000 | Linda Piatt | 269-2322

**CORONADO 7225 Pelican Bay Blvd. #1001**  
Corner residence with panoramic Gulf, Bay and preserve views. Cherry cabinetry, wood floors, and electric shutters. \$1,350,000 | Pat Duggan | 216-1980

**BRIDGE WAY VILLAS 667 Bridgeway Lane #135**  
This 3 bedroom, 3 bath villa has a backyard opening up to a creek and views of the lake. New A/C, pool heater. \$1,295,000 | Mary Halpin/Jamey Halpin | 269-3005

**LAS BRISAS 18 Las Brisas Way**  
Gorgeous 3 bedroom villa with 2,600 SF under air, prime southwest exposure, a private pool, and remodeled kitchen. \$1,249,000 | Jane Darling/Sharon Kipytk | 777-3899

**ST. RAPHAEL 7095 Pelican Bay Blvd. #14**  
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**ST. RAPHAEL 7057 Pelican Bay Blvd. #5**  
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**CORONADO 7225 Pelican Bay Blvd. #1104**  
Gulf views from every room. Stainless appliances, new A/C unit, granite countertops, tray ceilings. Tram to beach. \$1,035,000 | Linda Perry/Judy Perry | 261-6161

**STRATFORD 5601 Turtle Bay Drive #801**  
Gulf views! Furnished 2 bedroom plus den. Two large glassed-in sunrooms with wraparound lanais. Fantastic updates. \$995,000 | Adrienne Kubiak Young/Marion Bethea | 825-5369

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**INTERLACHEN 6732 Pelican Bay Blvd. #333** **OPEN SUN 1-4**  
Spacious floor plan with 3 bedrooms and 2-car garage. Wonderful lake/pool views. Beach access, pool, tennis. \$975,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420

**INTERLACHEN 6790 Pelican Bay Blvd.**  
Stunning one-of-a-kind spacious villa. Two bedroom plus den with updates! Outstanding amenities! \$919,000 | Caroline C. Coates | 273-2516

**CRESCENT 8468 Abington Circle #2121**  
Second floor with private elevator, 3 bedrooms plus den. Mint condition. Glass-enclosed lanai and 2-car garage. \$899,000 | Sharon Kipytk/Jane Darling | 777-3899

**GROSVENOR 6001 Pelican Bay Blvd. #405**  
Gracious 3 bedroom with unobstructed Gulf, preserve and pool/spa area views. Two car under-building spaces. \$825,000 | Wendy Hayes | 777-3960

**ST. MARISSA 6573 Marissa Loop #1002**  
Endless Gulf views from this 2 bedroom plus den. Beautifully updated building with great amenities. \$799,000 | Jennifer/Dave Uness | 273-7731

**ST. KITTS 6585 Nicholas Blvd. #605**  
Bright and sunny corner residence with gorgeous views of the Gulf, 3 bedrooms plus den. Turnkey furnished. \$795,000 | Pat Duggan | 216-1980

**BREAKWATER 749 Bentwater Circle #203**  
Two bedroom plus den features picturesque southern lake views, a glass-enclosed lanai and oversized 2-car garage. \$725,000 | Mary Halpin/Jamey Halpin | 269-3005

**OAK LAKE SANCTUARY 878 Turtle Court**  
Split bedroom plan with 3 bedrooms & a separate guest house. Private pool/spa, 10' ceilings and 2-car garage. \$699,000 | Linda Piatt | 269-2322

**INTERLACHEN 6760 Pelican Bay Blvd. #333**  
Southeastern views across the Pelican Bay Golf Course & lakes highlight this meticulous 3 bedroom condominium. \$699,000 | Ruth Trettis | 434-2424

**ST. NICOLE 5550 Heron Point Drive #1202**  
Gulf sunsets daily from the balcony in this pristine 2 bedroom. Updated with tile/wood floors. Furnished. \$675,000 | Pat Duggan | 216-1980

**ST. NICOLE 5550 Heron Point Drive #603**  
A great location near everything. This furnished 2 bedroom residence has expansive views over the Gulf. \$625,000 | Fred Alter | 269-4123

**BAY VILLAS 547 Bay Villas Lane**  
Open 2 bedroom plus den, private courtyard, granite counters, stainless appliances & Mexican tile floors. \$589,000 | Linda Piatt/Jeri Richey | 269-2322

**CALAIS 7016 Pelican Bay Blvd. #102**  
New 20" tile, carpet, cabinets, granite and marble counters, stainless appliances and crown moulding. Attached garage. \$579,000 | Barbi/Steve Lowe | 216-1973

**HYDE PARK 6360 Pelican Bay Blvd. #C404**  
Awesome views of golf and lake. Spacious 2 bedroom plus den. Updated kitchen, new wood flooring. \$550,000 | Mary Halpin/Jamey Halpin | 269-3005

## PELICAN BAY

Condominiums/Villas

**HYDE PARK 6300 Pelican Bay Blvd #A-402**  
Lake and golf views from the terrace of this 2 bedroom. Conveniently located to all amenities in Pelican Bay. \$529,900 | Pat Biernat | 269-6264

**BREAKWATER 765 Bentwater Circle #102**  
Spacious 2 bedroom plus family room over-looking lake. Upgraded kitchen. Two-car garage. Great amenities. \$519,900 | Linda Piatt/Jane Rathbun | 269-2322

**CHATEAUMERE 6060 Pelican Bay Blvd. #303**  
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**GLENCOVE 5803 Glencove Drive #603**  
Updated kitchen, granite counters, 18" tile floors, and newly furnished turnkey. Corner location offers privacy. \$479,000 | Linda Ohler | 404-6460

**HYDE PARK 6320 Pelican Bay Blvd. #T-6**  
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**GLENCOVE 5818 Glencove Drive #103**  
This 2 bedroom, 2 bath corner residence has a glass-enclosed lanai, which expands the living area. \$395,000 | Pat Duggan | 216-1980

**GLENCOVE 5809 Glencove Drive #901**  
Peaceful lake views! Furnished 2 bedroom with updated kitchen and newer appliances. Tram to beach. \$357,000 | Angela R. Allen | 825-8494

**GLENCOVE 5800 Glencove Drive #202**  
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**OSPREY POINTE 9029 Whimbrel Watch Lane #102**  
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**ARIELLE 2130 Arielle Drive #305**  
Peaceful lake views! Furnished 2 bedroom with updated kitchen and newer appliances. Tram to beach. \$357,000 | Angela R. Allen | 825-8494

**ARIELLE 2245 Arielle Drive #2107**  
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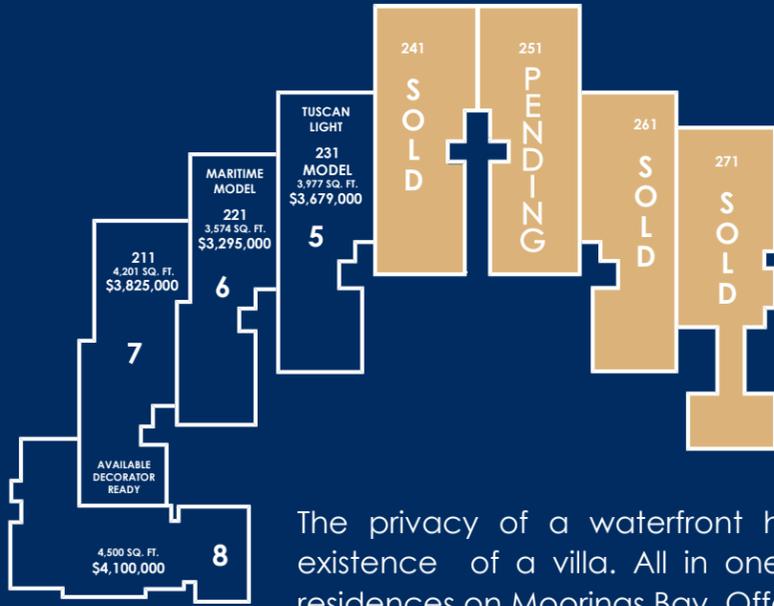
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF DECEMBER 25-31, 2008

A GUIDE TO THE NAPLES ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE

**FORT MYERS FLORIDA WEEKLY**  
YOUR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

*a guide with style ...*

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

01.01.09

>>THE **HOW & WHERE TO RING IN 2009**

It's time to take stock of the old year and vow to make the new one better. It's also a time to drink, party, celebrate, revel, feast, toast, sing and dance.

If you're looking for a place to do all of that, we've done most of the work for you. *Florida Weekly's* New Year's Eve guide lists your favorite restaurants and night spots that have special plans for the evening.

So eat, drink and be merry, because the stock market is closed on New Year's Day. We'll have plenty of time to be depressed after that.

— Cheers.

Look the part >>**C13**: Fashion tips for the big night

Stepping out? >>**C15**: Restaurants, clubs have lots to offer

Dining in? >>**C16**: Cook up an elegant evening for two

Pop the cork >>**C17**: Bring on the best bubbly

Artsy parties >>**C18**: Celebrate with the arts

## Set the table for an easy, elegant New Year's Eve dinner party

**SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY**

Having a few friends in for a low-key yet lovely dinner party on New Year's Eve? With planning and a few special touches you can have a memorable gathering to celebrate the end of another year and a fresh start for 2009. These tips for elegant entertaining with ease come from [www.dianamartin.com](http://www.dianamartin.com):

1. Mentally rehearse the party from beginning to end. Walk through the evening as a guest to help your planning.
2. Magical lighting will make you and your guests look younger and more glamor-

ous, so use dimmers in each room, especially the dining room. And remember: There's no such thing as too many candles around the house.

3. Make your table friendly and personal. Add your favorite art object as part of the table décor. Less is more in this case, so keep things uncluttered.
4. Rather than a centerpiece, create vignettes along the table with votives, flowers, fruits or objects.
5. Carry a theme throughout the evening, whether it's a color or an idea.
6. White dishes for the main course are

the ideal canvas to show off the food. Mix and match white plates by using different textures, patterns and shapes to keep it interesting.

7. Rely on the experts who have designed specifically shaped wine glasses for the various types of wines you pour.
8. Punctuate your table with knife rests. They can be glass rods, colorful rings, polished metal cubes or silver motifs such as dragonflies or barbells.
9. Consider place cards if you're having eight or more guests. Be creative with their placement and consider them part of the table décor. ■

## WEEK at-a-glance



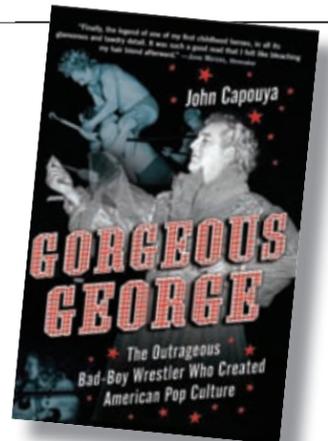
### The Single Ladies! All the videos!

Columnist Nancy Stetson considers the Beyoncé phenomenon. **C8** ▶



### 'Singing Down the House!'

Gulfshore Playhouse, Norris Center present a jazz club night. **C4** ▶



### 'Gorgeous George'

Author John Capouya captures bad-boy wrestler. **C11** ▶



### Fiddle fest at the Phil

Barrage delivers a diverse mix of music, song and dance. Plus more to do. **C6&7** ▶

# SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

## Bigger not always better



Watching “The Soup,” a hilarious round-up of the week’s highlights in trashy television, I saw a clip recently from the gossip show “Extra” where the reporter interviewed a woman whose breasts had been surgically enhanced to the size of watermelons. She simpered and posed while the camera zoomed in on her newest assets.

This particular story didn’t make the international media (sorry, “Extra”), but I ran across another boob-related article making its way around the world. First reported by the China Daily and later picked-up by a South African Web site, the story reports on a 24-year-old Chinese woman who underwent breast augmentation, then discovered a second pair of breasts growing on her abdomen a year after the surgery. The bonus breasts grew so large she had to have them removed. (The article also mentions the surgery was carried out “at a small beauty salon.” I’m not pointing fingers, but I don’t know that I’d want my hairdresser performing my operations.)

Of course, it’s easy to talk about

botched boob jobs; nothing makes for good drama like bigger breasts gone awry. But what about all those women who love their surgically-enhanced frames? It turns out, there are legions of them. A quick Google search of “breast augmentation personal stories” reveals dozens of Web sites like justbreastimplants.com and breastimplantinfo.com, where women wax poetic on their newer, bigger bosoms. Conveniently, many of these sites are sponsored by plastic surgeons, and some even feature a “What Men Think” section (designed to push the wavering woman over the edge). On implantinfo.com, one male poster writes, “While the tastes in sizes may vary by individual, (I personally prefer an ample bust line), all men like firm and perky not flat and saggy.” He concludes, “I am as excited about my wife’s decision to get a BA (breast augmentation) as she is.” Another man titles his post “Guys are dogs” and writes, “While I would never ask her to put herself through surgery

just to give me more to admire, there is the St. Bernard in me PANTING HEAVILY at the suggestion that she was going to have breast augmentation surgery.” At the end of his post, he says, “And while she would tell you that it was the best thing she has ever done for herself, I will tell you it’s the best thing she’s ever done for us.”

As a matter of fact, many women cite saving their marriage as a

“...many women cite saving their marriage as a motivation for going under the knife...”

motivation for going under the knife (or to the beauty parlor, if you’re in Hunan province). That’s not to say all breast surgery is the product of confidence issues; some women undergo corrective surgery after mastectomies or other medical procedures. But there is evidence to suggest a correlation between breast enlargement and low self-esteem: Women who have implants are three times more likely to commit suicide, according to an article referenced in *USA Today*.

