

"After the election, the euphoria we all felt was extraordinary. Particularly in my conversations with my black friends, we became closer." — Audrey Bender, Naples

RACE

Sworn in on the Lincoln Bible: Has our new president changed our feelings on race?



Barack Obama places his hand on the Abraham Lincoln Bible as he is sworn in as the 44th president of the U. S.

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

WHEN MORNING BROKE across the District of Columbia on Monday, March 4, 1861, spring had come to town:

Trees awakened in leaf and bud, flowers bloomed throughout Washington's gardens, and James Buchanan met Abraham Lincoln at the Willard Hotel for breakfast. From there they walked arm-in-arm to the Capitol building, whose dome rose unfinished above the platform where Mr. Lincoln would be sworn in as President of the United States at about 1 p.m.

Although lacking any formal religious pretension, Mr. Lincoln decided to follow a precedent

SEE RACE, A8 ►



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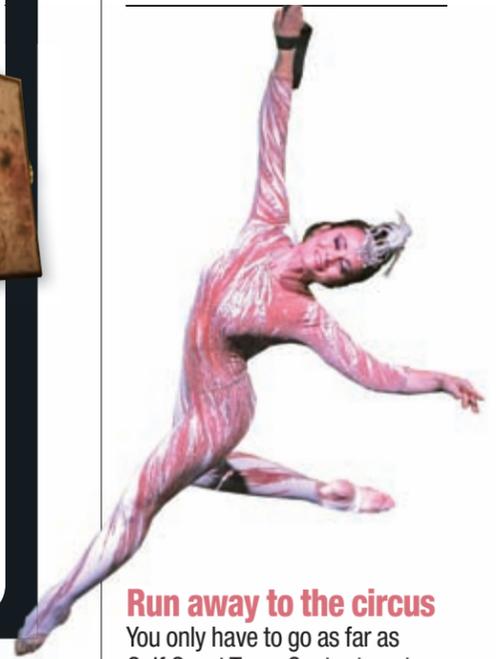
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The ultimate test drive

If luxury is wrong, I don't wanna be right

BY PAMELA V. KROL

Special to Florida Weekly

AAAaahhhh, luxury. Pure, sweet, fabulous luxury. We can all remember back a year or two, before the economy became a teeter-totter and words like luxury evoked con-

flicting sentiments (joy/guilt, for example).

But after spending a sunny Saturday afternoon test-driving exquisite Rolls Royces through town, I've come to the conclusion that a certain amount of luxury is good for the soul.

And there's no question that it's motivational.

To be honest, I was actually quite

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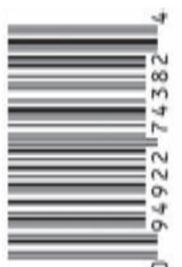
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COMMENTARY

Rest in peace



In the interest of being prepared for the incomparable, not to mention the inpreparable, it's time to think about obituaries.

Yes, Miss Musgrove (the late Miss Musgrove was my tyrannical but peerless high school English teacher), I know it's not a word. But I like it anyway and everybody understands what it means — *inpreparable*.

A great obituary should be short and sweet, fueled either by facts or fancy, and written with or without real words.

Let me explain why I'm doing this: First, because I love obituaries. There is almost nothing as fascinating as reading the entire and very abridged history of a single life, one not deemed important enough by fancy-schmancy biographers with university seats to spend 500 pages describing.

Even a lengthy obituary in the daily newspaper usually takes about as long to read as a small match takes to burn out. And a short obit is nothing but a match strike: *Tssssiiiiipp*.

It's just not fair that the long obituary, aka the biography, is revered as a historic and scholarly art form. But a short one, known rather transparently as "an obituary," is shuffled to the back

of a newspaper section like a poor felonious cousin who gets relegated to the back of the family album. (*Who, him? He's your cousin George, and he's certainly not from my side of the family, heaven forbid. He was found in New Orleans shot through the heart in a house of ill repute by his fourth wife, La Belle Mordetta Vendetta, the Parisian Countess.*)

Second, I'm doing this because there has been a great deal of talk lately about the decline of the American newspaper as we know it, most of it completely wrong.

As an old newspaperman (with an emphasis on old, not newspaper), I can tell you that the reasons given by corporate spokespeople for cutting newspaper staffs or reducing salaries, or for euthanizing a paper, are patently false.

Right off the bat when a paper goes down or its captains lay off reporters who served as watchdogs of arrogant and sometimes unscrupulous officialdom, the managers or owners pick from a very short list of excuses.

Either they claim it's that mean old electronic bully-boy, the World-Wide-Web, or they blame the recession and failed ad revenues, while simultaneously implying but never outwardly stating that human beings may have just taken an evolutionary step forward. (And some Americans are actually human beings, ones who can, believe it or not, read and think without having to be patronized.)

According to the implicit logic of this nonsense, the more highly evolved species, to be known henceforth as *homo webiens*, simply will not advertise in a newspaper, or deign to dirty their hands by holding one up and turning its pages.

There is an obvious reason for this, if it is true, but it is not the reason we've been hearing about lately.

Here's why the dailies are failing: lack of imagination on the part of managers. In short, they put the good death in back, and try to hide it with stories about bad death, or stories that are worse than death, up front.

I don't have to explain that. Just look at the front page of a daily.

Obituaries are not about murder and mayhem, about tragic accidents or vast sieges of nature, about fate, chance, kings or desperate men (as John Donne said), even though those horsemen often establish the *raison d'être* of an obit. Instead, they're about Glorious Little Life Stories, or GLLSs.

Try reading them sometime. Don't let your spouse or your parents see you — and for God's sake, don't let your children spot you paging eagerly through printed lists of the recently deceased. That's bad form. But just open the paper and plunge in.

You won't be able to remember a time when you've had so much fun in so short a period, during daylight hours. (But if you can remember such a time, then it's a glorious life story, and you should consider putting it in your own obit.)

Obituaries are essentially social scenes, which everybody looks at. In these social scenes, all the participants

— the philanthropists, the party crowd, the church members, the heroes, the bums, the captains of industry, the peasants, the people from Cleveland, the good moms and good dads and good grandmothers and good granddads, the members of Rotary, the boaters and sportsmen and teachers and doctors and lawyers and cops and firefighters and account executives and retirees and young folks and old folks, the uncomplaining and complaining alike — have all stopped breathing.

People love these social scenes, and therefore advertisers will love them, especially if they're well written and they aren't hidden in the back. Such stories mark our course from start to finish, they reflect the best kind of reporting — well, second best, behind busting corrupt officials, whose stories you don't need in the front of the paper anyway since people will always find them and read them and go vote, including *homo webiens*, even though they're often worse than death.

Obituaries are reports sent back from the frontier of very permanent conclusions, and we readers want to know about that, because that's where we're going — to glory, if you will (except for corrupt officials), which is why I call these Glorious Little Life Stories.

If corporate managers of daily newspapers want to defy recessions and *homo webiens* alike, they should start by repackaging their obits and putting them up front. The other stuff should go in back, with the bad cousins.

Do that, and pretty soon their pages will be groaning with advertising. And then we can all rest in peace. ■

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OPINION

Goodbye to the Governor

BY RICH LOWRY

The Governor: What a sad artifact of a bygone era that moniker is. Arnold Schwarzenegger circa the 2003 "total recall" election was going to sweep all before him as California governor, bringing the same elan and toughness he had on the big screen to fighting special interests and restoring his beloved state to competitiveness.

That was before Gov. Arnold got a severe beat-down in a November 2005 special election from the unions and Democrats (aka "girly men") he had taunted during his ascendancy. Schwarzenegger pushed four far-reaching, reformist ballot initiatives that all went down under a blizzard of spending and propaganda by California's entrenched interests. With no screenplay to save him, the much-reduced Governor simply buckled and switched sides.

His new role is as a supporting actor in the Golden State's fiscal destruction. If the future happens in California, we all should tremble at its ever-expanding debt, falling credit ratings, crushing pension obligations, suffocating regulation and rising taxes — with environmentally

preening, ill-considered restrictions on carbon emissions thrown on top. California Democrats are only slightly ahead of national Democrats, so the country's fiscal future may be in preview in Sacramento.

Gov. Schwarzenegger presided over the creation of a budget deficit worse than the one that led to his ousting of Democratic Gov. Gray Davis in 2003. The state has a \$42 billion deficit that state legislators have been holding all-night sessions to try to patch over and that sent Gov. Schwarzenegger begging to Washington for a bailout. The state has been buffeted by the housing crisis, but the ultimate cause of the mess is relentless, heedless overspending.

The politicians aren't entirely to blame. California's voters have recourse to an initiative process they have used to make responsible budgeting as hard as possible. They passed a proposition in the late 1980s that basically locked up half of state spending for the schools, no matter what. Even in November, with fiscal disaster looming, they passed another \$10 billion in bonds for high-speed rail, apparently on the theory that a state can never have enough debt.

Gov. Schwarzenegger spoke mov-

ingly during his first campaign for governor of what California meant to him, of its dynamism that fostered entrepreneurial dreams. That California is disappearing. Gov. Schwarzenegger now governs the Michigan of the West. California has the fourth-highest state unemployment rate in the nation and is routinely ranked among the worst states in its business environment. Almost 1.5 million more nonimmigrants have left the state than moved to it during the past 10 years.

Once, Gov. Schwarzenegger was supposed to be a model for a more appealing, more moderate Republican Party — socially liberal, yet fiscally conservative. All he has demonstrated is, to paraphrase Barry Goldwater, that moderation on the road to fiscal ruin is no virtue. The GOP's social liberals are overwhelmingly fiscal liberals, too — witness the party's social liberals in the Senate signing off on the stimulus bill, liberalism's proudest fiscal accomplishment since the 1970s. As for the Governor, he said *hasta la vista* long ago. ■

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

GUEST OPINION

Sound and fury



danRATHER

Special to Florida Weekly

Did you catch all the tough talk about bankers and Wall Street in President Barack Obama's address this past week to a joint session of Congress? Did you hear the president call our captains of finance "reckless"? And did you see members of Congress on both sides of the aisle stand and applaud lustily when he said, of the next stage in the bank bailout: "This time, CEOs won't be able to use taxpayer money to pad their paychecks or buy fancy drapes or disappear on a private jet. Those days are over."

For anyone who's spent a lot of time watching how things are done in Washington, this kind of fulminating sets off alarms.

Tough talk in a presidential address is like those congressional hearings where tobacco CEOs or steroid-injecting baseball players are brought before the cameras for haranguing and humiliation. Usually — not always, but usually — the volume and intensity of the tongue-lashing stand in inverse proportion to what is actually done to address the problem at hand.

President Obama possesses prodigious political gifts, on display once again this past Tuesday. But it doesn't take a political genius to see that, right

now, bankers and Wall Street types are about as popular with the American people as, well, Bernie Madoff. As the president told us, "I get it."

So how do you keep the public from taking to the barricades with pitchforks and torches, as you propose to hand over roughly another trillion dollars to these "reckless" characters? You rake them over the coals a bit in public before you ask, "Now, who do I make this check out to?"

"...it doesn't take a political genius to see that, right now, bankers and Wall Street types are about as popular with the American people as, well, Bernie Madoff..."

Not bad work, if you can get it. I'm sure plenty of Americans would be willing to be publicly insulted by two branches of our government in exchange for a check with more zeroes on it than most people see in a lifetime.

To be fair and to his credit, President Obama explained that bailing out big banks is really about helping "the small business that can't pay its workers or the family that has saved and still can't get a mortgage." Here, and elsewhere in his address, he seized the mantle of Explainer in Chief, and not a moment too soon for a nation desperate for answers.

The president added that he "intend[s] to hold these banks fully

accountable for the assistance they receive ... this time, they will have to clearly demonstrate how taxpayer dollars result in more lending for the American taxpayer." But in a speech where every word was no doubt screened by a team that included this president with a mastery of rhetoric, one has to wonder about that word "intend." Surely, among all those forceful words about bankers, the words "I will" would have been a bit more muscular than "I intend."

If the president felt he could have been more definite, he probably would have been. And in a speech where laying out broad themes often made more sense than a dull laundry list of programs, this is one place where some specifics would have been very

welcomed.

One senses that President Obama is trying to leave himself plenty of room for negotiation. If that's the case, Americans, fed up with bailouts without end or visible results, might hope that he realizes he holds the whip hand, which can be summed up by the word "nationalization."

If banks and their shareholders fear this fate as much as recent stock-market activity suggests, then the president and Congress should have plenty of room to draft tough conditions — real, enforceable accountability, without loopholes — for those who wish to receive the next round of bailout funds. Those who know how Washington works will take that over tough talk any day. ■



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15 MINUTES

Gale Scott orchestrates a perfect retirement, clowning around included

BY ROGER WILLIAMS
rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

At 61, Gale Scott can still get nervous, but not because she's something of an anomaly as conductor laureate of the 85-member Naples Concert Band. She took up the baton in Naples more than 25 years ago. In those days women conducted very little except themselves, and certainly not symphony orchestras or concert bands, except in rare circumstances.

But Mrs. Scott, who spent her youth and young adulthood playing the clarinet, studying music and conducting in the far West, was born to it.

"My father came from a family of 13 kids and they all played instruments. My grandfather was the conductor," she explains. "There were six in our family and we all played. But I was the only one who went on with it."

She went on with other things, too, becoming a successful financial consultant for such firms as E.F. Hutton and Dean Webber. That was before she and her husband, Don Scott, whom she met in Naples after moving here in 1980, opened McDonald Investment and worked together until she retired last year.

Which brings her to the current moment of anxiety.

Vast experience counts for little in the way of avoiding tension, it seems, when one of the world's greatest alto-saxophone players is coming to town.

On Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Cambier

Park band shell that Mrs. Scott helped to create and restore, she will lead the Naples Concert Band in a performance with classical sax soloist Dale Underwood.

Mr. Underwood, whose playing "goes into the stratosphere," according to Mrs. Scott, will take on a collection of Tosca arias, some Gershwin tunes and a piece called "Oblivion."

"They call him the Heifetz of the sax (after the late Jascha Heifetz, sometimes celebrated as the most flawless violinist of the 20th century)," Mrs. Scott says.

"My greatest responsibility as conductor is to make sure that all of us uphold him as a soloist. I'm really excited, I'm somewhat nervous, and I'm having a little difficulty pulling the band together."

"With a soloist, especially when you have cadenzas and a very rubato style of playing, we absolutely must follow him. He creates the tempos, not I. And 85 other people (the band) have to be right with me when he does."

All that with only a single rehearsal on Saturday, too.

Although music remains her "full-time avocation," performance for an appreciative audience is her passion, she admits.

"I always think of the audience first, of how what we play will affect them," she says. "As a conductor, you know a little about every instrument, and the whole concept is to pull together all the different sounds, to balance them, to articulate them, and to create a beauti-



Gale Scott

COURTESY PHOTO

ful expression for the audience."

Women, without question, can do that as well as men, she says.

"Some men, or example, are not expressive with their bodies — and some are," she points out. "I use my whole body in expression, including facial expression."

Which might be why Mrs. Scott has succeeded as a clown conductor, in the strict sense. She dresses as a classic white-faced clown (as opposed to an Auguste clown once favored by hobos) for some performances, including those in which the Naples Concert Band offers circus music.

She also stands a rotation on the conductors' circuit for Windjammers Unlimited in Sarasota, a national organization for the promotion of circus music. She conducts for the Sailor Circus in Sarasota, and she marches with the *Naples Daily News* Band as a clown. She also volunteers for Naples Community Hospital's arts and healing program called Clowns on Rounds.

The circus music came about when Mrs. Scott became a close friend of the late, great Merle Evans, who conducted the Barnum & Bailey Circus Band for a half century.

When she isn't playing and conducting, Mrs. Scott is working on a business start-up in health and wellness. Her husband, meanwhile — now also officially retired — hasn't really retired, either. He's kicking off a new nonprofit organization called Volunteer Collier, which pools and screen volunteers to best direct them to agencies where they're needed.

Meanwhile, adds Mrs. Scott, "I really like doing a community group such as the Naples Concert Band. That's because of the range of the audience you're playing for. You're producing wonderful entertainment of a high quality, and I like the full range you can offer in concerts in the park — classical, jazz, Dixieland."

The full range makes concerts in the park a strong American tradition, Mrs. Scott says.

Clearly, too, the full range characterizes the woman herself. ■

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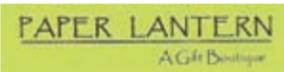
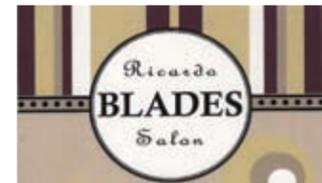
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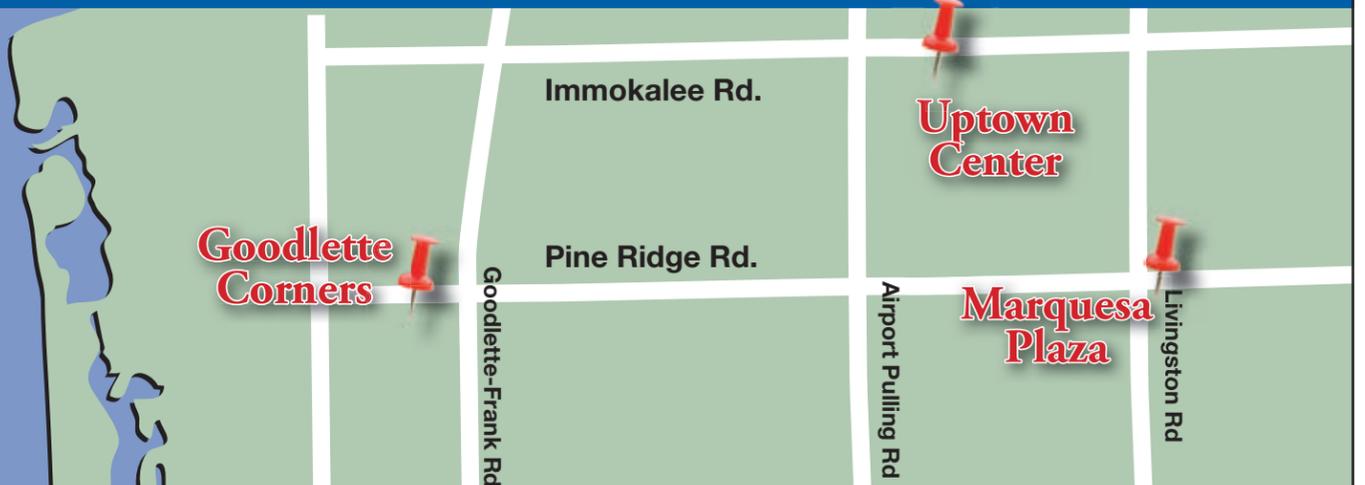


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RACE

From page 1

established by George Washington — to swear the oath of office on a King James Bible.

His own family Bible, however, was packed away for the move from Springfield, Ill., to Washington. So the clerk of the Supreme Court, William Thomas Carroll, acquired a new book — small, covered in purpled calf-skin, emblazoned with a single gold crown on the cover — and signed it into official use.

Late in the day, the good book was returned to the Library of Congress, where no president would require its official use for 148 years, until Jan. 20, 2009.

On that chilly and clear Tuesday, with the completed Capitol building now a silent witness to a history of war, depression, deprivation, progress, plenty and inspiration — along with occasional measures of both exhaustion and enlightenment — Barack Obama placed his hand on Lincoln's Bible and became president.

That was six weeks ago, and what it all means to Americans here on Florida's southwest coast, now that the dust of that momentous day has settled, depends on their own adventures in the history leading to this first week in March 2009.

As a country still precocious, still uncertain how far it can reach, still more sculptor's clay than sculpture, and still an unfinished model of various races cast in the mold of a single citizenry, we are predictable only by our experience — at least judging by the voices *Florida Weekly* chooses this week to reflect on our progress.

We spoke to men and women ranging in age from their 20s to their 80s, asking them a few simple questions: Has Barack Obama's presidency thus far resulted in a different level of dialogue between blacks and whites? What difference might it ultimately make? Was his swearing in on Mr. Lincoln's Bible merely an affectation of presidential etiquette, or was it an important symbol of a great nation's progress?

And finally, are Americans afraid or unwilling to talk about race, or to dwell on the issue much, as Mr. Obama's choice for attorney general, Eric Holder, insisted a couple of weeks ago?

Here are some of their answers.

Audrey Bender, 83, a longtime community activist, arrived in Naples 20 years ago. A few years later, she set out on a seven-year search of more livable American cities by taking up residence in six of them. She returned to Naples a year ago.

I was a strong Obama supporter and one of the prime volunteers here on his campaign. I organized Haitian churches, 14 of them... We got out the vote, we registered people there.

But now I'm troubled by Obama and his religiosity. I'm troubled by the fact that he had the conservative pastor from California, Rick Warren, speak at his inauguration. It was of great concern to me that this man for whom I had worked so hard, knocking on doors in 90-degree heat, would promote his religious views.

The next day (after the election), they had a church service, with a long, awful sermon by a woman pastor. Of all the things he could have been doing, why was he in church listening to a bad speech?

As for relations between blacks and whites here, I can only talk of my own experience working on the Obama campaign with people of all colors. After the election, the euphoria we all felt

was extraordinary. Particularly in my conversations with my black friends, we became closer. We reveled so in this victory. We had worked on it together. There was a new bond formed. They were more open in talking to me. That is my own experience.

I cannot speak for conservative Naples.



DENNIS

Peter Dennis, 30, is a Naples attorney. Mr. Dennis graduated from Fort Myers High School, the University of Florida and New York University Law School. He is the son of Benjamin Dennis, a black African immigrant to the United States from Liberia, and Anita Dennis, a white Ohioan raised on a farm there.

Southwest Florida is interesting. Fort Myers is extremely segregated still, and Collier County is a different world. While a lot of people in middle or upper incomes come down from the North, not a lot of minorities move here, so we're in danger of Fort Myers becoming even more ghettoized.

And we have to face it here — we live in the South, in Robert E. Lee County. Every time I come to court in Lee County and park in the garage, I have to walk past Robert E. Lee's bust.

We do have northern transplants who are African Americans, but not many. And I don't see a lot of integration outside the workplace. That's not to say it doesn't happen, especially among professionals, but it may not be common.

Look at churches here. Or, for example, where do you get your hair cut? If you're African American and new, you can't just walk into the nearest First Choice (Haircutters). It doesn't work that way.

I feel a certain amount of lament there aren't more African Americans here — especially in Collier. I'm the only one of about 30 lawyers in my firm, which has made a great effort to recruit minorities, but what can you do to change that? What will make this attractive over Atlanta, Orlando or Miami, where there is diversity? It's natural to feel more comfortable where people don't feel singled out. Not everybody wants to be a trendsetter.

As for the Lincoln Bible and where we'll be in 50 years, I'm not certain.

Lincoln is known as the emancipator, and since both Lincoln and Obama are from Illinois, there are good historical reasons why you can draw parallels between the two on that Bible.

I don't want to talk down to the African American community here, and I am an outsider to it in many ways, but as I visit elementary schools, I think a lot of African American kids are in need of positive role models to enforce the notion in them that anything is possible. I think they lack the idea, sometimes, that they ARE going to college, they CAN be president or an attorney — that they CAN be absolutely anything they want to apply themselves to.

So we have a long road ahead of us in Southwest Florida. I think we need to recognize that.



AGNEW

John Agnew, 75, is a retired medical doctor and columnist for The News-Press in Fort Myers.

I was born in Miami in 1933, so I grew up with "back-of-the-bus" for blacks, with a separate downtown, separate bathrooms and water fountains. Obviously things have changed But I believe they've changed

officially from the top down, and not really changed from the bottom up.

I've lived here (in Fort Myers) since 1965 and I have one black acquaintance. Just one. I had a number of black patients when I was in practice, and I got along with them just fine. I liked and respected them, I enjoyed them. I enjoyed taking care of them.

That doesn't mean there's any social interaction.

I see these ads for Budweiser beer, with black and white people having a good time together, and I never see that outside of the television.

I used to give lectures in elementary schools about smoking and health on a regular basis, when I was still practicing. The black kids would sit on one side and the white kids would sit on the other side. That probably has not changed.

I don't see anything unnatural about that, necessarily — people going where they feel most comfortable. But if, from the point of view of kids, white kids have white friends and black kids have black friends, then they won't really mix.

Where will we be 25 to 50 years from now? Probably in the same place.

But I do think President Obama has a great opportunity, especially living in Washington, to convince black kids that it is not shameful to get a good education, and to get rid of the idea that getting educated is merely acting white. Everybody knows what that attitude means — it means black kids are doomed to kind of being failures because it's part of their culture.

We have an opportunity for the president to make a real inroad in that, and to make schools that produce better outcomes.

If that happens, we'll start having more actual friendships between black and white people.

As for the Lincoln Bible, I see that as merely a symbol and nothing more — and really not very important. It brought to light that Lincoln thought black people could never operate on the same level as whites, he thought they were inherently inferior, he recommended that if they were freed from slavery, they should be sent to another country (Liberia, in Africa). You can't get away from that.

Using that Bible brought up those old stories, which nobody had mentioned for a long time, unless they were studying history and the Civil War. So it's a nice symbol, but nothing more than a symbol.

It will help that the Obamas are educated, attractive people. These aren't field hands. They're big on education, for their daughters, so he has an enormous possibility of changing things.

In terms of race relations, I think his election is the greatest thing that can possibly have happened — as long as the president is successful.



DENNIS

Anita Dennis, 64, co-author with her husband of 41 years, Benjamin Dennis, of the book "Slaves to Racism: An Unbroken Chain from America to Liberia." A mother of four, Mrs. Dennis grew up on a farm in Ohio and married her professor at Ohio University. The couple has lived in Southwest Florida since 1992.

Our daughter Winona is a housewife, mother and grandmother in Nashville. Our oldest son, Dr. Benjamin N. Dennis — his tribal name is Ngombu Tejjeh — is a senior economic advisor on the council of economic advisors to President Obama, with a specialty in international trade. Our middle son, Joseph

— his tribal name is Boaki Kovah — is a commercial property underwriter for AIG in Chicago. And our youngest, Peter — his tribal name is Morlu — is an attorney in Naples. He recently named his son Benjamin Morlu, after my husband.

It's too soon to tell if the Obama presidency is having an effect on race for blacks and whites here.

We noticed a very big change when we came here in 1992 from the northern Midwest. There, we were on university campuses (Mr. Dennis was a professor of sociology). In Flint, Mich., our children had black teachers in gifted schools. There were black judges, and I led a sheltered life.

Here, while my sons were growing up I didn't realize a lot of the things they faced, although being light-skinned, like President Obama, probably made it easier. But here (in Fort Myers, where they lived), unlike in Michigan, black people are isolated in Dunbar. They don't have the education, and that's still the case, just like it was in 1992.

And for me, being interracial married, it wasn't easy to choose someone to be comfortable with as a friend. We do have a marvelous community within our St. Michael's Lutheran Church... They are our social group, basically.

So I've been a housewife and homemaker, and for 14 years I've been working with my husband on this book.

One thing that struck me during the election of Obama is that everyone, they all said, "I never thought I would see this day." Not just black people, but white people said it. Of course, when you look at Barack Obama, he's not a typical American black. Our boys have a lot in common with him, since they have a white mother and an African father... there was this whole issue, is he black enough? Is he coming from the same viewpoint as most other African Americans? He cannot be solely for black interests. He has to be for all American interests.

Living here, my husband and I had to deal with race questions. When we would walk the beach holding hands, white retirees would give us a dirty look. At the doctor's office, if we were both standing at the window, the nurse or receptionist would say to me, "May I help you?" and then turn to my husband and say, "What do you want?" We are never assumed to be married, or together.

The first question to us is always, "How did you two meet?" which is not the first question posed to most couples. I don't really resent it. I understand why, but it illustrates race relations here. An interracial marriage is still an anomaly.

My husband will be 80 in June, and he has liver cancer. He's in the care of Hope Hospice now (while living at home). He was the best thing that happened to me in my life. Our parents, especially mine, were totally against our marriage and didn't speak to us for more than two years after, but our boys grew up knowing Grandma and Grandpa, I would say through a triumph of love and Christianity. We came down here to take care of them.

My husband opened a whole new life for me. I am an Ohio farm girl who married this professor and discovered he had a different identity, he was a hereditary Mende chief (a Liberian tribe), and when we traveled home to Africa, I rode in a chief's hammock through a high forest. I was accepted into the Mende tribe in a three-day ceremony, so in a sense I got to live anthropology. (Mrs. Dennis holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology.)

My whole perspective changed. If I could divide America into two groups, it would be people who have traveled overseas and people who have never left their hometown or their home area. ■

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UNDERCOVER HISTORIAN

From 'Nowhere' to The Conservancy of Southwest Florida

BY LOIS BOLIN

Special to Florida Weekly

In 1945, while in Everglades City to discuss the WWII Victory Gardens, Chicagoans Lester and Dellora Norris were invited to visit the Keewaydin Club on Key Island. When they learned about the financial plight of the club, the Norrises decided to buy it. Nearly 20 years later, their concerns for protecting sensitive waters near Key Island led to the establishment of what would become The Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

'The Road to Nowhere'

In 1964, a developer wanted to grant 50 acres to Collier County in exchange for a road — a road that would be built at a hefty cost to taxpayers. Where the road would actually go was very unclear, which left many people worried about its impact to the area. It would extend Kelly Road (now Bayshore Road) possibly to the Naples Marco waterway into Rookery Bay and possibly infringing upon Keewaydin Island. Mr. and Mrs. Norris strongly opposed the nebulous plan and engaged a young attorney named George Vega to represent them at the county commission hearing regarding the matter. Mr. Vega enlisted the assistance of Joel Kuperberg, a biologist who was the manager of Caribbean Gardens.

Mr. Vega's victory

When the day of reckoning arrived, Mr. Vega had his strategy in place. Mr. Kuperberg addressed the environmental dangers a road would pose to the waterways. Mr. Vega spoke about local residents' concerns, emphasizing his points by unfurling a 40-foot-scroll of petitions taped together

and bearing more than 2,000 signatures. As he rolled the paper down the chamber's center aisle, over the commissioners' table and pinned it on the wall, he said, "These are the people opposed to that road. Now where are the people who want it?"

The boondoggle became known as "The Road to Nowhere."

At the end is a new beginning

Mr. Norris, Mr. Vega and Mr. Kuperberg shared a short congratulatory conversation and then set out to develop a methodology to safeguard the mangrove ecosystem. Days later, Mr. Kuperberg had a chance meeting with Dick Pough, who had created the Land Preservation Fund at The Nature Conservancy; Walter Boardman, president of The Nature Conservancy; and Taylor Alexander, chairman of the Ecology and Biology Department at Miami University. All three men assured Mr. Kuperberg of their support for the fledgling organization that had been dubbed The Collier County Conservancy.

The Norrises were called upon for financial assistance, as were well-known Naples philanthropists Julius Fleischmann, who owned Caribbean Gardens, and John Slater. Neither Mr. Fleischmann, who later donated his home for the first Conservancy headquarters, nor Mr. Slater wanted to have organizational responsibility, but both gave generously to the cause.

The records show that Mr. and Mrs. Norris, Mr. Vega and Mr. Kuperberg, along with Herman Teetor, Nelson Sanford and Charles Draper, comprised the initial meeting of The Collier County Conservancy in 1964. Although they represented diverse interests, from canals to drainage to the Ten Thousand Islands, they agreed that

a suggestion from Mr. Pough would become their mission: Acquire shoreline to protect Rookery Bay.

Never give up

By the mid-1950s, Baron Collier Sr. began selling some of his holdings in Collier County. Gene Parker, a senior vice president with the company Mr. Collier hired to manage the task, repeatedly declined Mr. Kuperberg's offer on behalf of The Conservancy to buy a segment of Rookery Bay shoreline. Mr. Parker didn't believe the young organization could raise half a million dollars in the allotted time.

Mr. Kuperberg, whose patience was reaching its limit, reluctantly agreed to Mr. Norris' suggestion that they invite Mr. Parker to the Keewaydin Club to continue the negotiations. Mr. Parker's acceptance of the invitation surprised Mr. Kuperberg. According to his written account, "What I didn't credit was the mystique connected with Lester and Dellora Norris and their Keewaydin Club, accessible to only a few."

The negotiations lasted seven hours.

"Mr. Parker was on an island, and the discussions were not going to end until Mr. Norris said the discussions had ended. The unnerving thing about his method of dealing with people was his unfailing courtesy, his infinite patience and his supreme conviction that there was always a solution if you were willing to look for it," Mr. Kuperberg wrote.