That’s a scary figure. It suggests that boob jobs are Band-Aids over bigger issues. Perhaps if women invested more in their self-worth and less in their fake physiques — and men reeled in their ridiculous expectations — we could all work on building better (and not just bigger) relationships. ■



Contact Artis  
>>Send your dating tips, questions, and disasters to: sandydays@floridaweekly.com

## Center for Great Apes

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**Resident Profile:**  
Knuckles, age 10—arrived at the center at age two, from an entertainment compound in California. Knuckles was believed to be affected by Cerebral Palsy at birth. When Knuckles first arrived, he could barely walk or climb. Due to the efforts of dedicated staff and several volunteers, Knuckles can now walk, feed himself and pull himself up on a special swing. To read more about Knuckles and other apes, refer to their bios on our web site.

With your help and support, we will be able to continue to rescue these intelligent Primates!  
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## 'Singing Down the House!' brings jazz club-style night to the Norris Center

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Gulfshore Playhouse and the Norris Center present "Singing Down the House!" featuring Brian Lane Green, Johnny Rodgers and The Johnny Rodgers Band in two jazz club-style performances at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Jan. 16 and 17.

A Tony-nominated actor, Mr. Green has starred in musicals on Broadway and on tour. He has played the title role in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," Huck Finn in "Big River" and JoJo in "The Life." Daytime TV audiences will know him from his turns on "Days of Our Lives," "Another World" and "All My Children."

A Billboard award-winning singer-songwriter and pianist, Mr. Rodgers



Brian Lane Green

first co-production between Gulfshore Playhouse and the Norris Center.

Naples Mayor Bill Barnett says, "I am extremely gratified that a municipal building in our fair city of Naples can be utilized to allow such an outstanding caliber of entertainment to be brought to our community. I am delighted that Gulfshore Playhouse is currently choosing to make the Norris Center its home."

Kristen Coury, producing artistic director and founder of Gulfshore Playhouse, says, "We learned from our first cabaret night starring Alexandria Tocco in November that audiences really respond favorably to the ambience created by the jazz club style. The table set-up provides an entirely different experience from the row-like seating normally found at the Norris Center. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to work in a space that is so adaptable to different kinds of productions."

The repertoire of "Singing Down the House!" will include songs from Broadway classics, to Rat-Pack standards, Memphis soul, New Orleans jazz and even Mendocino Pop. Audiences will enjoy provided drinks and snacks in a hip, New York-style atmosphere.

Tickets for "Singing Down the House" are \$40 (\$20 for students). For more information or tickets, call the Norris Center at 213-3058. ■



Johnny Rodgers

comes to Naples directly from the Palace Theatre on Broadway, where he performed with the legendary Liza Minnelli.

As composers, Mr. Green and Mr. Rodgers have penned several songs for their individual albums and have collaborated on songs that are currently being performed by Ms. Minnelli and various other artists. Ms. Minnelli chose the duo's "I Would Never Leave You," was chosen by her as the only new song she would perform in her triumphant return to Broadway at the Palace Theatre.

"Singing Down the House!" marks the

## Fiddle fest 'Barrage' comes to the Phil

"Barrage," a high-octane fiddle fest that features an international cast performing an eclectic mix of music, song and dance, will perform at the Philharmonic Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3.

The group of six violinists/vocalists, a drummer, bass player and guitarist offers up a diverse fusion of cultures, musical styles and performance vitality. Since its formation in Calgary, Canada, in 1996, "Barrage" has mesmerized millions of people around the world. Raved the Chicago Tribune, "This amazing show, ideal for the whole family, is about as blissful and beguiling as entertainment gets."

Tickets to "Barrage" are \$39. For more information or to order tickets, call 597-1900 or visit [www.thephil.org](http://www.thephil.org). ■



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# WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

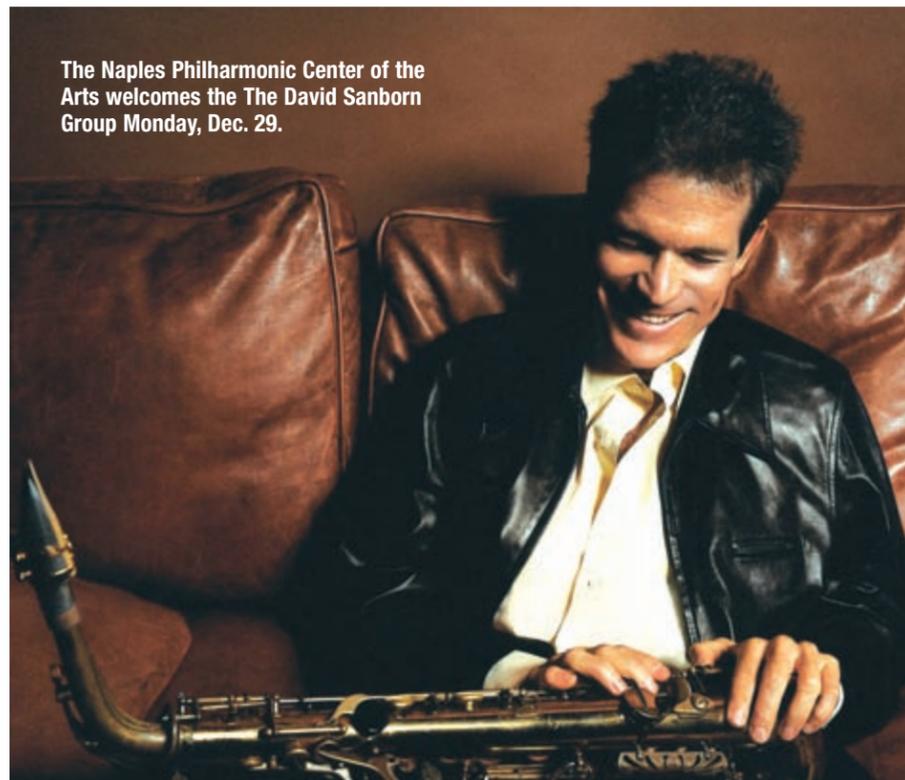
## This week's theater

■ **Movin' Out** - The Naples Philharmonic Center of the Arts presents "Movin' Out" Dec. 26-28. Five-time Grammy Award-winner Billy Joel and legendary director/choreographer Twyla Tharp have joined forces to create the spectacular musical. The show brings 24 Billy Joel classics to electrifying life as it tells the story of five lifelong friends over two turbulent decades. For more information or to order tickets, contact customer service at 597-1900 or toll-free at (800) 597-1900 or visit [www.thephil.org](http://www.thephil.org).

■ **White Christmas** - The Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre presents "Irving Berlin's White Christmas," through Dec. 27. "White Christmas" is based on the movie classic made popular by Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye and Rosemary Clooney. It's 1954 and two Army buddies turned show biz partners follow a duo of singing sisters to Vermont where the girls are scheduled to perform over Christmas. The Irving Berlin score includes "Happy Holidays," "Sisters," "Blue Skies," and the title song, "White Christmas." For reservations and show information, visit [www.BroadwayPalm.com](http://www.BroadwayPalm.com), call 278-4422 or stop by the box office at 1380 Colonial Blvd.

■ **Singin' in the Rain** - Broadway Palm Dinner Theater presents "Singin' in the Rain" Dec. 31-Feb. 14. "Singin' in the Rain" is set in the era of Movieland in the late '20s, when the arrival of talking pictures is striking terror in every silent film star. It tells the story of the wild and often wacky world of Hollywood where silent

pictures are coming to an end. Don Lockwood, Kathy Seldon and Cosmo Brown take center stage in this all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza. You'll hear "Good Mornin'," "Make 'Em Laugh," "Fit as a Fiddle" and the title song, "Singin' in the Rain." For reservations and show information, visit [www.BroadwayPalm.com](http://www.BroadwayPalm.com), call 278-4422 or stop by the box office at 1380 Colonial Blvd.



The Naples Philharmonic Center of the Arts welcomes the The David Sanborn Group Monday, Dec. 29.

## This week's symphony

■ **New Year's bash** - Celebrate the New Year with a spectacular Big Band Bash, featuring conductor Jack Everly and the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra, as part of the Philharmonic Center's New Year's Eve Gala, Wednesday, Dec. 31. A buffet reception at 7 p.m. will be followed by the performance at 8 p.m. Joining the orchestra for this unforgettable, fast-paced evening of music and fun will

be Broadway singing star Judy McLane, acclaimed clarinetist Jon Manasse and the one-and-only Capitol Quartet saxophone ensemble. Tickets to the New Year's Eve gala are \$150. Ring in the New, a repeat of the New Year's Eve performance, without the reception, will be presented Friday, Jan. 2, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$79. For more information or to order tickets, contact customer service at 597-1900 or toll-free at (800) 597-1900 or visit [www.thephil.org](http://www.thephil.org).

### Friday, Dec. 26

■ **Nutcracker** - Moscow Ballet's Great Russian "Nutcracker" will be performed at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. For tickets, contact the box office at 418-1500.

### Monday, Dec. 29

■ **David Sanborn** - The Naples Philharmonic Center of the Arts welcomes the The David Sanborn Group at 8 p.m. Alto sax master David Sanborn has played a key role in establishing the sound of contemporary jazz and instrumental pop over the past three and a half decades. For more information or to order tickets, contact customer service at 597-1900 or toll-free at (800) 597-1900 or visit [www.thephil.org](http://www.thephil.org).

### Wednesday, Dec. 31

■ Check out **Florida Weekly's party guide** on pages C12 through C19.

## Ongoing events

■ **Student art** - As is its fall tradition, the Naples Art Association presents an exhibition of works created by students ages 3 to 15 who participated in summer ARTScool classes at The von Liebig Art Center. During ARTScool, students learn about various forms of art, what can be used to create art and about the greatest artists in history. At the end of the session, some of most creative pieces are selected to go on to Naples City Hall. The show runs through Jan. 14 and greets visitors to City Hall at 735 Eighth Street South. To learn more about classes at The von Liebig Art Center, call Abigail Miles, 262-6517, ext. 110, or visit [www.naplesart.org](http://www.naplesart.org).

■ **John Henry** - Internationally acclaimed sculptor John Henry, known for his sky-high steel sculpture, will kick off his seven-city Florida exhibition, "Drawing in Space: The Peninsula Project," at the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts through Feb. 3. Incorporating new

works as well as some of his most recognized pieces, the indoor and outdoor exhibition brings together his colorful, monumental works. For more information, visit [www.PeninsulaProject.com](http://www.PeninsulaProject.com)

■ **NASA Art** - The Art League of Bonita Springs presents "NASA Art: 50 Years of Exploration," a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition, running through Jan. 24. More than 200 NASA-commissioned artists experienced a behind-the-scenes look at the agency — the scientists, astronauts, and other personnel who shaped the missions and programs. This fascinating look at our nation's space program will appeal to all ages. Call 495-8989.

■ **Andy Warhol** - "Andy Warhol: Select Works" is the December exhibit at Art Modern Gallery downtown at 751 12th Ave. S. The show features numerous works by the pioneer of the Pop Art movement of the late 1950s. Art Modern Gallery is open

from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, call 263-1137 or visit [www.artmoderngallery.com](http://www.artmoderngallery.com).

■ **Boys of Summer** - North Collier Regional Park showcases rarely published photographs chronicling the "Boys of Summer" as seen through the lens of award-winning Brooklyn Dodgers' photographer Barney Stein. The 32 black and white images feature Dodger greats Jackie Robinson, Gil Hodges, Ralph Branca, and legendary batboy Charlie DiGiovanna. The "Brooklyn Dodgers Photographs of Barney Stein" exhibit runs through Feb. 1.

■ **Roberto Clemente** - North Collier Regional Park will host "Beyond Baseball: The Life of Roberto Clemente," through Dec. 27. For many baseball fans, Roberto Clemente was simply the greatest Latin American ballplayer ever to step out onto the diamond. A

right fielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates (1955-1972), Clemente earned 12 Gold Gloves, appeared in an equal number of All-Star games, won four National League batting titles, and was twice named the league's MVP. Off the field, Roberto Clemente is remembered as a selfless humanitarian. For more information, please contact the Exhibit Hall at 252-4060 or 252-4024.

■ **Juried exhibition** - The Naples Art Association at The von Liebig Art Center is having its 47th Founders Juried Awards Exhibition through Jan. 18 at the art center, 585 Park St. in Naples. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Suggested donation is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children 10 and older. The public may call 239-262-6517 or visit [naplesart.org](http://naplesart.org) for more information.

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# WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

## Upcoming events

### ■ Mist, Myth, and Mystery -

World Fusion, Jazz, and Elemental Music will be performed in a fundraiser for Florida Repertory Theatre at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at the Arcade Theatre, 2267 First St., Fort Myers. Emmy Award-winning and Grammy nominated flutist and composer Kat Epple will be joined by many renowned musicians. This annual event is notorious for being an evening full of unique music, performance art, fun, and surprises. Ms. Expel will be playing flutes from around the world, including Celtic, Native American, African, Sluing, and bass flute. She will be performing with special guest musicians and performers, including: Chuck Grinnell, keyboard, DL Turner, harp, Darrell Nutt, percussion, Shirley Lorene, guitar and vocals, Pond Water Experiment, and surprise guest performers. Tickets are \$20. Call the box office at 332-4488.

### ■ Visiting Artists -

The Art League of Bonita Springs presents Visiting Artist Workshops with Janet Rogers (Expressive Flowers & Portraits in Watercolor) and Caroline Jasper (Power Color Painting) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 5-9 at the Center for the Arts, 26100 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs. Cost varies with artist and length of workshop. The Roberts workshop is sold out. Ms. Jasper's workshop is for intermediate/advanced students. Space is still available. \$525 member/\$575 non-member. Contact the Art League for further information at 495-8989.

### ■ Art Fest -

The Art League of Bonita Springs presents the Bonita Springs National Art Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 10-11 at The Promenade at Bonita Bay, U.S. 41 in Bonita Springs. A \$3 donation at entrance gates benefits the Art League of Bonita Springs. The first of two highly ranked outdoor festivals hosted by the Art League of Bonita Springs during 2009, the Bonita Springs National Art Festival welcomes thousands of visitors to view and purchase artwork from 208 artists. Participating artists come from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, South America, and Europe. Known for high quality artwork and a very pleasing venue, the festival continues to grow in popularity. For information, call 495-8989.

### ■ Art in the Park -

The Naples Art Association at The von Liebig Art Center in Naples hosts Art in the Park Jan. 3. Naples' oldest outdoor art festival celebrates its 52nd season by showcasing artwork from Naples Art Association members from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Park Street, alongside The von Liebig Art Center. This juried festival, held the first Saturday of the month from November through April, is a great way to meet the artists and enjoy their original work in a relaxing atmosphere. Free admission. This month's featured artist is Charles O'Neal. The center is located at 585 Park Street in Naples and features an extensive art library and gift shop. Call 262-6517 or visit [naplesart.org](http://naplesart.org) for more information.

### ■ Workshop -

The Naples Art Association at The von Liebig Art Center in Naples presents a workshop, "Ultimate Art: The Essence of the Creative

Event" Jan. 5-7. This fast-moving workshop with instructor Genie Kell explores the having, doing and being of art-making. It takes a group of artists who are active, but dissatisfied with their work, to a new level of appreciation of their individual talents, skills, and uniqueness. The center is located at 585 Park Street in Naples and features an extensive art library and gift shop. Call 262-6517 or visit [naplesart.org](http://naplesart.org) for more information.

### ■ KidzAct -

KidzAct classes begin Jan. 12 and continue through the winter at the Sugden Community Theatre, 701 5th Avenue South, Naples. Call 434-7340, ext. 10 or 39, or visit [www.naplesplayers.org](http://www.naplesplayers.org).

### ■ Moon Over the Brewery -

The Naples Players presents the comedy "Moon over the Brewery" Jan. 14 - Feb. 7 live on the main stage at the Sugden Community Theatre, 701 5th Avenue South, Naples. Tickets are \$30 (adults); \$10 (students). Call 263-7990 or visit [www.naplesplayers.org](http://www.naplesplayers.org)

### ■ Menopause -

"Menopause The Musical Out Loud: Breaking the Silence of Ovarian Cancer." will be presented by the Jeanie C. Linders Fund at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7. The musical is a spirited celebration of real women during an unsettling time in their lives called "The Change." A portion of the proceeds will benefit local and regional ovarian cancer chapters. For tickets, contact the box office at 418-1500.

### ■ Last Comic -

You've seen them on TV, you voted for them, and now they are here. An evening of great stand-up comedy featuring the five finalists from NBC's Emmy-Nominated laughfest, "Last Comic Standing," plays at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3. Come see Marcus, Jeff Dye, Louis Ramey, Iliza Shlesinger, and Jim Tavaré as they ignite the stage with the jokes and laughter that made them the final five in America's funniest reality show. For tickets, contact the box office at 418-1500.

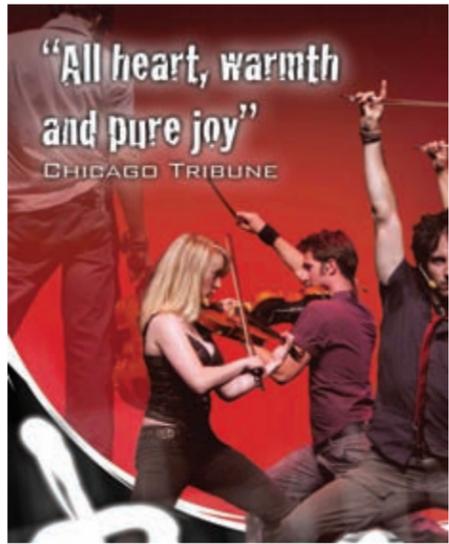
### ■ Golden Dragons -

The Golden Dragons perform at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4. The ancient art of Chinese acrobatics is an old and long-running tradition that began in China well over 2,000 years ago. World-renowned impresario Danny Chang and choreographer Angela Chang combine award-winning acrobatics, traditional dance, spectacular costumes, ancient and contemporary music and theatrical techniques to present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty. For tickets, contact the box office at 418-1500.

### ■ The Sauce Boss -

The Sauce Boss brings his blues, his band, his spices and his ladle to The Norris Center for one performance Jan. 9 at 7:30 p.m. The Sauce Boss cooks gumbo while he sings and plays the blues. At last count, sauce man Bill Wharton has fed about 100,000 concertgoers. He's also the man Jimmy Buffet

sings about in his "I Will Play for Gumbo." Mr. Wharton's songs "Let the Big Dog Eat" and "Great Big Fanny" appear on the Jimmy Buffet compilation album "Margaretville Café Late Night Menu." For ticket information, call 213-3049. For more information about The Sauce Boss, visit [www.thesauceboss.com](http://www.thesauceboss.com).



>>The Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts presents "Barrage," a high-octane fiddle fest, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3.

### ■ Barrage -

Barrage, a high-octane fiddle fest that features an international, multi-talented cast performing an eclectic mix of music, song and dance, will perform at the Philharmonic Center on Saturday, Jan. 3, at 8 p.m. The group of six violinists/vocalists, a drummer, bass player and guitarist offers up a diverse fusion of cultures, musical styles and performance vitality. Tickets are \$39. For more information or to order tickets, contact customer service at 597-1900 or toll-free at (800) 597-1900 or visit [www.thephil.org](http://www.thephil.org).

### ■ Three Exhibitions -

Florida West hosts Three Exhibitions Jan. 10-28. Exhibition I is the first exhibition in a series of three, featuring paintings, collage, photography, pottery sculptures and more. Participating artists are competing for a series of awards. The second exhibition features oil paintings by Regis Bobitski. The third exhibition is a group show featuring the Florida West Arts "Gallery Artists." There will be a Meet the Artists' open house from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10. For information, e-mail [info@floridawestarts.com](mailto:info@floridawestarts.com), call (239) 948-4427 or go to [www.floridawestarts.com](http://www.floridawestarts.com). The Florida West Arts Showcase at the International Design Center in Estero has moved to Suite 182. The much larger gallery and performance space is now open.

### ■ Man Made -

Florida Gulf Coast University Art Gallery invites the public and media to an opening reception for its "Man Made" exhibition featuring the environmental art of Mary Ellen Croteau, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 8, at the Art Gallery. The exhibition runs through Feb. 7, and is free and open to the public. For more information about this exhibition or upcoming events, contact interim gallery director Anica Sturdivant at 590-7199 or visit <http://artgallery.fgcu.edu>.

### ■ Bluegrass -

The Norris Center welcomes Sierra Hull and Ron Block at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7. Sierra Hull is regarded as the future of bluegrass and is a 16-year old mandolin phenomenon. For the past 15 years, 13-time Grammy Award winner Ron Block has been the spiritual touchstone of Alison Krauss and Union Station, contributing sterling musicianship on banjo, guitar and vocals. The Norris Center is at 755 8th Ave. South, Naples. Tickets are \$18 and all ages are welcome. Call 213-3049.

### ■ Salute to Vienna -

Celebrate the New Year with "Salute to Vienna" as it returns to the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at 8 p.m., Friday, Jan. 2. Fall in love with Vienna's "Waltz King," Johann Strauss Jr., in an unforgettable and uplifting performance of music, song and dance. "Salute to Vienna" continues to feature an astounding cast. The Strauss Symphony of America, an exciting maestro, talented European singers, and costumed dancers performing the popular Viennese waltzes, polkas and operetta excerpts are guaranteed to inspire and delight the audience. Featuring The Strauss Symphony of America, Gerhard Track, conductor (Vienna), Ute Ziemer, soprano (Vienna), Joachim Moser, tenor (Vienna) with dancers from Vienna International Ballet. For tickets, contact the box office at 418-1500.

### ■ Dick Hyman and Friends -

Dick Hyman's all-star band returns to the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts at 8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4. With a spirited new show featuring some ragtime favorites, lively stomp music and a little blues, Hyman's veteran jazz band will delight audiences. For more information or to order tickets, contact customer service at 597-1900 or toll-free at (800) 597-1900 or visit [www.thephil.org](http://www.thephil.org).

### ■ Golden Dragons -

The Golden Dragons perform at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4. The ancient art of Chinese acrobatics is an old and long-running tradition that began in China well over 2,000 years ago. The Golden Dragons are recognized throughout the United States and abroad as the premiere Chinese acrobatic touring company of today. World-renowned impresario Danny Chang and choreographer Angela Chang combine award-winning acrobatics, traditional dance, spectacular costumes, ancient and contemporary music and theatrical techniques to present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty. For tickets, contact the box office at 418-1500.

### ■ Aaron Lewis -

Aaron Lewis of Staind brings his solo/acoustic tour to the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5. Aaron Lewis and Staind have produced six albums: Dysfunction, Break the Cycle, 14 Shades of Grey, Chapter V, The Singles Collection and most recently, The Illusion of Progress. For more information, visit [www.staind.com](http://www.staind.com) or contact the box office at 418-1500.



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## ARTS COMMENTARY

## All the Single Ladies! All the videos!

Nancy STETSON

nstetson@floridaweekly.com



Last December, I came up with the brilliant — or not so brilliant — idea to attend all of the area's different versions of "The Nutcracker."

After I oh-so-willingly suggested this idea, I realized (belatedly) that I'd have to attend all those Nutcrackers.

Believe me, after seeing a few, I was Nutcracker-ed out.

In fact, I'm not even attending a single "Nutcracker" this season.

But this month, I unintentionally gorged myself on another cultural phenomenon, though a much more modern one: Beyonce's video "Single Ladies (Put a Ring On It)."

If you haven't seen it, it's three minutes and 29 seconds of sheer attitude, audacity and hip-shaking sexiness.

To say that Beyonce's bouncy hit is hook-filled is an understatement. It includes a call and response ("All the single ladies!"/"All the single ladies!") and a recurring section that sounds like someone saying "uh-oh" over and over, as if they realized their mistake — or someone is mocking them.

The song is an admonishment to a former admirer that if he "liked it, then he shoulda put a ring on it!" Obviously, the guy failed to do anything to keep her or commit. He played it too cool, and now someone else is interested.

The song is joyfully, relentless repetitive.

And like so many other people, I just can't get enough of it.

Time magazine deemed it one of the Top 10 songs of 2008, calling it "ludicrously infectious."

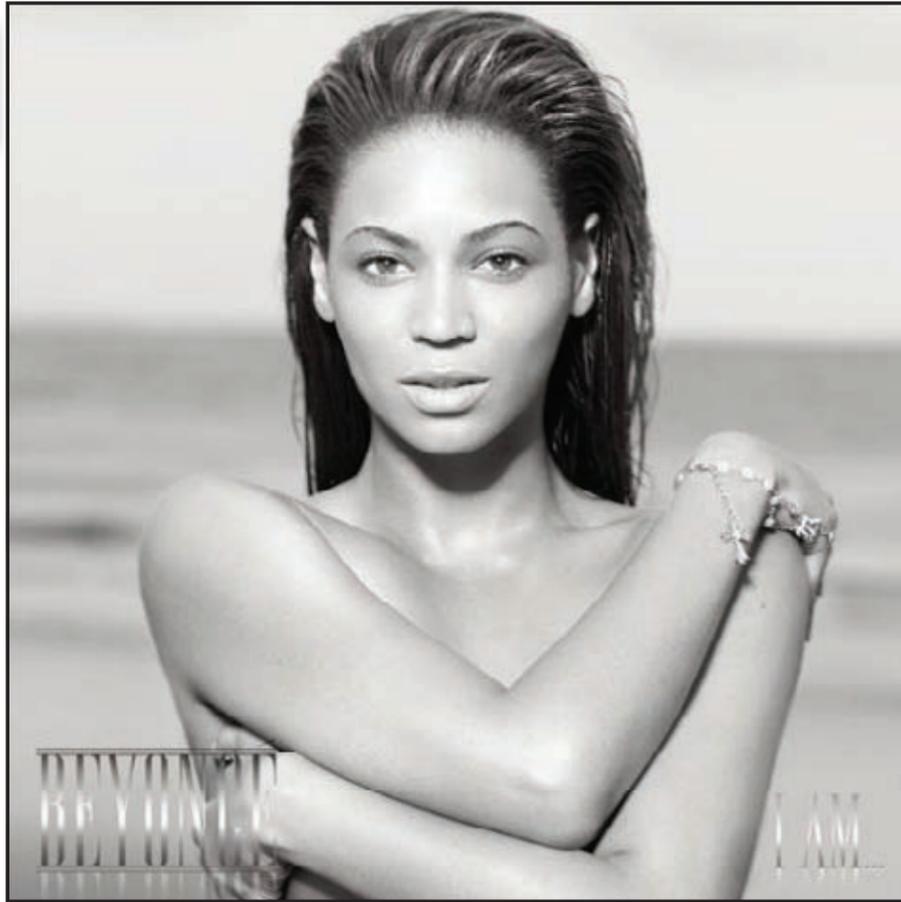
It's pop in its purest form.

And the video! The music video for this song is a study in simplicity.

Filmed in black and white like a 1950s French film, it features Beyonce and two female back-up dancers. The background is white, pure and completely uncluttered.

Beyonce and her dancers look like Barbie dolls of color: dressed in black leotards and heels, eyes heavily painted and mascara-ed, long hair poofed up on top.

And just like a Barbie doll, their dancers' legs seem disproportionately long.



Beyonce's album, "I Am...Sasha Fierce" (Deluxe Edition)

COURTESY PHOTO

The women pop and shimmy, they prance about and wiggle their hips sensuously.

Like the Supremes dancing to "Stop! In the Name of Love," they hold up their left hands like traffic cops. Then, in a modern twist, they quickly show the back of the hand, the palm, the back of the hand, the palm.

"See, no ring," they seem to be saying.

It also suggests the "talk to the hand" gesture.

The trio strut, shake their index fingers in admonishment and smack their rumps (making me strangely nostalgic for the days when Akon's "Smack That" was more ubiquitous on the airwaves).