The Eagle Award

On Thursday, March 5, during the annual Magic Under the Mangroves gala, the Norrises' eldest daughter, Lavern Gaynor, will receive The Conservancy of Southwest



COURTESY PHOTO

Charles Draper, left, with Dellora and Lester Norris

Florida's highest honor: the Eagle Award. Her father's daughter through and through, Ms. Gaynor will accept the 2009 award not for herself but rather on behalf of her parents and those dedicated stewards who were at the foundation of The Conservancy.

Cynthia Medley English, a local writer, assisted Mr. Kuperberg in chronicling The Conservancy's earliest days. The quotes above are taken from those accounts. We invite you to read the unpublished article in its entirety to gain a more complete understanding of how the organization began. Do so at www.naplesbackyardhistory.org. ■

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.

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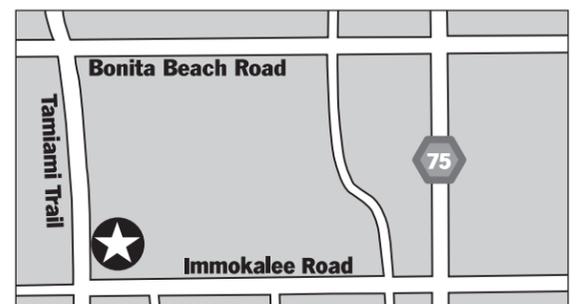
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'Chickee Chats' continue in Norris Gardens

The Naples Historical Society's 2009 Gardenside Chickee Chats continue this week with "Ancestor Track-

ers" beginning at 11 a.m. Friday, March 6, in the chickee pavilion in The Norris Gardens at Palm Cottage. Michele Bender and Thomas Tyrrell from the Genealogical Society of Collier County will be the speakers.

The season's final chickee chat will be on Friday, March 20. "Historic Home Restoration" will feature Paul Bollenback of the Building Department, City of Naples, and Christa Carrera, floodplain coordinator for the City of Naples. "This presentation is historic itself," Mr. Bollenback says, "Because there hasn't been enough information given to the public on the protocol



Naples Historical Society

for restoring an historic home."

Gardenside Chickee Chats are made possible by presenting sponsor Bank of Flori-

da and corporate sponsor Newbury North Associates. All lectures take place from 11 a.m. to noon; reservations are required.

The Naples Historical Society is a non-profit organization headquartered at historic Palm Cottage, 137 12th Avenue South, one block east of the Naples Pier. The cottage and Norris Gardens are open from 1-4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; admission of \$8 per person is the requested donation.

For more information and to reserve a spot at any of the Gardenside Chickee Chats, call 261-8164 or visit www.NaplesHistoricalSociety.org. ■

Monthly programs at Naples Preserve give insights to colorful local history

Naples Backyard History continues its 2009 speaker series featuring old-timers and local history experts on the first Friday of every month through May. Underwritten by the City of Naples and Hodges University, the free programs take place from 4-5 p.m. at the Naples Preserve.

► **March 6 - Sam Colding, The History of Property Values in Naples**

Mr. Colding will talk about his 30-plus years of service as Collier County property appraiser.

► **April 3 - Chris Pettit, Naples' Best Assets: Nature and Animals**

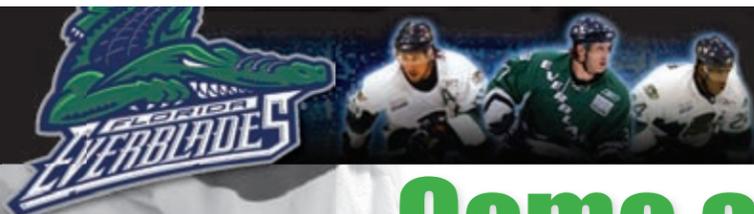
A native Floridian and an expert on

the Naples Pier, Mr. Pettit will talk about growing up barefoot and wild with his marinelife friends.

► **May 1 - Jean Walker Humphries, The Walker Family Legacy**

Ms. Humphries, the niece of Lorenzo Walker, will discuss how her uncle's love for his brother (her father) started the technical schools in Naples.

Naples Preserve is at 1690 Tamiami Trail, at the corner of Fleischmann Boulevard and U.S. 41. Seating is limited, and reservations are recommended for the Naples Backyard History speakers programs. Call 213-7120. ■



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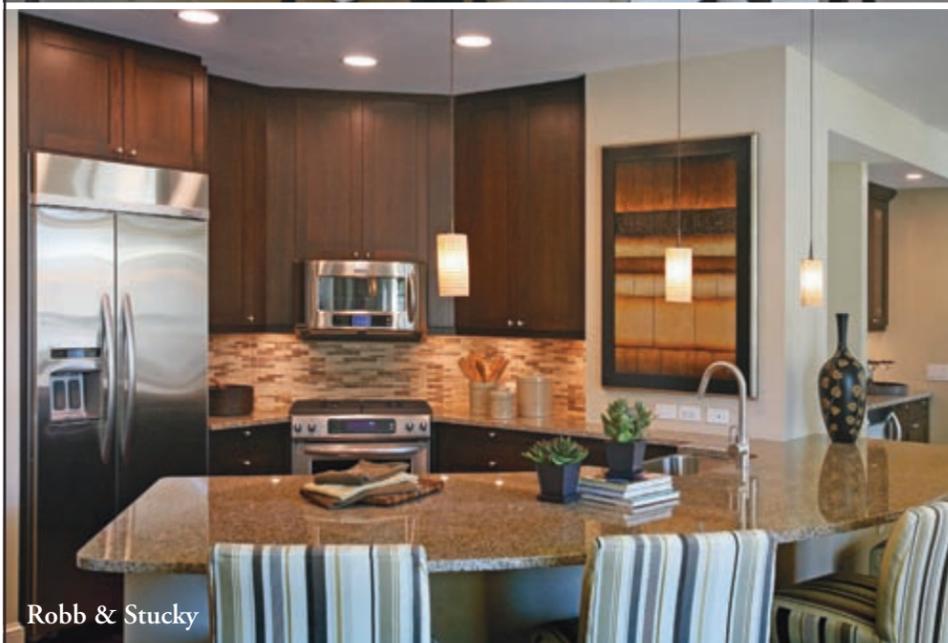
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

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Dogs causing trouble

► A 70-lb. pit bull jumped on a car's gearshift at a carwash in Pryor, Okla., in November, sending the car out of the bay, to circle the lot briefly.

► A boxer-shar-pei mix similarly jostled the gearshift of a van in Port Jefferson, N.Y., in November, sending it through the front window of the Cool Beanz coffee shop.

► Oregon State Police said a gunshot into a boat on Tillamook Bay in November was probably caused by a Labrador's jumping on a 12-gauge shotgun while the boat was unattended.

► A 19-year-old man had several toes shot off on a hunting trip in January in Forest City, Ark., when his dog jumped onto a shotgun in the front seat of his truck. ■

Fine points of the law

On successive days in January in the courthouse in Sheboygan, Wis., 17-year-old Alan Jepsen and 17-year-old Norma Guthrie were each charged with sexual assault for having consensual sex with their respec-

tive 14-year-old, opposite-sex companions. However, Mr. Jepsen was charged with a felony (maximum: 25 years in prison), and Ms. Guthrie was charged with a misdemeanor (maximum, 9 months). ■

People different from us

► The Northwest Florida Daily News reported the arrest of a woman for trespassing in December in Mary Esther, Fla., after she was reluctant to leave a neighbor's porch. According to the newspaper, she eventually "left ... in anger, knocking over a dryer ... in the front yard."

► Robert Blue, 53, was arrested in Las Vegas in January and charged with chaining his 15-year-old daughter to her bed at night to keep her from eating. Mr. Blue told police that the girl weighs 165 pounds, but that he wanted her at 145, which he said is her ideal fighting weight for mixed martial arts. ■

Not my fault

► Timothy Hoffman, 26, was awarded \$76.6 million by a jury in Viera, Fla., in January for becoming paralyzed in a 2003 incident when, on a dare, he dove headfirst into the Indian River, which, unknown to him, was about a foot deep at that point. One reason for the large judgment may have been that the defendant, C&D Dock Works, one of whose employees may have been the one that issued the dare, is bankrupt and did not defend itself at the trial. (There was also evidence that

Mr. Hoffman may have solicited the dare himself.)

► Paul Sanchez, 67, an "occasional" golfer, filed a lawsuit in Brentwood, N.H., in February against the Candia Woods Golf Links for a 2006 incident in which his approach shot hit a yard marker in the fairway, bounced back, and struck him in the eye. Mr. Sanchez claimed the course owners were negligent in placing the sign in the fairway and also should have warned him that balls would bounce off of it. ■

Ironies

► The \$500,000 top prize in Alaska's January statewide lottery, to benefit the organization Standing Together Against Rape, for victims of sexual assault, was won by Alec Ahsok, 53, who coincidentally is a twice-convicted sex offender.

► Sweden's Hallands Nyheter newspa-

per reported in January that a police officer had endured four operations at a private clinic in Gothenburg to correct a birth condition that made one leg shorter than the other, but operations on the longer leg cut off too much, so it is now shorter than the leg that used to be the shorter one. ■

I demand my rights

► In January, an appeals court in Newark, N.J., reinstated Doris Sexton's worker-compensation lawsuit against a county-owned nursing home where Ms. Sexton had claimed that breathing a co-worker's perfume one day in 2004 had made her permanently disabled and tethered to an oxygen tank. A lower court had decided that it was far more likely that her disability was caused by her 43-year, pack-a-day cigarette habit than by the brief exposure to perfume.

► Inadvertently, Raed Jarrar, 30, made his August 2006 airline flight from New York to Oakland, Calif., pay off hand-

somely for him, despite some inconvenience and harassment. Mr. Jarrar, an Iraqi-born U.S. resident married to an American citizen, was wearing a T-shirt with Arabic lettering at the JetBlue gate at JFK airport when the airline denied him boarding. After negotiating, he was allowed to board provided he cover the shirt and sit in the back row. In January 2009, JetBlue and two officials of the Transportation Security Administration agreed to pay Jarrar \$240,000 to settle his racial profiling lawsuit. (The T-shirt read "We Will Not Be Silent" and was in both English and Arabic.) ■

Now, which one is the brake?

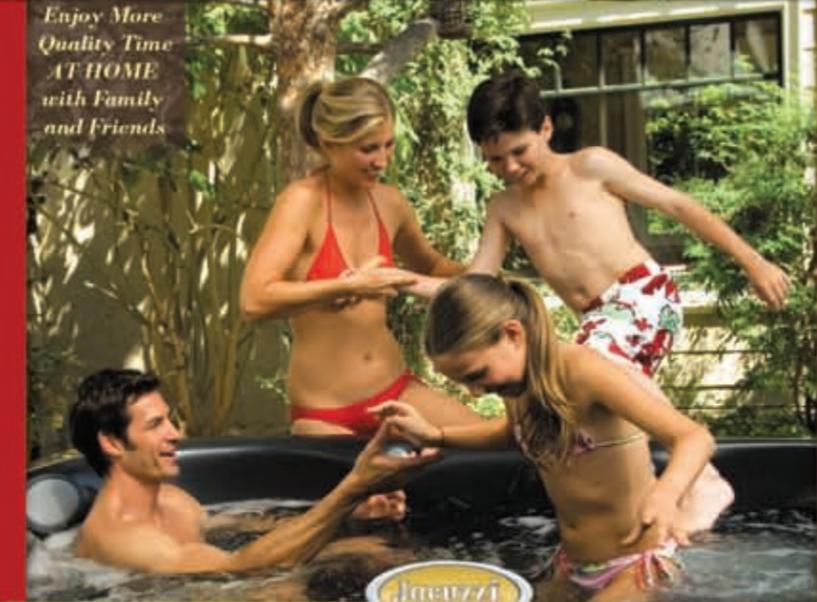
Elderly drivers' recent lapses of concentration, confusing the brake pedal with the gas (or "drive" with "reverse"): Former Texas Supreme Court Justice Joe Greenhill, 94, crashed into a restraining wall in downtown Austin, nearly winding up in Lady Bird Lake (December). A 90-year-old woman, driving her brand-new Dodge Challenger, rammed a pole while turning left in Pompano Beach, (October). An 83-year-old man drove through his garage wall

and continued on about 70 yards in Lycoming Township, Pa. (September). An 83-year-old man drove 50 feet into Big 5 Sporting Goods Store in Milwaukie, Ore. (December). An 82-year-old man crashed his SUV into a tree on a Pittsburgh golf course after zigzagging out of control across the fairway (September). An 82-year-old man crashed into a group of Cub Scouts lining up for a Christmas parade (injuring 12) in Dallas (December). ■


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A 28-year tradition of art and antiques translates to dollars for area charities

Art and antique lovers will gather on the grounds of Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church for the 28th annual Naples Art & Antiques Show the weekend of March 12-14. As avid collectors peruse the valuables and attend lectures, an outpouring of community support will be happening behind the scenes.

Every dollar from the net proceeds of ticket sales, lunches, brunches, lectures and sponsors is donated to worthy causes in Collier County.

The Naples Arts & Antiques Show was created as a fundraising vehicle to support the community. Andy Baldwin, a former chairman, says that since its inception, more than \$2.5 million has been distributed to charities for families, children, adults and the elderly. In 2005, the community grant commission donated its largest net proceeds to date: \$250,000 to dozens of agencies.

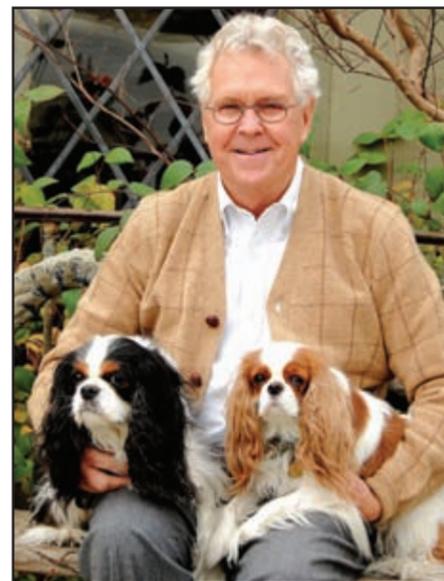
This year, grant requests from nearly 50 agencies total more than \$371,000.

"The numbers are always on the rise, and even though the amounts are huge, the requests from charities are absolutely necessary," Mr. Baldwin says.

Larger requests include funding for a center for caregivers of dementia patients from the Alzheimer's Support Network, for upgrading the security system at the Neighborhood Health Clinic, and for purchasing laundry and kitchen appliances for the Shelter for Abused Women. Most requests, however, are simply for funds for basic needs, such as 125 pairs of new children's shoes for Laces of Love, and bunk beds and mattresses for Youth Haven, Immokalee Friendship House and St. Matthew's House.

Eight new agencies applied this year for grants.

The 28th Annual Art & Antiques Show



COURTESY PHOTO

Country French interior designer Charles Faudree will be the guest speaker at brunch Saturday, March 14.

will be held at Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church in Port Royal March 12-14. Admission is \$20 per person.

This year's guest lecturers include Maxwell K. Hearn of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, who will discuss the life of philanthropist Brooke Astor during a luncheon that begins at noon Friday, March 13 (\$100 per person); and Country French interior designer Charles Faudree, who will talk about coordinating contemporary style with classic antiques as part of brunch beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 14 (\$50 per person).

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 262-0353 or visit www.naplesantiqueshow.org. ■

March 15 poker run for bikers will benefit animal shelter

For Footed Friends pet store has organized a biker poker run to benefit Collier County Domestic Animal Services on Sunday, March 15. The ride departs at 10 a.m. from the pet store at 13020 Livingston Road and will include stops at the Domestic Animal Services shelter, Iron Rhino Saloon, Everglades Motorcycle Service and then Naples Harley-Davidson and Hooters Restaurant. Harley-Davidson will host live music and an afternoon pig roast for participants.

Registration is \$15 per bike or vehicle and \$5 for an additional poker hand. All vehicles are welcome; if you don't have a motorcycle, hop in your car or truck and ride with the pack. Anytime Fitness will provide the chase vehicle in case of breakdowns.

Sign up between 8-9 a.m. the day of the event or in advance at For Footed Friends, Domestic Animals Services or Naples Harley-Davidson. Call more information, call For Footed Friends at 431-7661. ■

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PHOTO BY LOUIS VENNE

The Rolls Royce Drophead Coupe has a special slot that holds a custom-made umbrella until it's needed on a rainy day.

ROLLS

From page 1

blasé' when I entered the sleek, new dealership on U.S. 41 that offers Bentleys, Jaguars, Land Rovers and Aston Martins in addition to Rolls. I've never really been much of a car ogler, so I couldn't comprehend why most of the customers inside were gazing at the automobiles with moon-eyes — like lovers that might never be fulfilled. But that was on my way in.

I should note that despite the economy, activity at the dealership was brisk. According to Paul Ferraiolo, president of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars International, sales have slowed modestly, but the incredible cars are still moving, despite price tags that range from \$400,000 to half a million dollars.

Mr. Ferraiolo describes Rolls customers as fascinating individuals who typically lead very interesting lives. They often buy his company's cars as family heirlooms for future generations, he says, but he's quick to add that plenty of customers buy a new model every six months to a year.

Upstairs, in a private lounge-ish type room (there were cars in it), I was introduced to the automobiles I could opt to take for a spin: a Phantom, a Coupe (pronounced coup-AY for some reason) and a Drophead Coupe. I selected the very Gatsby-esque Drophead Coupe convertible — without realizing that once my ride was over, I'd never be able to sit in any car again without comparing.

Before taking the wheel, I asked what makes the Rolls so different from other high-end luxury cars. The question was met with a hopeless smile. They knew I was about to find out for myself.

To be fair, the word "luxury" does not describe any of the Rolls models as accurately as "craftsmanship" or even "artistry," for each individual automobile is actually a highly unique work of art. In fact, so much is custom about each of the cars unlikely

any two in the world are alike. The Drophead Coupe's ride was, of course, buttery smooth and bump-, squeak- and jiggle-free. And as promised, the driving experience was emotional (yes, we are still talking about a ride in a car). The impact of the "experience" comes from the fact that no detail has been overlooked or compromised.

Inspired by fine yachts, the interior of the Drophead features large burnished sections of blonde-green teakwood from the hilltops in southeast Asia. Bull-hide leather (cowhide stretches, apparently) from an exclusive herd in Bavaria is used for all seating, including passenger benches curved like living room couches for comfortable conversation that doesn't require you to turn your neck too much.

The coach lining and paint personalization are done by hand on each car, with specially designed brushes made of squirrel and ox hair.

The Drophead's frame is two times as strong as that of a Formula One racecar, with a space frame constructed of hand-welded aluminum. There are nine stereo amps, 15 speakers and an under-floor sub woofer.

Then there are the little "gotchas," like an umbrella that's built into the driver's door, coach-style doors that shut with the push of a button, and the picnic boot that can be customized to chill fine wine, store truffles or provide polo match seating.

The overall effect of the ride was completely seductive — even for a non car-ogler like myself. I must admit I left the dealership with the moon-eyes everybody else seemed to have, and a great appreciation for Rolls Royce automobiles.

It's true that recent world events and a daunting economy have made frivolity passé, but nothing about the Rolls was frivolous. Rather, the Drophead Coupe, and the other models as well, were a testament to quality and elegance that deserves to endure in any time or economy as a reminder of the excellence that we are capable of. ■



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NONPROFIT NEWS

Ava Maria Founders dinner set

Ave Maria University holds its seventh annual Naples Founders Dinner on Tuesday, March 10, at the Naples Hilton. Guest speakers include Tom Monaghan, chancellor of the university and founder of Domino's Pizza as well as the former owner of the Detroit Tigers, and Blake Gable, vice

president of real estate for the Barron Collier Companies. They will discuss progress made at the school and in the Town of Ave Maria over the past year.

Registration is at 5:30 p.m. Cost of the dinner is \$40 per person, and reservations should be made by March 6 by calling 254-9730. ■

'Big Easy Bash' will benefit Youth Haven

Youth Haven invites child advocates to "boogie on the bayou" to renew hope and harmony in the lives of abused children. The organization's New Orleans-style Expedition 2009: "Big Easy Bash" on Thursday evening, March 19, at the Naples Yacht Club will feature Mardi Gras entertainers, the French Quarter's famed Hurricane

cocktails, a silent auction, a Cajun-inspired dinner with fine wines and dancing.

Tickets are \$300 per person or \$1,000 for two at the patron level. For reservations and more information about sponsorship opportunities or auction item donations, call Cathy Edwards at Youth Haven, 774-2904, ext. 2005. ■

Annual butterfly release happens March 22

Avow Hospice will hold its annual butterfly exhibit and release at Cambier Park on Sunday, March 22. Registration and the walk-through exhibit open at 10 a.m.; the memorial service begins at 11:30 a.m.

The ceremony is open to the community and includes a group release of butterflies along with music and inspirational readings plus the reading of the names of loved ones being honored by participants.

A gift of \$40 per name read will benefit Avow Hospice. Advance registration is encouraged to ensure the inclusion of a loved one's name in the ceremony. A limited number of name registrations will be available on the day of the event prior

to the start of the ceremony for a gift of \$50. Early arrival on the day of the event is encouraged to allow for parking, check-in and time to walk through the exhibit before the ceremony begins.

Sponsors include The Beachwood Society, Comcast, Fuller Funeral Home and the Frances Pew Hayes Family Foundation.

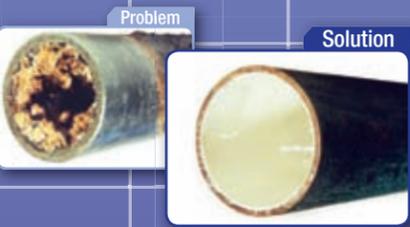
Avow Hospice has served Collier County since 1983. Formerly known as Hospice of Naples, Avow Hospice cares for more than 1,600 patients every year, plus thousands of their family members and community members. For more information, call 430-3473 or visit www.avowhospice.org. ■



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NONPROFIT NEWS

Boy Scouts preparing for Bayfront event

Naples area Boy Scouts are holding "A Toast for Leadership - Salute to Scouting," a wine and food tasting, from 2-5 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at Bayfront. There will be live entertainment and food and drink from participating restaurants including Stoney's Seafood

Tavern, Tommy Bahama, Roy's, McCormick and Schmick's, and Bianchi's.

Tickets are \$50 on advance and \$60 the day of the event. For more information, call Jackie Shea at 936-8072, ext. 112, or visit www.SWFLCouncilBSA.org. ■

Historic homes tour scheduled

You've seen the inside of Palm Cottage, home of the Naples Historical Society. But what do some of Naples' other charming historical homes look like inside? Find out on the society's second annual Historic Homes Tour the evening of Friday, March 27.

Three homes are on this year's tour, which departs from Palm Cottage at 5 p.m. and returns to the Norris Gardens

at the cottage by 6:30 p.m. for "An Evening in Old Naples." Enjoy cocktails in the cottage while admiring Paul Arsenault's paintings of historic homes and watching a screening of "I Cover the Everglades," a restored 1951 film.

Tickets are \$250, or \$150 for the cocktail reception only. Call the Naples Historical Society at 261-8164 for more information. ■

Dinosaur Playground plans second Playdate for Autism

Dinosaur Playground presents Playdate for Autism from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 28. The indoor playground has a speed slide, bounce house, music room, a special toddler zone and a dress-up area, puppet theater and train table. There's also an area for art and crafts, pottery, music performances, gym and dance classes, fitness and nutrition classes.

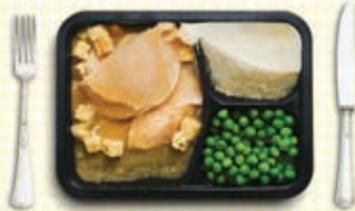
Playdate for Autism will include lunch provided by the nearby Outback Steakhouse and a magic show by Robbie

the Ringmaster.

Proceeds will go to Autism Speaks, which funds autism research, and to Revolution Autism, which supports Southwest Florida families that have a child with autism. Dinosaur Playground owners Ray and Jessica Stewart have a 4-year-old son with autism.

The playground is at 4910 Tamiami Trail N., Naples. For more information, call 430-7529 or visit www.dinoplayground.com. ■

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Emma Lee Wednesdays 5:30-8:30pm Lounge	Jason DeSimone Thursdays 6-9pm Lounge	Latitude 5:30-8:30pm Friday, Feb. 27th	Billy Bridger Saturdays 6-9pm Lounge
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HEALTHY LIVING

Work out like a dancer

Book from ballet group tells how to exercise to get fit, avoid injuries

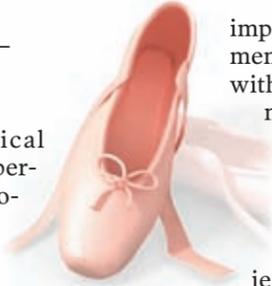
BY VIKKI CONWELL

Cox News Service

The physical demands of performing emotional and theatrical ballet, jazz, modern and other dance genres provide Renee Robinson with quite a good workout. So, before and after her performances, the professional dancer gets in a really good workout.

"I'm a huge advocate of movement," said Robinson, who jumps rope, walks, works out at the gym and performs yoga and other exercises to stay fit and energized. "Dance is a physical movement, but doing other things enhances what I have to do on the floor," she said.

In her 27th season with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Robinson says her muscles are longer now because of the additional strength and conditioning she enjoys. She's also



improved her stamina by augmenting her cardio workout with more upper-body movements.

Dancing merges art with athleticism, and the Ailey dancers are known as some of the most athletic, thanks to their varied choreography. The Ailey troupe this year celebrates 50 years of electrifying audiences with their high energy and passion coupled with smooth, controlled and deliberate movements.

"They all have very healthy-looking, well-toned bodies," said Shaw Bronner, director of physical therapy for the Ailey dancers. "You know right away that this is an athlete."

Dancing conditions and tones the body, improves posture and increases strength, and "a strong muscular body is a healthy body when it's flexible and supple,"

says Robinson, whose exercise techniques, and those of other Ailey dancers, are showcased in "Alvin Ailey Dance Moves!" (by Lise Friedman; Harry N. Abrams; \$24.95). The fitness book draws from the disciplines of the Ailey School to help nondancers feel and look like one with exercises that can be done at home.

To achieve the look of a dancer, start by moving, Robinson recommends.

Do whatever you enjoy, such as swimming, jumping rope or throwing the



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Renee Robinson says, "I'm a huge advocate of movement." Her exercise techniques are among those showcased in the book "Alvin Ailey Dance Moves!"



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

ball in the yard, and do it frequently. Also, practice good form by making sure your technique is correct, and treat yourself to therapeutic massages to relieve stress and prevent injury.

"It's a great help ... especially if you're an athlete," she said.

The injury rate among dancers is quite high, and their career lifespan low, says Bronner. To prevent muscle strains, let the body do what it wants to do instead of forcing it, she says.

"If you've never danced before, then you have no business trying to do a split," she said.

Robinson, who believes in feeling "zesty, sparkly, awake and energetic"

throughout her day, stresses a diet that keeps the body moving inside and out. She eats plenty of leafy green vegetables and whole fruits to keep her digestive system flowing, drinks lots of water and avoids sodas and alcohol.

Still, her diet does not involve complete deprivation, as Robinson treats herself to an occasional burger, fries and potato chips, and will "kill for good macaroni and cheese."

Robinson attributes her nearly three decades of high-level performing to her diet and exercise regimen, and describes herself as "the age that gets it done, the age I love being and still healthy enough to apply it." ■

Combat changes in appetite, mood with exercise

BY MARJIE GILLIAM

Cox News Service

The cold winter months can also bring about changes in appetite and mood, even though we don't hear as much about it.

It has been theorized that because fat is our bodies' natural insulator, we tend to eat more in the wintertime as a survival mechanism. While we know that too much body fat is unhealthy, it is true that individuals with greater amounts are better insulated against the cold and lose less heat than their leaner counterparts.

Researchers know that the hormone leptin, made by the body's fat cells, suppresses appetite while the hormone ghrelin signals the brain that you are hungry. It is believed that certain people may not process leptin as efficiently during cold winter months, increasing the likelihood of weight gain.

Although questions remain as to why this may occur, experts say that increasing the production of leptin can curb appetite and make you feel more full.

One way you can give your body more leptin is to get enough sleep. One study showed that participants had increased

ghrelin levels, hunger and appetite when they got inadequate rest.

Along with producing a calming affect, the brain chemical serotonin is an appetite suppressant and can affect sleep and mood. If levels are too low or there is an imbalance between serotonin and other hormones, depression, food cravings and/or lack of quality sleep may occur.

It is not unusual for people with low serotonin levels to find themselves looking for an energy boost from coffee or other caffeinated beverages, drinking alcohol or craving foods like sugary snacks, potato chips or white-flour products.

Consuming these types of "empty-calorie" junk foods usually perpetuates the problem, leaving the person with an eventual "crash" a short time afterward. When this slump is felt, the cycle starts again, and the person will often look for another boost of energy.

In some individuals, low serotonin levels contribute to compulsive behaviors such as over-exercising, binge eating and/or drinking, which temporarily raise levels, or they may experience extreme feelings of anger or sadness.



Exercise during the winter helps elevate serotonin levels, experts say.

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that most commonly begins in late fall and lasts through winter. It is believed that, because the body responds to seasonal changes in light, the lack of sunlight during winter months

may create imbalances of hormones and brain chemicals, including serotonin.

In one study, production of serotonin by the brain was found to be lowest in winter and was strongly correlated with the amount of bright sunlight during the day. Other than bright sunlight, no other seasonal factors had an effect on serotonin production.

Scientists are still studying how environmental factors associated with the winter months may also contribute to SAD. Fortunately, healthy behaviors that help manage stress, such as yoga, meditation, massage, moderate physical activity and exposure to sunlight in limited amounts, have been associated with increased levels of serotonin.

Physical activity during winter months is especially helpful not only for weight management, but for keeping mood elevated because it increases production of the body's feel-good chemicals. Exercise also aids in regulating blood sugar, which can help control food cravings. ■

Marjie Gilliam is an International Sports Sciences Association Master certified personal trainer and fitness consultant.

Grizzlier Bears, Huggie Bears children centers earn accreditation

Two early childhood learning centers in Naples have earned Gold Seal Quality Care accreditation from the Florida Department of Children and Families. Grizzlie Bears and Huggie Bears both are owned and managed by Children's Home Society of Florida, Southwest Division, a private, nonprofit organization that helps children and families in need.

Grizzlie Bears is at 4405 Outer Drive; Huggie Bears is at 4705 Outer Drive.



CHS, Southwest Division, was established in 1989 and serves more than 5,000 children and families each year through prevention and intervention services including foster care and adoption, child development programs, emergency shelters, residential group homes, independent and transitional living for teens, parent education, counseling, mentoring and treatment for developmentally disabled children. ■

Go Higher – Get Accepted helps high school seniors plan for college



Edison State College, Collier Campus, presents Go Higher - Get Accepted, a program designed to increase the number of high school seniors who aspire to go to college. This is the third year ESC has hosted the program as a joint undertaking with the Florida Department of Education, Florida's 28 community colleges and www.FACTS.org, Florida's student advising Web site.

Go Higher - Get Accepted events offer high school seniors hands-on assistance in examining their career

interests, deciding a program of study and applying for admission and financial aid.

"The complicated process of applying for college and financial aid are two major roadblocks high school students face when considering a post secondary education," says Connie Graunke, executive director of FACTS.org. "These events provide an atmosphere of help where they can get direct assistance from college staff and explore the many useful tools available on FACTS.org."

The Go Higher - Get Accepted event at Edison State College, Collier Campus, takes place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12.

For more information, visit www.FACTS.org. ■

David Lawrence Center clinician named Student Social Worker of the Year



WEINGRAD

Caryn Weingrad, an emergency services clinician at the David Lawrence Center, will be honored as Student Social Worker of the Year when the Southwest Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers holds its awards ceremony March 18 at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Ms. Weingrad earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Tampa and is pursuing her master's degree in social work from FGCU. She will graduate with honors in May. She joined David Lawrence

Center in 2006 and has served as an intern at Avow Hospice and in the David Lawrence Center's Urgent Care department.

"Each and every day, Caryn shows the utmost dedication and compassion to clients and works closely with their family members to guide them through an extremely personal and difficult time, says Bonnie Fredeen, COO at the David Lawrence Center. "We are all very proud of her for being honored with this award."