Beyonce has said that the video was shot entirely in one take, and the camera does at least two complete 360-degree turns around the women during the dance.

The video has spawned numerous parodies and tributes and become something of an Internet phenomenon. Almost everyone, it seems, wants to make a video of themselves dancing like

Beyonce to "All the Single Ladies."

There was Justin Timberlake's parody on "Saturday Night Live" when Beyonce was the guest artist. Timberlake, Andy Samberg and Will Forte all played Beyonce's back-up dancers. And yes, they were all dressed in leotards, stockings and heels.

(Besides being a source of great amusement, it made me happy to know that at least three men were discovering firsthand what it's like to have to dance in heels.)

Everyone seems to be making a "Single Ladies" dance video, from slinky gay men to college girls to a preschooler in a pink leotard to a bubba in a baseball cap doing some odd, decidedly unsexy, line dance.

One video is introduced as "two middle-aged men, one laptop, a bottle of wine, and no shame." It features two men (one tattooed and goateed) trying to impersonate Beyonce in a minuscule kitchen while women off-camera laugh, hoot, and egg them on.

One of my favorites is Cubby, a roly-poly plus-sized man who, yes, dons a

black leotard, and shakes it for all he's worth. His video has received more than 2 million hits.

Then there's the young woman in Fairbanks, Alaska, who performs it in the snow, while the temperature's only 2 degrees. Unlike Beyonce, she's wearing gloves and boots. But like Beyonce, she's dressed in a leotard. In the snow!

Brrrrr.

There's a queen-sized woman who dances in her kitchen, then spends at least as much time post-dance gasping for air, wiping the sweat from her face, and talking.

There are trios of friends dancing in basements, in living rooms, in gymnasiums, in parking lots, in lobbies. A group of young women perform the choreography at an outdoor pep rally.

The videos range from amateurish to quite impressive. Shane Mercado, a young, classically trained dancer, is probably the best, with his slinky moves and attitude plus. His video has had more than 3.5 million hits, while the video of him performing live on "The Bonnie Hunt Show" received over 2 million hits. (The live performance makes it look as if he's actually in the video itself.)

And while some find the videos with young kids cute, to me they're as disturbing as beauty pageants for the kindergarten set. Do you really want your 4- or 7-year-old dancing in such a provocative way?

But then, I was surprised to come across a video of Gwen Verdon, and two back-up dancers, dancing to "Mexican Breakfast." Information on the video has been difficult to find, but it looks as though it was shot in the 1960s. The choreography is by Bob Fosse. And the moves — well, the moves look a lot like the moves on "All the Single Ladies," only not quite as sexually blatant.

Apparently someone else thought so too, because they put a video on YouTube with Ms. Verdon and company dancing to Beyonce's song.

And you know what? It fits.

Beyonce has since said that her video was "inspired" by Bob Fosse.

One can only wonder how he'd feel — complimented or ripped off.

In the meantime, there's no proof the video has inspired less passivity and more commitment from men... but it's sure inspired some entertaining videos. ■



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# GIVING

## Part 3: Meeting some members of the Professional Advisors Council

The Community Foundation benefits from many volunteers who serve on the Professional Advisors Council. PAC members are attorneys, financial planners, accountants, insurance professionals and trust officers who share a commitment to philanthropy and an understanding of the benefits they can provide their clients through the Foundation.

The PAC meets quarterly to review what is new at the Foundation and to exchange ideas about how the Foundation can improve its services for donors and the professionals who assist donors with their charitable planning. Members of the PAC also serve as resources when legal, accounting or financial questions



arise. Many members also offer their time by writing articles and presenting seminars regarding the benefits of charitable giving.

The Community Foundation views its relationship with professional advisors as a pivotal element of its efforts to educate the public about the value and benefits of planned giving strategies and tax-deferred charitable vehicles. This is the third in a four-part series of articles contributed by members of our Professional Advisors Council. ■

## Estate planning and charitable giving in changing political, economic times

BY CYNTHIA CARLSON

Senior associate attorney, Cox & Nici

So now we know who's going to be our President for the next four years, and some prognosticators predict that the change of party, in both the Executive Office and Congress, might mean the passage of retroactive tax legislation threatening the estate-tax exemption, along with other tax bugaboos.

All we really know right now is that the gift- and estate-tax system is going to change. But of course, we knew that even before the election. Many of us were certain that 2010 would not be a year without an estate tax. Given the outcome of the Congressional elections, there's no telling what else will change: The estate-tax rate? The lifetime gift-tax exemption? The IRA charitable contribution?

In uncertain times, it pays to take advantage of the tax benefits that are currently available.

One such tax advantage is the IRA charitable contribution. Thanks to the recently passed Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, this year and next year you can contribute up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to charity. You must be at least 70½, and your contribution must go to a public charity, such as the Community Foundation of Collier County's Community Endowment or a field-of-interest fund (but not a private foundation, supporting organization or donor-advised fund). The contribution must go directly from the IRA to the charity by a check payable to the charity or other direct transfer. It counts toward your IRA's "required minimum distribution" for the year but is not included in your taxable income for federal income tax, which also

means you do not get a charitable deduction for the contribution. If you choose to take advantage of this tax benefit, be sure to get an acknowledgement from the charity stating the contribution is fully tax deductible.

As interest rates continue to decline, the interest rate used to value the charitable deduction for split-interest trusts is at its lowest since 2003. Therefore, a charitable lead annuity trust that can earn more than 3.4 percent on its investments will pass the excess to the non-charitable remainder beneficiaries with no gift or estate tax.

Another suggestion for which the time is right is gifting. Simply said, "Do it now!" With stock values depressed, interest rates low and the annual exclusion set at \$12,000 (going to \$13,000 on Jan. 1, 2009), you can gift more shares of your appreciated stock than before without incurring a gift tax. And if you give your appreciated stock to charity, your income-tax deduction is the stock's fair market value, with no capital gains tax.

If you are not inclined to give away your appreciated stock, you might want to consider incurring the 15 percent long-term capital gains tax now, rather than risking the higher tax rates that appear to be coming. ■

*With assets of more than \$61 million, the Community Foundation of Collier County manages more than 400 funds established by charitable individuals and organizations. Investment earnings on these funds are used to address community needs. Since 1985 the Foundation has granted \$30 million dollars back to our community. For more information, call 649-5000 or visit www.cfcollier.org. ■*

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

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



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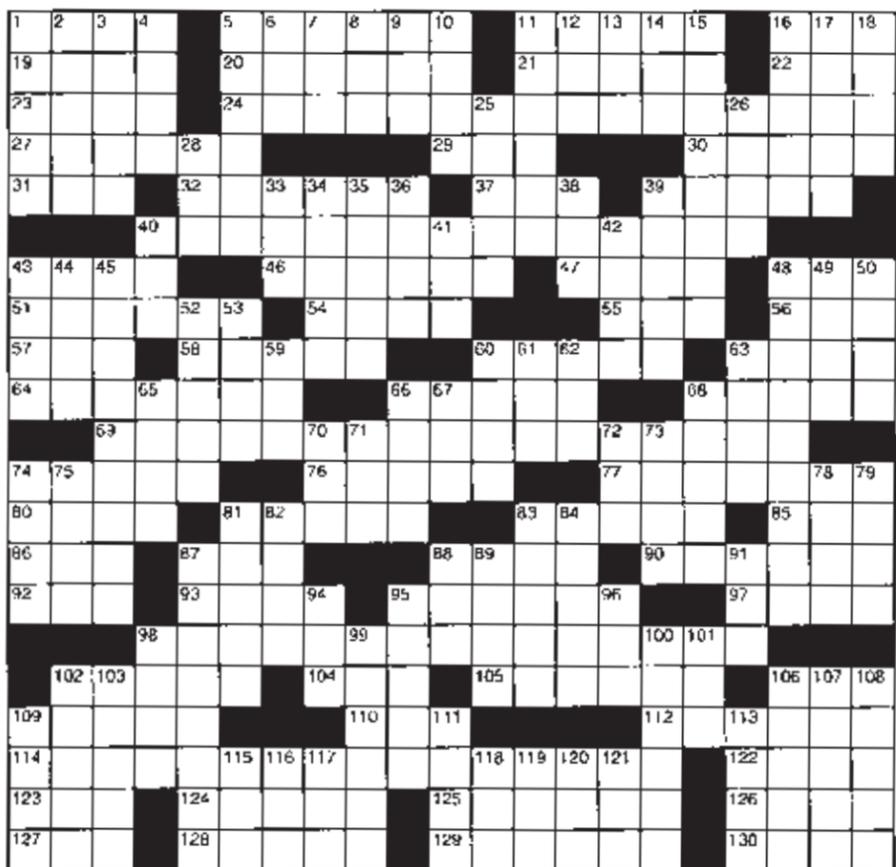
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# FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES

## CROSSWORD

### FOREIGN FILMS



- ACROSS**
- 1 Voucher
  - 5 Plane place
  - 11 Big bargain
  - 16 "Major Barbara" monogram
  - 19 Clair or Coty
  - 20 Swimmer Gertrude
  - 21 Garrulous
  - 22 School subject
  - 23 "Bus Stop" playwright
  - 24 Peter O'Toole film
  - 27 Medal material
  - 29 Pine product
  - 30 Incongruous state
  - 31 Command to Fido
  - 32 Eventually
  - 37 Where the boys are
  - 39 Gaze
  - 40 Judy Davis film
  - 43 Jury member
  - 46 Mr. Miyagi's forte
  - 47 Emcee's site
  - 48 Spigot
  - 51 Kindred
  - 54 Aussie rockers
  - 55 Pearl disease
  - 56 What a feller needs
  - 57 In-your-face item
  - 58 Dancer Jose
  - 60 Pamphlet
  - 63 Floor covering
  - 64 Hoarder
  - 66 Taxing lime?
  - 68 "I Love a Paroo" composer
  - 69 Gregory Peck film
  - 74 Jeweler's weight
  - 76 Exodus figure
  - 77 "Butterfly" ("88 hr.)
  - 80 Ken of "Hill Street Blues"
  - 81 Conductor's concern
  - 83 Endangered herbivore
  - 85 Solidity
  - 86 In error
  - 87 Twisted
  - 88 Way over yonder
  - 90 Little laugh
  - 92 Kyser or Starr
  - 93 Rushes
  - 95 Giza god
  - 97 Reason d—
  - 98 Bob Hope film
  - 102 On — (going great)
  - 104 Down meas.
  - 105 Clone
  - 106 A Bobsey twin
  - 109 Intense
  - 110 — C aire. WI
  - 112 "Blueberry Hill" singer
  - 114 Jane Fonda film
  - 122 Leave out
  - 123 Fireworks reaction
  - 124 Gives the green light
  - 125 Pageant props
  - 126 Misplace
  - 127 Neighbor of Ger.
  - 128 Actress Dav's
  - 129 Least conventional
  - 130 — in the wood
- DOWN**
- 1 Corn noiders
  - 2 Mat se or Rousseau
  - 3 Gold brick?
  - 4 "Wolf" (85 film)
  - 5 Montana's capital
  - 6 Periodontists' org.
  - 7 Contemporary
  - 8 "Don't touch my bone"
  - 9 Ginger —
  - 10 Dollars for quarters
  - 11 Audiophile's equipment
  - 12 Eastern "Way"
  - 13 Wee one
  - 14 "America's Most Wanted" abbr.
  - 15 Ira Gershwin, for one
  - 16 Labreville's land
  - 17 Escor.
  - 18 Command to Fido
  - 25 Immobile class
  - 26 "La Rondine" rendition
  - 28 Energy
  - 33 "For shame!"
  - 34 Albeniz or Asimov
  - 35 Penpaletic Po'o
  - 36 "Gracious me!"
  - 38 Pitch in
  - 39 Numskul.
  - 40 Onass's nickname
  - 41 Catchall abbr.
  - 42 DEA officer
  - 43 Theatrical Joseph
  - 44 Literary pseudonym
  - 45 Thrill
  - 48 Motorcycle leature
  - 49 Wagon part
  - 50 Hammer head
  - 52 Marsh sight
  - 53 Olive —
  - 59 Monty's milieu
  - 60 '82 Jeff Bridges film
  - 61 Volcano part
  - 62 Clerical garb
  - 63 Baseball's Soaker
  - 65 Gershig's —
  - 66 Curly coil
  - 67 Supportive ol
  - 68 Blue hue
  - 70 Tasty tuber
  - 71 Weaker
  - 72 Sgt.
  - 73 Got off
  - 74 Quiche creator
  - 75 — Romeo
  - 78 Swerve
  - 79 Gen. Rebl.
  - 81 Experiment
  - 82 Checked out
  - 83 "Scent of a Woman" dance
  - 84 Chilean pianist
  - 87 Without reservation
  - 88 Bonaparte's buddy
  - 89 Ward (of)
  - 91 Shoe width
  - 94 Farm feature
  - 95 Exam. ne
  - 96 PD alert
  - 98 Coll. brass
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SEE ANSWERS, C9

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## HOROSCOPES

**■ CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** Don't just wait out that unexpected and unexplained delay in your career move. You could gain added respect if you ask why it happened and what you can do to move things along.

**■ AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** Although your workplace strategies usually are accepted, you could be challenged by someone who isn't so favorably impressed. Be prepared to defend your positions.

**■ PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** Your friendship circle expands, with new people coming into your life at this time. Welcome them warmly. But don't neglect those cherished longtime personal relationships.

**■ ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** It's a good time to take a much-needed break from your recent hectic schedule and spend some time in quieter surroundings. Important news could arrive early next week.

**■ TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** The Taurean traits of reliability and thoroughness could be well-tested when decision-makers consider your proposals and/or requests. Be prepared to answer some probing questions.

**■ GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** A sudden attack of boredom leaves you with some tasks undone. It's OK to take a short respite. But get back to work by week's end so that you have time for other projects.

**■ CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Avoid prejudging a situation just because it looks bad. Facts could emerge that

would make your position uncomfortable, to say the least. A relative has interesting news to share with you.

**■ LEO (July 23 to August 22)** This is a good time to begin reassessing some of your recent decisions about your long-range goals to see if they still have merit. Spend more time with loved ones this weekend.

**■ VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** An unsettled situation at home or on the job early in the week could drain your energy levels, making it difficult to get your work done on schedule. But things improve by midweek.

**■ LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** A temporary setback could give you time to go over your plans to find weaknesses you might have overlooked before. A romantic getaway with that special person is favored this weekend.

**■ SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** Professional and personal situations benefit once you set a positive tone in getting things off to a good start. Honest dialogue smoothes over any occasional display of balkiness.

**■ SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** A problem with workplace colleagues or family members seems to defy even your sage counsel. But be patient. Your words will eventually lead to a resolution.

**■ BORN THIS WEEK:** You love to search for knowledge and share it with others. You would make an especially fine teacher.

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## SUDOKU

By Linda Thistle

	9			5		3	
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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

SEE ANSWERS, C9



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## BEACH READING

# Gorgeous George: The Outrageous Bad-Boy Wrestler Who Created American Pop Culture

By John Capouya  
(Harper Entertainment, \$25.95)

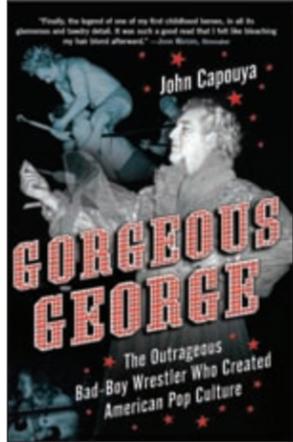
REVIEWED BY CHRIS RICHCREEK  
Special to Florida Weekly

It is rare when a pro wrestler is considered a transformational figure for society.

But author John Capouya makes such a case in "Gorgeous George," compiling a list of personalities George Wagner influenced, including singers James Brown and Bob Dylan, filmmaker John Waters and boxer Muhammad Ali.

Gorgeous George's emergence coincided with that of television's. Wrestling equaled cheap network programming in the late '40s, and more and more people were getting TVs. What a nation of viewers saw was a unique, flamboyant creation that Capouya calls an "ultimate narcissist," a gender-bender who was "neither completely manly nor wholly feminine." With his bleached-blond hair (which became a staple for wrestling bad guys), elaborate robes, arrogant attitude and villainous in-ring actions, Gorgeous George was someone many fans despised but still had to see.

That fact was picked up on by Ali, who said, "I saw fifteen thousand people



comin' to see this man get beat. And his talking did it. I said this is a goood idea!" Capouya claims that many of the chest-bumping, trash-talking actions of athletes today can be linked to Gorgeous George.

As is often the case with transformers, Gorgeous George eventually fell hard from his pedestal. The "Toast of the Coast," who died in 1963 at age 48, was a heavy drinker who had problems with his liver, gambling, infidelity and separating the real him from his persona. He went through two wives and was hard-up enough for money at the end of his career that he agreed to a match in which his famed blond locks were cut when he lost.

Capouya does a good job of capturing all that made up Gorgeous George (including a chapter describing in colorful detail a typical match for the "Human Orchid"). He makes a convincing argument that the legacy of Gorgeous George spread far from the "squared circle." ■



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# New Year's Party Guide

## What are you doing New Year's, New Year's Eve?

BY BILL CORNWELL  
news@floridaweekly.com

What makes a memorable New Year's Eve? Well, wild parties and boisterous celebrations have their place, but to many Naples residents they take a backseat to more private, meaningful moments.

DJ Big Rob, aka Robert Martinez, has presided over more than a few New Year's Eve affairs he describes as "controlled chaos." His job is to provide music and entertainment "that will make somebody want to get up and dance." But ask Mr. Martinez, who will be holding forth this New Year's Eve at Noodles, what his most enduring memory is of this signature evening, and he goes back to Dec. 31, 2001, at a Fifth Avenue South restaurant.

"It wasn't that long after the 9/11 attacks, of course," he recalls. "People were having a hard time getting going. It was almost like they felt they weren't allowed to have fun again. It was somber."

As midnight approached, Mr. Martinez, who is also an audio engineer, played a selection of sound bites he had strung

together in which President Bush urged the nation to go forward in the wake of the attacks. The presentation concluded just as Mr. Martinez began his traditional 30-second countdown to midnight.

"Everyone was quiet, but when the countdown ended, the place went crazy," he says. "It was like a weight had been lifted from our shoulders... we had finally put that awful year behind us and we could move on to a new year and something better. I actually saw tears falling from some eyes. I will never forget that moment."

Sukie Honeycutt at Ridgway Bar & Grill believes this New Year's might have similar, if less dramatic, overtones because of the economy.

"I think we are all praying that the worst is over, that 2009 will be better than 2008," she says. "And I believe it will be. We're on our way out of it, and I think Naples will be among the first to recover, since we were among the first to be hit (by the economic conditions)."

On a utilitarian level, Ms. Honeycutt says that based on her 29 years of experience, the worst thing a restaurateur can

do on New Year's Eve is "have a prix fixe menu and jack up the prices of your regular dinner." Although it is a special night, she says, diners still crave consistency. "You can come here and have a hamburger and a nice glass of wine or you can have the filet for \$36," she adds. "We don't change."

Of course, not everyone celebrates New Year's Eve at a club or restaurant. Some prefer less-public moments.

For the past decade, Kerry and Bill Weber, who run Weber Design Group, and their two children have piled into Mr. Weber's 31-foot fishing boat and headed to Cape Romano, where they join other couples for camping and a New Year's celebration on the beach.

"We're outdoorsy kinds of people, so this is a natural for us," Mrs. Weber says. "We pack the boat full of food, drinks and tents."

This year, however, the Webers and their friends will break with tradition and retreat to a hunting cabin near Immokalee. "We'll ride four-wheelers and a swamp buggy, so it should be fun," she says. "But I'm sure we'll miss the fishing and the sun-

sets on the beach."

When it comes to low-key observances, it would be hard to top Naples Mayor Bill Barnett, who states flatly that, "New Year's Eve is not a night to be out partying."

The mayor said he and his wife prefer to have a few couples over, and, that for him, the principal attraction of the evening is watching football. "I never seem to make it to the ball drop," he says. "For me, it's just a good night to be at home."

Because there are those who seek more active forms of excitement, Naples will have extra police officers on duty, the mayor noted, although he anticipates that, "It's going to be a quiet time overall."

Ms. Honeycutt at Ridgway Grill concurs that New Year's Eve in Naples, while celebratory, is usually quite mannerly.

"Everybody's in a great mood," she said. "In the restaurant business, a certain segment of diners are going to be in a bad mood when they come in — but not on New Year's. Really."

"It's a joyous time, and everybody's happy. It's a wonderful occasion, like no other." ■

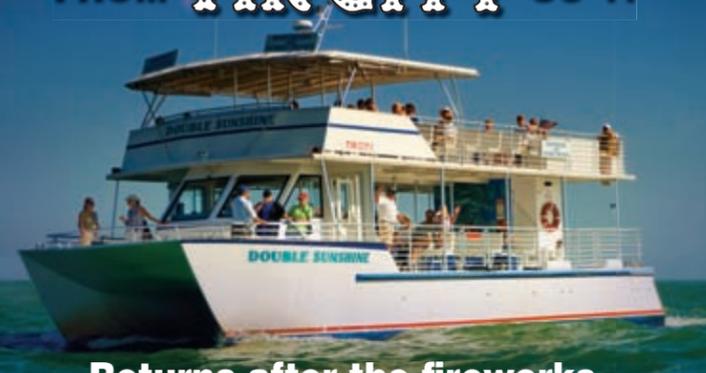


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# Formal or fun, New Year's Eve is looking good

BY ALYSIA SHIVERS  
news@floridaweekly.com

The time for gift shopping has passed. Now is the time to decide which party invite you are going to accept and, more importantly, to peruse the stores for party wear to ring in 2009.

First on the to-do list is determining how formal or informal the gathering is that you are attending. As Gregg Andrews, a Nordstrom fashion director, points out, you don't want to show up at a friend's house in a tuxedo while everyone else is in jeans and sweaters.

While the trend this year is leaning toward more casual, low-key affairs, experts say it doesn't mean you can't dress festive. "Your outfit can still look celebratory, thought out and pulled together," Mr. Andrews said.

For women, Ivy Levinson, owner of Puddy 'n' Pearl Boutique in The Collection at Vanderbilt, says trousers in neutral tones paired with tops in cool colors are a fantastic choice.

For those who prefer a dress, the little black dress is always a winner, Ms. Levinson said. But she also points out colorful short dresses by designers like Betsey Johnson and Evo Vorro that can be worn with leggings as well as long, floaty dresses in beautiful shades. "We've been so depressed with the economy. I would like to see people wearing colors this year," she noted.

Jazz up your glittery tops and body-conscious dresses with a mix of costume and real jewelry pieces. Chunky crystals in necklaces, bracelets and earrings will make

you sparkle, she added.

For men, the most fashion-forward piece right now is the vest, which can easily be dressed up or down, said Mr. Andrews. For a more conservative look, a buttoned-up collared shirt with sleeves down tucked into jeans can be worn under a completely buttoned-up vest. On the flip side, the shirt can be untucked, sleeves rolled up, and vest unbuttoned with skinny jeans and a skinny tie.

"It's just a matter of taking traditional elements and wearing them in a new, relaxed way," Mr. Andrews said.

If a tailored jacket is more to your liking, then you can't go wrong pairing it with jeans or wool pants. "A jacket works on a man of any age, and I think the vest can too," he noted.

The popular colors remain grey and black, although some deep purple and blue shades are emerging, particularly in neckwear. Patterns, however, are out. To add a bit of shine, consider cufflinks but avoid novelty-type pieces, Mr. Andrews warns, and stick with something more understated. Belts with oversized buckles are also a fashionable accessory.

Once your outfit is selected, there is still



EVO Vorro dress

Betsey Johnson dress

work to be done. Preparation is key, and to look your very best come New Year's Eve it's important to take care of your skin. Mylene Chifflet de Baldo, an aesthetician at Naples Cosmetic Surgery Center, recommends that you start hydrating at least two days before the big event by drinking lots of water.

The day before, she suggests scheduling a facial to exfoliate, hydrate and firm the skin. "Your skin will look clear, bright and moist," she said.

A few hours before the party, go for a brisk walk. This will increase blood circulation, bring more oxygen to the skin, and take away the puffiness around the eyes. "You'll look rejuvenated," she said.

Perfect tresses bring the entire party ensemble together, and this year stylists are seeing more soft and loose looks than severe and contrived. "The trends for this year are volume, soft curl and lots of shine," said Robb Gardner, a stylist at Abracadabra. To achieve this, he recommends using volumizing mousses,

blow-drying your hair upside down, and using a flatiron on the ends only.

Salon Fusion stylist Deborah Elias agrees that waves and loose curls instead of severe straight styles and updos are more popular. Plus, highlights and color keep hair looking shiny and bright. For that added touch of glam, Ms. Elias recommends some rhinestone pins or sparkly barrettes or combs.

As a finishing touch, apply makeup for a dramatic nighttime look with a blending of eye shadow that creates a smoky look, a touch of mascara, and a combination of lip liner and lipstick. While it depends on the color of your outfit, Ms. Chifflet de Baldo says silver on the eyelids is always elegant and complements most skin tones, while a darker grey will give you beautiful smoky eyes.

As far as mascara is concerned, the newest fad is to apply it to the middle lashes on your upper lid to make the eye appear more open and round, she said. Finish off the look with a dab of a light color eye shadow in the corner of the eyes to make them look more rested.

Of course, being the belle of the ball and partying well into the next morning can make for a grueling New Year's Day. To combat the after-effects, Ms. Chifflet de Baldo encourages everyone to drink lots of water and indulge in her Signature Facial that includes a relaxing neck, face, hand and arm massage, exfoliation, steam to open up the pores, and a cleansing. "This will get your energy back up," she said.

Happy New Year! ■

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# New Year's Party Guide

New Year's Eve is a big night for restaurants. Many offer special menus, often with a bit of bubbly included. The most popular spots fill up quickly, so make sure to call your favorite early. Here's a sampling of what's happening around Naples:

**>>Alexander's**

4077 Tamiami Trail N.  
Reservations: 262-4999  
Regular menu and tasting menu available 5-10 p.m.

**>>Aura**

Naples Grande Beach Resort  
475 Seagate Drive  
Reservations: 597-3232  
Serving an elegant five-course menu. First seating 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., second seating 9 to 10:30 p.m. \$125 per person.

**>>Baleen**

LaPlaya Beach & Golf Resort  
9891 Gulf Shore Drive  
Reservations: 598-5707  
9 p.m. seating for a special New Year's Eve celebration dinner that includes a seafood station, a French market charcuterie display, saute and carving stations and grilled-to-order filet and lobster tails. \$195 per person, not inclusive of alcohol.

**>>Bamboo Cafe**

755 12th Avenue S.  
Reservations: 643-6177  
Serving a four-course meal with one glass of house champagne, \$85, which includes piano music by Marc Meyer, party favors, French celebration via satellite TV and view of New Year's fireworks show from terrace.

**>>Bayside**

270 Gulfshore Blvd. N.  
In The Village On Venetian Bay  
Reservations: 239-649-5552  
Serving regular hours, regular menu.

**>>Bellini**

445 Fifth Avenue S.  
Reservations: 261-1117  
Special a la carte menu with a complimentary glass of Italian bubbly with dinner.

**>>Bha! Bha! A Persian Bistro**

847 Vanderbilt Beach Road  
Reservations: 594-5557  
A la carte menu featuring the restaurant's best-selling items and most popular specials. There's a \$5 entertainment charge for the live belly dancing that will take place throughout the evening.