Ms. Wingrad is a member of NASW and has volunteered with community organizations including the Neighborhood Health Clinic, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and Project Help. ■

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A limited number of reservations are still available to join Conservancy of Southwest Florida biologists on the Western Everglades Exploration Series. On five consecutive Thursdays in March and April, participants will explore the world of unique and amazing western Everglades wildlife.

Day trips start at the headwaters of the western Everglades and follow the water southwest until it flows into the Gulf of Mexico along the Ten Thousand Islands. Conservancy biologists, naturalists and

policy staff lead this immersive educational experience.

Trips take place March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 and 9.

Space is limited to 12 participants, and reservations are required. The cost is \$299 for Conservancy members and \$329 for non-members. Transportation to destinations, water and snacks are provided. For additional information, visit www.conservancy.org.

To make a reservation, call 262-0304, ext. 266. ■



Exploring the Everglades

COURTESY PHOTO

Naples Flower Show is 'In the Bag'

The Naples Garden Club and Naples Botanical Garden are sowing the seeds for the 2009 Naples Flower Show: "It's In The Bag." Demonstrations of horticulture and design will be offered, and vendors will offer plants, jewelry and garden ornaments for sale.

Hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 28, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at the Garden, 4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples. Admission will be \$5.

For more information, call the Garden at 643-7275. ■

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OUTDOORS

AT COLLIER-SEMINOLE STATE PARK

Get the most out of your next mullet-fishing expedition

BY LEE BELANGER
Special to Florida Weekly

Few fishermen know the secrets to catching mullet. Primarily vegetarian, mullet generally don't take worms, shrimp or other animal bait — which means anglers intent on catching them must resort to all sorts of interesting techniques.

One of the most unusual tactics for nabbing mullet involves chumming with oatmeal —yes, oatmeal. Once the fish find the cereal, the fisherman throws out a fly that looks like a kernel of oatmeal. Some anglers use ripe bananas (imagine keeping that on a hook) or chicken feed as bait, and still others try twisting algae around their hook. Some anglers manage to catch a mullet or two by dropping hooked worms in the midst of an algae bed. The mullet keep eating algae and take the hook by mistake. I've seen tilapia, which are also vegetarians, take worms, too.

Because mullet are quick, strong fighters, small hooks and strong line are the best combination for these rigs.

Here in Southwest Florida, cast netting is the most common way to fish for mullet. This presents its own challenge for the fisherman, however, since the fish need to be near enough to net.

It takes a lot of patience to wait for

a school of mullet to swim by, but a good cast netter can catch a bunch with one toss when the fish do appear. While jumping mullet often alert the angler to their approach, movement or noise will send them in the opposite direction. So the trick is not to throw the net too soon.

Gill nets have been prohibited in Florida, even for commercial fishermen, since 1995. This has reduced the commercial catch by one third, allowing the mullet population to recover from overfishing.

In order to catch any kind of fish, you need to know their feeding habits. Mullet are day feeders that swim to the bottom and at a 45-degree angle, scraping rocks and shells along the way to remove algae. At first sight, the fish appear suspended from the bottom with their tails floating upwards. They strain bottom sediments using their gill-rakers and teeth, spitting out the mud once they extract the food.

Commercially, striped mullet is sold fresh, salted, dried and frozen. Roe is particularly prized and sold smoked or fresh. Some say mullet with roe are as



PHOTO BY LEE BELANGER

Castnetting for mullet.

good tasting as redfish.

Frying and grilling are the most common ways to prepare strong-flavored mullet. If you barbecue them, leave the skin on so they won't dry out. (Of course, there are those who only catch and release mullet, preferring not to eat the bottom feeders in any fashion.)

The boat basin seawall boardwalk in the day use area at Collier-Seminole State Park is a popular spot for mullet and, therefore, for mullet fishermen, especially during an incoming tide and when the sun is shining in the fishes' eyes. The boardwalk spans a rectangular dredged area that joins the Blackwater River to the south; mangroves line both sides.

For information about purchasing

a Florida saltwater license, call (888) 347-4356. Then come cast net for mullet at Collier-Seminole State Park. ■

Lee Belanger is a volunteer trail and canoe guide at Collier-Seminole State Park. To contact her, e-mail Lungwort@aol.com.

Paddle by daylight or by moonlight

Collier-Seminole State Park offers the following:

>> **Guided daytime canoe trips** take place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Monday and Wednesday, March 7, 9 and 11. Paddle through the mangroves along the Blackwater River, listening to stories of Seminole survival and keeping your eyes peeled for crabs, tarpon and manatees. Fun for ages 6 and older; \$25 per person in your canoe or a park canoe.

>> **Guided night hikes** are planned for 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 26 and 27. Unravel mysteries and sharpen your senses as you hike with a park naturalist and watch for shooting stars and other night wonders with no city lights to interfere. Great for ages 6 and older; \$10 per person.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling Lee Belanger at 394-3397. Special group, family or club trips can be arranged. The entrance to Collier-Seminole State Park is at 20200 U.S. 41 in East Naples.

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PET TALES

Feline mysteries

BY DR. MARTY BECKER & GINA SPADAFORI
Universal Press Syndicate

Do you pause when a black cat crosses your path? Even pet experts sometimes do, and then laugh for being influenced by such a silly old myth, even for a second. But that's the funny thing about cats — more than any other domestic animal, they are the subject of countless myths, legends and old wives' tales.

While some stories about cats are harmless, others are too dangerous not to debunk. Here, from our archives, are some stubborn old myths about cats — and the facts to counter them.

• **Black cats are bad luck.** Black may be an unlucky color all right, mostly for cats themselves. Black may be an unfortunate color for the reason of visibility. Countless cats are killed by cars every year, and the difference between a hit or a near miss may be the driver's ability to see the cat darting across the road. At night, patches of light-colored fur are a distinct advantage.

• **Cats need to drink milk.** Is cow's milk the perfect food for cats? Not at all! On the contrary, some cats (like some people) can't tolerate milk well. For these animals, a saucer of milk means gastric upset. In the wild, kittens never drink milk after they're weaned, and domestic cats have no reason to either.

On the other hand, if your cat likes and can tolerate milk, feel free to offer it as an occasional treat. Milk is a good source of protein and other nutrients

for those cats who don't find it upsetting.

• **Cats purr when they're happy.** Expert cat observers know that purring isn't just a sound of contentment. Cats also purr if they're injured, while giving birth — even when dying. British zoologist Desmond Morris has observed that purring is "a sign of friendship — either when (the cat) is contented with a friend or when it is in need of friendship, as with a cat in trouble."

• **Cats are a danger to babies.** So many cats find themselves looking for new homes when a baby is expected that you could put it another way: Babies are a danger to cats. But you don't need to find a new home for your pet if you become pregnant. Cats do not maliciously smother or suck the breath out of babies, as the myths hold. That doesn't mean some considerations aren't in order, however. Pregnant women have to take special precautions when cleaning the litter box (or have someone else do it) because of the risk of disease. And even animal advocates remind new parents that common sense dictates no animal be left unattended with a small child — for the protection of both.

• **A well-fed cat won't hunt.** The ability to hunt is hardwired into all cats, but the level of desire varies by each cat's genetics and early experiences, not



Black cats are hard to see in the dark, making them a more likely casualty of cruising cars at night.

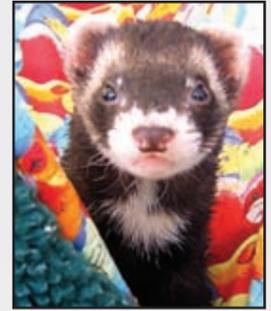
by the rumbling in his belly. The play of kittens — pouncing and leaping on anything that moves — is really hunting behavior. Observers of feline behavior believe that if the mother is an eager hunter, the kittens may be, too. Putting a bell on your cat won't protect wildlife, but keeping him in will.

The rest of the secrets behind those beautiful feline eyes will just have to stay a mystery. And that's just fine with us cat lovers, isn't it? ■

Pets of the Week



>>Vega is a 10-month-old pit bull mix. She's a very cute dog with a bubbly, happy personality.



>>Yankee is a neutered ferret who loves people and is about 18 months old. His favorite thing is napping in his hammock.



>>Porky is a 2-year-old guinea pig. He's a bit shy, but also very friendly.

To adopt a pet

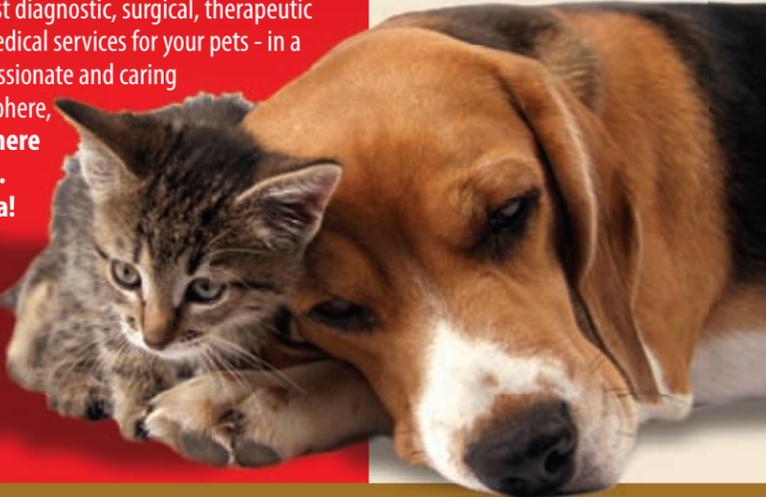
Collier County Domestic Animal Services is at 7610 Davis Blvd. Call 252-PETS (7387) or visit DAS online to search for a lost pet or find a new pet at www.collierpets.com. Adoption fees are \$60 for cats and \$85 for dogs and include spay/neuter surgery, a bag of pet food, pet's license and a micro-chip ID.

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MUSINGS

Contranym



How can you be bound across the seas, astrolabe in hand and stars in boundless sky, bounding en route to the Pure Land or the Land Down Under, when you are bound? Perhaps you could be bound in the captain's quarters or in the hold below, in bondage, yet part, a parcel of a ship sailing, bounding, perhaps over the Bounding Maine.

And perhaps if you had been bounding out, a bolt was needed to keep you bound, thus unable to execute your bolt outward, bounding into the blue.

You know I love to play with words. And nowhere do words return the favor of play more than in the seduction of contranymy. Or perhaps you say contronyms. Either way, these word dyads are just as delicious.

A contranym is a special type of homograph. Homographs are two words that have the same spelling but different meanings. Like the "records," meaning paperwork about, of how many "records," meaning ancient audio capturing discs, you might have.

Contranymy are homographs in techni-color razzle dazzle. They are

the linguistic wet dream of philosophers and mystics. They are the short circuit of all civilized sensibility. They are the crème de la crème of nonsense.

A contranym is a homograph pair in which the different meanings are the opposite of each other. So we cannot be "bound," tied up, and "bound," en route, at the same time. We cannot "bolt," make a quick exit, if they "bolt" us down to prevent our escape.

A contranym is a linguistic taijitu, a geometric pattern which signifies complementary opposites united in a greater whole. Perhaps the most familiar taijitu is the classic Taoist yin/yang symbol. This symbol is called the diagram of ultimate power.

It is a pictorial representation of the I Ching, the foundation of Chinese philosophy.

The second Chinese character in I Ching means "profound book." The first character means both "ease" and "change." This character is clearly a contranym: No change in the human realm is easy. This contranym character is formed by the sign for sun on top of the sign for moon below.

When the linguistic symbol for I Ching becomes the pictorial yin/yang symbol, the essential nature of all contranymy becomes more understandable. In the white sun swirl is a black circle; in the black moon swirl there rests a white circle. These little circles, embraced in their opposites, are harbingers and embryos and invaders and hopeful fears and

fearless hopes.

To clarify, let's look to the natural order itself. The longest night of the year, winter solstice, is the black circle in the white swirl. The depth of the longest darkness of winter solstice night is itself the seed of the coming longer light, the turning point. And likewise, in the brightest, longest day, summer solstice, is the very beginning of the coming longer darkness.

Inherent in every phenomenon, at the deepest core, is the forming life breath of its contranym. This perpetually changing changing is always essentially the same. Contranym rules.

The yin/yang symbol, pictorial contranym, represents the entire celestial phenomenon. And as above, so below. As outside, so inside. This symbol is the philosopher's astrolabe.

To gain our philosophical bearings, our place in the grand schema of things, we cleave. We divide and split and separate into analyzed parts. Then the more than the sum of these parts must be the seed to which we cleave, adhering firmly, closely, loyally, unwaveringly. This



is the ultimate power of the union of opposites.

Please know that in this oh, sweet contranym of life it's not all or nothing: It's nothing at all.

N.B. Thanks to muse extraordinaire Lady Jill for pulling the veils off my memory of contranymy. ■

— 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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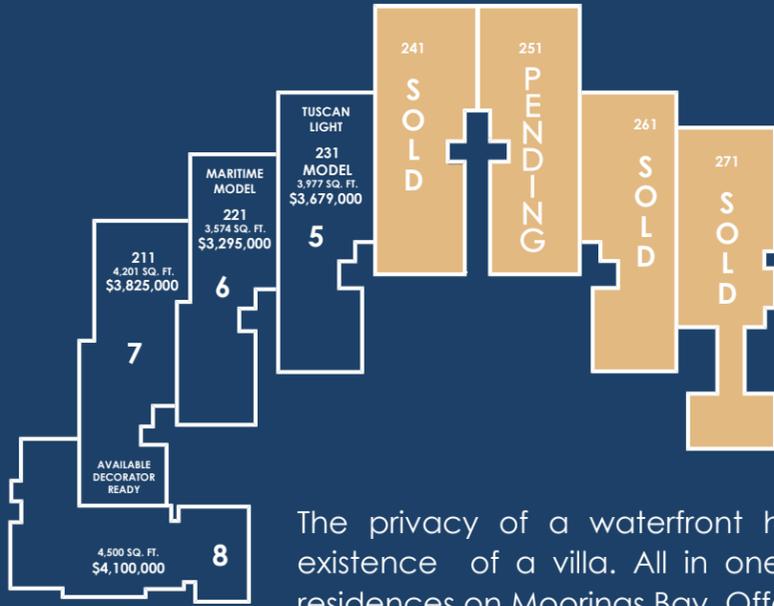
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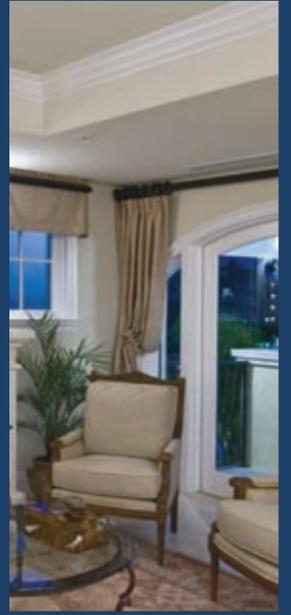


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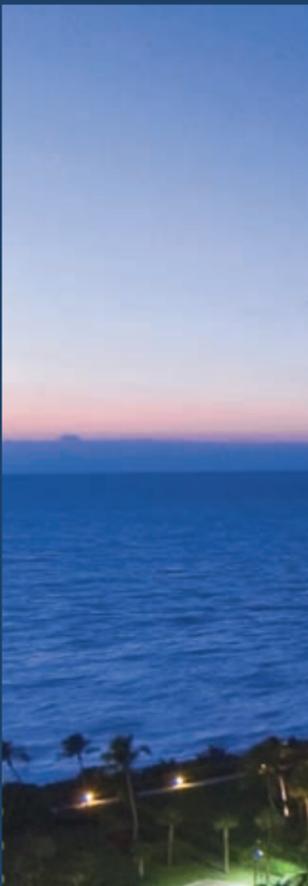


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BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE

WEEK OF MARCH 5-11, 2009

A GUIDE TO THE NAPLES BUSINESS INDUSTRY

“There are really great opportunities for American businesses (to expand overseas)...”

— Professor Dan Borgia, FGCU



Overseas connection is crucial for area businesses

Interacting with a global economy poses challenges, rewards

BY EVAN WILLIAMS
ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

A Naples-based manufacturer of specialty wires — used to warm car seats and floorboards, or take the temperature of things like organs during surgery — is persistently growing its customer base into 13 countries around the world.

Pelican Wire Company, which moved from Wisconsin to Naples in 1976, does about 5 percent of its \$10 million annual revenue in places like England, Nigeria, Mexico and Russia. Many are cold climates that use Pelican’s “radiant heating” wire, the company’s premier product, which used to heat floors in homes and apartments.

“Very few of our customers are actually nearby,” says Pelican President Ted Bill, whose father started the busi-

ness. But everything is made right here in Naples, he adds. “We put a little a little sunshine in every piece of wire we make.”

A number of Southwest Florida companies have their eyes on foreign shores. They’ve ventured to find customers in places as remote as Qatar, a country about the size and shape of a thumb on the globe; or inside the social patina of Asian business; or into the hills of Mexico. In each case, they found a global economy that has become increasingly interconnected.

A growing worldwide middle class

Some countries have growing middle-class populations that present a whole new customer base for businesses eyeing foreign shores, according to Dan Borgia, professor of finance and director of the Institute of Chinese Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University. “India, China, Brazil and others are growing at a faster rate than we have been growing,” he says. “As they become stronger and their middle class

grows, they’ll demand greater products and services.

“There are really great opportunities for American businesses (to expand overseas), in everything from water treatment services to airport control equipment and software.”

The opportunities come with hurdles, of course.

“It’s more complex and difficult and risky than operating purely domestically,” Borgia says. “You’re working with a different culture, with different political and legal systems and different exchange rates.”

His advice for a businessperson who wants to go overseas is this: “I’d work with the government or Enterprise Florida to lead you in the right direction. Test the market first... Get your feet wet before you set up an overseas subsidiary or something like that.”

Borgia says FGCU has established relationships with several universities in China. “We’d like to offer joint-degree programs and exchange scholars and

SEE GLOBAL, B12 ▶

WEEK at-a-glance



Jazz and jewelry

A benefit for Komen for the Cure at Vince Muller Interior Design and other business affairs. **B9, 10 & 11** ▶



Knowing the risks

Meet Brad Havemeier of Gulfshore Insurance. **B2** ▶



The elegant Emilia

New model in Estuary at Grey Oaks makes the best of its beautiful surroundings. **B13** ▶

Here’s the SCORE on five recession pitfalls to avoid

Entrepreneurs face challenges on many fronts, including lower consumer spending, rising unemployment and tightening credit.

SCORE Naples provides confidential mentoring to small businesses free-of-charge. Its business experts have experience in: finance, accounting, general management, marketing, sales prospecting and scenario planning.

“Be quick to retrench expenses, quick to adapt products and services to changing market needs, and quick to build a network of advisors to help you make it through this recession in business and poised for growth,” says SCORE CEO Ken Yancey.

Here are “Five Recession Pitfalls to Avoid,” offered by SCORE Naples:

1. Cutting expenses too slowly. Don’t cut expenses a little bit at a time. Now is the time to look at expenses and decide whether your company needs to cut back 5, 10 or up to 20 percent. Do what it takes to bring costs down.

2. Maintaining the same product and service mix. Your needs are changing, and you can bet your clients’ needs have changed, too. Call them. Ask what they need and then design your product service mix around those needs.

3. Reducing marketing instead of focus-

ing on marketing. The company that stands tall, strong and visible in the marketplace has stature and status. Differentiate with strong marketing to drive leads and sales.

4. Lacking systems to free up your time. Streamline your business and become more efficient. Use a handheld organizer to keep track of phone numbers, dates, appointments and meetings. Set a time each week to handle routine tasks, bills and paperwork.

5. Keeping everything to yourself. Your team knows the economy is tough and wants to understand what the company is facing and how, together, you can make it through. Lead

toward a brighter future by focusing your efforts on today.

Since 1964, SCORE “Counselors to America’s Small Business” has helped more than 8 million aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners through counseling and business workshops. More than 10,500 volunteer business counselors in 362 chapters serve their communities through entrepreneurial education dedicated to the formation, growth and success of small businesses.

For more information about starting or operating a small business, call SCORE Naples at 430-0081 or visit www.scorenaples.org. ■

BUSINESS PROFILE

Encouraging healthy habits is no risk for Brad Havemeier

BY EVAN WILLIAMS
ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

Brad Havemeier is no doctor, but he recommends you watch your diet, get enough sleep and exercise regularly. When he says it, you believe he genuinely cares about your health. That's because he possesses a humble, gracious demeanor, which also suits his position as CEO of Gulfshore Insurance, Inc.

But if you're one of his 10,000 clients in Southwest Florida — from a construction company that wants to purchase a group policy to a family looking for coverage — his recommendations make perfect sense from a business point of view.

Although he's in the insurance business, Mr. Havemeier doesn't write policies. Instead, he thinks about risk: How likely is it that you'll get sick? What's the chance you'll wreck the boat or collect workers compensation? Will you develop a life-threatening disease?

It is the job of his company to act as the middleman between clients and hundreds of insurers that offer their products. He has to keep both parties happy and recommend which kinds of insurance his clients need. To do this, Mr. Havemeier says, his team of salespeople and others diagnose clients' risks and figure out which insurance best fits them and how to get the lowest premiums.

"As an independent broker, we coun-

sel and advise on the risk-management concept," he says. "We look at ourselves as risk managers for select clients. We get beyond insurance. We need to understand where the risks are, where (clients) might take less or more risks themselves."

He advises his clients, especially those who want to purchase health insurance for their employees, to encourage them to be healthy. For his own staff — 92 workers between offices in Naples and Fort Myers — he has switched out doughnuts for healthy snacks. He also brought a nutritionist into the office to talk with them.

"Changing behavior is probably the most difficult thing to do," Mr. Havemeier says. "With our employees, I say, look, we want you to be around as long as you want to work. We want your capabilities. And we think your families want you to be around for as long as possible, too."

The bottom line is, if he can show an insurance company there is less risk, his clients will get a better rate. To insurance companies, all people and businesses come with a certain calculation: the risk rate. It's an average based on indicators such as lifestyle and medical history, and how many dollars have been paid out in claims to them.

Mr. Havemeier moved to Naples in 1981 with his wife. He and three partners purchased Gulfshore Insurance, which was started in 1970, from



EVAN WILLIAMS / FLORIDA WEEKLY
Brad Havemeier

Interstate 75 and Daniels Parkway in Fort Myers. Mr. Havemeier says continuing growth between Lee and Collier counties made it essential. "It was very easy for us to say this is the right thing to do," he says. "From a business standpoint, if you aren't thinking of Lee and Collier together, I think you're missing the point..."

"I'm sure our founders had no idea that they were catching the beginnings of a wave of growth that has transformed this area of Southwest Florida into one of the fastest growing in the country and a Mecca for wealthy retirees."

Mr. Havemeier grew up in rural Minnesota, where his father was in the sales business, including insurance. After graduating from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., with a bachelor's degree in science, he started his own insurance company in suburban Minneapolis.

Although he vows he won't move back to Minnesota — "It's an arctic tundra nine months out of the year," he says — Mr. Havemeier remains a big Minnesota Twins fan. Sometimes he participates in fundraisers through the Twins franchise by using their spring training stadium in Fort Myers. Last year, Gulfshore Insurance raised \$10,000 there with a charity softball game to benefit the American Cancer Society.

"We try to give back to the community," he says. ■

the original founders. Four years ago, when his partners wanted to retire, "It was either sell the company or step up and buy it from my partners." Now he is the majority owner.

Although the company does business throughout Southwest Florida, it had only one office in Naples until 2007, when it opened a location near

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ON THE MOVE

Architecture & Interior Design



HARRY

Alice M. Harry has joined **K2 Design Group** as national business manager to solidify the architectural, interior design and construction management firm's move into metropolitan areas throughout the United States. Ms. Harry's background includes seven years as senior design consultant with WCI Communities in Coral Springs. As national business manager for K2 Design Group, she oversees client relationships as well as marketing and media relations.



SCHALLERT

John Schallert, president of **Spectrum Contracting**, has assumed the additional title of chief executive officer for the company that provides specialty services to protect and maintain the integrity of commercial and high-rise building interiors and structures. Mr. Schallert founded the company in 1993 in Naples. He will continue to manage all new construction activities as well as oversee company management and growth and diversification efforts. Robert Valentine retains the position of Spectrum's executive vice president.

Michele Reed of DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen has earned the designation as Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist as a building-industry professional with skills and knowledge specific to home modifications for aging in place. The CAPS designation identifies remodelers who have been trained to help retirees and older adults remain in their homes safely, independently and comfortably throughout their maturing years.

Health care

Dr. M.A. Atassi has opened **Heart Specialists, Inc.**, his practice for diagnosis and treatment of heart disease, at 9411 Fountain Medical Court, Suite 100 in Bonita Springs. Dr. Atassi is certified by the American Board of Cardiovascular Disease and is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology. He recently served as President and CEO of Heart Specialists, Inc. in Ohio. He completed his training at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.



WAFAPOOR

Dr. Hussein Wafapoor of Retina Health Center presented the results of his research on multiple intraocular injections of the medication Avastin in the treatment of macular degeneration recently at the annual meeting of the American Society of Retina Specialists in Maui, Hawaii.

Higher Education



WALKER

Edison State College President **Kenneth Walker** has joined the advisory board for the **Center for Educational Performance and Accountability**. CEPA is a group within the Florida TaxWatch Research Institute Inc., that conducts independent research and education on a variety of issues. Florida TaxWatch is a nonpartisan, nonprofit government watchdog and taxpayer research institute devoted entirely to Florida taxing and spending policies.

Hospitality



SIRACUSA

Stock Development has named **Dan Siracusa** head chef for the **Players Club & Spa at Lely Resort**. Mr. Siracusa attended Johnson & Wales College of Culinary Arts in Miami and comes to The Players Club with 10-plus years of experience at establishments including Haney's Café and The Club at Grandezza.

Insurance



MAUDLIN

Claire Maudlin, a commercial lines small business account manager with **Gulfshore Insurance**, has earned certification as a Construction Risk and Insurance Specialist. The CRIS designation recognizes specialized expertise in construction insurance and establishes one's commitment to the construction industry through an on-going continuing education component focusing on construction risk and insurance.

Land Use & Development



EMBLIDGE

Margaret Emblidge, director of entitlements and governmental affairs for **Bonita Bay Group**, has been appointed by the Florida Department of Community Affairs and the Florida Department of Transportation to the Mobility Fee Stakeholders' Policy Committee. Ms. Emblidge has more than two decades of experience in land use planning, entitlements and environmental permitting, policy planning and legislative initiatives on the federal, state and local levels.

Nonprofit Organizations

The **American Heart Association of SWFL** announces its 2008-2010 Chairman's Board Members: **Gail Abraham**, Lee County Health Department; **Shelly Church**, Raymond James; **Scot Congress**, Congress Jewelers; **Sally Jackson**, Lee Memorial Health System; **Geoff Moebius**, Physicians Regional Medical Center; **Jenny Olster**, philanthropist; **Ron Olster**, www.aroundacity.com; **Dr. Chris Papadopoulos**, retired cardiologist; **Dr. Robert Pascotta**, cardiac surgeon; **Cole Peacock**, community leader; **Lou Pontius**, community volunteer; **Robbie Roepstorff**, Edison National Bank; **Bob Simpson**, LeeSar; **Chris Spiro**, Spiro & Associates.



DAVIS

Shelia Smith Davis has joined the board of directors of the **Children's Museum of Naples**. A volunteer and philanthropist in Columbus, Ohio, as well as Naples, Ms. Davis serves on the board of directors of The Immokalee Foundation and is on the executive committee of Hats in the Garden for the Naples Botanical Garden. She is a mentor with the Take Stock in Children program in Immokalee for the Education Foundation of Collier County. In addition to serving on the board for C'mon, she is a member of the children's museum Capital Campaign Task Force.

Real Estate



STONE

The Naples office of **VIP Realty Group** announces its top producers for January: **Harry Stone**, sales leader; **Doug Stewart**, listing leader; and **Zach Fischer**, top producer.



STEWART



FISCHER

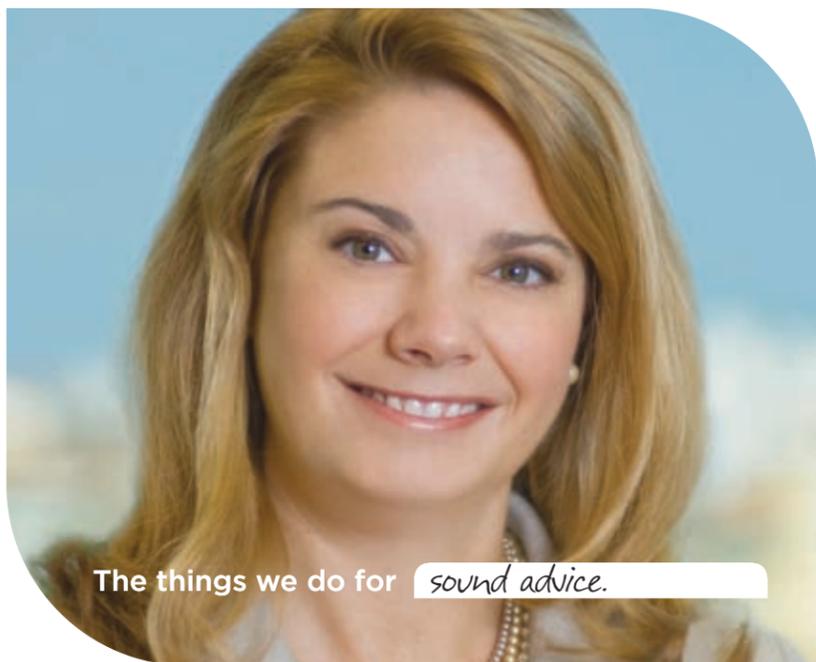
Addie Kirkpatrick and **Bob Bourke** have joined **Downing-Frye Realty** to represent homebuyers and sellers in the Naples/Collier County market. Originally from Ypsilanti, Mich., Ms. Kirkpatrick has been involved in real estate sales in Florida and Tennessee for five years. Originally from Wayne, Michigan, Mr. Bourke is new to the real estate industry following more than 30 years in sales and marketing. He and Ms. Kirkpatrick both belong to the Naples Area, Florida and National Associations of Realtors. ■

Banking

The City Center office of **TIB Bank** has been transitioned into a Private Banking Center. During the past year, TIB has acquired Naples Capital Advisors under the leadership of Michael Morris, hired a team of local, established private bankers, and secured necessary approvals to exercise trust powers. Mark Morris, who in addition to being president of Naples Capital Advisors is an executive vice president and director of TIB Bank, is responsible for the bank's trust and private banking services. The City Center office, which also serves as TIB's headquarters, will continue to provide full-service banking to all TIB customers in its main lobby.

Construction

John Schallert, president of **Spectrum Contracting**, has assumed the additional



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Renovations begin this month at Bank of Naples headquarters

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Locally owned and operated Bank of Naples has announced plans for a renovation of its corporate headquarters and main banking office at 4099 N. Tamiami Trail. Construction is expected to begin during the first week of March with completion anticipated sometime during the summer of 2009.

Construction crews will install a completely new facade on the 36,000-square-foot, four-story building. Crews also will relocate the bank's existing drive-thru building located on the west side of the site and affix it to the south side of the building. Long-term plans call for the addition of a second office building on the property.

One of the oldest and largest office buildings along its section of U.S. 41, the building was built more than 30

years ago and provides convenient access to residents of Park Shore and The Moorings. "This marquee location also provides the bank with tremendous visibility in the community, so we are very excited about the renovation," said Robert Guididas, bank president and CEO.

Bank of Naples has occupied the ground floor of the building since 2002. Other tenants include the Certified Public Accounting firm of Larson Allen LLP, which is currently expanding its offices, and the investment management company of The Fitzgerald Group.

The construction project will be managed by D. Garrett Construction, a Naples-based general contracting firm established in 1981. The project architect is Jonathan L. Titus, AIA, who has been practicing architecture for 27 years, including the last eight in Naples. ■



Bank of Naples 2009 renovation

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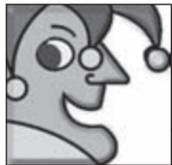
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Misleading Numbers

Never blindly accept what you read. Think critically about not just words, but numbers. They're not always what they seem.

For example, many companies will report "record earnings." This isn't necessarily impressive. Porcine Aviation (ticker: PGFLY), for example, might earn a record \$5 per share in 2008. But if it earns \$5.01 in 2009, \$5.02 in 2010 and \$5.03 in 2011, each of those will also be record earnings, but they'll represent meager growth. You need to examine how quickly a company's earnings are growing. (That alone isn't enough either, though.)