**>>Café Lurcat/Bar Lurcat**

494 Fifth Avenue S.  
Reservations: 213-3357  
Four course dinner, \$90 per person.

**>>Campiello**

1177 Third Street S.  
Fully booked.

**>>Dino's**

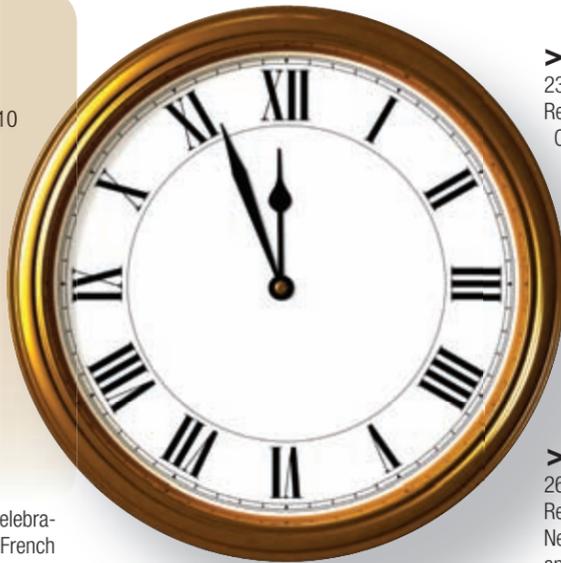
1575 Pine Ridge Road  
In Mission Square Shopping Center  
Reservations: 594-1900  
Joy Adams and The Bruce Klauber Jazz Trio, performing 9 p.m. to midnight, featuring pianist Mel Rosen and saxophonist Jerry Sawicki plus surprise guests.

**>>The Dock at Crayton Cove**

845 12th Avenue S.  
At the City Dock  
Reservations: 263-9940  
Full menu plus chef's specials. Open for lunch and dinner on New Year's Eve.

**>>Fleming's Steakhouse**

8985 Tamiami Trail N.  
Reservations: 598-2424  
Opening early, with three lobster combinations featured.



**>>Handsome Harry's**

1207 Third Street S.  
Fully booked.

**>>The Hilton Naples**

5111 Tamiami Trail N.  
Reservations: 659-3111  
Brazilian Carnivale festivities from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. include open bar, hors d'oeuvres, plated dinner, carnivale show, music and dancing all evening, midnight party favors and Champagne toast, plus a keepsake photograph. \$195 per person, inclusive.

**>>M Waterfront Grille**

4300 Gulf Shore Blvd. N.  
Reservations: 263-4421  
Serving a festive three-course dinner from 4:30 to 11 p.m., \$65 per person. There will be live entertainment in the lounge.

**>>Mangrove Café**

878 Fifth Avenue South  
Reservations: 262-7076  
5-7 p.m. seating, \$38 per person for a four-course dinner and a glass of bubbly; 7 p.m. to midnight, \$68 per person for a five-course dinner and a glass of bubbly. DJ and dancing until 2 a.m.

**>>Noodles**

1585 Pine Ridge Road  
Reservations: 592-0050  
Dining from 3 to 10 p.m. with complimentary champagne toast at midnight. Dancing until 2 a.m. with DJ Big Rob and bottle service at VIP tables.

**>>The Real Macaw**

3275 Bayshore Drive  
Reservations: 732-1188  
New Year's Eve reservations beginning at 5 p.m. Five-course menu with glass of Champagne, DJ music and party favors, \$65 per person.

**>>Remy's Neighborhood Bistro**

2300 Pine Ridge Road  
Reservations: 403-9922  
Choose from the New Year's Eve specials or Remy's regular dinner menu, with free bottle of house wine and live entertainment by Rick. Opens at 5 p.m.

**>>Ridgway Bar & Grille**

1300 Third Street S.  
Reservations: 262-5500  
Regular menu and hours. Outside in front of the restaurant and Tony's Off Third, C.W. Colt and Eric Bratton will perform from 6 to 9 p.m.

**>>The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort**

2600 Tiburon Drive  
Reservations: 593-2000  
New Year's Eve gala features a four-course menu and dessert buffet. The Bella Vista Lounge will have a midnight balloon drop.

**>>The Ritz-Carlton, Naples**

280 Vanderbilt Beach Road  
Reservations: 598-3300  
Two seatings for a festive, four-course a la carte menu in The Grill. At The Bar, there will be a DJ after 10:30 p.m. and a midnight ball drop, \$50 cover charge for non-hotel guests.



**>>Spanky's Speakeasy**

1550 Airport Pulling Road N.  
Reservations: 643-1559  
Regular menu as well as holiday specials including twin lobster tails, chateaubriand and surf and turf.

**>>Stoney's Steakhouse**

403 Bayfront Place  
Reservations: 435-9353  
Five-course celebration dinner with music, dancing and champagne toast; 6 p.m. seating \$150 per couple; 8:30 p.m. seating \$250 per couple

**>>Swan River Seafood**

3741 Tamiami Trail N.  
Reservations: 403-7000  
Celebrate with a trip to the new lobster boat raw bar featuring cold water northern oysters, Rhode Island clams and local stone crab claws. Reservations accepted for parties of six or more.

**>>Sway Lounge**

2059 Tamiami Trail E.  
Information: 417-6688  
Ring in the New Year at the Cristal Ball with DJ Ani Bhearch. Doors open at 8 p.m. New Year's Eve and the party continues until 5 a.m. New Year's Day.

**>>Tavern on the Bay**

489 Bayfront  
530-2225  
Steak and lobster for \$39.99, prime rib for \$19.99, free champagne toast at midnight. Watch college bowl games on 13 plasma screens and see the ball drop at midnight in Times Square. Come back on New Year's Day for free buffet, drink specials and five more college bowl games.

**>>Ultra Naples**

15495 Tamiami Trail  
Information: 514-3790  
Dance the night away at this hot-spot nightclub to the DJ's mix of hip-hop, house and tribal beats.

**>>Vergina on Fifth Avenue**

700 Fifth Avenue S.  
Reservations: 659-7008  
Live music and special dinner with seating at 6 p.m. for \$60 per person and at 8 p.m. for \$120 per person.

**>>Vincenzo's on the Bay**

5370 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs  
Reservations: 992-1159  
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**IF YOU GO** Check out Florida Weekly's New Year's Eve Party Guide for some of the best bashes, but be sure to call ahead. Night club owners and restaurateurs live complicated lives and plans are subject to change; space is limited and reservations books are filling up fast. **IF YOU GO AND GET STUCK BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO DRUNK TO DRIVE HOME**, take advantage of the Tow and Go program sponsored by AAA and Budweiser. The free service, available throughout the holidays until Jan. 2, will tow your car home and take you too. Dial 1-800-AAA-HELP.



# Ms. Cuisine and Mr. Vino get cozy for New Year's Eve

BY KAREN FELDMAN AND JIM MCCRACKEN  
 cuisine@floridaweekly.com  
 vino@floridaweekly.com

This may sound like sacrilege from a restaurant critic, but I hate to go out on New Year's Eve. I just don't do it.

Over the years, I have found that even the best places are too full of people who are too full of liquor to behave decorously.



Feldman



McCracken

The staff is overtaxed and often the kitchen is, too. And you pay more than you would on any other night.

Afterward, you have to worry about whether you've overindulged and might find yourself dancing with the sheriff's Wolf Pack, which will surely be out in force that night.

Of course, some people crave fellowship as they usher out the old and ring in the new. Some don't have a special someone they'd like to

spend some one-on-one time with on this important evening. In either case, there's no substitute for a night on the town.

For the happily committed, here's my advice: Go out Dec. 30. Or Jan. 1. Or the 2nd, 3rd or 4th. Or all of those nights.

But on New Year's Eve, Mr. Vino (Florida Weekly wine columnist Jim McCracken) and I like to do something different: We plan and prepare a romantic dinner pour deux.

Here are the rules:

1. It should be easy. You don't want to wear yourself out cooking and not be able

to enjoy the evening (not to mention stay up until midnight).

2. The food should be something you don't normally serve.

3. There must be some mighty fine wine to accompany said food.

4. Candles and mood music are mandatory. If you still have children at home, call in a favor and farm the little darlings out to someone who hasn't had your foresight.

5. Once dinner is prepared, dress as if you were going out for a night on the town.

What follows is a dinner that shouldn't tax even novice cooks. Mr. Vino has provided suggestions for what to drink with each course, making that process as easy as zipping over to your favorite wine purveyor and remembering to chill each selection to the proper temperature. And he's kept in mind that there are just two people so opening several bottles is neither advisable nor necessary.

Here's an easy dinner for two, much of which can be prepped in advance, along with wines that should bring about a fine start to 2009.

**First course: Roasted Beet Soup**



Bollinger Brut Rosé Champagne  
 La Grande Année 1999.

This lush red soup can be made the day before and refrigerated. All you have to do to serve is reheat it and top with crème fraîche or sour cream.

**What to drink:** For an elegant start, try a rosé Champagne. Go for the gold with **Bollinger Brut Rosé Champagne La Grande Année 1999** (about \$300). It's a perfect aperitif, with complex and vibrant color, and flavors of dried berry, tobacco and spice with a long finish. This will complement the big flavors of the roasted beets. For a more economical option, try **Pommery Brut Rosé Champagne NV** (about \$75). It's one of the best non-vintage selections, with bright cherry and berry flavors tinged with clove and cinnamon and a toasty finish. If you're going to serve the poached pears for dessert, save a glass for that.

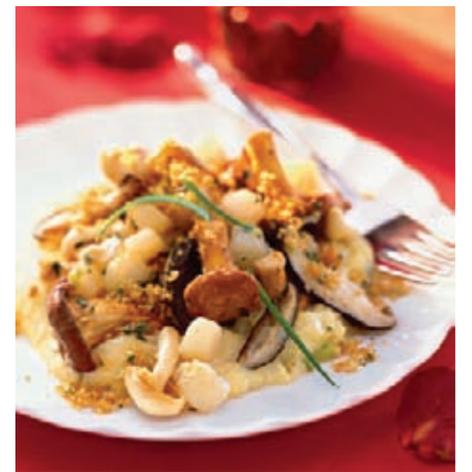
**Entrée: Scallops with Polenta, Wild Mushrooms, Sherry and Parsley**

This dish takes little preparation so you won't spend a long time laboring over a hot stove. Serve with a salad or steamed broccolini with a bit of butter and lemon.

**What to drink:** The French have a knack for matching food and

wine, and **Louis Jadot Puligny Montrachet Les Foliatieres 2006** is perfect with seafood. Delicate hazelnut, peach and citrus flavors over a mineral base, this is supple with a creamy texture and an expansive aftertaste. It has terrific harmony and complexity. Expect to spend about \$80.

**Dessert option one: Champagne-**



**poached pears**

This is a light but elegant end to a meal that can be made well in advance.

**What to drink:** Now you can finish the Champagne and not be incapacitated for post-dinner activities that may provide a memorable end of the year.

**Dessert option two: Norman Love chocolates**

Yes, it's the easy way out, but it isn't likely your significant other will complain. His or her mouth will be full of sensuous, velvety chocolate likely to reduce conversation to monosyllabic moans of pleasure. The new BLACK line features rich, dark origin chocolates that are as complex in flavor as wine and, because dark chocolate also has numerous health benefits, can be considered a virtuous substitute for the poached pears. Find them at Love's Chocolate Salon just off Daniels Parkway in Fort Myers or at Sea Salt in Naples.

**What to drink:** A good port is an appropriate partner to these, both for flavor and because you need not feel compelled to finish the bottle in one sitting. **Taylor Fladgate 10 Year Old Tawny** will cost about \$35. Ripe, silky, dried red currants, raisins and nuts are evident in this refined, elegantly structured wine. Or choose **Graham's 10 Year Old Tawny** for about \$40. It's deep amber in color with complex orange peel and marzipan aromas, with hints of walnuts. ■

## The recipes

### Romantic New Year's Eve dinner for two

#### >>First course: Roasted Beet Soup

##### Ingredients:

½ pound red beets (about 3 medium)  
 1½ teaspoons EACH butter and olive oil  
 1 leek (white and pale green parts), chopped  
 1 small onion, thinly sliced  
 1 celery stalk, chopped  
 1/8 teaspoon EACH ginger, allspice and ground white pepper

2 cups water  
 1 small bay leaf  
 1 EACH fresh thyme sprig and parsley sprig  
 ¼ cup whipping cream  
 2 tablespoons crème fraîche or sour cream

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Wrap beets in foil and roast until tender when pierce with fork, about 1 hour. Cool. Peel beets. Cut ¼ beets into ¼-inch cubes. Reserve for garnish. Cut remaining beets into ½-inch pieces.

Melt butter and oil in heavy medium saucepan over medium-high heat. Add leek, onion and celery, cook until beginning to brown, stirring frequently, about 13 minutes. Stir in ginger, allspice, white pepper and ½-inch beet pieces. Cook until vegetables begin to stick to the bottom of pot, stirring frequently, about 7 minutes. Add 2 cups water, bay leaf, thyme and parsley. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer until vegetables are tender, about 25 minutes. Remove bay leaf, thyme and parsley. Cool slightly. Working in batches, puree soup in blender with cream. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

**NOTE:** Can be made a day ahead. Cool slightly, cover and refrigerate. When ready to serve, gently reheat but don't boil. Divide into two bowls. Garnish each with 1 tablespoon crème fraîche or sour cream. Sprinkle with reserved beet cubes.

Source: Epicurious.com

#### Entrée: Scallops with Polenta, Wild Mushrooms, Sherry and Parsley Bread Crumbs

##### Ingredients:

1/2 cup fresh bread crumbs from French bread with crust  
 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil  
 1 tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped  
 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided  
 6 ounces fresh wild mushrooms (such as oyster, crimini or shiitake)

1 1/4 teaspoons fresh thyme, chopped  
 1/2 cup green onions, chopped  
 1/4 cup Amontillado sherry  
 1/4 cup low-salt vegetable or chicken broth  
 1/8 cup whipping cream  
 2 cups (or more) water  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 1/2 cup polenta  
 3/4 pound scallops

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Toss bread crumbs with olive oil and parsley in medium bowl to blend. Spread onto rimmed baking sheet. Bake until golden and crunchy, stirring occasionally, about 15 minutes. (Can be made a day ahead. Cool completely and store in airtight container at room temperature.)