Imagine that Fingernail-on-Blackboard Car Alarm Co. (ticker: AIEEEE) reports revenue up 200 percent over the past year. That's more telling than "record growth" and would intrigue most investors. Check to see what the actual revenue numbers are, though. Perhaps Fingernail has been struggling and took in only \$200,000 in 2007. Two hundred percent growth would put it at \$600,000 in 2008. That's still mighty tiny. It's important to consider

companies in the proper context. A behemoth such as Wal-Mart can't double earnings as quickly as a small upstart can. It's usually easier to double \$50 million than \$50 billion. As companies grow larger, expect their growth rates to slow. They can't keep doubling annually forever.

Another potential danger is the "annualized" growth rate. When a company (or mutual fund) takes its total return over a number of years and annualizes it, it's telling you how much it earned, on average, per year. This is generally handy, but check what period of growth is covered. For example, if Librarian Supply Co. (ticker: SHHHH) increased its earnings from \$0.12 per share in one year to \$0.37 five years later, its annualized growth is about 25 percent. If Buzzy's Broccoli Beer (ticker: BRRRP) doubled its earnings in three months, its annualized rate would be more like 1,500 percent. Annualizing a short period's returns will magnify the numbers and can distort things. Those might have been extraordinary months.

Numbers can tell you a lot — if you look carefully. ■

My Dumbest Investment

Eye Off the Ball

My dumbest investment was loading up on Freddie Mac back in September, when it was going up for a brief period. My next dumbest moves were not following the news on the company after having purchased the stock and holding on to it for too long. Needless to say, I found out about the government takeover when it was too late for me to sell out, so I hopelessly watched myself lose thousands and thousands of dollars in a matter of seconds as the price quickly dropped from around \$5.10 a share to around a \$1 a share, where I finally sold.

— Mike, Centreville, Va.

The Fool Responds: At least you sold then — last time we checked, the stock was trading for considerably less than \$1 per share. Many people mistakenly think that a stock that has fallen far can't fall much further. About a year before you bought into Freddie Mac, it was trading in the \$60s. Remember that if a company has dropped sharply, something is going on and needs your attention. Such holdings should be followed closely and are often best just avoided altogether. ■



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

My founder started me in 1984 when he sold pizzas out of a back room in his father's tavern. A year later, he opened his first restaurant. Today, based in Kentucky, I'm America's No. 3 pizza provider, trailing Pizza Hut and Domino's. I sport more than 3,000 restaurants worldwide, including more than 100 in the United Kingdom and China. I've been rated No. 1 in customer satisfaction among all national pizza chains and have received high marks for quality. My dough is never frozen. I went public in 1993, and my stock is up nearly four-fold since then. Who am I? ■

(Answer: Papa John's Pizza)



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 or via regular mail c/o this newspaper, attn: *The Motley Fool*. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

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Remember "As You Like It"?

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Ask the Fool

Payout Ratios

Q What's a "payout ratio"?

— R.B., Hartford, Conn.

A It's the percentage of a company's earnings (net income) paid out to shareholders as a dividend. For example, McDonald's is expected to earn approximately \$3.82 per share in fiscal 2009, and its annual dividend amount is currently \$2. Divide \$2 by \$3.82 and you'll get 0.52, or a payout ratio of 52 percent.

High payout ratios leave companies with little flexibility regarding what they can do with their cash. That can be OK, if a firm is big and established and doesn't need to reinvest much in the business. Sometimes reinvested earnings would return less than shareholders could get investing the payout on their own.

Steep payout ratios can be red flags. If a company's ratio is 125 percent, for example, it will have to dig into reserves to pay its dividend, something it can't keep up forever. It may have to reduce its dividend.

To see our list of recommended dividend-paying stocks, try our *Motley Fool Income Investor* newsletter for free at www.fool.com/shop/newsletters.

Q Do I need life insurance?

— T.N., Reno, Nev.

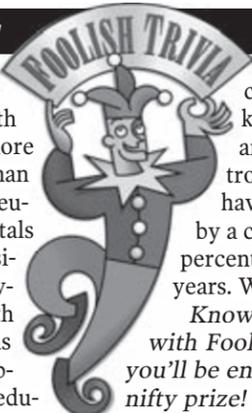
A If you're young and debt-free, with no children and no house, you might consider skipping it — for now. Think of insurance as protection against a financial loss, not as an investment. (After all, there are more effective ways to invest.) If a spouse or children depend on your income, carrying insurance would be smart, to protect against income loss, should something happen to you. But if you don't need to protect any income stream, consider parking your money elsewhere. (Learn about better investment strategies at www.fool.com/investing/basics/index.aspx.)

Still, do take some time to read up on insurance — at www.insweb.com and www.fool.com/insurance. ■

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

Name That Company

Based in Massachusetts, I'm the world leader in serving science, with annual revenue of \$10 billion, more than 30,000 employees, and more than 350,000 customers within pharmaceutical and biotech companies, hospitals and clinical diagnostic labs, universities, research institutions and government agencies. I supply labs with high-end analytical instruments as well as equipment, chemicals, supplies, software, services, reagents, edu-



cation and more. From beakers and slides to pipettes and syringes, to mass spectrometers and centrifuges, I have it all. My stock has grown by a compound average rate of 10 percent annually over the past 20 years. 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

Costco in Perspective

Costco (Nasdaq: COST) reinforced what we already knew when it gave a negative second-quarter forecast recently. Things are pretty bad out there, and no retailer's immune.

The warehouse discounter disclosed that second-quarter earnings will be "substantially below" analyst estimates. Chief Financial Officer Richard Galanti pointed to general economic conditions pinching sales and said sales of non-food merchandise have been challenging. So the difficult economic climate has also hurt merchandise margins.

None of this is really that surprising, since there were similar tidings in last

quarter's results. One difference last quarter was that Costco was helped by gasoline profitability.

Meanwhile, it's no secret that consumers are really reining in their spending, because of fear or necessity. This bodes well in some ways for discounters, but at the same time, retail in general is struggling.

Costco's recent price drop presents a good opportunity. It's a company with a great business model and an impressive management team, and its mission to provide low-priced wares makes it one of the retailers that should be able to do well despite the economy. It's also got manageable debt levels and cash on the balance sheet. The current environment is not the end of the world for Costco. ■

BUSINESS MEETINGS

► **LivingInNaples.com** is hosting a Spring Forward Business Expo from 2-5 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at the Italian American Club. Admission is free. For more information, call 272-7829 or e-mail Gerri@livinginnaples.com.

► **Women's Network of Collier County**, an organization dedicated to helping women grow their businesses, meets at 11:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month (next meeting March 10) at the Collier Athletic Club. Cost is \$22 for members and \$25 for non-members. For reservations, e-mail Laurie Nicolas at llhnicolas@comcast.net.

► **Gulf Coast Venture Forum** will hear presentations from early stage businesses looking for growth capital from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, March 12, in the club-

house at Tiburon. This month's meeting will feature presentations from Medical Devices and Equipment (dental composites and applications) and from Health Care Services (access to doctors via phone and secure email). GCVF promotes the region's new and emerging businesses by bringing together entrepreneurs, educational resources, capital providers and service providers. Monthly meetings take place October through June. New members must qualify as accredited investors as defined by the SEC. For more information, call 262-6300 or visit www.gcvf.angelgroups.net.

► **The ABWA Neapolitan Chapter** holds its Women in History: 20/20 Vision luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Friday, March 13, at the Naples Hilton. Honorees are Lavern Norris Gaynor, Naples' "first lady of history," and Myra Daniels, the city's "first lady

of culture." Cost is \$35 for chapter members and \$55 for non-members. For reservations, visit www.abwaneapolitan.org or e-mail toby.buerger@riversidegc.com.

► **The Jewish Business Network of Southwest Florida** meets for breakfast and business on the second Friday of the month (next meeting March 13) from 7:30-9 a.m. in the conference room at Robb & Stucky in Fort Myers, 13170 Cleveland Ave. Cost for members is \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door; non-members pay \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Bring business cards, brochures and a friend. To RSVP and for information about how to pay in advance, call 433-7708 or e-mail yourjbn@chabadswf.org.

► **Empowered Network** holds a networking luncheon Tuesday, March 17, at The Melting Pot in Naples. Donations are

being accepted for a silent auction to benefit the local chapter of the American Cancer Society. For reservations, call 233-4114. For information about Empowered Network and its chapters in Naples, Fort Myers and Cape Coral, visit www.Empowered-Networking.com.

► **The Direct Selling Women's Alliance Southwest Florida** Area Chapter meets on the third Tuesday of every month (next meeting March 17) from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Nonna Regina Italian Restaurant in North Naples. Cost is \$5 and does not include lunch. Chapter president is Mindy Idaspe. For more information, call 248-9704 or e-mail lacl88@dswwa.org.

► **The Christian Chamber of Southwest Florida** invites members and their

SEE MEETINGS, B7 ►

MEETINGS

From page B7

pastors to lunch on Wednesday, March 18, at the Naples Hilton as part of Pray for Businesses in the Marketplace Month. For more information or to RSVP, call 481-1411, e-mail christianchamber@embarzmail.com or visit www.hischamber.org.

➤ Regular meetings of the **ABWA Neapolitan Chapter** take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month (next meeting March 24) beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Hilton.

➤ **Lee-Collier Networkers** meets for lunch once a month in Bonita Springs and also in Naples. The Naples meeting is at 11:15 a.m. on the fourth Friday of the month (next meeting March 27) at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club; \$30 at the door or \$25 in advance at www.lee-colliernet.com. The Bonita Springs meeting is at 11:15 a.m. on the second Thurs-

day (next meeting March 12) at the Elk's Lodge on Coconut Point Road; \$21 at the door (cash only), \$16 in advance at www.lee-colliernet.com.

➤ **The Zonta Club of Naples** holds business luncheon meetings beginning at 11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month (next meeting April 7) at the Hilton Naples. To make a luncheon reservation, call Sally Sitta at 262-1283. Members and guests are reminded to save the date for the Zonta's Fourth Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon on Friday, March 20, at The Strand Country Club. Tickets are \$80; call Honey Gardiner at 598-9058 to reserve your seat.

➤ **The Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce** holds its monthly Business Before Business meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month (next meeting March 26). To register, call the chamber at 992-2943 or visit www.bonitaspringschamber.com.

➤ **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. ■



Workshops coming up at FGCU

◆ **"Who Moved My Cheese?"** is a half-day workshop presented by the Florida Gulf Coast University Florida Institute of Government for managers and employees in private and public sectors. Based on the best-selling book by Spencer Johnson, the session is designed to help participants anticipate and understand change in order to not only survive, but thrive. Participants will learn to save time by setting goals, reduce resistance to change, recognize opportunities in change and maintain a network of professional contacts.

Libby Anderson instructs the course from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, in Room 214 at the FGCU Student Union. www.fgcu.edu/cob/events/. ■



Cost is \$69 and includes continental breakfast.

For registration and more information, call Joanne Hartke at 590-7815.

◆ FGCU's Lutger College of Business hosts the second annual **Southwest Florida Investment Forum** from 8-10 a.m. Friday, March 20. Sponsored by The Chartered Financial Analyst Society of Naples, the free forum takes place in the FGCU Student Union ballroom.

CEOs from local publicly traded companies Chico's and TIB Financial are the guest speakers; Howard Finch, associate dean of the Lutger College of Business, will moderate the lecture. Seating is limited, and reservations can be made at www.fgcu.edu/cob/events/. ■

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NEWS IN BUSINESS

Merrill Lynch offices, swimwear boutique open at The Mercato

The Lutgert Companies welcomes Merrill Lynch offices and Swim 'n' Sport retail shop to The Mercato.

Merrill Lynch has moved its financial management and investment advisory operations into approximately 17,000 square feet of Class A office space in a professional office building toward the eastern end of the center, at 9128 Strada Place. It is the first of several profes-

sional firms to move into The Mercato in 2009; the firms of Porter Wright Morris & Arthur, Salvatore & Wood and Wicker Smith O'Hara McCoy & Ford will make the move later this year.

Also new in The Mercato is Swim 'n' Sport, a 1,500-square-foot store at 9108



MERCATO

Strada Place. The high-fashion swimwear shop is the first retail location in Collier County and the second in Southwest Florida for the Miami-based company that has been in operation since 1954, specializing in swimwear separates, resort wear and related accesso-

ries. There are 38 Swim 'n' Sport stores around the country.

The Mercato occupies 53 acres at the intersection of U.S. 41 North and Vanderbilt Beach Road. When completed, the project will provide nearly 330,000 square feet of main street-style retail and restaurants, 140,000 square feet of Class A office space and 175 luxury residential units. ■



COURTESY PHOTO

Animal Oasis Veterinary Hospital has opened at 2700 Immokalee Road. The facility provides complete medical, surgical and dental care, from diagnostic procedures and surgery to pharmacy services and boarding kennels. The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce hosted the animal hospital's ribbon-cutting ceremony.



COURTESY PHOTO

The staff at the new Pearle Vision office of Brigid B. Ogden, O.D., in Bonita Springs celebrated a ribbon-cutting with ambassadors of the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce. The office is in Audubon Plaza at 15495 Tamiami Trail N., Suite 124.

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NETWORKING

Groundbreaking at the Naples Botanical Garden



Brian Holley, Peter Sulick, Tammie Nemecek, Wilson Bradshaw, Bob Cahners, Juliet Sproul, Jim LaGrippe, Donna Price Henry, Jim White, Linda White and Dick Benson

COURTESY

Wish List Happy Hour



Dave Schimmel and Mary Cone



Trista Meister, Zack Malone, Andy Hill and Kai Jones

COURTESY

Young Professionals Naples and Greater Naples Leadership members at Trilogy



Chip Shamansky, Wayne Mullican, Edison Vasquez, Robert Armstrong and Erin Flanagan



Ryan Lovett and Tashahara Jallad



Mike Flemming, Ben Tiley and Stefan Mende



Sara and Chad Phipps, Kevin and Ellen Fangman

ASHLEY EDMONDS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

NETWORKING

C'Mon! Groundbreaking for the Children's Museum of Naples



Ben, John and Allyson Loos, John Fumagalli and Shelia Davis



Charlotte Grant, Nancy Davenport and Sara Farley



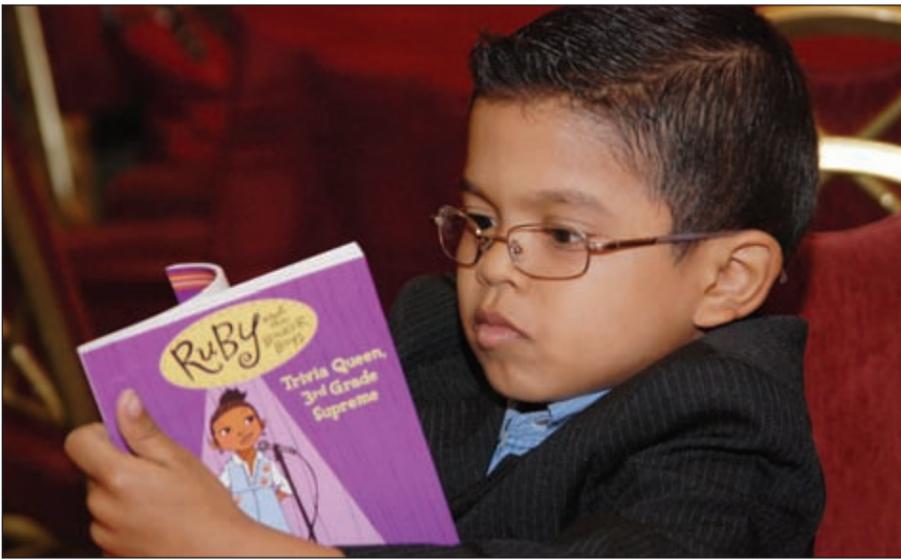
Linda and Jim Malone, Scott and Simone Lutgert



Zane and Max Press

COURTESY

Celebration of Reading Breakfast for Collier County Schools leaders



Brandon Labrada



Eric Smith and Maureen Gestari



State Rep. Tom Grady, Michelle Martin, Martha Hayes, Kathleen Curatolo, Linda Lapore and Alan Florez



Derrick Barnes and a young reader

COURTESY

NETWORKING

Vince Muller Interior Design 'A Celebration of Life' event to benefit Susan G. Komen Foundation



Bob and Linda Martin



Amy Nease and Michelle Galloway



Bob and Carol Shorr



Miriam Ross and Holly Shapiro

TAUNA SCHOTT / FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce Executive Club at Bice



Catherine Fay, Mike and Karen Bauer



Corrin Green and Dan Adams



Dellene Hasen, Luca Di Falco and Marie Jackson



Tammy Cazares, Scott O'Dell and Kathy Swank

COURTESY

“Our whole challenge of working out of this recession is absorption of listings. So the wider your net, the more it increases your chances.”

— Charles C. Ashby, VIP president

GLOBAL

From page 1

professors,” he says. “We’re also trying to facilitate business partnerships through the (Lutgert) College of Business. A lot of that is just evolving.”

Premier Properties worldwide

Christie’s Great Estates, a division of the famous auction company, chose Naples-based Premier Properties to represent high-end real estate to the world. That means Premier sells Christie’s luxury Southwest Florida properties to buyers from throughout the United States and also from England, France, Spain, Ireland and Germany.



BRINGARDNER

Christie’s market includes nearly 500 real-estate brokerage offices and 14,000 real-estate agents worldwide. “These are targeted brokerage companies that primarily focus on affluent buyers and affluent individuals

looking for luxury real estate,” Tom Bringardner, president of Premier, says.

Another way Premier attracts foreign clients is through rental properties. Premier’s largest source of overseas renters is the United Kingdom, followed by Germany and Canada. “The international market has always been one of our focuses for rentals,” says Hilary Young, Premier’s rental division manager. “When they come to our area, we hope they see good values and want to purchase here.”

As some affluent homebuyers pick up a second or third home in Naples, they often tell their friends about the area, Mr. Bringardner says. Falling home prices have made the area more attractive to them than ever.

“People have enjoyed the fine climate and amenities that Southwest Florida and Naples has to offer and as a result draw others, their friends, as well,” he says.

“That’s really how the whole community has grown. Prices are a little bit softer today, and that allows people to consider this a better opportunity than it was a couple of years ago. I think buyers who have a time horizon that is three to five years out will be very happy they made those decisions.”

London office for VIP

Last Friday, a group of British and American real-estate agents met for the purpose of selling Southwest Florida real estate, in a move some might call revolutionary.



CHURTON

“There’s nothing like this,” says Nick Churton, managing director of Mayfair International Realty, one of the United Kingdom’s largest real-estate firms. “The tendency is to say this is a bit like this or a bit like that — well, you can’t, because it’s unique. But I think it’s catching on.”

Over coffee and pastries at Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa, Mr. Churton announced a partnership with VIP Realty Group, one of Southwest Florida’s top sellers of high-end real estate. “This means boots on the ground,” he said. VIP will open a new office in London; Mayfair is headquartered in London and has 300 outposts throughout the U.K., where VIP plans to cast its net to attract overseas buyers.

“Our whole challenge of working out of this recession is absorption of listings,” says VIP President Charles C. Ashby. “So the wider your net, the more it increases your chances.”

Mayfair’s Mr. Churton says in these rough times, the partnership will give VIP’s clients the reassurance of having salesmen do their bidding in Europe. “Sellers like the idea that they have wider coverage,” he says. “In Florida, if you’re choosing an agent to represent you, you want your market to be covered. (And) over the last decade, the market has become more global. Buyers are looking at the United States as a great destination.”

But English buyers might be looking for something different than VIP’s American buyers.

“Americans just don’t realize how rich they are,” Mr. Churton says. “We’re in a second-home economy, whereas you, in places, are in a fourth-home economy. The majority (of our buyers) are looking for a nice, sensible place they can vacation.”

Annette Reeve, Mayfair’s international director who flew into Southwest Florida from London with Mr. Churton, adds, “The British press is starting to say, ‘look at America.’”

The fact that VIP attracts the European market is no news to many, including Mr. Ashby. “All you have to do is just walk around a mall and listen to the languages — Canadian, French, German,” he says.

Robb & Stucky: Qatar to Costa Rica

Dan Lubner had just arrived on an overnight flight from Qatar and was going full-steam ahead, in spite of looking a bit bleary eyed. He had been talking with architects, interior design firms, contractors and government officials there about expanding Robb & Stucky’s customer base into that tin country. The 94-year-old home furnishings store that started in Fort Myers has outlets around Florida as well as in Arizona, Nevada and Texas — into that tiny country.



LUBNER

Mr. Lubner, president of Robb & Stucky’s Resort Division, cannot reveal the details of the Qatar plan yet. “Ask me in two weeks,” he says. But, he adds, “From Costa Rica to Qatar, we’ve got large-scale projects going in lots of different directions. As far as the potential to open up storefronts (overseas), there are plenty of opportunities we’re reviewing on a weekly basis.”

The company has been shipping overseas for about 30 years and opened

a showroom in Costa Rica two years ago, which has proved a success. In addition, 10 percent of its average \$300 million revenue comes from buyers overseas, Mr. Lubner says. Preferred Hotel Group, which has 700 properties around the world, including the Hyatt brand, is a client.

The key to Robb & Stucky’s smooth expansion into overseas markets, as well as national ones, is a business model called “vertical integration.” That means the company handles manufacturing, design and production duties all in-house, instead of outsourcing to different companies.

“When you have those three teams working together, it makes for a seamless process,” Mr. Lubner says. “From cradle to grave, we’re handling every aspect of our local, national and international projects.”

Pelican Wire faces challenges

Pelican Wire, the Naples-based radiant heating wire company, used to supply builders in mountainous regions in Mexico, but shoddy enforcement of tax laws in that country created a challenge. “NAFTA was intended to clear some of those barriers,” Mr. Bill says, “but what we have found is a very inconsistent enforcement of the tariff laws down there.”

His company also works with a Russian company that manufactures automobile seats, and Mr. Bill says the fluctuation in currency between countries can pose a challenge. “When the economy started to go down, the U.S. dollar became much stronger, so it cost more (Russian) rubles to purchase the product (our wires were making).”

Mr. Bill points out that while businesses here sell their products overseas, many of the final products — like the local homes sold to Europeans or the wires heating up the seat of a Volkswagen — are enjoyed by customers in Southwest Florida.

And as profits boomerang back home too, employees and business owners feel the benefits of a global economy in their bank accounts. ■

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REAL ESTATE

In Estuary at Grey Oaks, the Emilia evokes relaxed elegance



Emilia Master Bedroom



Emilia Lanai

COURTESY PHOTOS

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Emilia is a three-bedroom, 3½-bath villa residence in the Marsh Wren neighborhood of Estuary at Grey Oaks. Estuary's natural setting is an extension of a 48-acre preserve that serves as the western border of the community. The preserve is intersected by the Gordon River.

In the Emilia, interior designer Renee Gaddis of Collins & DuPont Interior

Design has created a relaxed environment featuring a tone-on-tone neutral palette. From the foyer, visitors are greeted with a view through to the pool, landscaping and golf course beyond.

Columns define the entry to a great room with a three-stepped coffered ceiling. Four columns against the main wall of the room define spaces for a plasma television, floating shelves and matching oval mirrors of gold and silver leaf. A pair

of pouf ottomans is stationed below the mirrors.

A study off the great room has hardwood floors and dark wood tones that convey a dramatic, masculine feeling. In the dining room, a square mahogany table with a high lacquer finish allows seating for two on each side. Rosewood klismos chairs have tufted backs in a silver fin-

SEE ESTUARY, B15 ►



Emilia Kitchen



Emilia Great Room



Emilia Guest Bedroom



Emilia Dining

Special pricing, free golf membership offered in Treviso Bay neighborhoods

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Taylor Morrison continues its Ace Group Classic tournament special for homebuyers in the Vercelli or DiNapoli neighborhoods in Treviso Bay, where coach homes are priced from the high \$500,000s and villa homes from the high \$900,000s.

The first three purchasers will receive free golf membership initiation (a \$90,000 value) to the Tournament Players Club, the only TPC network club in Southwest Florida.

Taylor Morrison's signature homes range from just under 2,500 square feet to more than 3,200 square feet.



The Treviso Bay Golf Club

Detached villas feature three bedrooms, 3½ baths and two-car garages, with optional three-car garages available.

Coach homes have either two or three bedrooms, two or 2½ baths, and two-car garages.

Future amenities at Treviso Bay will include marina access privileges through the Odyssey Marina Club and a sports and fitness center with spa.

For more information, call 234-6821 or visit www.Taylor-Morrison.com. ■



The course at Treviso Bay

COURTESY PHOTO


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Just Perfect 2BD,2BA, 2 car garage! Stunning home offers all the "Bells and Whistles" Located on oversized home site with new stainless appliances, granite counters, plantation shutters, freshly painted interior and exterior, private custom pool, and electric hurricane shutters just to mention a few! **\$299,900**



LOCATION LOCATION! 2BD,2BA 2 Car garage. **MAGNIFICENT** home offers open floor plan with extended living, screened lanai with private pool offering **BREATHTAKING** bridge and water views, **HURRICANE** shutters and more! Sure to please the most discriminating buyer! **\$299,900**



BEAUTIFUL SOUTHERN EXPOSURE, Extended Capri, 2 BR, 2 BA, heated pool, wide water view on quiet street. Owner Motivated! Price Slashed, Owner financing available. **\$275,900**



PRICED TO SELL!! Oakmont with custom pool and renovated kitchen are just 2 great reasons to see this Oakmont. Kitchen has granite, stainless appliances, and cherry wood cabinets. Village Walk has so much to offer - tennis, fitness room, restaurant, heated pools, miles of paved and lighted walking trails. **\$429,900.**



PRISTINE! 3 BR, Plus den 2.5 BA with **UNBEATABLE UPGRADES!** Freshly painted interior, plantation shutters, surround sound, built-in entertainment center, **ELECTRIC HURRICANE** shutters, **PRIVATE POOL**, and more! **A MUST SEE!** **\$430,000**



RARELY AVAILABLE! 3 CAR GARAGE HOME offers over 3,200 square feet of living space! The 4 BR, 4 BA stately Manor offers endless decorating and entertaining possibilities featuring gracious living space, **PRIVATE POOL** with new screen enclosure! **\$555,000**

Village Walk & Island Walk on Vanderbilt Beach Road! Two of Naples' most innovative and appealing Communities!

ISLAND WALK



Popular VALUE leader Capri 2 BR,2 BA,2 Car garage. Light and Bright home is immaculate and offers built-in entertainment center, tile in living areas, accordion hurricane shutters, **NEWER A/C** handler, and **PRIVATE POOL** with water views! **\$284,900**



Tastefully Appointed 3 BR, plus den 2.5 BA 2 Car garage. Loaded with upgrades including New **KITCHEN**, cabinets appliances **GRANITE**, crown molding, new high efficiency washer and dryer, tile through out entire home except one bedroom, large screen lanai with water views. **A GREAT BUY!** Asking **\$394,500**



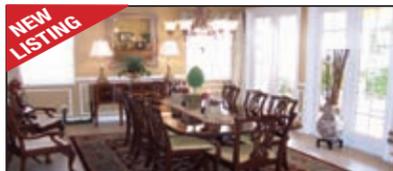
PRIVACY ABOUND! Spacious 3 BR, plus den 2.5 BA 2 Car garage. Features include built-in entertainment center, tile in living areas **GRANITE**, crown molding, and **PRIVATE POOL** **\$399,900**



Every upgrade imaginable! Large tile throughout, corian, wall unit, fireplace, heated pool, wide lake view, crown moldings wall unit and plantation Shutters. **A must see** **\$479,000**



Carlyle 4 BR, 3.5 BA 2 car garage. Pristine home will dazzle the most discriminating buyer! Impressive upgrades **GRANITE**, stainless steel appliances, extensive crown molding, fireplace, **PRIVATE POOL** and much more! **PRICE TO SELL!** **\$499,000**



FANTASTIC 5 BR HOME! **UNIQUE EXTENDED CARLYLE.** Stunning home features new **LARGE TILE** in all living areas, crown moldings and **DECORATIVE** trim, **STAINLES STEEL** appliances, beautiful **GENUINE HARDWOOD** floors, **HIGH EFFICIENCY** washer and dryer, and more! **\$445,000**



NEW LISTING
POOL HOME PRIVATE WITH FABULOUS LAKE VIEWS! 4BR,3.5BA Open floor plan offers formal living, dining and family rooms. Numerous upgrades, tile in living areas, crown and decorative moldings, granite countertops, built-in wine cooler in kitchen! **\$469,900**



SHORT SALE, and Lender is finally ready to negotiate!! Beautiful "Brookfield" Villa. Large bedrooms, high ceilings 2 BD, large den, 2 BA, 2 car garage, GE appliances, 16 tile on the diagonal. **\$185,000 Make offer!**

Other Fine Locations

IMPERIAL GOLF ESTATES



Spacious 4 bedroom pool home in gated golf community of Imperial Golf Estates. One half acre lot, crown moldings, lots of tile, stainless appliances. Best school districts. Oversize 2 car garage has room for 3 cars or workspace. **\$525,000**

SAN REMO



PRIME Cul-de-sac location at an unbeatable price! 4 BR, 3.5 BA Carlyle home offers formal dining and living rooms, along with large great room, crown and decorative molding fireplace, and large screen lanai great for entertaining guest. Owner's ready to negotiate not a short sale! **\$399,500**

London Bay Homes introduces new community in Mediterra

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Naples-based London Bay Homes, which recently received a \$17 million capital investment, is preparing to introduce The Estates at Cortile, a single-family luxury enclave within Bonita Bay's Mediterra community. The Estates at Cortile will include a total of 46 home sites, 28 for villas and 18 for spacious estate homes.

The fact that London Bay is moving ahead with a new community in this market may surprise some people, but for Mark Wilson, president of the company, it's a strategic decision.

"Economists have many views about the real estate economy in Southwest Florida," he says. "Our view is that the market will recover more quickly than some people believe. Homes are an incredible value right now, and this region is one of the most attractive retirement and second home destinations in the United States."

"Smart people understand these dynamics. It's not surprising that we are seeing a higher level of traffic and interest from potential buyers."

Mr. Wilson believes the new luxury homes will be uniquely appealing to people in this market for several reasons.

"This village represents the last chance to build a new residence on an estate home site in Mediterra," he says, adding, "We have created some captivating designs that deliver exceptional value for the dollar. And these homes are maintenance-free, which is an appealing feature in this market."

"These are just some of the reasons we are confident in opening The Estates at

Cortile at this time."

Buyers will select from 13 floor plans and a number of different designs reflecting Tuscan- and Mediterranean-style architecture. The five villa homes range from 3,000 square feet to 4,300 square feet and are priced from \$1.7 million, including the home site. The eight estate plans range from 4,200 square feet to 6,300 square feet and begin at \$2.4 million, including the home site.

The Estates at Cortile will contain some of the best-view remaining in Mediterra, Mr. Wilson says, adding the home sites have lake, golf course and preserve views.

The Estates at Cortile also provide home buyers the opportunity to obtain an equity or social membership in The Club at Mediterra, which has two Tom Fazio-designed golf courses, a 25,000-square-foot clubhouse and The Sports Club with five Har-Tru tennis courts, an outdoor pool, three spa rooms and fitness center. The private Mediterra Beach Club on the Gulf of Mexico features an elevated swimming pool, sundeck and dining. The community also has miles of bicycle paths, nature trails and neighborhood parks.

London Bay Homes has been building luxury residences in Southwest Florida since 1990. The company also operates the Romanza Design Studio. In addition to custom designs, the company has its Reserve Collection of homes starting at \$900,000 and Village designs from \$800,000. Soon to come are condominiums priced under \$600,000.

For more information, call 825-9233 or visit www.londonbay.com. ■


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ELITE MORTGAGE CONCEPTS
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ESTUARY

From page B13

ished linen and cotton combination. The kitchen cabinetry has a warm, medium spice finish and rustic satin nickel pulls. The adjacent breakfast nook features a circular glass-topped table with seating for four.

A large vestibule serves as the entry to the master suite. The Emilia floor plan includes two guest suites, one with a cabana-like ambiance and the other with a feminine feel in fuchsia and celery green.

The Emilia's outdoor living area has a fireplace with a sofa and armchairs grouped around it for cozy conversation. Six chairs surround an oval glass-topped table adjacent to the grill.