Melt 2 tablespoons butter in heavy large skillet over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms and thyme. Sauté until mushrooms are tender, stirring occasionally, about 7 minutes. Add green onions; sauté 1 minute. Add sherry; boil until slightly reduced, about 2 minutes. Add broth. Boil until reduced by half, about 3 minutes. Add cream; simmer until thickened, about 3 minutes. (Can be made 3 hours ahead. Cover and refrigerate.)

Bring 2 cups water and 1/2 teaspoon salt to boil in heavy medium saucepan. Gradually whisk in polenta. Reduce heat to medium low. Cook polenta until tender, adding water if it's too thick. Whisk frequently, about 20 minutes. Stir in 1 1/2 tablespoons butter. Season with

salt and pepper. Cover to keep warm.

Reheat mushroom mixture. Melt 1 tablespoon butter in another large skillet over high heat. Add scallops and sauté until just translucent in center, about 1 minute. Stir scallops and juices into mushrooms. Season with salt and pepper.

Divide polenta between plates. Spoon scallop mixture over polenta, sprinkle bread crumbs over and serve. Source: Adapted from Epicurious.com

#### Champagne-Poached Pears

##### Ingredients:

1 bottle champagne (about 3½ cups)  
 1 cup sugar  
 Zest of ¼ lemon  
 1 teaspoon rose water (optional)  
 ½ vanilla bean, split lengthwise (optional)  
 2 large pears (such as Bosc) or 4 small pears (such as Seckel), peeled (firm, slightly under ripe pears work best)

1. Combine all ingredients except pears in pot and bring to a simmer.  
 2. Carefully lower pears into liquid, adding up to 1 cup water to make sure fruit is fully submerged.  
 3. Simmer until pears are tender, 15 to 17 minutes for small pears, 25 to 30 minutes for large ones.  
 4. Cool pears in cooking liquid for 30 minutes before serving, or store in refrigerator (in liquid) for up to a week.

Optional: You can carefully hollow the out the pears and add mascarpone cheese enhanced with a touch of vanilla and confectioners sugar if desired.

Source: Epicurious.com



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# Bring in the New Year with a bit of bubbly

BY ROSE O'DELL KING  
Special to Florida Weekly

Most of us probably missed the three-day *Les Habits de Lumière* ("dressed in lights") Champagne fest in Epernay, France, last week. There you could have strolled down the Avenue de Champagne, gazing at the brightly lit façades and corbelled parapets while sipping sparkling favorites and discovering new ones to cherish, all while feasting on local cuisine.

As dazzling as that sounds, the sheer joy of both drinking more bubbly over the holidays as well as giving bottles away as gifts for others to enjoy, eases the distress of being left out of an ultra-chic trip to France. It also helps to invoke your inner Napoleon Bonaparte, one who celebrates with Champagne in victory and commiserates with a glass or two in defeat.

Because Champagne and quality sparkling wines make every occasion more festive, where Champagne is concerned, I believe giving is almost better than receiving!

But here's the deal: While some people use the name Champagne to designate anything with bubbles in it, Champagne can only come from the region Champagne in France, about 90 miles northeast of Paris. They work hard to protect that name, because they perfected the method more than 300 years ago.

Champagne and quality sparkling wines are expensive because they're labor intensive and still virtually handmade. A quality still wine is made first, but a second fermentation is induced (in the same bottle you purchase) by adding a little yeast and sugar. The result-

ing carbon dioxide becomes trapped in the bottle and dissolves in the form of bubbles that are only released when you pop the cork and pour.

These bubbles are oh-so-tiny and bead upward in your glass like a string of pearls — making watching the action in your glass another of the pleasures of enjoying Champagne. This is *méthode champenoise*. American and other sparkling-wine producers around the world convey this quality by clearly stating on their labels that their sparkling wine is made in this traditional method.

In a less expensive method, the second fermentation takes place in a large tank and delivers bigger, random bubbles. German Sekt and Italian Prosecco are delicious sparklers made by this method.

A third, really cheap way is just to add CO2 under pressure, à la carbonated beverages. No quality wine is made this way.

Many people believe sparkling wines are inferior to Champagne — and it's true that many are. If you're in a restaurant, go ahead and ask whether what's been poured is Champagne or sparkling wine. Servers at good restaurants are only too happy to talk about the selections on their wine list.

## Know your label

Champagne is one of the most complex wine regions in the world, so it pays to know how to read the label.

In tiny letters at the bottom of almost every Champagne label are two capital letters followed by several numbers. The letters represent your secret code for finding great

Champagne:

- NM means *negociant manipulant*, a winery that buys its grapes. You're no doubt familiar with some NM Champagne houses; many represent the big names: Bollinger, Taittinger, Krug, Roederer, Perrier-Jouet and Pol Roger, among them. (About 260 Houses are responsible for selling more than 70 percent of all Champagne.)

- RM means *recoltant manipulant*, a winery that grows its own fruit, makes the wine, bottles it and ships it. For me, RM wines are the ones to look for. They're always more interesting than NM, as they are small production, hand-crafted wines that reflect their individual terroirs. Some of my favorites: Pierre Gimmonet, Egly-Ouriet and Larmandier-Bernier, Barnaut.

- CM means *cooperative manipulant*, a co-op of farmers who band together under one cellar master to make and market their wines. Some represent good value for money. Try Nicolas Feuillate or Jacquart, or ask your wine merchant for some recommendations.

- MA means *marque d'acheteur*, a wine made specifically for a restaurant or retailer so they can slap their own label on it. These are often called "vanity bottles." While there is always an exception, it's a good idea to steer clear of these.

Unfortunately, it's more difficult to spot a great sparkling wine. There's no secret code, and vineyards aren't rated. Just remember that a sparkling wine is only as good as the base wine it's made from. Look for a label that says the wine is made in the traditional method, or *méthode champenoise*. ■

## Rose's recommendations

### CHAMPAGNES:

>> **Champagne Delamotte non-vintage Rosé Brut NM** (\$100) Exquisitely balanced and elegant, with a long, expressive finish and a gorgeous salmon-pink color with swoon-inducing aromas of wet stones, pomegranate and grapefruit and lively flavors with a hint of spice. A perfect wine to drink throughout a meal.

>> **Oudinot Cuvée non-vintage Brut. NM** (\$32) An excellent value, this is a classy Champagne made from Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier grapes with a smaller amount of Chardonnay. Round and toasty, it has fresh, clean citrus flavors and is perfect as an aperitif or with delicate seafood appetizers.

>> **Pierre Moncuit Cuvée Hugues de Coulmet Blanc de Blanc RM** (\$38) A delicious grower Champagne made from 100 percent Chardonnay grapes grown in the Le Mesnil-sur-Oger, near the famed Clos de Mesnil of Krug. It's appealingly floral on the nose and racy on the palate, with a smoky, lemony richness that unfurls on the tongue in a mineral swath.

### SPARKLING WINES:

>> **Schramsberg Mirabelle Brut Rosé** (\$25) A full-bodied rosé made with Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes, this one rewards the eyes with its delicate pink blossom color and the nose with enchanting aromas of fresh strawberries and yeasty dinner rolls.

>> **Schramsberg 2005 Blanc de Noir** (\$40) Made in the *méthode champenoise* way from Pinot Noir grapes, this sparkler is mineral and appley, with creamy bands of starfruit, toast and lemon hints woven right through it.

>> **Gruet Brut** (\$20) The Gruet family of New Mexico, formerly Champagne makers from France, craft all of their sparklers in the *méthode champenoise* tradition. This non-vintage is toasty and bold, with delicious Granny Smith apple and lemon flavors and a just-baked apple pie aroma.

Rose O'Dell King purchased her tasting selections from Austin's Wine Cellar in Fort Myers, Total Wine in Fort Myers and Naples, and The Wine Merchant in Naples.

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# Welcome the New Year with the arts

Many venues offer a New Year's Eve performance and party

BY NANCY STETSON  
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

If you love the arts, then there's no better way to welcome in the New Year.

Whatever your taste, you can celebrate the turn of the page to 2009 appreciating and enjoying the arts, whether it's musical or theatrical.

For many it's tradition to spend New Year's Eve at The Philharmonic Center for the Arts (5833 Pelican Bay Blvd., Naples.) Its annual New Year's Eve Gala offers a variety of music, with Maestro Jack Everly conducting the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra. Broadway singer Judy McLane returns (she performed at last year's gala.) The evening also features saxophone ensemble the Capitol Quartet, and clarinetist Jon Manasse.

The program includes "It Don't Mean a Thing if It Ain't Got That Swing," "That Old Black Magic" and a saxophone version of "Flight of the Bumblebee."

The 8 p.m. concert is preceded by a 7 p.m. elaborate buffet reception with complimentary drinks. Tickets are \$150 and available by calling 597-1900 or going to [www.thephil.org](http://www.thephil.org).

For those who have other plans on



COURTESY PHOTO

Judy McLane performs at The Phil

Dec. 31, the Phil holds a repeat performance at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, for \$79. (It is an exact repeat of the New Year's Eve Gala, minus the food.)

Or, you can attend the Gulf Coast Symphony New Year's Eve Gala and Concert at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall (8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers). The black-tie party starts at 7 p.m. with a multi-course dinner and includes party treats.

The concert begins at 9 p.m. You can watch the ball drop in Times Square at midnight on a big screen and salute the incoming year with a Champagne toast.

Tickets for dinner and a concert are \$125 apiece, with concert-only tickets (plus Champagne) running from \$60 to \$35. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall box office at 481-4849 or going to [www.bbmannpah.com](http://www.bbmannpah.com).

Opera Naples is offering people an opportunity to be a guest of Count Orlovski's masked ball (from Strauss' comic operetta, "Die Fledermaus.")

The opera ball, which is Opera Naples' major fund-raising event, will be held in the music salon at the home of Maestro William Noll. Guests will

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## THE ARTS

From page 18



"Salute to Vienna" at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall Jan. 2.

be surrounded by soloists, chorus and musicians performing Act II of "Die Fledermaus" in English. Black tie is optional, but guests are asked to wear masks.

The evening begins with an open bar reception from 8:30-9 p.m. Cocktails will be served, along with a gourmet dinner with wine. At midnight, there'll be a Champagne toast while watching the ball drop in Times Square. Dancing until 1 a.m. follows.

Tickets are \$300 per person. To reserve, call 287-8694 or 280-7585.

If you're interested in seeing in the New Year with theater, you have a couple of options.

The Schoolhouse Theater (2200 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel) offers a showing of "The Holly Jolly Folies" followed by a performance by jazz pianist Jon Weber, who's performed all over the U.S. and Europe.

The party begins at 9:30 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and beverages and includes a Champagne toast at midnight. Tickets are \$75 each. Call 472-6862.

Or, you can attend opening night of "Singin' in the Rain" at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre (1380 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers.) The evening begins with a live jazz band playing in the lobby from 6:30-7:30 p.m., and a gourmet buffet that starts at 7 p.m.

The show begins at 9 p.m., with

dessert served at intermission. At 11 p.m., guests will receive champagne, noisemakers and hats, and the stage will be turned into a dancefloor for patrons. At 11:50 p.m., the theater will begin broadcasting the ball drop at Times Square on a large screen, so everyone can participate in the count-down.

Tickets are \$100 per person. For tickets or more information, call 278-4422.

"It's going to be a very full night," says Broadway Palm General Manager Susan Johnson. "Tickets are still available, but getting limited."

And if you have other commitments New Year's Eve, you can celebrate belatedly by attending "Salute to Vienna" at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall (8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers) at 8 p.m. Jan. 2.

According to Mann Hall General Manager Scott Saxon, the event is becoming an annual tradition for locals who love to hear the Viennese waltzes, polkas and marches and watch the dancers.

The evening features the Strauss Symphony of America, with Gerhard Track conducting, soprano Ute Ziemer and tenor Joachim Moser, all of Vienna, and dancers from the Vienna International Ballet.

Tickets start at \$45 and are available by calling the Mann Hall box office at 481-4849. ■

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2. First row: Penny Anderson, Rodney Woods and Becky Allen; second row: Bill O'Meara, Kathy Woods, Jim Jesse, Jennie Cheng, Dee Sulick and Stefan Bothe
3. Kathy Woods and Jennie Cheng
4. Dolph and Sharon von Arx
5. John and Becky Allen

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## Young Professionals of Naples at Saks Fifth Avenue



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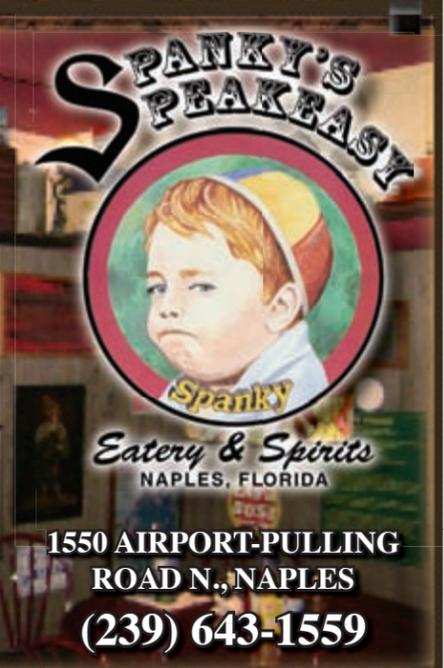
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# PAST REPASTS

## Capsule summaries of previous reviews:

### Alexander's, 4077 Tamiami Trail N., Naples; 262-4999

Don't judge a restaurant by its storefront. Alexander's glory lies behind the structure visible from U.S. 41. A splendid courtyard and equally lovely dining room afford customers plenty of charm that pairs well with chef/owner Alexander Bernard's mix of European and American fare. There are also several dishes marked as healthier — lower in calories, fat and/or salt. Jumbo lump crabmeat in garlic butter was simple and succulent. Equally good was a wild mushroom and goat cheese strudel served with caramelized apples and sun-dried cherry

Apple nut cake with vanilla gelato is one of several house-made desserts served at Alexander's.



gastrique. Miso-crusted butterfish was another simple but elegant dish and the duck — with its crisp skin, moist flesh, and tart-sweet lingonberries and port wine reduction — was excellent. Leave room for the house-made desserts, such as apple nut cake with ice cream and Monika's crepe of passion. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★★★★★½ Service: ★★★★★½ Atmosphere: ★★★★★½

### Bha! Bha! A Persian Bistro, 847 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples; 594-5557

The promise of what's to come reveals itself as customers walk in the door and the scents of saffron, cinnamon, ginger and garlic waft over them. Chef/proprietor Michael Mir has created a bastion of fine hospitality and creative cuisine, with many recipes passed on by his Iranian mother. Among the highlights of dinner were haleem bademjune, a creamy concoction of eggplant, lentils, garlic and sour cream; plum lamb, spicy seafood gilani and squash jewel cake with apricots, prunes and mango sauce.