Off Airport Pulling Road north of Golden Gate Parkway, Estuary residents enjoy a private, gated lifestyle inside the sanctuary of a nature preserve. The community's 18-hole championship golf course was named 2005 Florida Course of the Year by the National Golf Course Owners Association. Grey Oaks Country Club members also enjoy fitness facilities, a tennis club with eight lighted Har-Tru courts and pro shop, a heated pool and formal and casual dining at two clubhouses.

Premier Properties is the exclusive sales and marketing representative of the Emilia villa at Estuary at Grey Oaks. For more information, call 261-3148 or visit the Emilia online at www.visitestuary.com. ■

Coldwell Banker Taranto Team closes \$11 million beach lot

The Taranto Team of Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate recently sold a 1.41-acre beachfront lot in Old Naples. The team consisting of Lauren and Mike Taranto and Ted Libby from the Naples Fifth Avenue office sold the lot in Old Naples for nearly \$11 million.

"We closed the lot within 30 days of listing," Ms. Taranto says, adding it was the largest lot available on the beach. The seller in turn chose the Taranto Team to handle the marketing and sale of a 32-acre estate in Colorado and a penthouse in Chicago, which is currently under contract.

The Colorado estate includes a 16,000-square-foot home, a recreation building, carriage house and stables and will be listed for more than \$20 million. Specializing in residential, luxury and second home property sales, the Taranto Team is consistently in the top 1 percent in closed sales, says Bill Coffee, branch manager for Coldwell Banker's Fifth Avenue office. ■

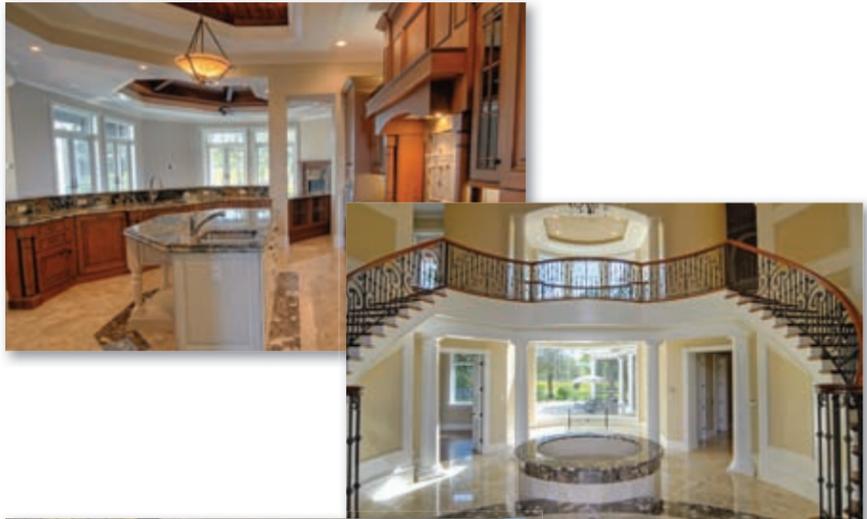


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New models open throughout The Classics at Lely Resort

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Lely Resort has opened 11 new single-family and estate home models in The Classics at Lely Resort, Collier County's 2008 Community of the Year.

There are three furnished models each in the Covington Place estate home neighborhood and the Martinique and Avonlea single-family neighborhoods. There are also two estate home models in The Estates section of The Classics.

In the north half of Lely Resort, Covington Place is a private neighborhood of 38 single-family homes on a quiet cul-de-sac surrounded by nature preserves. Views are across the fairways and greens of The Classics Championship Golf Course. Four floor plans offered range from 3,138 square feet to 3,482 square feet under air and are priced from \$644,990.

Martinique is a neighborhood of 28 home sites formed from two adjacent cul-de-sacs within The Classics, a gated community of oversized lots with golf, lake-front and wooded preserve views. Four floor plans ranging from 2,809 square feet to 3,133 square feet begin at \$544,990.

Avonlea is a private neighborhood of 34 single-family homes situated on three quiet cul-de-sacs. The neighborhood by Stock Construction offers five floor plans from 2,601 square feet to 2,889 square feet of living space under air. Prices begin at \$609,990.

Also within The Estates at The Classics are the Madrid model by Divco Homes and The Versailles model by Lundstrom Development. The Madrid is on a private cul-de-sac with lake views and the 13th fairway of the Gary Player-designed Classics championship golf course beyond.

With four bedrooms, three full and two half baths, the model has 3,606 square feet under air and a total of 5,065 square feet.

Lundstrom's Versailles model is a three-bedroom, three-bath home with great room and an attached three-car garage. The model has 3,122 square feet under air and a total of nearly 5,000 square feet. It includes an elaborate pool

and spa package.

Nine additional neighborhoods are within Lely Resort. Single-family offerings include Caldecott and Cottesmore; multi-family neighborhoods include Moorgate Point, Hawthorne, Legacy, Player's Cove, Alden Woods. The Cottages at Cordoba is a new enclave of golf cottages. Olé rounds out Lely Resort's selection of new homes with prices that begin at \$199,990.

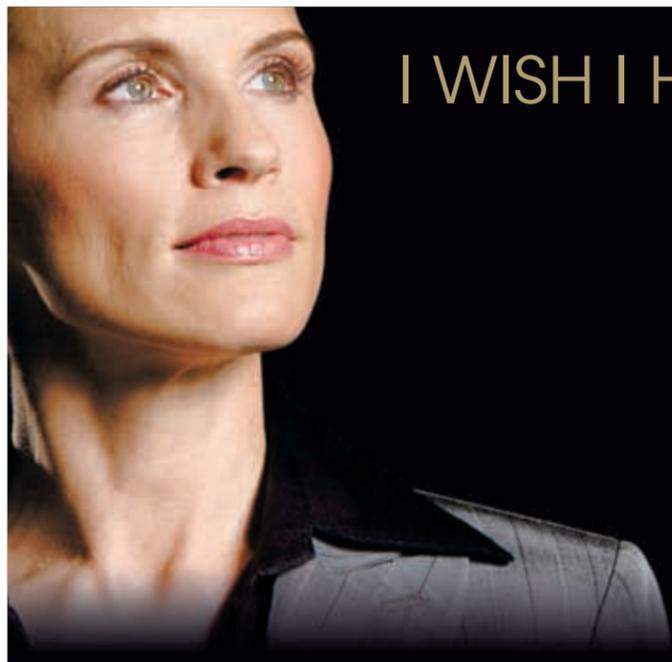
Residents have access to The Players Club & Spa at Lely Resort; residents of the Olé neighborhood have their own Village Center to call home. Lely Resort residents also have access to three championship golf courses and two golf clubhouses.

The Lely Resort Sales Center is at 8020 Grand Lely Drive. For more information, call 793-2100 or visit www.lely-resort.com. ■



The Seapines model in Covington Place at Lely Resort

COURTESY PHOTO



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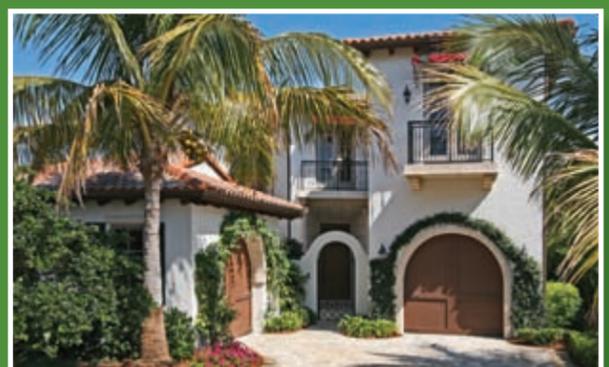
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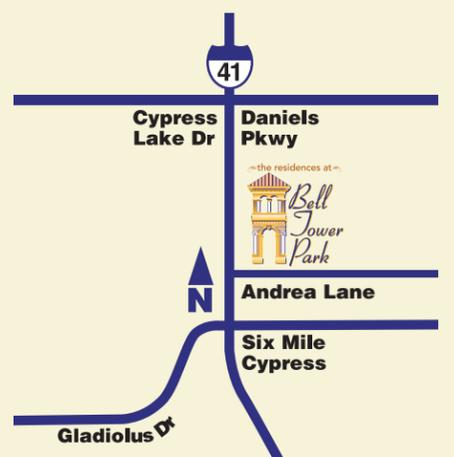
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www.GulfnGolfNaples.com • www.WigginsPass.com
Email: thefosterteam@comcast.net

**UNIQUE PROPERTIES IN
NAPLES & BONITA SPRINGS**



Pelican Marsh
1895 Les Chateaux Blvd. #202

2515SF, 3Br./2.5Ba., overlooking lake & 18th fairway. \$649,000



Bay Forest, Bermuda Bay:
15465 Cedarwood Ln. #303

REFURBISHED, 2/2, Hi-Ceilings, top flr. Owner financing avail. \$254,900



Mediterra, Villalago:
18132 Lagos Way

3000SF, 3+Den/3.5Ba. Lg. pie shaped Lk. lot! \$1,195,000



Gulf Harbor:
1285 Belair Ct.

Home completely refurbished, 3+Den/2, guest apt., quick Gulf access slip/lift \$795,000



West Bay Club:
22129 Natures Cove Ct.

Large Villa fl plan 3+den & bonus room! Oversized pool-extended lanai private Golf course views. Tile throughout! Like NEW! \$785,500



Wiggins Bay, Princeton Place:
340 Horsecreek Dr. #204

Spectacular Location-W 41, gated. Beach Shuttle. Tarpon Cove Yacht & Racquet Club at Wiggins Pass! Completely refurbished, 2/2, Memb. included, Views! \$299,400



425 Dockside Dr. #602

Beautiful Waterfront! New classic interior decor, marble flrs., 2677SF, 3B/3Ba \$1,149,000



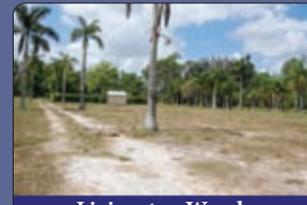
425 Dockside #906

Stunning W. Gulf Views, marble flrs, 3Br+Den/3.5Ba. \$,1,475,000



Imperial Golf Estates
2205 Imperial Golf Course Blvd

3289SF, 4+Den/3.5Ba, granite, stainless kitchen, lg.lanai w/pool Kris Savoie: 239-253-9957 \$850,000



Livingston Woods:
6520 Daniels Rd.

10 Acre w/home, can be subdivided, West of 75 \$3,900,000



Imperial Shores:
4882 Regal Dr.

154 Ft Waterfront Dock, Gulf access, Refurbished home! \$1,475,000



425 Dockside Dr. #501

3050SF, Stunning end unit, 2 lg. wrap around lanais, Views! \$1,329,000



425 Dockside Dr. #703

3Br/3Ba, 2428SF, Views of Gulf/ River/ Bay \$1,295,000



Old Naples Seaport:
1001 10th Ave. S. Boat Slip #11

LOA of 125'/24', Close to 5th Ave. \$1,395,000



Bonita Bay
4801 Bonita Bay Blvd.#603

Authentic beach cottage, 2642SF, amazing views, fireplace \$999,000



Marina Bay Club:
13105 Vanderbilt Dr. #606

REFURBISHED, 2/2, Bright end unit, Gulf/River/Wiggins Pass Views \$679,000



445 Dockside Dr. #402

Great Gulf views, 2677SF, 3Br/3Ba., 2 lanais front & back. \$1,299,000



445 Dockside Dr. #1002

2677SF, 10ft. ceilings, granite countertops, 'Spectacular Views' \$1,329,000



Imperial Golf Estates:
2102 Imperial Golf Course Blvd

Completely renovated w/ designer upgrades, golf course view, 2984SF, Kris Savoie: 253-9957 \$688,350



Charleston Square:
1400 Gulf Shore Blvd.#309

Grand Waterfront Unit, Slip w/20K lb. lift, steps to Gulf/Beach 3/3.5 \$1,489,000



GOLFING COMMUNITIES



GREY OAKS - ESTUARY ▲
Stunning 4 bedroom plus den residence with lake and golf course views. Expansive veranda with summer kitchen, fireplace, pool/spa.
\$5,997,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420



GREY OAKS - ESTUARY ▲
Furnished. Marble and wood floors, wine cellar, media room, lanai, fireplace, and outdoor kitchen. Lake and golf course views.
\$5,895,000 | Carolyn Weinand | 269-5678



GREY OAKS ▲
Furnished home with 5 bedrooms, 6.5 baths, private elevator, 2-car attached garage plus 2-car detached garage. Covered lanai.
\$5,550,000 | Lynn Anderson/Carolyn Weinand | 434-2424



GREY OAKS - ESTUARY ▲
Elegant home with five bedrooms, private two-story guest cabana with suites, theatre room surrounded by full bar, library.
\$5,500,000 | Lynn Anderson/Carolyn Weinand | 434-2424



GREY OAKS - ESTATES ▲
Custom builder's personal home. Southern exposure four bedrooms, four baths, 2 half-baths, Koi pond, sauna, and stone fireplace.
\$4,149,000 | Lynn Anderson/Carolyn Weinand | 434-2424



GREY OAKS ▲
Four bedroom estate blends luxury with comfort. Designed for a discerning buyer. A Christie's Great Estates Property.
\$3,999,999 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420



FIDDLER'S CREEK - ISLA DEL SOL ▲
Decorated and furnished custom 4 bedroom, 5.5 bath (includes casita with separate guest quarters) overlooking golf course.
\$2,990,000 | ML Meade/Natalie Kirstein | 293-4851



GREY OAKS - ESTATES ▲
This 4 bedroom plus den features columns, tray ceilings, marble flooring and stone fireplace. Custom pool/spillover spa.
\$2,990,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420



GREY OAKS ▲
1655 Chinaberry Court - This estate home has two floors with sunsets from the lakeside lanai with an infinity-edge pool, and fully equipped outdoor kitchen.
\$2,675,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420



GREY OAKS - ESTATES ▲
An impressive custom-built home recently remodeled with Appalachian-Piazza maple flooring, new carpet and paint. Land golf course views. Furnished.
\$2,495,000 | Philip N. Collins | 404-6800



GREY OAKS - PALM ISLAND ▲
Gracious home with 180 degrees of breathtaking water and golf views from most rooms. Custom design, four bedrooms, den/study.
\$2,490,000 | Carolyn Weinand | 269-5678



FIDDLER'S CREEK - MAJORCA ▲
This four bedroom plus study home features fine woodwork, stone fireplace, pool, spa, tray and vaulted ceilings. Lake and golf course views.
\$2,450,000 | ML Meade/Natalie Kirstein | 293-4851



FIDDLER'S CREEK - MAJORCA ▲
Stately 2-story three bedroom home. Features include designer ceiling treatments, faux paint, fireplace, full game room, den, and pool/spa.
\$2,290,000 | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133



GREY OAKS - CAPISTRANO ▲
Lush tropical lake and private waterfall views from this three bedroom plus study, elegant home. Pool/spa with new lanai screening. Furnished.
\$2,195,000 | Lynn Anderson/Carolyn Weinand | 434-2424



TWIN EAGLES ▲
This residence features four bedrooms, four baths, limestone floors, wide crown moldings, summer kitchen, loggia, and fireplace.
\$1,999,500 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420



GREY OAKS ▲
Enjoy the elegance of this custom home overlooking the 18th hole. Soaring ceilings, marble, cast stone columns, cherry cabinets. Pool/spa.
\$1,995,000 | Angie White | 821-6722



TWIN EAGLES - HEDGESTONE ▲
Four bedrooms, five bathrooms plus a den in this furnished home. Enjoy views of lake and golf course. Three-car garage.
\$1,699,500 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420



GREY OAKS - AVILA ▲
Long golf/lake views, 3 bedroom plus den and loft, A/C garage and pool/spa. Loaded with upgrades and fine finishes. A Christie's Great Estates Property.
\$1,595,000 | Carolyn Weinand | 269-5678



ESTUARY AT GREY OAKS ▲ 1485 Anhniga Pointe
The perfect Naples life! Sophisticated amenities and superlative homes set amid the serene beauty of natural preserves. Championship golf; only minutes from beaches, shops and dining. Estate homesites from the \$900s. Villas from \$1,595,000. Estate homes from \$2.9 million.
Please call 261-3148 for more information.



GREY OAKS - TRADITIONS ▲
#202 - At close to 4,000 SF, this elegant home features a long lake view, marble and mahogany wood floors, and library with cherry doors.
\$1,550,000 | Jutta Lopez | 571-5339



FIDDLER'S CREEK - MAJORCA ▲
Former model decorated by Agostino's Design Group and on a oversized corner lot. Three bedrooms plus den with 3200+ AC SF.
\$1,350,000 | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133



FIDDLER'S CREEK - BELLAGIO ▲
Mediterranean-style home with infinity pool overlooking the lake. Three bedrooms, three full and one half-bath including a casita for guests.
\$1,295,000 | ML Meade/Natalie Kirstein | 293-4851



HAMMOCK BAY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB LESINA ▲
#2005 - Stunning Bay and Gulf views! Finished by Foxworthy's Interiors. Brazilian walnut wood and Turkish marble flooring.
\$1,199,000 | Chris Sullivan | 404-5548



FIDDLER'S CREEK - MALLARDS POINT ▲
Quiet cul-de-sac, 3,927 SF of living area, five bedrooms including cabana, four baths, loft. Wide lake views. Pool and spa.
\$995,000 | Michelle Thomas | 860-7176



FIDDLER'S CREEK - MULBERRY ROW ▲
Turnkey furnished, custom 3 bedroom plus den with open floor plan, granite counters and oversized pool/spa with waterfall.
\$949,000 | ML Meade/Natalie Kirstein | 293-4851



HAMMOCK BAY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB SERANO ▲
#PH-2106 - Penthouse with breathtaking views in three directions, three bedrooms, and over 2,500 total SF. Wraparound lanai.
\$899,000 | Carolyn Weinand | 269-5678



FIDDLER'S CREEK - MALLARDS LANDING ▲
8511 Mallards Way - Custom plan with 2123 SF living area! Gas heated screened pool/spa, lake views, open kitchen, diagonal tile, granite.
\$639,500 | Michelle Thomas | 860-7176



TREVISO BAY ▲ 9004 Tamiami Trail East
Five miles from downtown Naples. Located adjacent to the 110,000-acre Rookery Bay National Estuarine Reserve, this luxury lifestyle community offers coach homes, villas and custom homes. It boasts Naples' only TPC golf course, Buona Vita Club & Spa and an off-site marina. Priced from the \$600s.
Please call 643-1414 for more information.

GREY OAKS

Single Family Homes

2346 Alexander Palm Drive
Charming 2-story brick home with lake and golf course views, 3 bedrooms plus den, 2-sided fireplace, and full outdoor kitchen.
\$2,295,000 | Carolyn Weinand | 269-5678

Condominiums/Villas

ESTUARY 1319 Noble Heron Way
Magnificent master suite, sitting area, large wood floor study and outdoor entertaining. Views over creek. Furnished.
\$2,400,000 | Lynn Anderson/Carolyn Weinand | 434-2424

ESTUARY 1335 Noble Heron Way
Exceptional 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath home. Gourmet kitchen with Sub-Zero and Dacor appliances. Lake and golf course views.
\$2,199,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420

ESTUARY 1326 Noble Heron Way
Almost-new 4,000 SF former model with Surtania marble floors, gas fireplace, vaulted ceilings, and pool/spa. Furnished.
\$1,990,000 | Lynn Anderson/Carolyn Weinand | 434-2424

ESTUARY 1369 Noble Heron Way
This 3 bedroom plus study, 3.5 bath villa overlooks lake and fairway. Faux paint, marble flooring. Pool/spa. **\$1,895,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**

REDUCED ESTUARY 1306 Noble Heron Way
Elegant yet comfortable, open floor plan with 3 bedrooms, a den and 3.5 baths. Offered furnished. **NOW \$1,695,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**

AVILA 2667 Caladium Way
Furnished 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath home with lake and golf course views, faux finished ceilings and walls, and wide crown moldings.
\$1,495,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420

TERRA VERDE 2396 Terra Verde Lane
Custom floor plan creates a wonderful and spacious family room/den. Meticulously kept. Picturesque, quiet enclave.
\$799,000 | Carolyn Weinand | 269-5678

TWIN EAGLES

WICKLOW 12087 Wicklow Lane
Find your heart's desire in this Covington plan with 4 bedrooms, den, 3 baths, pool, spa, 3-car garage. Quality throughout. **\$825,000 | Teresa Rucker | 281-2376**

BRAMBLE POINTE 11824 Bramble Court
This like-new home has 3 bedrooms plus den and loft, and offers a spacious floor plan for all your family and guests. **\$529,000 | Susan DeShong | 253-3434**

FIDDLER'S CREEK

Single Family Homes

MAJORCA 8608 Majorca lane
Gorgeous home features designer ceiling treatments, faux paint, crown moulding. Pool area with built-in spa. **\$1,950,000 | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133**

BELLAGIO 8511 Bellagio Drive
Former model, decorated in classic Mediterranean style. Three bedrooms, 3.5 baths, oversized lanai with lake views. **\$1,200,000 | ML Meade/Natalie Kirstein | 293-4851**

MULBERRY ROW 7630 Mulberry Lane
Beautifully decorated Lundstrom home. Heated pool/spa, built-in grill, three bedrooms plus den, three baths and oversized garage.
\$899,000 | ML Meade/Natalie Kirstein | 293-4851

SERENA 3198 Serenity Court #201
Furnished luxury coach home. Private elevator, 3,000+ SF under air, 3 bedrooms plus den, and 2-car garage. **\$829,000 | Michelle Thomas | 860-7176**

REDUCED CRANBERRY CROSSING 9096 Cherry Oaks Trail
Beautifully decorated 3 bedroom, 3 bath. Private backyard and lanai with heated pool/spa, overlooking lake. **NOW \$799,000 | ML Meade/Natalie Kirstein | 293-4851**

MALLARDS LANDING 8532 Mallards Point
Two bedroom plus den, furnished. Imported cabinets, granite counters and more. Infinity-edge pool with wide lake view. **\$749,000 | Michelle Thomas | 860-7176**

MAHOGANY BEND 3828 Mahogany Bend Drive
New, luxury home with western exposure golf course views, 3 bedrooms plus den, 3.5 baths, 3-car garage, and pool/spa. **\$699,900 | Michelle Thomas | 860-7176**

CRANBERRY CROSSING 9100 Cherry Oaks Trail
Furnished three bedroom home with views of lake, heated pool, security system, central vacuum, tile throughout and granite.
\$648,000 | ML Meade/Natalie Kirstein | 293-4851

Condominiums/Villas

SERENA 3164 Serena Lane #201
Brand new 3 bedroom plus den with long lake views. Granite counters, and stainless appliances. Turnkey furnished. **\$895,000 | ML Meade/Natalie Kirstein | 293-4851**

SERENA 3181 Aviamar Circle #102
Spacious three bedroom plus library and den residence with design upgrades, beautiful cabinetry and flooring. Enjoy the best lake views.
\$699,000 | Chris Sullivan | 404-5548

FIDDLER'S CREEK

Condominiums/Villas

MENAGGIO 9274 Menaggio Court #101
A luxury coach home on the ground floor overlooking a lake with 3 bedrooms plus den, family room and living room. **\$895,000 | Michelle Thomas | 860-7176**

VARENNA 9202 Museo Circle #104
Outstanding fountain and lake views. Fully private. Fully furnished 3 bedroom, 3 bath corner coach home. **\$695,000 | ML Meade/Natalie Kirstein | 293-4851**

CASCADA 9042 Cascada Way #102
Panoramic golf/water views! Three bedroom plus study with coffered ceilings and expanded kitchen. **\$689,000 | Brock/Julie Wilson | 821-9545**

VARENNA 9221 Museo Circle #204
The best of everything: granite, stainless appliances and tile. Over 3,000 SF under air, and long lake views. **\$675,000 | Darlene Roddy | 404-0685**

VARENNA 9242 Tesoro Lane #201
Outstanding residence with private elevator, over 3,000 SF AC, 3 bedrooms plus den, and spacious lanai. Furnished. **\$650,000 | Darlene Roddy | 404-0685**

SERENA 3202 Serenity Court #201
Turnkey furnished luxury 2nd floor corner residence overlooking the lake. Spacious plan with 3 bedrooms, den, 3 baths. **\$599,000 | Michelle Thomas | 860-7176**

MONTREUX 3745 Montreux Lane #204
Stunning lake and golf course views from this impeccable four bedroom coach home. Decorated and furnished. **\$535,000 | Brock/Julie Wilson | 821-9545**

MONTREUX 3715 Montreux Lane #101
Fully upgraded corner coach home with stunning golf/lake views. Granite countertops, custom millwork, fireplace. **\$499,000 | Michelle Thomas | 860-7176**

MONTREUX 3710 Montreux Lane #102
Luxury coach home with southwestern exposure lake views. Over 2,200 SF of living area, three bedrooms, three baths, and 2-car garage.
\$395,000 | Michelle Thomas | 860-7176

HAMMOCK BAY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

LESINA 1050 Borghese Lane #1806
Home in the sky, 180-degree views of Marco and Ten Thousand Islands from this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath residence. Top-rate amenities.
\$1,100,000 | Darlene Roddy | 404-0685

AVERSANA 1060 Borghese Lane #403
Stunning McIlvane Bay, Gulf and golf views! Professionally decorated and turnkey furnished 3 bedroom with 2,625 SF AC. **\$649,000 | Chris Sullivan | 404-5548**



THE VILLAGE
239.261.6161

OLD NAPLES
239.434.2424

THE GALLERY
239.659.0099

FIFTH AVENUE
239.434.8770

MARCO ISLAND
239.642.2222





TIBURON - ESCADA ▲
Three master suites, two guest rooms, each with bath. Gym, home theater, elevator, and golf views. A Christie's Great Estates Property.
\$5,950,000 | Julie Rembos | 595-1809



PELICAN MARSH - ESTATES AT BAY COLONY ▲
Thoughtfully designed, five bedrooms, five full and two half-baths. Brazilian cherry wood.
\$4,795,000 | Marlene Abbott-Barber/Leah D. Ritchey | 594-9494



QUAIL CREEK ▲
Over 8,000 SF, all 4 bedrooms are master suites. Spectacular pool with spa, waterfall and slide. Fantastic sights.
\$2,950,000 | Julie Rembos | 595-1809



VINEYARDS - TERRACINA ▲
Custom estate on 1.5 lots. Double fairway views. Five bedrooms en suite, home theater, billiard room, wine cellar.
\$2,699,000 | Julie Rembos | 595-1809



OLDE CYPRESS - DA VINCI ESTATES ▲
Fairway views, 4,690 A/C SF, 6 bedrooms, marble/wood floors, pool/spa, summer kitchen, 3-bay garages. Furnished.
\$2,249,000 | Sandra McCarthy-Meeks | 287-7921



TIBURON - SERAFINA ▲
This 4 bedroom plus den is sited on premium lot and views fairway. Venetian plaster, hardwood floors and private pool/spa.
\$2,095,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420



VINEYARDS ▲
426 Terracina Court - Beautiful wide water lakefront views, a 1,500 SF covered lanai with heated pool/spa and outdoor kitchen. Southeast exposure.
\$1,395,000 | Ted Dudley | 860-2498



WYNDEMERE - LODGINGS ▲
Golf course views, five bedrooms, four baths, lanai with fountain, pool/spa. Membership required.
\$1,375,000 | Kathryn Hurvitz | 659-5126



VINEYARDS - TERRACINA ▲
Wonderful estate home 4 bedrooms, den, 4.5 baths and golf course views from screened lanai with heated pool/spa. 3-car garage.
\$1,375,000 | Marty/Debbi McDermott | 564-4231



KENSINGTON - KENSINGTON PARK ▲
Courtyard home with four bedrooms, four baths. Family room with bookshelves and sliding ladder. Wonderful views over lake.
\$1,200,000 | Marty/Debbi McDermott | 564-4231



WYNDEMERE - LODGINGS ▲
On golf course, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, family room with fireplace, freshly painted, renovated pool. Membership required.
\$1,175,000 | Kathryn Hurvitz | 659-5126



TIBURON - VENTANA ▲
Furnished penthouse southwest views of preserve and golf course, 3 bedrooms, den, wraparound balcony, wood and tile floors.
\$1,175,000 | Kathryn Tout/Beverly Dale | 261-6161



VINEYARDS - HAMMOCK ISLES ▲
Tremendous 3 bedroom plus den, 3 bath home with upgrades galore. Private heated pool/spa. Marble and tile flooring throughout.
\$1,100,000 | Kevin Rathburn | 269-4575



AUDUBON COUNTRY CLUB ▲
Spacious home with 4 bedrooms, a study, and 3.5 baths. Remodeled master bath, crown moldings, and brick paver lanai pool area.
\$1,044,900 | Mitch/Sandi Williams | 370-8879



OLDE CYPRESS ▲
Mediterranean inspired courtyard home features tile/wood flooring, heated pool, and outdoor bar. Golf, tennis and more.
\$995,000 | Patrick O'Connor | 293-9411



KENSINGTON - KENSINGTON GARDENS ▲
Custom-designed estate home has wonderful golf course view. Plan flows to pool. Custom kitchen, granite counters.
\$975,000 | Jennifer/Dave Urness | 273-7731



KENSINGTON - KENSINGTON PARK ▲
5202 Kensington High Street - Villa offers great room with fireplace, formal dining, three bedrooms and den. Renovated master bath with marble.
\$935,000 | Mary Morris | 784-8599



OLDE CYPRESS - STRADA BELLA ▲
Golf course view with southern exposure. Three bedrooms plus den, three baths, and 3-car garage. Turnkey furnished.
\$850,000 | Ray Couret | 293-5899



IMPERIAL GOLF ESTATES ▲
2048 Imperial Circle - Stunning lakefront home. Completely remodeled. Lake views. Vaulted ceilings, chef's custom kitchen. Pool/spa.
\$849,000 | Dina L. Moon | 370-1252



OLDE CYPRESS - SANTA ROSA ▲
Long lake and golf course view from this 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath residence. TROPICALLY LANDSCAPED POOL AREA. Tasteful furnishings.
\$825,000 | Ray Couret | 293-5899



OLDE CYPRESS ▲
Impeccably-maintained 3 bedroom plus den with pool and golf views. Join for \$15,000 non-equity membership with no club minimums.
\$799,900 | Sandra McCarthy-Meeks | 287-7921



VINEYARDS - GLEN LAKE ESTATES ▲
Pristine home with heated pool and spa plus expansive lake views. Architectural details and quality throughout.
NOW \$799,000 | Dave/Ann Renner | 784-5552



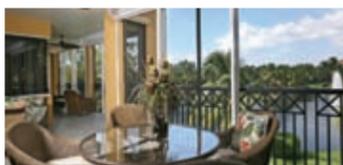
AUDUBON COUNTRY CLUB ▲
Cheerful four bedroom villa with heated pool, spa, summer kitchen, golf course and lake views. Diagonal tile, Jacuzzi tub.
\$769,000 | Mitch/Sandi Williams | 370-8879



VINEYARDS - ARBOR GLEN ▲
Private lake views by the heated pool with large paved lanai. Four bedrooms and oversized family room.
\$695,000 | Mara/Michael Muller | 272-6170



WYNDEMERE - VILLA FLORESTA ▲
Magnificent golf/lake views. Two bedroom plus den with new tile, electric shutters and generator. Membership required.
\$675,000 | Kathryn Hurvitz | 659-5126



TIBURON - BOLERO ▲
#2 - Wonderful waterscape and lake view from this 3 bedroom, 2 bath residence. Large screened lanai. Private elevator.
\$650,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420



WYNDEMERE - PRESERVE ▲
362 Edgemere Way North - Gorgeous lake and golf course views. Large living room, family room with fireplace. Membership required.
\$650,000 | Kathryn Hurvitz | 659-5126



IMPERIAL GOLF ESTATES ▲
Tranquil lakefront setting with southern exposure. Fantastic design with volume ceilings and spacious lanai.
\$599,000 | Pat Callis | 250-0562



WYNDEMERE - GOLF COTTAGES ▲
Great views of the golf course. Two-story home offers two master bedrooms with 3rd bedroom used as a den.
\$575,000 | Kathryn Hurvitz | 659-5126



TIBURON - CASTILLO III ▲
#101 - Luxurious living awaits with crown moulding, tray ceilings, and granite kitchen. Gracious master. Preserve views.
\$559,000 | Carolyn Weinand | 269-5678



VINEYARDS - VISTA POINTE ▲
#1503 - pen spaces, high ceilings, southern exposure and expansive golf views. Neutral colors, tiled living area and storm shutters.
\$559,000 | Roya Nouhi | 290-9111



STONEBRIDGE - MIDDLEBURG ▲
#203 - Golf course view! Upgrades galore, three bedrooms, 20" diagonal tile, glassed-in lanai, granite counters. Bundled golf.
\$545,000 | Kathryn Hurvitz | 659-5126



STONEBRIDGE - SHOREHAM VILLAS ▲
Sunset views over fairway and lake. Peaceful villa with a double garage and 10 foot ceilings. Golf membership included.
\$485,000 | Vickie Larscheid | 250-5041



STONEBRIDGE - BRAEBURN ▲
#101 - Stunning fairway, lake and preserve views. Classy three bedroom with 18" tile floors, granite kitchen, and designer furniture.
\$449,000 | Dave/Ann Renner | 784-5552



KENSINGTON - HAMLET ▲
#4 - Southern exposure lake/golf views from this Arthur Rutenberg coach home. Mint condition two bedroom plus den.
\$439,000 | Dave/Ann Renner | 784-5552



STONEBRIDGE - SHOREHAM VILLAS ▲
Two bedroom plus den villa with golf club membership. Double garage, private pool and 10 foot ceilings. No neighbors above.
\$345,000 | Vickie Larscheid | 250-5041

OLDE CYPRESS

2710 Olde Cypress Drive
Beautifully landscaped! Impeccably maintained three bedroom plus den custom Ruttenberg home with 2,738 SF A/C and a 3-car garage.
\$749,000 | Sandra McCarthy-Meeks | 287-7921

2925 Lone Pine Lane
Upgraded 3 bedroom plus den, 2.5 bath Ruttenberg home. Brick paved pool and spa, preserve views. Wood-burning fireplace.
\$599,000 | Sandra McCarthy-Meeks | 287-7921

VINEYARDS

MONTELENA 6135 Montelena Circle #3103
Pristine two-story townhome offers 4 bedrooms (2 masters), loft, 3.5 baths and attached two-car garage. **\$450,000 | Patrick O'Connor | 293-9411**

VALLEY OAK 241 Silverado Drive
Great opportunity for this three bedroom plus den home! Private pool area, outdoor shower and separate pool bath. **\$449,000 | Patrick O'Connor | 293-9411**

VINEYARDS

VINTAGE RESERVE 693 Vintage Reserve Circle #16D
Watch the sunrise from your eastern exposure 40' lanai. Meticulous condition. Three private suites plus den. **\$420,000 | Kristin Mikler | 370-6292**

STONEBRIDGE

BRAEBURN 1585 Winding Oaks Way #202
Rare 2nd floor Braeburn, turnkey furnished. Southern views over lake and golf course. Golf membership included. **\$499,000 | Vickie Larscheid | 250-5041**

WILLOW BEND 1930 Willowbrook Bend Circle #204
A two bedroom condominium with golf course and lake view. Offered furnished. Eastern exposure on the lanai. **\$375,000 | Otto Becker/Keith Alexander | 261-6161**

MIDDLEBURG 2140 Alberdeen Lane #101
Play Golf? Mint condition 3-bedroom coach home on the 12th tee. Spacious sun-drenched lanai. Dream kitchen. **\$365,000 | Judy Perry/Linda Perry | 261-6161**

WYNDEMERE

A Perfect Golf and Tennis Community - Membership required

GOLF COTTAGES 250 Edgemere Way East
Gorgeous lake, golf and wooded views! Plantation shutters, white wood floors and security system. **\$475,000**

GOLF COTTAGES 16 Golf Cottage Drive
Charming 2 bedroom plus den on cul-de-sac and overlooks golf course. Updated flooring, 2-car garage. **\$350,000**

OPEN SUN. 1-4 AMBLEWOOD 125 Amblewood Lane
Warm and welcoming villa offers 2 bedrooms plus den. Picturesque view of the 4th green. 2-car garage. **\$360,000**

WATER OAKS 32 Water Oaks Way
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Florida Weekly's Open Houses

Open Houses are Sunday 1-4, unless otherwise marked

>\$200,000

1 • WIGGINS BAY, PRINCETON PLACE • 340 Horsecreek Dr. #204 • \$299,400 • Amerivest Realty • Bridgette Foster 239-253-8001

>\$400,000

2 • LEMURIA • 7168 Lemuria Circle #1701 • From the Mid \$400s. • Premier Properties of Southwest Florida, Inc., REALTORS • Tom Gasbarro 404-4883 • Mon. - Fri. 10-4 and Sat. and Sun. 1-4

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3 • THE STRADA AT MERCATO • Located just North of Vanderbilt Beach Rd on US 41 • Contemporary living from the \$500s. • Premier Properties • Call 800-719-5136 • Mon. - Sat. 9-5 and Sun. 12-4

4 • PELICAN MARSH - OSPREY POINTE • 9024 Whimbrel Watch Lane #202 • \$599,000 • Premier Properties • Tom McCarthy 243-5520

>\$600,000

5 • FIDDLER'S CREEK - MALLARDS LANDING • 8511 Mallards Way • \$639,500 • Premier Properties • Michelle L. Thomas 860-7176

6 • IMPERIAL GOLF ESTATES • 2102 Imperial Golf Course Blvd. • \$688,350 • Amerivest Realty • Kris Savoie 230-253-9957

7 • PELICAN BAY - CHATEAUMERE • 6040 Pelican Bay Blvd. #301 • \$699,777 • Premier Properties • Esther Van Lare 404-3045

8 • TREVISO BAY • 9004 Tamiami Trail East • From the \$600s • Premier Properties • Call 239-643-1414 • Mon. - Sat. 9-5 and Sun. 11-5

>\$700,000

9 • PELICAN ISLE YACHT CLUB • 435 Dockside Dr. • \$795,000-\$1,749,000 • Amerivest Realty • Bridgette Foster 239-253-8001

10 • PARK SHORE - TERRACES • 4751 Gulf Shore Blvd. N. #1402 • \$799,000 • Premier Properties • Polly Himmel 290-3910

>\$800,000

11 • BONITA BAY - ESPERIA & TAVIRA • 26951 Country Club Drive • New construction priced from the \$800s. • Premier Properties • 800-311-3622 • Mon. - Sat. 10-5 and Sun. 12-5

12 • MOORINGS • 1947 Crayton Road • \$899,900 • John R Wood Realtors • Margaret Hutchison -239-272-7000

>\$900,000

13 • MARCO ISLAND - THE PRINCE • 176 S. Collier Blvd. #1007 • \$999,999 • Premier Properties • Natalie Kirstein/ML Meade 784-0491

>\$1,000,000

14 • BONITA BAY - BERMUDA COVE • 26199 Isle Way • \$1,097,000 • Premier Properties • Cathy/George Lieberman 777-2441

15 • MEDITERRA - VILLORESI • 15683 Villioresi Way • \$1,475,000 • Premier Properties • Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell 213-7420

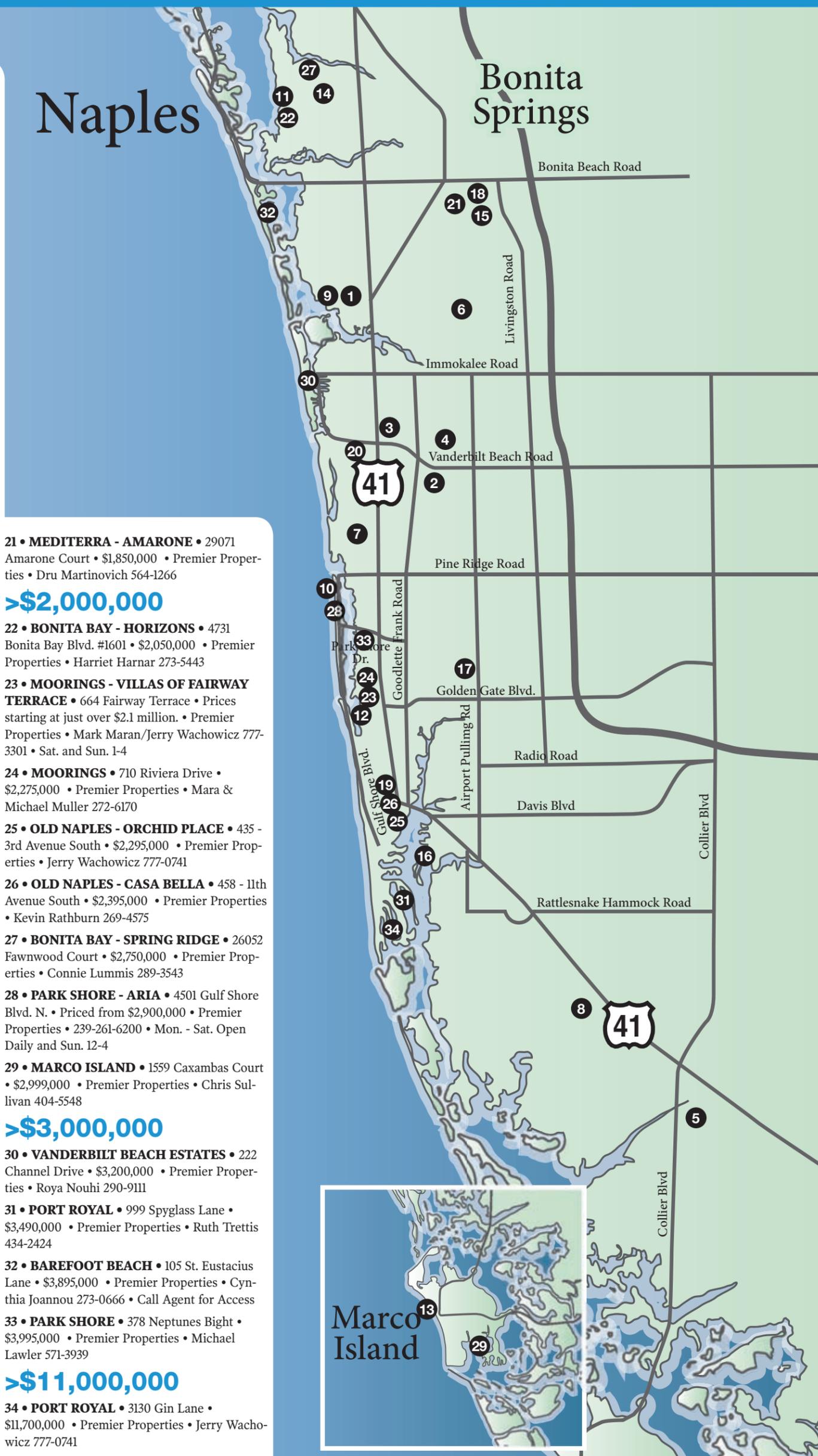
16 • ROYAL HARBOR • 2085 Snook Drive • \$1,495,000 • Premier Properties • Isabelle Edwards 250-4140

17 • ESTUARY at GREY OAKS • 1485 Anhinga Pointe • From \$1,565,000 • Premier Properties • 239-261-3148 • Mon. - Sat. 9-5 and Sun. 12-5

18 • MEDITERRA - MILAN • 15429 Milan Way • \$1,750,000 • Premier Properties • Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell 213-7420

19 • OLD NAPLES • 441 Central Avenue • \$1,750,000 • Premier Properties • Carolyn Weinand 269-5678

20 • PELICAN BAY - COCOBAY • 7853 Cocobay Drive • \$1,769,000 • Premier Properties • Cathy Owen 269-3118



21 • MEDITERRA - AMARONE • 29071 Amarone Court • \$1,850,000 • Premier Properties • Dru Martinovich 564-1266

>\$2,000,000

22 • BONITA BAY - HORIZONS • 4731 Bonita Bay Blvd. #1601 • \$2,050,000 • Premier Properties • Harriet Harnar 273-5443

23 • MOORINGS - VILLAS OF FAIRWAY TERRACE • 664 Fairway Terrace • Prices starting at just over \$2.1 million. • Premier Properties • Mark Maran/Jerry Wachowicz 777-3301 • Sat. and Sun. 1-4

24 • MOORINGS • 710 Riviera Drive • \$2,275,000 • Premier Properties • Mara & Michael Muller 272-6170

25 • OLD NAPLES - ORCHID PLACE • 435 - 3rd Avenue South • \$2,295,000 • Premier Properties • Jerry Wachowicz 777-0741

26 • OLD NAPLES - CASA BELLA • 458 - 11th Avenue South • \$2,395,000 • Premier Properties • Kevin Rathburn 269-4575

27 • BONITA BAY - SPRING RIDGE • 26052 Fawnwood Court • \$2,750,000 • Premier Properties • Connie Lummis 289-3543

28 • PARK SHORE - ARIA • 4501 Gulf Shore Blvd. N. • Priced from \$2,900,000 • Premier Properties • 239-261-6200 • Mon. - Sat. Open Daily and Sun. 12-4

29 • MARCO ISLAND • 1559 Caxambas Court • \$2,999,000 • Premier Properties • Chris Sullivan 404-5548

>\$3,000,000

30 • VANDERBILT BEACH ESTATES • 222 Channel Drive • \$3,200,000 • Premier Properties • Roya Nouhi 290-9111

31 • PORT ROYAL • 999 Spyglass Lane • \$3,490,000 • Premier Properties • Ruth Trettis 434-2424

32 • BAREFOOT BEACH • 105 St. Eustacius Lane • \$3,895,000 • Premier Properties • Cynthia Joannou 273-0666 • Call Agent for Access

33 • PARK SHORE • 378 Neptunes Bight • \$3,995,000 • Premier Properties • Michael Lawler 571-3939

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RAVELLO ▲
One-of-a-kind estate! Lake/golf views, 2-level cabana suite, 2 wine cellars, media room, garage parking for 7 cars. **\$7,500,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



IL CORSINI ▲
15303 Corsini Lane - Custom 2-story 5 bedroom home. Fairway views. Stone flooring, 11-14' ceilings. Summer kitchen, pool/spa. *A Christie's Great Estates Property.* **\$5,475,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



PADOVA ▲
Elegant and comfortable estate home. Outside kitchen and living room with fireplace. Lake and preserve view. **\$5,175,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



PADOVA ▲
An extraordinary custom home featuring 9,171 total SF, panoramic golf views and is also a certified Florida Green Home. **\$4,850,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



MARCELLO ▲
Elegant 2-story, 5 bedroom plus den home. Outdoor kitchen, pool and spa overlooking golf. Impeccably decorated. **\$3,995,000 | Dru Martinovich | 564-1266**



IL TREBBIO ▲
Former model with 70-foot lanai, golf views. Wine room, study, media room, and billiard room. Furnished. **\$3,895,000 | Dru Martinovich | 564-1266**



PADOVA ▲
Gracious 4 bedroom plus den furnished home with 7,015 total SF. Stone detail, marble flooring, pool, spa and fireplace. **\$3,795,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



PADOVA ▲
Comfortable elegance in this 4 bedroom plus den, 4.5 bath estate home with volume ceilings and marble flooring. Pool/spa. **\$3,499,999 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



RAVELLO ▲ 14915 Celle Way
Residence with 4 bedrooms plus study, 5.5 baths. Loggia with summer kitchen and fireplace. An attached cabana. *A Christie's Great Estates Property.* **\$3,499,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



VERONA ▲
Beautiful 4 bedroom custom-built home overlooks preserve. Family room, den/study, fireplace. Pool and outdoor fireplace. **\$3,195,000 | Dru Martinovich | 564-1266**



MARCELLO ▲
Custom-built 4 bedroom plus den with oversized bedrooms and large bathrooms for each guest suite. Lanai with summer kitchen. **\$2,997,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



VERONA ▲
16991 Verona Lane - Stunning 4 bedroom, den, 4.5 bath home has private and protected preserve views. Private pool, luxurious master suite. **\$2,995,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



IL TREBBIO ▲
Tuscan-style 4 bedroom home with stone flooring, loft and stone fireplace. Pool/spa overlooking the golf course. Furnished. **\$2,995,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



MARCELLO ▲
29050 Marcello Way - Custom Harbourside home. Sunset views over fairway/green. Fabulous pool, retracting walls of glass in family room. **\$2,995,000 | Dru Martinovich | 564-1266**



AMARONE ▲
This professionally designed residence features 4 bedrooms plus den and 4.5 baths overlooking a beautiful lake view to preserve. **\$2,695,000 | Dru Martinovich | 564-1266**



IL TREBBIO ▲
Magnificent estate home on a 3/4 acre golf-view lot. Spacious with 4 bedrooms plus den. Reasonable offers considered. **\$2,500,000 | Thomas Gasbarro | 404-4883**



CELLINI ▲
16551 Cellini Lane - Furnished by Robb & Stucky. Custom Harbourside home with 4 bedrooms plus a study, covered lanai and architectural details. **\$2,250,000 | Dru Martinovich | 564-1266**



AMARONE ▲
Four bedroom plus den with oversized lanai, fireplace, chiseled edge stone flooring and granite. Lake to preserve views. **\$2,195,000 | Dru Martinovich | 564-1266**



AMARONE ▲
29071 Amarone Court - Four bedroom plus den with natural light and lake view to preserve. Custom-designed by an interior designer. **\$1,850,000 | Dru Martinovich | 564-1266**



BELLEZZA ▲
14898 Bellezza Lane - Immaculate, sun-splashed retreat. Carefully chosen colors and fabrics, appliances and electronics. Furnished. **\$1,800,000 | Thomas Gasbarro | 404-4883**



MILAN ▲
15429 Milan Way - Custom built three bedroom plus den, 3 and one-half bath villa. A tropical screened outdoor living area and loggia. **\$1,750,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



BELLEZZA ▲
Capri II plan overlooks fairway. Oversized site, expanded pool/spa area. Interior by Collins & Dupont. Furnished. **NOW \$1,749,000 | Dru Martinovich | 564-1266**



FELICITA ▲
16496 Felicita Court - Lakefront furnished home with southern exposure. Floor-to-ceiling sliders open to pool and outdoor kitchen. **\$1,599,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



MILAN ▲
Panoramic fairway views. Stunning 3 bedroom plus den with 5,036 total SF. Outdoor living, pool, spa and summer kitchen. **\$1,587,777 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



VILLORESI ▲
15683 Villoresi Way - Glistening lake views from this 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath villa. Golf course views. Columns, cherry flooring and granite counters. **\$1,475,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



VILLALAGO ▲
18061 Lagos Way - Beautifully appointed villa home with gated courtyard. Soaring ceilings and open floor plan. Custom cherry cabinetry. **\$1,325,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



VILLORESI ▲
Views beyond open salt water pool/spa. Professional decor, integrated sound system, home generator. A/C garage. **\$1,295,000 | Mitch/Sandi Williams | 370-8879**



VILLALAGO ▲
Designer decorated 3 bedroom plus den, 3.5 bath villa-style home. Preserve views on 3 sides. Fountain, pool and spillover spa. **\$1,289,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**



VILLALAGO ▲
18081 Lagos Way - One of the lowest priced villas in Mediterra. Three bedroom features a 3-car side entry garage. Pool/spa. **NOW \$869,000 | Judy Stead | 273-3438**



BRENDISI ▲
Beautifully furnished former model with granite counters, stainless appliances, large diagonal tile and faux finishing. **\$825,000 | Jane Darling/Sharon Kiptyk | 777-3899**



PORTA VECCHIO ▲
SW views over the 12th fairway and green of North Course to preserve. Furnished. Granite counters, SS appliances. **\$775,000 | Dru Martinovich | 564-1266**



MONTEROSSO II ▲
15513 Monterosso Lane #102 - Views of glistening lake. Open plan, tile flooring and a vibrant color palette. Spacious master has lake views. **\$729,900 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**

Single Family Homes

IL TREBBIO 16036 Trebbio Way
Four bedroom plus den with luxurious attention to detail, open floor plan, and tantalizing outdoor living area. *A Christie's Great Estates Property.* **\$3,750,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**

OPEN SUN. 1-4 REDUCED IL TREBBIO 16041 Trebbio Way
This 4 bedroom plus den home features stone flooring, rich millwork, columns, fireplaces and custom finishes. *A Christie's Great Estates Property.* **NOW \$3,175,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**

AMARONE 29011 Amarone Court
Brand new custom 4 bedroom plus study home built to take advantage of a long lake view. Contemporary pool. Furnished. **\$2,750,000 | Dru Martinovich | 564-1266**

CELLINI 16536 Cellini Lane
Custom-built with stone & hardwood flooring, media room, large guest suites, fireplace, lagoon pool/spa. **\$2,395,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**

AMARONE 29111 Amarone Court
Model home with over 3,800 SF, 4 bedrooms plus a study. Situated on a lake. Outdoor grill area on the lanai. **\$2,195,000 | Dru Martinovich | 564-1266**

Condominiums/Villas

VILLORESI 15628 Villoresi Way
This Mediterranean-style 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath villa is open to glistening lake and outdoor spaces. Decorator finished. **\$1,429,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**

VILLORESI 15746 Villoresi Way
Tropical setting with screened pool, summer kitchen and outdoor bar. Three bedrooms, 3 baths and over 2,400 SF of living area. **\$1,297,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**

PORTA VECCHIO 16995 Porta Vecchio Way #201
Dramatic lake and golf course views. Elevator & exquisite finishes. Furnished 3 bedroom plus den residence. **\$799,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**

MONTEROSSO 15544 Monterosso Lane #201
Five-star view! Golf, lake and fountain view from upstairs corner 3 bedroom, den, 3 bath residence. Neutral color palette. **\$795,000 | Roxanne Jeske | 450-5210**

Condominiums/Villas

OPEN SUN. 1-4 BRENDISI 29110 Brendisi Way #102
Three bedroom plus den, 3 bath, low-rise with lake/preserve views. Custom built shutters and crown molding. **\$619,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**

Lots & Acreage

VERONA 16987 Verona Lane
Privacy plus serenity is afforded on this lot, which overlooks a lake and a natural preserve. **\$695,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**

VERONA 16984 Verona Lane
Choose from one of Mediterra's approved builders to build your dream home with private and serene preserve views. **\$599,000 | Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell | 213-7420**

SERATA 28022 Castellano Way
West of Livingston Rd. with SW exposure over lake to preserve. Build the home of your dreams on this great site. **\$595,000 | Dru Martinovich | 564-1266**

MARCELLO 29171 Marcello Way
Build the home of your dreams in this beautiful Marcello neighborhood. This lot features preserve and lake views. **\$595,000 | Angie White | 821-6722**

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF MARCH 5-11, 2009

A GUIDE TO THE NAPLES ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE

COURTESY PHOTO



Stephen Schwartz's music is 'Wicked' good

if you go:
Wicked opens March 7 at the Barbara B. Mann Arts Hall.

BY NANCY STETSON
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

you could say it was love at first sight. Or maybe someone cast a spell. Because before he even read Gregory Maguire's best-selling novel, "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West," Stephen Schwartz knew he wanted to make a Broadway musical about that iconic green witch. It was a chance comment by a friend, singer/songwriter Holly Near, that grabbed his attention. "She said, 'Oh, I'm reading this interesting book.' She just mentioned it in passing, as one does," Mr. Schwartz recalls. But something about the idea and the title caught him. "I had one of those

SEE WICKED C4 & 5 ►

SECOND NATIONAL TOURING COMPANY OF 'WICKED' STARTS IN FORT MYERS

Stephen Schwartz, the man behind the music of *Wicked*

"I don't tend to get very good reviews. I really never have... I can't do anything about that... But I've been pretty lucky that it hasn't made much difference in terms of audiences coming to see things that I've done."
— Stephen Schwartz

WEEK at-a-glance



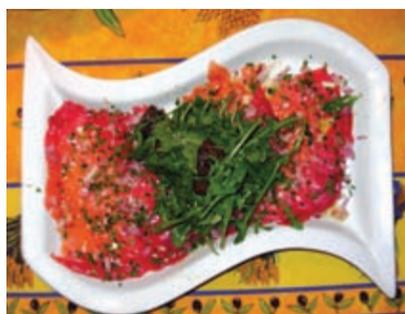
Meet 'The Merry Widow'
Manhattan Lyric Opera returns with one performance of the slightly risqué comic romp. **C14** ►



Add to your art collection
Naples Masters Art Festival is the place for one-stop shopping this weekend. **C20** ►



See what Stella's been up to
Art Modern Gallery showcases bold new works by renowned Captiva artist Stella Farwell. **C24** ►



Like a meal in Provence
Cote D'Azur serves up the flavors and feel of France. **C31** ►

'Bello Comes Home' when Circus Sarasota comes to town

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

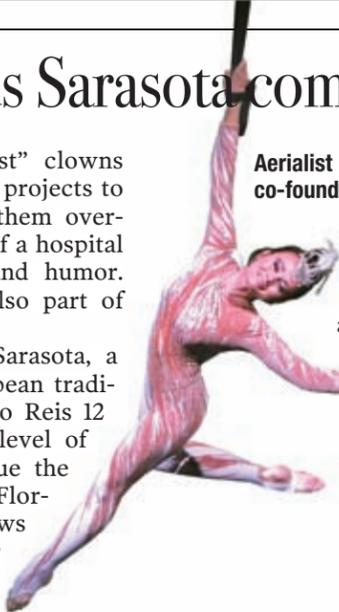
A comic daredevil joins aerialists and illusionists, a celebrated contortionist, a Chinese foot juggler, equestrian beauties and a troupe of trained Pekingese pups when Circus Sarasota comes to town. Opening night is Friday, March 6, and the shows go on through Sunday, March 29, under the big top at Gulf Coast Town Center.

In conjunction with its stay in Southwest Florida, Circus Sarasota is also beginning an ongoing presence at the Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. Part of the circus' Laughter Unlim-

ited program, "Jolly-Ologist" clowns will take smiles and special projects to pediatric patients to help them overcome the fear and anxiety of a hospital setting through laughter and humor. Nursing home visits are also part of Laughter Unlimited.

The mission of Circus Sarasota, a one-ring show in the European tradition founded by CED Pedro Reis 12 years ago, is to raise the level of the circus arts and continue the circus legacy in Southwest Florida. "Each season brings news surprises and thrills for our

Aerialist Dolly Jacobs, co-founder of Circus Sarasota



audiences, many of whom return year after year to see some of the greatest circus acts around the world," Mr. Reis said. This year's headliners are:
• Ringmaster Joseph Bauer Jr., a star of

SEE CIRCUS C19 ►

SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

Beauty in our own image



ArtisHENDERSON

sandydays@floridaweekly.com

on the faces of boys in the streets of this city. What stands out most is the shape of people, the women built wide through the shoulders and broad through the hips, shorter and stockier than their Spanish counterparts.

I discovered a clay figurine in one of the display cases, voluptuous and nude, a pre-Colombian Venus de Willendorf. I examined the square shoulders, the thick waist and wide hips, and I thought of the teachers in my Spanish school and the indigena women in the marketplace. The figure captured an idea of beauty that is neither

In Antigua, Guatemala, where stones pave the streets and men in cowboy hats sell ice cream from handcarts, there is a museum of pre-Colombian art set within the rock walls of an abandoned monastery. It's there that I saw my first examples of Mayan art, the clay statuary and shell beadwork that define the aesthetic tastes of the people who once ruled this land. Most impressive were the pieces made from Guatemalan jade, the green stone that rises to the surface as platelets below the earth shift and collide. I gazed at necklaces fashioned from chunks of jade as big as a man's fist and studied a carved alligator glowing pale green and translucent. The statues of people also caught my attention, and it was the sculpted women in particular who drew my eye.

As in so many post-colonial societies, modern-day Guatemalans are a mix of old and new world ancestry, of Spanish forebears and Mayan roots. For all this blended blood, however, many of the physical traits of the Maya can still be seen. There is skin color — dark as tamarind — and the large, hooked noses seen in Mayan paintings and

American nor European — that is not rooted in height or slenderness — but that is indigenous to this part of the world and the people who embody it.

By way of this experience, I reflected on beauty and the physical qualities that trigger attraction. I have the sense that the people who complete us also reflect us. So often, when I've asked someone to describe their perfect mate, they'll give me a list of characteristics that match their own. Similarly, in a book I once read about soul mates (if you're into that sort of thing), the author said that

“I have the sense that the people who complete us also reflect us...”

those joined over several lifetimes often look similar, especially in the eyes. I remember a time shopping in Wal-Mart with a boyfriend, holding hands as we searched for Moon Pies. We passed another shopper twice before she stopped and asked, “Are you two brother and sister?” We laughed and told her no, but later, standing in front of a mirror in the men's department, we admitted we looked a lot alike.

Not to say the exotic isn't appealing. Here in Guatemala, my Scandinavian friends have more suitors than they can handle. But the men who whistle at those blond-haired beauties aren't serious. Not really. Because the couples I see on the streets and in the marketplace, the ones holding hands and carrying small, dark-eyed children, are all perfect reflections of one another, beautiful in their symmetry. ■



Contact Artis

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

NAPLES ART & ANTIQUES SHOW

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March 13 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, March 14 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
\$20 per person

Trinity-by-the-Cove
Episcopal Church in Port Royal

LECTURES:
MAXWELL K. HEARN,
Curator of Chinese Art from the Met, NY
“Philanthropy and the Brooke Astor Story”
Friday, March 13, Noon Luncheon speaker
\$100 per person
CHARLES FAUDREE,
Interior Designer, author and
antiques dealer, Tulsa, OK
“Interiors with Panache”
Saturday, March 14, 10:30 a.m.
Brunch speaker \$50 per person

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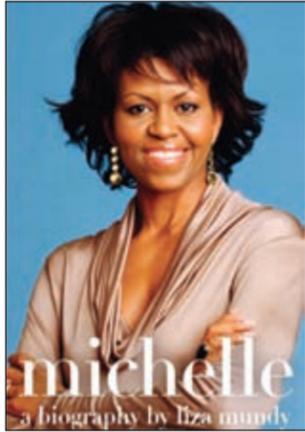
BEACH READING

Michelle: A Biography

By Liza Mundy
(Simon & Schuster, \$25)

REVIEWED BY LARRY COX

Special to Florida Weekly



There is simply no middle ground when it comes to the diverse opinions that Americans have about Michelle Obama. Her detractors see her as an elitist — an ambitious, upper-income black clothes horse with radical, deep-rooted resentments despite her obvious successes. Her supporters celebrate her as a plain-speaking career woman, stylish, intelligent, grounded and a nurturing mother and wife. A new book suggests that the truth might lie somewhere in between.

Liza Mundy, a staff writer at the Washington Post, wrote her biography of the new first lady shortly before November's general election. Although Mrs. Obama did not cooperate for the book, Ms. Mundy did interview her along with many of the people who know her best. The result is a fairly balanced portrait of Michelle Obama, a woman who credits her father as being one of the most profound influences on her life, praises her mother for understanding the value of education, and truly loves her husband, a man she accepts as being driven and "burning the candles at both ends."

This highly readable book counters much of the misinformation about her and fills in many of the gaps in a story that many of us think we know but don't. For example, despite the fact that Michelle Obama is skeptical of politics, especially Chicago politics, she has somehow been able to almost seamlessly blend into the national political scene. Ms. Mundy believes that as a wife, mother, community activist and career woman, she has succeeded in each and done an admirable, even remarkable job.

This is a classic American story. The ideals that Mrs. Obama shares with her husband have their roots in her working-class upbringing on Chicago's South Side. Coming of age during the turbulent 1960s and '70s, Mrs. Obama was both tempered and strengthened by the changing times. She is her own person, comfortable in her skin, and will become one of more interesting occupants of the White House. ■



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“How did she get that broomstick? Who were those flying monkeys?
And what was that peaked hat about anyway?”

– Stephen Schwartz

WICKED

From page 1

epiphany light-bulb moments.”

So when he first read the book, it was with the idea of turning it into a musical. He immediately started condensing the story, as a musical couldn't possibly contain the novel's many characters and subplots.

It took him a year to obtain the rights, and as soon as that was accomplished, he asked Winnie Holtzman to collaborate on the project. From there, he says, “It just sort of evolved between us.

“We had a wonderful time working together, even though doing a Broadway show is not easy. There were a lot of stressful moments and stressful times, but she and I really had a great working relationship. I think one of the best decisions I made on the show was to ask Winnie to join me on it.”

A whole wide world of 'Wicked'

“Wicked,” which opened on Broadway on Oct. 8, 2003, broke all box office records at the Gershwin Theatre and is still playing there more than five years later.

Nominated for 10 Tony Awards, it received three. It was also received six Drama Desk Awards: Outstanding Musical, Outstanding Lyrics, Outstanding Book, Outstanding Costume Design, Outstanding set design of a musical and outstanding director of a musical. It received 10 Outer Critic nominations and received four awards, including Outstanding Broadway musical, Outstanding direction of a musical, Outstanding set design and Outstanding costume design.