There's belly dancing on Saturdays (moving to Thursdays in January), which added another authentic note to this exotic, sensuous meal. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★★★★★½ Service: ★★★★★ Atmosphere: ★★★★★

### Naples Tomato, 14700 Tamiami Trail, Naples; 598-9800

A vast wine selection and a menu of American Neapolitan cuisine make this a justifiably popular establishment. I particularly like that the management buys its tomatoes from local farms and the kitchen makes its own pasta. The Real Deal Crab Cake appetizer is one of the best I've had south



▲ Rainbow trout with mussels in a tomato broth makes for a lovely presentation at Naples Tomato.

of Baltimore and is worthy of its name. A pane cotto — escarole, white beans, bread and Parmesan cheese — was another great starter. The pasta sampler was a winner, with raviolini in Bolognese sauce, lasagna and shrimp and vegetables over angel-hair pasta. Only the bland rainbow trout disappointed. For dessert, I can heartily recommend the Chocoholic, a warm chocolate cake with chocolate sauce and ice cream. Full bar.

Food: ★★★★★½ Service: ★★★★★ Atmosphere: ★★★★★½

### Sharks Cavern, 13040 Livingston Road, Naples; 643-1113

This promising newcomer along Pine Ridge Road delivers well-executed food and gracious service. Chef Steve Jenkins possesses a true flair for sauces, which is a trait many graduates of the Culinary Institute of America share. Pan-seared scallops on coconut sticky rice cakes with chipotle pineapple sauce were exceptional. A nightly special of Thai-style chicken soup with coconut milk was expertly seasoned, smooth and silky. The prime rib was undercooked but otherwise all right but the grouper tower and its colorful presentation was the standout of the evening. Desserts, served in pilsner glasses, include a tart Key lime pie and vanilla panna cotta with pineapple salsa. Full bar.



▲ The grouper tower's bright colors are matched by the varied flavors and textures of this creative dish at Sharks Cavern.

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

Key to ratings

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

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# FLORIDA WEEKLY CUISINE

## Tid-bits to assuage your appetite for restaurant news



**karenFELDMAN**  
cuisine@floridaweekly.com

### Florida Trend magazine deserves coal in its stocking

So what are we, chopped liver? Despite a change in restaurant editors this year, Florida Trend's annual restaurant awards list once again gives short shrift to the wealth of excellent dining establishments in the area.

I'll grant that it's difficult to keep up with all of the restaurants in a state this big, but I'd also argue that if you haven't sufficient staff to manage it, don't attempt it at all. The magazine calls it "Florida's 500 Best Places to Dine," but it's evident there hasn't been much effort to stay current when it comes the best that Southwest Florida has to offer.

That's not to say the restaurants that made it aren't worthy, although based on my most recent experiences, I'd say that at least a couple of those listed may no longer deserve the designation. And with but one exception, the same ones appear year after year, making it obvious that the magazine views this as a culinary backwater not worth exploring.

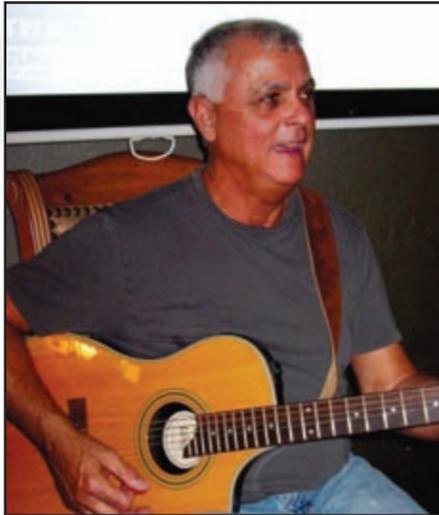
Kudos to the one establishment that broke into the lineup this year: Yabo, the unpretentious little Fort Myers restaurant that's been the darling of well-informed foodies since it opened about 2½ years ago. It made the Best New Restaurants list. Restaurant editor Chris Sherman (who has taken over from Robert Tolf) describes it as "Fresh Italian and fresher blues and funk and Aussie accents from owner/chef/musicians Sean Wood and Ryan Kiba." Uh Mr. Editor? The name's Kida.

And now, without further ado, here's this year's list:

**Golden Spoon Hall of Fame:** The Ritz-Carlton, Naples

**Best new restaurants:** Yabo, Fort Myers

**Florida's 500 Best Places to Dine:**  
**Naples:** Bayside Seafood Grill & Bar, Bistro 821, Brio Tuscan Grille,



Michael David entertains at Yabo on McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Café and Bar Lurcat, Campiello, Chops City Grill, Il Bellagio, Ridgway Bar & Grill, Roy's, Shula's, St. George & The Dragon, The Ritz-Carlton, Naples and USS Nemo

**Marco Island:** Marek's Collier House Restaurant, Olde Marco Restaurant and Sale e Pepe

**Bonita Springs:** Bonfish Grill and Roy's

**Cape Coral:** Ariani Northern Italian Grill

**Fort Myers:** Prawnbroker Restaurant and Fish Market and The Veranda

**Sanibel:** Mad Hatter, Timbers Restaurant and Sanibel Grill

To give Mr. Sherman some help for next year, let's make our own list. Let me know what your favorite restaurants are (send them to cuisine@floridaweekly.com), I'll add mine and we'll assemble a list of worthy contenders that I will then send on to Florida Trend in hopes we'll get more than a passing nod in the 2009 awards.

### Naples Originals dish out dining deals

Naples Originals, a group of 38 independent, locally owned restaurants, will hold its third Restaurant Week Jan. 5-11. That's when member restaurants will offer three-course prix fixe lunches for \$12.50 and dinners for \$25 (excluding beverage, tax and gratuity).

This program allows diners to sample these inventive restaurants at a low price.

Among the member restaurants are Alexander's, Bamboo Café, Bha! Bha!, EVOO, Randy's Fishmarket, Ridgway Bar & Grill and The Real Macaw.

"Locals and visitors alike benefit from the savings offered by the budget-wise Restaurant Week menus," says Lisa Kelly Boet, founder and president of Naples Originals. Indeed, it's a great way to try out some new spots at relatively little cost.

For more information, menus and the complete list of member restaurants, go to [www.naplesoriginals.com](http://www.naplesoriginals.com).

### Blue Water update

I recently took Blue Water Bistro to task for substituting a non-vintage wine for the higher-priced single vintage listed on their menu. It was refreshing to get a gracious note from Ed McDermott, corporate beverage manager for Culinary Concepts,



For a rich dessert at Blue Water that's big enough to share, consider the dark chocolate cheesecake with Oreo crust.

which owns the restaurant, about it. Here's what he said:

"I wanted to take the opportunity to apologize for the lack of detail we pride ourselves on. The single vineyard Pascal Jolivet being on the list and not being correct has already been addressed with my bar manager and supplier ... I agree an alternative or discount should have been offered... We hope to exceed your expectations on your next visit."

### Sunday brunch returns to Naples Beach Hotel

The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club has brought back its elaborate Sunday brunch for the winter tourist season. Through May 31, brunch is served from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Sunday in the Everglades Room, which provides pan-

oramic views of the Gulf of Mexico.

Offerings include carved prime rib along with another carved meat (ham, turkey or pork loin), a chicken entrée, signature seafood dish, pasta, breakfast items, specialty salads, seasonal vegetables, a salad bar, fresh Florida fruit and desserts. A glass of champagne or mimosa is included in the price as are juice, coffee, soda, milk and iced tea. The brunch is \$28 per adult, \$15 for children 6-12 and free for those 5 and younger. Tax and gratuity are additional; complimentary valet parking is included.

The resort is at 851 Gulf Shore Blvd., Naples. For reservations, call 435-4348.

### Bait Shack serves bargain lunches

Jack's Bait Shack offers select lunch entrees for \$5.99 and the restaurant is offering a text message coupon offer as well.

Text in for a lunch coupon via cell phone by sending the message "JBS" to 47201 and receive a coupon for \$5 off lunch. The offer is good from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Show the text coupon on the phone to a server for redemption. (Standard rates from cell phone providers apply.)

Jack's Bait Shack offers lunch in 30 minutes. Entrees include Jack's famous black beans and rice and pasta marinara for \$5.99. The restaurant provides a full menu, serving appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, fresh seafood, daily specials, a full bar and a children's menu.

It's at 975 Imperial Golf Course Blvd., North Naples. It has 38 HD televisions for sports fans, football specials (11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays), pool tables, foosball, dart boards and a juke box as well as live entertainment starting at 10 p.m. six nights a week. It's open from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily.

Call 594-3460 or visit [www.jacks-baitshack.biz](http://www.jacks-baitshack.biz) for more information.

### Comings and goings

Duval Street Seafood Company has reopened in Bonita Springs. Meanwhile, Tropical Reef Seafood, Naples Cheesecake Co. and PJ's Coffee in Naples have closed. ■

## diningCALENDAR

\* **Friday-Tuesday, Dec. 26-30, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 2:30-4:30 p.m.,** The Ritz-Carlton, Naples: Teddy Bear Tea featuring stories, visit by Santa, hot chocolate and treats. \$35 children, \$30 adults. 280 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples. Call 598-3300.

\* **Sunday, Dec. 28, 4-7 p.m.,** Whole Foods Market: Visit the wine-tasting bar for a sampling of Champagnes and sparkling wines paired with cheese and snacks, free, 9101 Strada Place, Naples. Call 552-5100.

\* **Monday, Dec. 29, 6-8 p.m.,** Robb & Stucky KitchenAid Culinary Center: Cooking class with recipes for festive and indulgent foods

for celebrating the New Year with family and friends, \$45, 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs. Call 390-2222.

\* **Friday, Jan. 2, noon-8 p.m.,** Robb & Stucky KitchenAid Culinary Center: Cooking class, Salads as a Meal, with recipes for healthy, easy and time-efficient main-course salads, \$45, 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs. Call 390-2222.

\* **Wednesday, Jan. 7, 6-8 p.m.,** Robb & Stucky KitchenAid Culinary Center: Wine pairings with seafood, Chef Kristina San Filippo and wine expert Julie Glenn team up to show how white and red wines complement seafood tapas, \$55, 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs. Call 390-2222.

\* **Thursday, Jan. 8, 6-8 p.m.,** The Good Life: Cooking class, Mad About Mediterranean, recipes with Greek, Italian and

Middle Eastern flavors, \$50, Collection at Vanderbilt, Suite 176, Naples. Call 514-4663

\* **Thursday, Jan. 8, noon-2 p.m.,** Robb & Stucky KitchenAid Culinary Center: Cooking class, Florida's Growing Season, featuring seasonal produce from local farms in dishes with Florida flavors, \$45, 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs. Call 390-2222.

\* **Saturday, Jan. 10, 7-9 p.m.,** Robb & Stucky KitchenAid Culinary Center: Wine dinner, with Australian wines presented by Frank Pulice of Austin's wine cellar, paired with a five-course meal by Chef Kristina San Filippo, \$95, 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs. Call 390-2222.

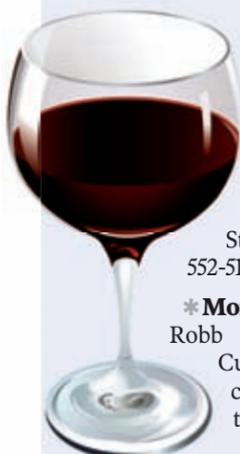
\* **Tuesday, Jan. 13, 6-8 p.m.,** The Good Life: Alive, Alive Oh! cooking class with Annie DePeiro preparing seafood, \$50, Collection at Vanderbilt, Airport Pull-

ing Road at Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples. Call 514-4663.

\* **Wednesday, Jan. 14, 5 p.m.,** Ridgway's: Justin Vineyards wine tasting and dinner. Wine tasting 5-6:30, \$12; dinner at 6:30 p.m., \$85 plus tax and gratuity; attend both for \$90 plus tax and gratuity. 1300 Third St. South, Naples. Call 262-7999 or e-mail Sukie at [sukieh@tonysoffthird.com](mailto:sukieh@tonysoffthird.com).

\* **Wednesday, Jan. 14, 5:30 p.m.,** Naples Tomato: Five-course winemaker dinner, with winemakers Mauricio Lorca of Enrique Foster in Argentina and Sabrina Tedeschi from Tedeschi in Italy, \$79 plus tax and gratuity, 14700 Tamiami Trail North, Naples. Call 598-9800.

Submit event listings to [Cuisine@floridaweekly.com](mailto:Cuisine@floridaweekly.com). ■



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