A Chicago production closed after 1,500 performances. The Los Angeles production ran for almost two full years. And an open-ended run began in San Francisco in January.

Overseas, a London production opened in September 2006, a Japanese-language production opened in Tokyo in June 2007, and a German-language opened in Stuttgart in November 2007. An Australian production opened last year in July in Melbourne, and a Dutch-language production is scheduled to open in 2010.

And on Saturday, March 7, the second North American tour of “Wicked” begins at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers.

The crew has been working at the theater for three weeks, putting everything together for the show that's heavy in special effects. The actors, previously rehearsing in New York City, arrived in Florida and began rehearsals on the Mann Hall stage Feb. 23.



Marcie Dodd as Elphaba, the future Wicked Witch of the West.

COURTESY PHOTO

The attraction of the outcast

The hit musical appeals to children and adults alike. It seems everyone wants to know what happened to Glinda the Good Witch and Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, prior to Dorothy's arrival in Oz.

The concept instantly appealed to Mr. Schwartz for a number of reasons. “I like to look at familiar stories and spin them, and come to them from a different point of view,” he says. “I like to do pieces of outcast figures, or people who stand apart from society.”

After all, this is the man who wrote music and lyrics for “Godspell” and lyrics for the movie “The Hunchback of Notre Dame.”

As Mr. Schwartz puts it, “You couldn't be more of an outcast than the Wicked Witch of the West.

“And then obviously, the title ‘Wicked’ suggested that this was going to be

an examination of what truly is wickedness and what truly is good, and how we tend to oversimplify those concepts and how political figures abuse them for their own purposes, etc. The title itself suggests all of that.”

What he didn't know, until he began reading the novel, was that Mr. Maguire had the two witches meet as university roommates.

“What a great idea!” he says. “And full marks to Gregory. That was his concept.”

During the year when he was trying to obtain the rights to the book (he also needed the rights to Mr. Baum's “The Wizard of Oz” books) to transform it into a musical, Mr. Schwartz tried to think of other villains — just in case “Wicked” fell through.

“I thought, well, if I can't do the Wicked Witch of the West, what about the wicked queen from ‘Snow White?’ What

If you go

>>What: “Wicked”

>>When: March 7 through 29

>>Where: The Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, 8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers

>>Cost: \$146, \$96, \$86, \$72 and \$62

>>Information: 481-4849 or www.bbmmanpah.com

about Iago, what about Judas?”

None of them, however, had the same appeal to him. “There was something just so iconic about her,” he says about the Wicked Witch of the West. “There's the fact that she's sort of in our childhood dreams, if you're American, because we've all seen ‘The Wizard of Oz’ for the first time when we're kids,” he says. “Then there's the fact that nobody even knows what her name is, she's just called the Wicked Witch of the West.”

Needless to say, Mr. Schwartz was very happy to obtain the rights and not have to try looking for “some other villain,” he says.

The rights are to Mr. Maguire's book. (The Oz books are in the public domain, and no longer under copyright law.) They don't have rights to the MGM film, which is still under copyright protection, and so have been very careful not to include imagery that belongs solely to the movie.

What it's all about

“Wicked” is a prequel to “The Wizard of Oz,” a kind of behind-the-scenes look at how everything came to be “before Dorothy dropped in,” as the advertising phrases it.

“I wanted to know where all the iconic characters and sort of totems in ‘The Wizard of Oz’ came from,” Mr. Schwartz says. “How did she get that broomstick? Who were those flying monkeys? And what was that peaked hat about anyway?”

“Why was everyone making such a big fuss about those ruby slippers, and where did that scarecrow come from?”

While Mr. Maguire's novel addressed some of those things, Mr. Schwartz wanted to know about all of them. Over the course of the musical, everything is revealed.

Over his career, which began with his writing the title song for the play “Butterflies Are Free,” Mr. Schwartz has received three Grammys, three Academy Awards and six Tony nominations. After “Butterflies,” he wrote music and lyrics for “Godspell,” “Pippin,” “The Magic Show,” “The Baker's Wife” and “Working” (based on the Studs Terkel book). He wrote for a number

Stephen Schwartz on newspapers

The playwright offers his thoughtful spin on the Fourth Estate

BY NANCY STETSON
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

Sometimes interviews take a strange twist, and conversations go in directions you hadn't anticipated. During our conversation, Stephen Schwartz started talking about newspapers, and you can see why his comments endeared him to our hearts:

“I really don't want to get all my news

online or from television... Online, you just read the things you're interested in, which... just increases the vulcanization of our society and our point of view. And it's also prone to inaccuracy and misinformation.

“At least if you pick up a newspaper, and the newspaper's relatively reputable and the reporters have done their job, you're going to get stories you might not have gone seeking, and you're also going to know

that their facts are checked.

“(In newspapers, there's depth.) That's the problem with television, the whole sound-bite thing. And the Internet.

“It's a little bit like what we talk about in ‘Wicked,’ where they can spin the characterization of the Wicked Witch of the West or the Wizard, with quick slogans and publicity and PR. You're getting just a sort of black and white snapshot, with no depth

or shading at all.

“I think (losing newspapers) would be very, very detrimental to our country, which after all, is a democracy, which is supposed to be formed on an informed electorate... Newspapers have to change how they reach their readership, and how the economics work, but it's hard for me to imagine that people aren't going to want to have a newspaper in the morning.” ■

Some 'Wicked' fun facts

>>Novelist Gregory Maguire, who wrote "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West," came up with the name for his title character, Elphaba, by blending first sounds of L. Frank Baum's name, the author of the classic Wizard of Oz series of books. ("El. Fa. Ba.")

>>Lyricist/composer Stephen Schwartz first learned about the book "Wicked" from singer/songwriter Holly Near while on vacation in Hawaii. Even before he read the novel, Mr. Schwartz knew he wanted to make a musical from it.

>>Producer Marc Platt originally didn't like the song "Popular" and didn't think it belonged in the musical. But the song stayed, and is... well, popular. Mr. Schwartz says he wrote it as a revenge song for all who weren't popular in high school.

>>The mechanical dragon that juts out above the proscenium was nicknamed "Ozwald" by the original cast.

tion, you shouldn't be in the theater, you really shouldn't," he says. "That's what the medium is about. If you're one of those people who wants to do everything my way or the highway, musical theater is not a good field for you to be in."

A natural progression

Mr. Schwartz seemed destined to become a Broadway composer and lyricist. Musically inclined from when he was very young, he wrote his first musical, "Hi Dog," when he was 7 years old. It was for a puppet show starring his sister's stuffed animals and toys.

George Kleinsinger, a neighbor of the family who went on to write "Tubby the Tuba," wrote the music for "Shinbone Alley," a Broadway show starring Eartha Kitt and Eddie Bracken. When Mr. Schwartz saw that show he was 9 years old and says he instantly knew what he wanted to do with his life.

"I just got bitten by the bug," he says. When he works now, he generally comes up with a title before writing a song.

"If it's not right, then I throw it out, and start a different song," he says. "The title in many ways defines what the focus of the song is going to be, the sort of perimeters of the song. I'm not saying that's how all songwriters work, but I just find it a useful way for me to work."

He's also careful to create a structure for a musical first, developing the storytelling structure and character arcs.

"The big-picture architecture is what I try to begin to get clear for myself first, and then fill in the details," he says. "A lot of the details change over time, evolve... But the structure, once one finds it, remains pretty consistent. It has to be sound.

"You can't be decorating the living room if the foundation is crumbling

of films, including music and lyrics for "The Prince of Egypt" and lyrics for "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "Enchanted."

He hadn't planned on returning to Broadway, but "Wicked" lured him.

"I was working happily away in the movies, and having good experiences there, and really enjoying it," he says. "There are many ways in which doing a Broadway show is not the most fun thing in the world to do. I sort of didn't have any compulsion to try to return to that... but then I stumbled upon Mr. Maguire's book and this brilliant idea, and it was just irresistible."

Collaborating with Ms. Holtzman made the experience more palatable.

"Well, if you don't enjoy collabora-



COURTESY PHOTO

"Wicked" is the story of Elphaba, the future Wicked Witch of the West, and her relationship with Glinda, the Good Witch of the North.

beneath you. You have to have a firm foundation, and then you can worry about the specifics of the details."

Mr. Schwartz also writes to please himself, not any potential audiences or critics. He refuses to try to second-guess what they might want.

"You write what you would want to see or what you would want to hear, or what makes sense to you," he says. "That's not to say that during the development process, you're not responsive to how audiences at previews or readings, etc., respond to things. If something's not working, or they're not getting something, then clearly one has to go and find a way to make one's work better, to communicate the ideas better."

But, he adds, he's never trying to guess what they might like, or to imitate what's currently in fashion. He just tries to write for himself.

Though his work, particularly "Wicked," is wildly popular, Mr. Schwartz is

not universally praised by the critics.

"I'm not a critic's darling," he says. "I don't tend to get very good reviews. I really never have, over the course of my career. I don't get slammed by everybody all the time, but I've never been a critical favorite. Particularly, for whatever reason, I've never been much of a favorite with the New York critics, particularly the theater critics.

"I can't do anything about that... But I've been pretty lucky that it hasn't made much difference in terms of audiences coming to see things that I've done."

Besides, Stephen Schwartz is the only songwriter in Broadway history to have three shows surpass 1,900 continuous performances on Broadway ("Wicked," "Pippin" and "The Magic Show").

And with a second North American touring company of "Wicked" launching this week at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, there's no sign of slowing down. ■

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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO



COURTESY PHOTO

Kennedy's Kitchen performs Friday evening, March 6, at The Norris Center

This week's theater

■ **Wicked** - The Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall presents "Wicked" March 7-29 (see story on page C1). 481-4849 or www.bbmnpah.com.

■ **Jekyll & Hyde** - TheatreZone presents the musical thriller "Jekyll & Hyde" starring Jason Kraack at 8 p.m. March 5-7 and 11-14 and at 2 p.m. March 7, 8 and 15 in the G&L Theatre at The Community School, 13275 Livingston Road. Tickets: \$35-\$40; (888) 966-3352 or www.theatrezone-florida.com.

■ **Anything Goes** - The Naples Players perform "Anything Goes" through Saturday, April 4, at Sugden Community Theatre. Cole Porter's sublime 1930s musical crams a world of joyous archetypes aboard the SS America, and then lets them collide happily. Tickets: \$35 (adults), \$10 (students); 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.

■ **Picnic** - William Inge's "Picnic" is at Cultural Park Theater in Cape Coral, March 6-8 and 12-15. It's funny, it's seething with women longing for sexual fulfillment, and it even has a fight scene. 772-5862.

■ **ZAP** - "ZAP!", an electrifying play about electricity, is part of Florida Repertory Theatre's Lunchbox Theatre Series at 11 a.m. Saturdays through April 11 at the Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center in the historic Fort Myers River District. Tickets are \$12, and admission includes the performance, a boxed lunch provided by Jason's Deli and an interactive workshop with the cast. www.floridarep.org or 332-4488.

■ **All Shook Up** - Broadway Palm Dinner Theater in Fort Myers presents "All Shook Up" through April 11 (see review on page C8). The musical comedy combines Elvis hits with a whole new story full of hilarious twists and turns. 278-4422 or www.BroadwayPalm.com.

■ **Happy Days - A New Musical** - The Philharmonic Center for the Arts presents "Happy Days - A New Musical" through March 8. Based on the hit television series, the show takes audiences back to the days of 1959 Milwaukee, complete with varsity sweaters, hula hoops and jukebox sock-hoppin'. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Alone Together** - Florida Repertory Theatre presents "Alone Together," a witty comedy by Lawrence Roman about a nest that won't stay empty, through March 8. 332-4488 or FloridaRep.org.

■ **Church Basement Ladies** - Broadway Palm Dinner Theater - Off Broadway presents "Church Basement Ladies," a musical tribute to the church basement kitchen and the women who work there, through March 29. 278-4422 or www.BroadwayPalm.com.

■ **Classic Broadway** - Sanibel's Schoolhouse Theater presents "Classic Broadway Abridged," a musical review of Broadway show tunes, through March 7. 472-6862 or theschoolhousetheater.com.

This week's symphony

■ **Beethoven's Eighth** - Laura Joella makes her debut as guest conductor of the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5, at First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs. The concert moves to Wesley United Methodist Church on Marco Island for Friday evening, March 6. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Keith Lockhart** - The Philharmonic Center for the Arts presents Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra on Monday, March 9. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **String Quartet** - Baiva String Quartet with Toby Blumenthal on piano perform in a memorial tribute to Bert Phillips, at 8 p.m. Monday, March 9, at Sugden Community Theatre. A reception will follow in the lobby. Tickets: \$40. 263-7990 or www.classicchamberconcerts.org.

■ **Pops Series** - Jack Everly leads the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra in "Viva Las Vegas," the third program of the Pops Series at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts, at 8 p.m. March 10-14 and at 2 p.m. 14-15. The cast of high rollers, showgirls and celebrities includes stars from Broadway and the Strip, along with Martin Preston as the legendary Liberace. Tickets: \$74. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Star Crossed Lovers** - The Southwest Florida Symphony performs "Star Crossed Lovers" at First Christian Church in Fort Myers March 7-8. Conducted by Michael Hall, this concert features some of the most beloved music of all time: Bernstein's "Symphonic Dances from West Side Story" and Prokofiev's "Suite from Romeo and Juliet." 418-1500 or e-mail tickets@swflso.org.

Thursday, Mar. 5

■ **Village Nights** - The Village on Venetian Bay hosts Village Nights from 6-9 p.m. the first Thursday of every month. Enjoy live entertainment, Artichoke and Company's cookout and waterfront browsing and shopping.

Friday, Mar. 6

■ **Art Opening** - Sweet Art Gallery hosts an opening reception for "Monet's Gardens" featuring works by Lynn Loscutoff and more than 35 gallery artists from 6-9 p.m. The gallery is at 2054 Trade Center Way; 597-2110 or www.thesweetartgallery.com.

■ **Irish Song and Dance** - The Norris Center serves up a lively taste of music from the Emerald Isle at 7:30 p.m., when Kennedy's Kitchen takes the stage for a one-night-only appearance. Tickets: \$30; 213-3049.

■ **Barbershop Chorus** - The Paradise Coastmen chorus puts on its annual show, "It's About Time," March 6-7 at North Naples United Methodist Church. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door; 352-6366, e-mail paradisecoastmen@comcast.net or www.naplesbarbershopchorus.org.

■ **Celebrating for a Cause** - DJ Quest of 105.5 The Beat hosts the station's sixth annual birthday bash, "Celebrating for a Cause," to benefit The Bob Rauschenberg Center for Living, an HIV/AIDS treatment center. The party is at Reserve Cigar & Wine Bar in Fort Myers. Tickets: \$10. 839-2563.

■ **Pastel Show** - The Southwest Florida Pastel Society kicks off its annual members show at the Art League of Bonita Springs with a reception from 6-8 p.m. Artists from Collier, Lee and Charlotte counties will display. The exhibit is in conjunction with a campus-wide open house and "Small Works and Miniature" show open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 1:30-5 p.m. Saturday through March 30. 495-8989, artcenterbonita.org or e-mail ann@daltonandreilly.com.

■ **B&W Photos** - J. Tomas Lopez presents "Photoshop in Black and White: From Shooting to Printing," a class designed for the intermediate to advanced photographer, as part of the Philharmonic Center for the Arts Lifelong Learning program, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 6-7. Cost: \$150; 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Journal Workshop** - Artist/writer Carol Todaro presents "Handmade Books: Journals" as part of the Philharmonic Center for the Arts Lifelong Learning program from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 6-7. Cost: \$175; 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Organ Recital** - Andrew H. Yeargin performs works by Bach, Howells, Mozart and Vierne in a free recital beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Fort Myers. 334-8937 or www.covpcfm.com.

■ **Circus Sarasota** - Circus Sarasota comes to the big top at Gulf Coast Town Center for matinee and evening performances March 6-29 (see story on page C1). Tickets start at \$10 per person. www.CircusSarasota.org or (877) 355-9805.

Saturday, Mar. 7

■ **Produce in the Parking Lot** - The North Naples United Methodist Church is home of the North Goodlette Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to noon. The church is at 6000 North Goodlette Road. 249-9480.

■ **Art in the Park** - The Naples Art Association hosts Art in the Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Park Street alongside The von Liebig Art Center. Naples' oldest outdoor

art festival celebrates its 52nd anniversary season of showcasing artwork by association members the first Saturday of the month from November through April. The free, juried shows feature a variety of media, including paintings, photography, sculpture and jewelry.

■ **Art at Collection at Vanderbilt** - The Naples Masters Art Festival brings 120 fine artists and their works to Collection at Vanderbilt from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8 (see story on page C20). 293-9448 or www.boulderbrook.net.

■ **Movie in the Park** - "The Never-ending Story" will be shown at 7 p.m. on at Bonita's Riverside Park on Old U.S. 41. Cartoons will start at 6:30 p.m. Free; bring a blanket or a lawn chair. 949-6262 or 992-2943.

■ **Solo Exhibit** - Art Modern Gallery, 751 12th Avenue South, presents an exhibition of new works by Stella Farwell from March 7-28. The show opens with a reception from 6-9 p.m. 263-1137, info@artmoderngallery.com or www.artmoderngallery.com.

■ **The Biava Quartet** - Sanibel Musical Festival features The Biava Quartet, winner of the 2003 Naumburg Chamber Music Award, at 8 p.m. at Sanibel Congregational Church. 336-7999 or www.sanibelmusicfestival.org.

■ **Art in the Woods** - The third annual Art in the Woods will be held at 16341 Arbor Ridge Road in the Iona District of Fort Myers from 10 a.m. until sunset. The day will include many local artists, food, cool music and a silent auction. Donation: \$5. 945-4527 or bevspan@aol.com.

Sunday, Mar. 8

■ **Bluegrass** - Frontline Bluegrass will play at the Flamingo Island Flea Market on Bonita Beach Road at 3 p.m. 405-0355.

■ **Sax Sounds** - Saxophonist Dale Underwood is the guest musician for the Naples Concert Band's performance beginning at 2 p.m. in the bandshell at Cambier Park. Music director Harris Lanzel conducts the free concert. Donations are welcome to a scholarship fund for student members of the band. 263-9521 or www.naplesconcertband.org.

■ **Choral Masterpieces** - The Philharmonic Center Chorale presents "Choral Masterpieces" at 4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Naples. James Cochran will lead the 75-voice chorale. Tickets: \$22/adults, \$10/students. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Movie Night** - Films on Fifth presents "Up the Yangtze" at 7 p.m. at the Sugden Community Theatre, 701 5th Avenue South. Tickets: \$12. 263-7990.

Tuesday, Mar. 10

■ **The Merry Widow** - The Manhattan Lyric Opera's performance of Franz Lehár's operetta "The Merry Widow" begins at 8 p.m. at Cambier Park (see story on page C14).

■ **Pianist Di Wu** - Sanibel Musical Festival features pianist Di Wu, winner of the 2008 Juilliard William Petschek Piano Debut Recital Award, at 8 p.m. at Sanibel Congregational Church. 336-7999 or sanibelmusicfestival.org.

Wednesday, Mar. 11

■ **Praise Concert** - The Wheaton College Symphony Orchestra takes the stage at The Village Church at Shell Point in Fort Myers at 7:15 p.m. Tickets: \$10. 454-2147 or <http://www.shellpoint.org>.

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Ongoing events

■ **Schwartz Exhibit** - The Art Gallery at Florida Gulf Coast University invites the public to an exhibition of works by nationally recognized painter and printmaker Carl E. Schwartz in the FGCU Library Gallery. The exhibition runs through March 22, and is free and open to the public. 590-7199 or asturdiv@fgcu.edu.

■ **Film Series** - The BIG ARTS Film Society's Film Series features: "Ordinary People on Monday, March 16; "The Rape of Europa" on Monday, March 23; end "Elsa and Fred" on Monday, March 30. Tickets: \$7. 395-0900, www.bigarts.org or e-mail info@BIGARTS.org.

■ **Chefs Market** - The Bayfront Chefs Market is held the third Wednesday of the month from 4-8 p.m. at Bayfront. The evening has cooking demonstrations, fresh produce and live entertainment. 200-3477.

lead Semi-Tropical Landscape Painting, the second of three workshops he will present as part of the Naples Philharmonic Center's Lifelong Learning arts education program, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 13-14. Tickets: \$125; 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Jose Carreras** - Spanish tenor José Carreras performs for one night only at the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts at 8 p.m. Sunday, March 15. Tickets: \$135. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

Upcoming events

■ **Art Exhibit** - Artist Jo-Ann Lizio will exhibit her mixed media "assemblage" abstracts at the BIG ARTS Founders Gallery. "The Work of Jo-Ann Lizio" exhibit has an artist's reception from 5:30-7 p.m. Saturday, March 13. The exhibit runs through March 31. 395-0900, www.bigarts.org or e-mail info@BIGARTS.org.

main Arena on Thursday, March 12. Reserved seats: \$67. www.ticketmaster.com.

■ **Art Exhibit** - daas Gallery features premiere master Scottish painter Ronnie Ford in a March exhibition. An opening reception is set for March 6, in conjunction with Art Walk night. Mr. Ford's work features a highly textured surface and use of contrasting colors that captures the French and Scottish landscapes. The exhibition runs through March 27. www.ronnieford.com or www.daasgallery.com.

■ **Art Exhibit** - Florida West Arts' Invitational Fine Art Exhibition, "A Prelude to Spring," featuring the two- and three-dimensional artworks by artists from near and far, runs March 7-25. There will be a Meet the Artist open house from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 7. Florida West is located in Estero's International Design Center.

■ **Naples City Improv** - This group performs through March 7 and April 24-25 at 8 p.m. at The Norris Center, 755 Eighth Avenue South. Cost: \$15. Join the NCI "players" in a series of hilarious, fast-paced, unscripted games that will keep you rolling in your seats. 213-3049.

■ **Art Lecture** - Thomas Hoving, author and former director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, will present an illustrated lecture, "The Art Forgeries Around Us," at the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 14. Cost: \$32. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Dance Workshops** - Globetrotting writer, event and film producer and bellydancer Tamalyn Dallal's "Backroads America Tour" brings her to Southwest Florida March 10-12 for a book-signing event and two dance workshops. Book signing: 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at Kindred Spirits,

3333 Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral, 542-3500. Bellydance workshops: 8-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at Etudes de Ballet, 3285 Pine Ridge Rd., Naples, and 8-9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at Rhythm in Motion, 3333 Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral. Cost: \$30; 768-5575.

■ **Rigoletto** - Opera Naples performs "Rigoletto" by Giuseppe Verdi at The Performing Arts Hall of Gulf Coast High School Friday, March 13, and Sunday, March 15. 1-800-771-1041 or www.operanaples.com.

■ **Art Exhibit** - The Robert Rauschenberg Gallery at Edison State College in Fort Myers hosts Syd Solomon: On Black Friday, March 13, through Thursday, April 9. 489-9313 or bobrauschenberggallery.com.

■ **Art Festival** - The Art League of Bonita Springs hosts the Bonita Springs National Art Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 14-15, at the Promenade at Bonita Bay. E-mail artfest@artinusa.com or 992-1213.

■ **Warhol Exhibit** - The Naples Art Association features Andy Warhol "Portfolios: From the Bank of America Collection" at The von Liebig Art Center Saturday, March 14, through Sunday, May 3.

■ **Blues Fest** - The third annual Bonita Blues Festival kicks off Saturday, March 14. Tickets: \$10 in advance and \$15 day of the show. Performers include Joey Gilmore, Albert Castiglia, The Jony James Blues Band, Rastus Kainand Tommy Lee Cook, Danny Shepard and the All Stars. Proceeds of the Bonita Blues Festival will benefit the Bonita Springs Assistance Office. www.bonitablues.com, info@bonitablues.com or 947-0715.

■ **Painting Workshop** - Brain Curtis, head of drawing, art and art history at the University of Miami, will

■ **Lunch Lecture** - The Naples Art Association's Lunch With the Arts welcomes Peabody Award-winning broadcaster Michael Lasser on Monday, March 16 at The von Liebig Art Center. 262-6517 or www.naplesart.org.

■ **Diane Schuur** - The Philharmonic Center for the Arts welcomes vocalist/pianist Diane Schuur on Tuesday, March 17. Ms. Schuur has built a stellar career by embracing not only the jazz of her parents' generation but also the pop music of her own youth during the 1950s and '60s. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Ballet** - The Philharmonic Center for the Arts hosts the Miami City Ballet: Program II "In the Night" on Tuesday, March 17. The company premiere of Jerome Robbins' masterpiece "In the Night" is showcased. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Jazz Band** - The Barbary Coast Dixieland Jazz Show Band performs at 7 p.m. Friday, March 20, at North Naples United Methodist Church. Tickets: \$15 in advance or at the door. Proceeds benefit the programs of Grace Place for Children and Families. 455-2707 or www.graceplacenaples.org.

■ **Red Violin** - Violin virtuoso Elizabeth Pitcairn will present three separate events related to "The Red Violin" movie and the legendary 1720 "Red Mendelssohn" Stradivarius as part of the Naples Philharmonic Center's Lifelong Learning arts education classes March 13 and 14. Events include a movie screening, wine and cheese reception and a family-friendly concert. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Critic's Choice** - The Philharmonic Center's Lifelong Learning arts education program presents "Out Stealing Horses" by Per Petterson on March 28; and "Fieldwork" by Mischa Berlinski on April 18. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.



Gareth Rockcliffe is one of 14 artists whose work is included in "Made in Florida," the March show at Osborn.Lizio Contemporary Gallery. The exhibition features art from Florida regional artists who use contemporary style in their body of work. The public is invited to a free reception from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at the gallery at 430 Bayfront Place. Regular hours are 1-5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, and 1-7 Thursday-Saturday. Call 262-7329 or visit www.osbornliziocontemporarygallery.com.

■ **New Kids** - More seats are now available for the New Kids On The Block concert coming to Ger-

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ARTS COMMENTARY

'All Shook Up' shakes expectations, societal roles

Nancy STETSON

nstetson@floridaweekly.com



When described, "All Shook Up" sounds like something "Saturday Night Live" might make up: a musical based on Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," set in the mid-'50s with all the characters singing Elvis songs.

But it's no faux show; this is the real deal.

And it skewers all expectations.

I was initially fearful I'd be subjected to a couple hours of non-stop Elvis worship. (He was great pre-Army, but later, grew into a parody of himself. Then there's that matter of stealing liberally from other artists, particularly African-American singers who didn't have access to as broad an audience.)

There is an Elvis figure in this musical — a lip curling, pelvis-swiveling ladies' man, who roams from town to town — but he's named Chad (or sometimes, ironically, Roustabout.) Yes, he has a guitar that he wears more than he plays, and he makes all the women swoon. Jonathan Grunert plays him with perfect over-the-top broadness, with the proper amount of self-mockery. He's like a superhero with an oversized ego.

He also rides a motorcycle, a la Marlon Brando in "The Wild One." But the motorcycle needs repair, and so he finds himself in a small nameless town. Or, as the playbill puts it, "in a square little town in the middle of a square little state in the middle of a square little decade."

Among all the women who fall for him is motorcycle mechanic Natalie (a versatile April Monte), the gas station manager's daughter. However, someone else is secretly in love with Natalie — Dennis (an endearingly gawky Ben Martin). And Chad falls for the statuesque Miss Sandra (a perfectly frosty and aloof Hannah Zold), who works at the local museum.

Natalie transforms herself into Ed, just so she can hang out with Chad and be his sidekick.

There are other subplots in this story: Mayor Matilda (an hysterically self-righteous Regina Harbour) has passed the Mamie Eisenhower Decency Act, which means that there can't be any public demonstrations of affection. Restaurant owner Sylvia (a sassy Chelsea Waller) falls in love with Jim (a nebbish Andy Kopec), who's also infatuated with Miss Sandra. And Sylvia's daughter (Courtney

Washington) falls in love with a white boy (Daniel Scullin).

Ms. Washington is so enthusiastic you think she's going to burst out of her clothes, while Ms. Waller provides hand-on-the-hip attitude. Both have fabulous voices.

Despite the hijinks and frivolity, this is not your typical fluff jukebox musical. Playwright Joe DiPietro (best known for "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change") cleverly deals with racism and homophobia in this '50s version of "Twelfth Night." The rousing opening number, "Jailhouse Rock," with its homoerotic lyrics, should be a good foreshadowing of where this musical is going.

While some guys in Elvis wigs and black leather jackets dance with halo-ed angels in "(You're the) Devil in Disguise," there really aren't any Elvis impersonators in this show. The singers approach the songs the way a Broadway performer would, not the way Elvis sang them.

That might be jarring to some people, but this approach helps you hear the tunes in a new light.

"All Shook Up" contains 23 Elvis songs which seems a couple songs too many. Some could've been cut to tighten the show.

The set design, by Evan F. Adamson, is especially creative. It includes a shoe store whose walls are made of shoe boxes, not bricks, and a gas station with walls were created with license plates.

Mr. Adamson's created a whimsical, fun world that draws you right into the spirit of the musical. His opening set, a stark black-and-white jailhouse, is a great contrast to the colorful world that follows after. And the audience oohed at the glittering lights of the fair.

Director Marc Robin has done a great job with this production. It's fun, over-the-top and campy. These actors aren't taking it seriously, and you shouldn't either. It's tongue-in-cheek, like a Tom Jones concert, where he lets the audience know that he gets the joke too.

Jonathan Grunert (standing center) and the cast of *All Shook Up*

COURTESY PHOTO

Jonathan Grunert (standing) as Chad in *All Shook Up*

COURTESY PHOTO

The only quibble I have is with the dancing, which isn't bad. They get the steps, but they don't get the spirit. If I were choreographer Buddy Reeder, I'd have the dancers watch a steady diet of '50s movies with their proverbial sock hops and beach dance scenes.

But "All Shook Up," while not deep and ponderous, is thoroughly entertaining, smart and fun. ■

If you go

- >>What: "All Shook Up"
- >>When: Through April 11
- >>Where: The Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, 1380 Colonial Blvd. Fort Myers
- >>Cost: \$25 to \$53
- >>Info: Call 278-4422 or go to www.broadwaypalm.com

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GIVING

Educate, collaborate, celebrate: Immokalee teachers bring innovation to the classroom

BY CATHERINE GOULD
Special to Florida Weekly



Immokalee teachers have a great deal to celebrate. Many of them are participating in a professional learning community with a clear and direct focus on classroom practice.

For the fourth year in a row, the University of Florida's Lastinger Center for Learning, The Education Foundation of Collier County and Collier County Public Schools have collaborated on the design and implementation of a unique professional development program for teachers.

There are two distinct opportunities for teachers: One is a fully funded master's or specialist's degree from UF; the other includes a collaborative approach to school-based professional learning. Hundreds of teachers have stepped up to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities, and the best part is the significant impact on student achievement.

UF's Teacher Leadership for School Improvement degree program allows teachers to work on their degrees as a member of a group, a cohort, sharing ideas and most importantly, sharing the commitment to improve achievement of all students in their respective schools. As teachers work through the 2½-year, classroom-embedded program, they plan, implement and evaluate effective instructional strategies.

The research-based program emphasizes teacher leadership and school improvement. Twenty teachers completed the program in August 2008 and now are sharing their knowledge with others in the Immokalee community.

A new cohort of teachers has already begun, and the cycle of advanced professional development continues, building a cadre of highly qualified teachers serving the students of Immokalee.

Teachers completing the program have described their experiences as collaborative, leadership building and embedded in the daily act of teaching.

Teachers who might not be interested in a degree program at this time still have the opportunity to be involved with the thoughtful and well-crafted inquiry process that connects teacher research to student thinking and learning. Teachers identify a question or a dilemma in the classroom that they would like to examine. They collaborate with others to focus on a specific question and then begin to research solutions, gather and analyze data and, most importantly, share the results.

For example, a teacher wanting to improve her students' writing skills began using "dialog journals." Each day her stu-

dents wrote to her and each day after school she responded in their individual journals. At the beginning of the process, the students were writing one sentence; by the end they were writing one to two pages. She was modeling good writing and giving the students personal acknowledgement. They were becoming better writers!

Inquiry is powerful. The learning benefits students and allows the teachers to examine their own instructional practices with "new eyes." Many teachers have said the process allows them to shine a brighter light on the advantages of meaningful, professional development.

Looking at each other's work and discussing potential solutions fosters strong relationships and empowers teachers to reflect on their daily classroom routines. The process is personal yet collaborative. A teacher may choose to delve into inquiry involving technology, classroom environments, data-driven instruction, parent involvement, literacy, math, science and more. The goal remains the same: to stimulate learning.

The final piece of this journey in inquiry is probably the most important. That piece is the sharing of the results.

As busy as the last month of the school year can be, teachers look forward to coming together in Immokalee and sharing their projects at the annual Inquiry Expo. The teacher-to-teacher network is powerful, and by coming together as professionals, they not only see results in their schools but in the wider educational community.

None of this work could take place without the organization and support of the partnerships.

I heartily agree with Susan McManus, president of The Education Foundation of Collier County, who believes one of the best ways to support students in our community is to support the teachers. ■

Catherine Gould has taught in the state of Florida for 25 years and currently works in staff development for Collier County Public Schools. She has presented at various state and national conferences and facilitates the work in Immokalee supported by the District School Board of Collier County, the University of Florida's Lastinger Center for Learning and The Education Foundation of Collier County. For more information, call the foundation at 643-4755 or visit www.educationforcollier.org.

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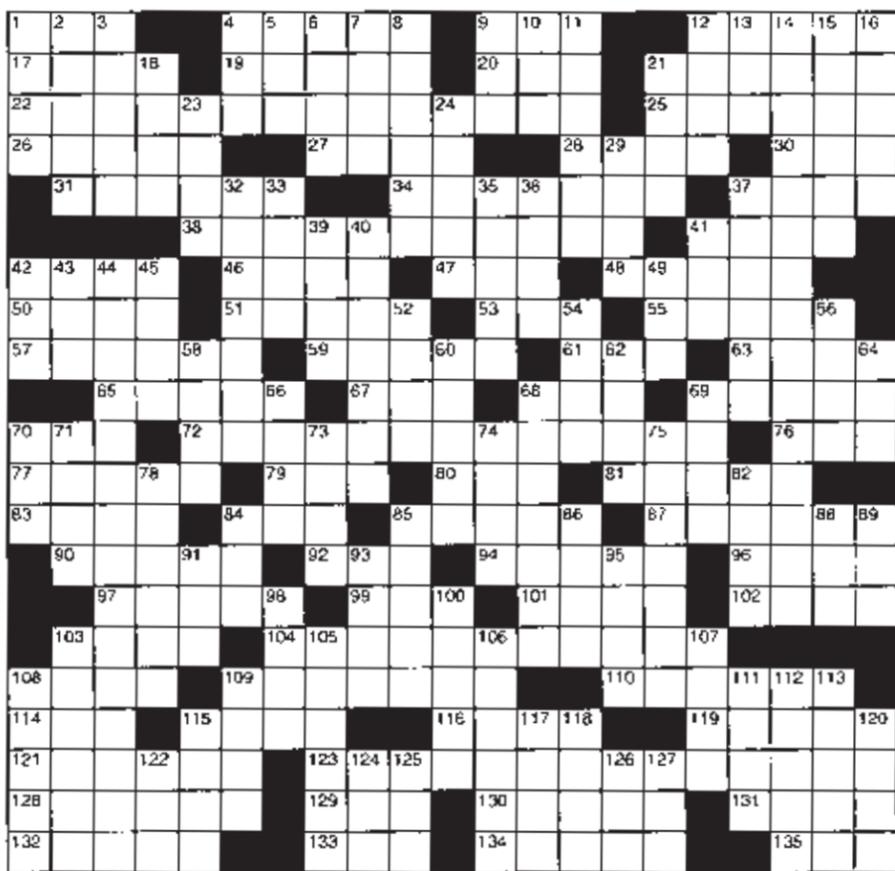
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FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

WELL-ROUNDED



- ACROSS**
- 1 Existed
 - 4 Obscure
 - 9 Apply lightly
 - 12 Fashionably nostalgic
 - 17 Choir member
 - 19 City on the Mohawk
 - 20 Actor Tognazzi
 - 21 Shriveled up
 - 22 Joe Hamell hit
 - 25 In distress
 - 26 Actress Shire
 - 27 Individual performances
 - 28 Asia's father
 - 30 Police hders.
 - 31 Profited
 - 34 NATO member
 - 37 Churchill's successor
 - 38 Jason Biggs film
 - 41 Coasted
 - 42 Fugue composer
 - 46 — Bator
 - 47 Grab all the goodies
 - 48 Anthony Quinn role
 - 50 Pennsylvania port
 - 51 Crack up
 - 53 Taxi
 - 55 Condemns
 - 57 Where to find a fennec
 - 59 Parasite
 - 61 Casserole cover
 - 63 Place of origin
 - 65 Pack peppers
 - 67 New Deal agcy.
 - 68 Reggae's Marley
 - 69 "Roots" Emmy winner
 - 70 Blanc or Brooks
 - 72 The Cyrkle hit
 - 76 Narcs' org.
 - 77 Sheepish sound
 - 79 Sandra of "A Summer Place"
 - 80 Neighbor of Tenn.
 - 81 Tracking tool
 - 83 Singer Toni
 - 84 Spud bud
 - 85 Vote in
 - 87 Dull
 - 90 Time and again
 - 92 It may be fake
 - 94 Stringed instrument
 - 96 Machu Picchu native
 - 97 Tolkien character
 - 99 Attained
 - 101 Football s Van Brocklin
 - 102 Like kids at Christmas
 - 103 Drescher of "The Nanny"
 - 104 Hollywood award
 - 108 Banister
 - 109 Cheeseboard choice
 - 110 Jet of yore
 - 114 Fury
 - 115 Encounter
 - 116 — Lama Ding Dong ("61 Tune)
 - 119 Dropped the ball
 - 121 "Blue Velvet" singer
 - 123 Merv Griffin creation
 - 128 Salad veggie
 - 129 "Man" ("67 hit)
 - 130 Senator Halch
 - 131 Mix
 - 132 Cafe vessel
 - 133 Craggy hill
 - 134 Peter of Herman's Hermits
 - 135 Lady lobster
- DOWN**
- 1 Float on the breeze
 - 2 Jones of "Show Boal"
 - 3 Type
 - 4 Except
 - 5 Morly's miteu
 - 6 What the shoe does
 - 7 — Rios, Jamaica
 - 8 Ancient tongue
 - 9 Couple
 - 10 Past
 - 11 Tiny tree
 - 12 Indran exporl
 - 13 Archaic ending
 - 14 Gary Lewis & the Playboys hil
 - 15 Let
 - 16 Phantom instrument
 - 18 Skip
 - 21 Beaver's dad
 - 23 "I could — horse!"
 - 24 Biblical book
 - 29 "Mocking-bird" singer
 - 32 Attempt to equal
 - 33 Oscar — Renta
 - 35 Tennyson's Arden
 - 36 Green org.
 - 37 Wades through a crowd
 - 39 Julia of "Havana"
 - 40 Babe in the woods
 - 41 Theater sign
 - 42 Arthur of "Maude"
 - 43 Griffin greeting
 - 44 Minnie Driver film
 - 45 Successor
 - 49 Bizarre
 - 52 Rosemary or basil
 - 54 Hunk of gunk
 - 56 Hook's henchman
 - 58 Transport
 - 60 Plot
 - 62 Bridge support
 - 64 Bikini part
 - 66 Whirlpool
 - 68 Like mountain air
 - 69 With "17 Down, Italian slatesman
 - 70 Exec's deg.
 - 71 Actor Lincoln
 - 73 Shorten a sail
 - 74 Hgt.
 - 75 '59 Ritchie Valens hit
 - 78 Starry
 - 82 Pearce piece
 - 84 Remnant
 - 85 Carve a canyon
 - 86 Implement
 - 88 Member of the mil.
 - 89 Joke
 - 91 Tons of lime
 - 93 Hard on the eyes
 - 95 Author Hubbard
 - 98 Brute
 - 100 Pied-a —
 - 103 Breakfast food
 - 105 Got the better of
 - 106 Kevin of "SNL"
 - 107 Part of EMT
 - 108 Shipbuilding need
 - 109 Passed-on item
 - 111 Fleming and Linkletter
 - 112 Consequences alternative
 - 113 Skater Sonja
 - 115 Budge
 - 117 See 69 Down
 - 118 Fluffy coil
 - 120 Brude of "Coming Home"
 - 122 "Whether — nobler in the mind . . ."
 - 124 Medical grp.
 - 125 Corn portion
 - 126 Perch part
 - 127 Waugh's "The Loved —"

SEE ANSWERS, C9

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HOROSCOPES

■ **PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** What seems to be an ideal investment should be checked out thoroughly before you snap at the offer and find yourself hooked by an expensive scam.

■ **ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** Although you tend to bore easily and leave others to finish what you start, this is one time when you'd be wise to complete things on your own. Then you can move on to something new.

■ **TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** Your indecision about a personal situation might come out of those mixed signals you're getting. Best not to make any commitments until you have a better sense of how things are going.

■ **GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** A dispute appears to be getting out of hand. But you should be able to step in and bring it all under control soon. Be patient. News about a potential career move might be delayed.

■ **CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Career obligations could interfere with important personal plans. But using a combination of common sense and compromise helps resolve the dilemma to everyone's satisfaction.

■ **LEO (July 23 to August 22)** A stressful situation drains some of your energy reserves. But you soon bounce back in time to finish your tasks and enjoy a well-deserved weekend getaway.

■ **VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** This is a good time to throw a party for friends and colleagues

and surprise them with your dazzling domestic skills. You might also want to reconsider that career move you put on hold.

■ **LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** A sudden change of mind by someone you relied on could cause a delay in moving ahead with your plans. But those whom you've helped out before are prepared to return the favor.

■ **SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** You start the week feeling too shy to speak up in front of others. However, your self-assurance soon takes over, giving you the confidence you need to make yourself heard.

■ **SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** One way to deal with a pesky personal dilemma this week is to meet it head-on. Insist on an explanation of why the situation reached this point and what can be done to change it.

■ **CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** The creative Capricorn finds several outlets for her or his talents this week. Also note that while a romantic connection looks promising, remember to allow it to develop on its own.

■ **AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** You stand out this week as the best friend a friend can have. But be careful that you don't take too many bows, or you might see gratitude replaced with resentment.

■ **BORN THIS WEEK:** Your wisdom is matched by your generosity. You are a person who people know they can rely on.

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SUDOKU

By Linda Thistle

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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

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

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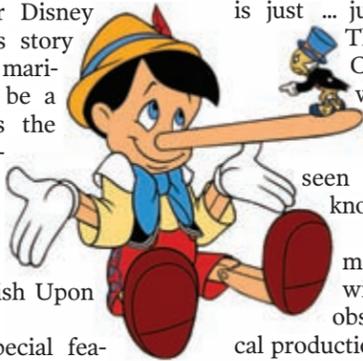
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[DVD PREVIEW & RELEASES]

PICK OF THE WEEK

► **“Pinocchio 70th Anniversary Platinum Edition”** - “Pinocchio” is one of the greatest animated films of all time, and this two-disc set is a must-have for any animation — or Disney — fan’s library. This story of the adventures of a marionette that longs to be a real live boy marks the debut of Jiminy Cricket, the narrator of the tale and Pinocchio’s conscience, and the singer of the classic song, “When You Wish Upon A Star.”



The collection’s special features include: audio commentary, a sing-along feature, a behind-the-scenes featurette on the making of “Pinocchio,” deleted scenes (including an alternate ending), deleted songs, games and a lot more.

ALSO THIS WEEK

► **“Rachel Getting Married”** - Director Jonathan Demme (“Silence of the Lambs”) assembles a top-notch cast for this compelling ensemble piece. Anne Hathaway stars as Kym, a young woman who is in rehab but returns to her family’s Connecticut home for her sister’s wedding. Kym’s presence serves as a catalyst for unveiling some buried family issues.

“Transporter 3” - Jason Statham returns as The Transporter, whose mission is to drive a Russian woman named Valentina across Europe. The hitch? They are fitted with explosive bracelets that will blow them up if they stray more than 75 feet from the car. The action sequences

and fight choreography in this film are awesome. One of the best action movies of 2008.

“Synecdoche New York” - This movie is just ... just ... weird. And wonderful. This is the directorial debut of Charlie Kaufman, the guy who wrote “Being John Malkovich” and “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind,” so if you’ve seen those movies, you kind of know what you’re in for.

The movie stars Philip Seymour Hoffman as a guy whose wife has left him, so he becomes obsessed with creating a theatrical production that will mirror all of New York City. He builds the set in a giant warehouse and begins to cast the production with doppelgangers of himself, his ex-wife, his new girlfriend and well, everybody else.

After a while the production gets to a point of such surreality that the doubles now require people to play THEM. Then things get weirder. And yet, somehow, Mr. Kaufman is able to take this swirling mass of interconnected storylines and resolve the whole shebang by the end of the movie.

TV SERIES

- “**South Park**” The Complete Twelfth Season
- “**The Girls Next Door**” Seasons 1-4
- “**Get Smart**” Season 2
- “**Family Ties**” The Fifth Season
- “**Caroline in the City**” The Second Season
- “**The Starter Wife**” Season 1 ■

Let’s Talk! My Featured Listings...

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2748 Tiburon Blvd, Unit C-103

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Villas Pienza:
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2874 Castillo Court, Unit 101

Bolero at Tiburon:
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2625 Estrella Court, Unit 103
2647 Bolero Drive, unit 101

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THE MUSIC GOURMET

A thoughtful piano performance enthralls an audience at the Phil



PegGOLDBERG LONGSTRETH

plongstreth@floridaweekly.com

He first performed to a standing ovation at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts two seasons ago. This past week, Russian-born pianist Kirill Gerstein enthralled a sellout crowd upon his return, this time to join forces with the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra to give a rock-solid performance of Brahms "Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-Flat Major, Op. 83."

It was clear Gerstein was a star on the rise by the time he was 14, when he came to the United States to study music at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. By the time he was 20, he had earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the Manhattan School of Music.

The multi-dimensional Gerstein then began what is proving to be a dizzying pace, literally circling the globe: one day performing as a chamber musician, another as a recitalist, the next as a soloist with an increasing number of major orchestras around the world.

Assuming his schedule would make even a brief telephone interview all but impossible, I was delighted when our stars aligned and we were able to chat at length about all things musical for several minutes prior to his arrival in Naples.

Gerstein speaks exactly as he per-

forms: thoughtfully. I can think of no better word to describe his approach to the keyboard.

Unlike fellow countryman Dmitri Ratser, who has gigantic hands and seemingly unending wrists and is drama personified when he performs, there is nothing flashy about Gerstein. He performed a monumental concerto here flawlessly, a myriad of elegant tones and shades to his playing, but without a hint of flamboyancy.

The Brahms gave virtually every section of the orchestra a chance to shine as well, perhaps the most beautiful of which was principal cellist Adam Satinsky's glorious "love song" with his cello, then joined by the remainder of the cello section and the violas.

Not surprisingly, the Brahms ended with a much-deserved standing ovation. Both Gerstein and the Jorge Mester, the Phil's maestro, returned again and again to acknowledge the accolades.

The Brahms was the third and final selection of the evening. The first two numbers — Dvorak's "Carnival Overture, Op. 92," and Dohnanyi's "Suite in F-Sharp Minor, Op. 19" — were as lushly performed, both replete with a mélange of musical textures.

The orchestra never sounded better than during the torridly paced, fortissimo opening of the Dvorak, at one moment somehow reminiscent of the theme from "The Lone Ranger" and at the next like liquid gold, as one feels the coming of sunrise through the mas-



Kirill Gerstein

COURTESY PHOTO

terful oboe performance by principal Judy Christy. Concertmaster Glenn Basham added greatly to the piece as it unfolded.

And the Dohnanyi? Mester described the selection as so lovely it is "bathed in sunlight and olive oil."

Indeed, it was precisely that. It abounded with little surprises — pres-

to one moment, the melody line shifting to the two harps, shifting again with a rhythmic "chanting" of the tympani that was almost Indian in its affect.

Gorgeous and lush, these first two selections were so beautifully performed that the Brahms was almost superfluous. Almost.

And so it was a wonderful week of great classical music, just what the doctor ordered to cleanse one's heart from the now omnipresent worldwide despair.

But while everyone continues to wax rhapsodic about the New York Philharmonic, once again I will be so audacious as to say that, hands down, our Maestro is worlds apart — and better than Lorin Maazel. Admit it: Mester is truly one of the most exciting conductors on the planet today. I offer up a prayer of thanksgiving every time I see him, wrists and baton a blur of motion, extracting every scintilla of beauty out of every selection the our orchestra performs.

Still comparing the two orchestras? Double our string section, horns, bassoons. Add 30 years to the average age of our musicians. Now you're comparing apples to apples. Naples will never, thank God, be New York City. But it does have one of the most exciting orchestras and conductors on the planet today. ■

Peg Goldberg Longstreth was trained as a classical musician. She owns Longstreth-Goldberg Art Gallery in Naples.

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'The Merry Widow' makes its way to the stage at The Norris Center

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY



VERZATT

The Manhattan Lyric Opera Company brings its production of "The Merry Widow" to The Norris Center for one performance beginning at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 10. The company last performed at Cambier Park in 2005, when touring Donizetti's "The Elixir of Love."

Opera aficionados who love a good old-fashioned operetta won't want to miss this production of Franz Lehar's "The Merry Widow." Set in fin-de-siecle Paris, the operetta lampoons relationships and politics in a world of waltzes and folk tales with a touch of sentimental fun and a little naughty trickery. Unrequited love and mistaken identities help to flush out this popular romantic production. Noted songs from the score include "Vilja



TORMELA

Song," "De geh'ich zu Maxim" and the "Merry Widow Waltz."

MLO cuts down almost all of its productions to 90 minutes, adding super-titles and projected sets for a user-friendly approach. Its "Merry Widow" is a new abridged production written and directed by Stage Director Marc Verzatt with projected sets and scene explanations by Artistic Director Anne Tormela. The cast includes Nat Chandler as Prince Danilo Danilovitch, Kreshnik Zhabjaku as Baron Mirko Zeta and Anne Tormela as Hanna Glawari.

Tickets to the one-night-only performance are \$30. For reservations and more information, call or visit The Norris Center box office, 213-3049 or 755 Eighth Avenue South. ■

Woman's Club Antiques Show set for March 13-14

The fourth annual Naples Woman's Club Antiques Show takes place Friday and Saturday, March 13-14, at the club's home at 570 Park St. in downtown Naples. A preview party will be held from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12. Guests will enjoy wine, appetizers and desserts as they preview the best

of the show. Preview tickets for \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door include admission to the show Friday and Saturday. Regular admission to the show is \$7 at the door.

To purchase preview tickets, call 262-6331. For more information, visit www.napleswomensclub.org. ■

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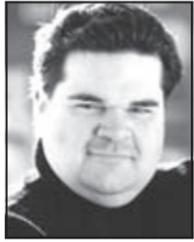
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Opera stars in concert to benefit Opera Naples



NEILL

Tenor Stuart Neill and soprano Sandra Lopez perform a concert of Verdi and Puccini arias and duets in a benefit for Opera Naples beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, in the Performing Arts Hall at Gulf Coast High School. Tickets are \$200 per person and include a reception with Mr. Neill and Ms. Lopez.

Mr. Neill made opera history in January in the title role of Don Carlo as the first American tenor ever to open the season at La Scala. Through his performances in the world's finest opera houses and concert halls with leading conductors and orchestras, he continues to establish himself as one of the most important tenors in the classical world today.

Ms. Lopez, a graduate of the prestigious



LOPEZ

Lindemann Young Artist Development Program of the Metropolitan Opera, has performed at the Met as Marquerite in "Faust," Liu in "Turandot," Roberta Alden in the world premier of Tobias Picker's "An American Tragedy" and as Catherine in the world premier of "A View from the Bridge." She has been a winner and finalist of competitions including the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions and the Florida Grand Opera Young Patroness competition.

The concert at Gulf Coast High School is presented by Opera Naples and The Moran Asset Management Group of Wachovia Securities. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Sugden Community Theater box office at 263-7990. ■

Gulfshore Ballet presents 'BRAVO! Ballet' March 29

Gulfshore Ballet, Southwest Florida's only nonprofit classical ballet school, presents its annual fundraiser, "BRAVO! Ballet," Sunday afternoon, March 29, at Cypress Lake Center for the Arts in Fort Myers.

This year's performance will feature dancers from the ranks of the world-renowned New York City Ballet. Among other performers, Darci Kistler, Ashley Boudier, Tiler Peck and Amar Ramasar will grace the "BRAVO!" stage again this year. In addition, Stephen Hanna, who performs the role of Billy's older self in the Broadway hit "Billy Elliot," will return to the "BRAVO!" stage. Following Mr. Hanna's performance with "BRAVO!," he will offer a class and demonstration for students at Edison Park Elementary on Monday, March 30.

General admission tickets from \$35-\$65 are available by calling the "BRAVO! Ballet" ticket line at 214-0446. Patron tickets are also available for \$150 and include preferred seating, reserved parking and an invitation to the Sunset With the Dancers party immediately following the performance where patrons have the opportunity to meet the cast of "BRAVO!Ballet." The party will be hosted by and held on the campus of Edison State College, Fort Myers. Reservations for patron tickets can be made by calling 472-3817.

Tickets for a Dream Trip drawing

will be available for purchase in the lobby at Cypress Lake Center for the Performing Arts on the afternoon of the "BRAVO!Ballet" performance. The Dream Trip consists of round-



COURTESY PHOTO

New York City Ballet's Stephen Hanna, shown here in "Stars and Stripes," performs in "Bravo! Ballet" in Fort Myers on Sunday, March 29.

trip tickets for two to New York City and two tickets to a New York City Ballet performance.

Cypress Lake Center for the Performing Arts is at 6750 Panther Lane in Fort Myers.

Proceeds from "BRAVO!Ballet" benefit Gulfshore Ballet. The ballet school was founded by an internationally acclaimed faculty in 2000. The school offers classes for adults and children. A number of Gulfshore's graduates have gone on to study at the world-renowned School of American Ballet. ■

POPS

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Jack Everly, *conductor*

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Tuesday-Saturday, March 10-14, 8 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, March 14-15, 2 p.m.

\$74

The Tuesday Pops performance is generously underwritten anonymously.

The Wednesday Pops performance is generously underwritten by U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management.

The Thursday Pops performance is generously underwritten by Northern Trust.

The Friday Pops performance is generously underwritten by Physicians Regional Healthcare System.

NATIONAL FOOD DRIVE

The Naples Philharmonic Orchestra has joined more than 200 orchestras across the country in the Orchestras Feeding America National Food Drive, in conjunction with the release of the film *The Soloist*. Please bring canned goods and non-perishable items to these pops concerts and participate. Donations benefit local charitable organizations.

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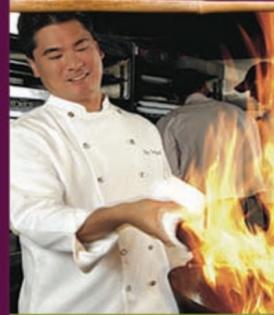
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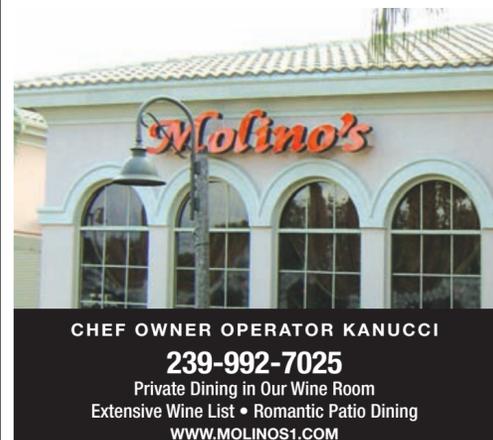
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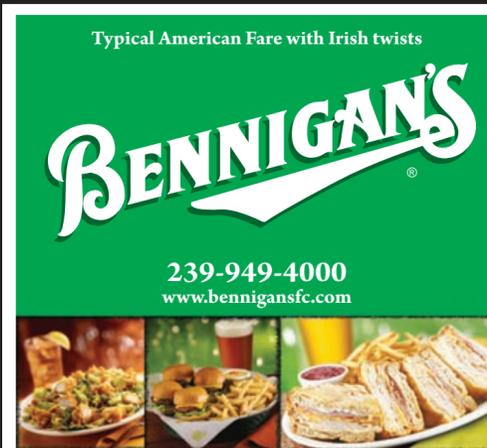
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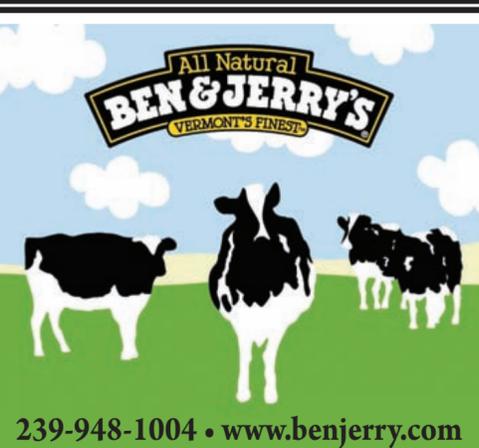


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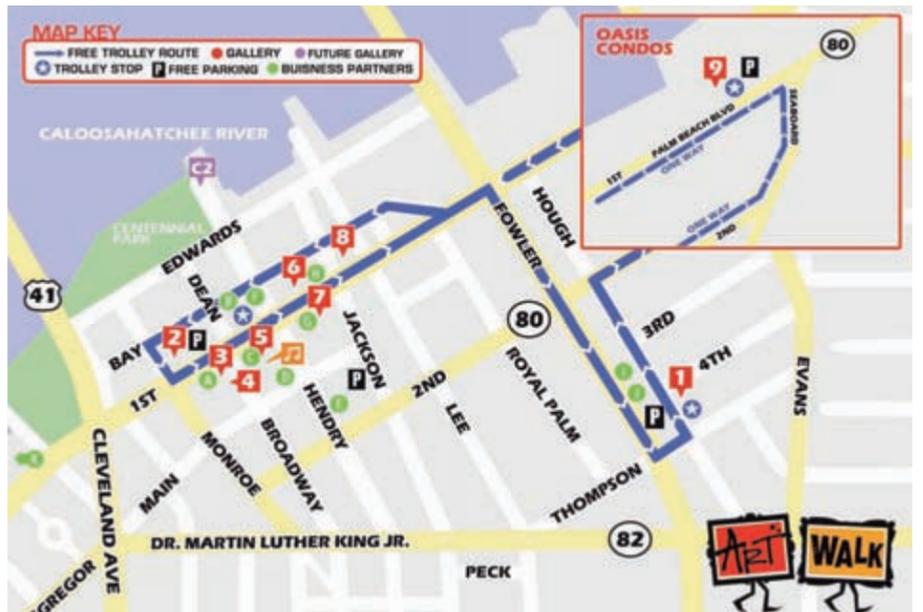
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Art Walk in Fort Myers features 9 galleries



Art Walk, downtown Fort Myers' monthly celebration of art, food and music, will be Friday, March 6, from 6 to 10 p.m.

March marks the sixth time for the new monthly Art Walk that debuted in October. Held the first Friday of every month, Art Walk showcases local and national artwork in the downtown art galleries of the Fort Myers River District.

The evening culminates with an after party at 10 p.m. This week, it's "Friday Night Fever Disco Dance Party" at Venu night club. It features a live performance by Fred Astaire dance professionals. For VIP table reservations, call Ryan at Venu, 770-8368. General admission is \$5 and can be paid at the door.

Participants in March's monthly Art Walk include the Alliance for the Arts, Art League of Fort Myers, Arts for ACT Gallery and Boutique, The Butterfly Estates, daas Gallery, HOWL Gallery, La Casa Del Arte Gallery, Space 39 Gallery and The Oasis Luxury Condominiums.

Art Walk on March 6 will feature:

- **Art League of Fort Myers:** Opening of the Springtime Fine Arts Show with awards and reception from 6-7:30 p.m.
- **Arts for ACT Gallery:** Opening reception for March's exhibit featuring artists Otto von Kotzebue, Gloria Audo, Patricia Mulko and Carol Siegel
- **The Butterfly Estates:** Exhibit featuring artists Larry Chance and John Schellenberg.
- **daas Gallery:** Opening reception for the first U.S. exhibition of Master Scottish painter Ronnie Ford.
- **HOWL Gallery:** Art walk premier at the new Broadway Avenue location next to Starbucks.
- **La Casa Del Arte Gallery:** Opening reception for a new show featuring seven

Peruvian internationally renowned artists in "Simplemente Peru" (Simply Peru) with sculptor Marcelo Wong and painters Hernan Sosa, Eduardo Tokeshi, Victor Cadillo, Miguel Wetzels, Rosa Tello, and Joseph Firbas.

➤ **The Oasis:** Penthouse art exhibit courtesy of Robb & Stucky featuring the work of Juan Diaz.

➤ **Space 39:** A new exhibit called Blue featuring the work of Pavol Roskovensky.

➤ From 5-8 p.m. in the **Patio de Leon**, John Mooney will play slide guitar and originals.

➤ At about 9:30 p.m., watch fire dancing by **Christar**, courtesy of the Alliance for the Arts.

A free shuttle service is available with a pickup downtown in front of Enjewel on First Street. The shuttle takes patrons from downtown to The Butterfly Estates, La Casa del Arte and Oasis. Free parking is available for art walk patrons at the Harborside Event Center and The Butterfly Estates. A map of Art Walk, transportation, and parking will be distributed by participating galleries. For more information on Art Walk, participating galleries and links to gallery Web sites, visit www.fortmyersartwalk.com or call 478-6053. ■

Art Walk Galleries

- 1 - La Casa Del Arte
- 2 - Art League of Fort Myers
- 3 - HOWL Gallery
- 4 - daas Gallery
- 5 - Space 39
- 6 - Arts for ACT Gallery
- 7 - Art of the Olympians
- 8 - Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center
- 9 - The Oasis Luxury Condominiums

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COURTESY PHOTO

Chuck the clown

CIRCUS

From page 1

Bauer's Circus Maximus and a 15th-generation member of one of Switzerland's oldest circus families.

- Bello Nock, a comedic daredevil and seventh-generation circus performer known as "the Jackie Chan of physical comedy."

- Dolly Jacobs, "the Queen of the Air," and Yuri Rjkov performing aerial pas de deux. The daughter of legendary circus clown Lou Jacobs, Ms. Jacobs has been invited twice to the Circus Festival of Monaco and has won the festival's prestigious Silver Clown and Le Dame du Cirque awards. Mr. Rjkov, a graduate of the Moscow Circus School, has performed with the Moscow Bolshoi Circus, Circus Scott in Sweden and the Big Apple Circus in New York City.

- Dog trainer David Rosaire and his Perky Pokes have performed at the London Palladium, Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, New York's Lincoln Center and the Cirque d'Hiver in Paris. Mr. Rosaire's parents were the principle acts of Circus Rosaire, one of England's largest shows in its day.

- The elegant and mysterious Vladimir

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Circus Sarasota 2009: "Bello Comes Home"

>>When: March 6-29
 >>Where: Under the big top at Gulf Coast Town Center
 >>Cost: \$10, \$22, \$32, \$42 and \$47 (limited VIP box seats)
 >>Information: (941) 355-9805 or www.CircusSarasota.org



COURTESY PHOTO

Comedic daredevil Bello Nock

and Olga Smirnov, quick-change artists and illusionists in the classic Russian style.

- Eighth-generation circus equestrian Caroline Williams.

- Russian contortionist Alexey Goloborodko.

- Semeon Krachinov, a 20-year-old juggler who has been training since he was 11 and who has been featured at the Russian State Circus.

- Wang Hong, a Chinese foot juggler who won a gold medal at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain for her "Magic Feet of the Orient" routine.

Circus Sarasota will deliver 32 performances during its stay at Gulf Coast Town Center. Tickets for matinee and evening shows begin at \$10 and can be purchased online at www.CircusSarasota.org or by calling the box office at (941) 355-9805. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the box office. ■

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Collection at Vanderbilt hosts Naples Masters Art Festival

The Naples Masters Art Festival debuts this weekend at Collection at Vanderbilt, bringing 120 fine artists and their wares to the center at Vanderbilt Beach and Airport Pulling roads. The juried show is produced by Boulderbrook Productions and Richard Sullivan; a portion of proceeds will benefit the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

Artisans skilled in oils, pastels, woodworking, sculpture, ceramics, metal, photography, fabric, glass and jewelry will display and sell their works. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8.

Parking at Collection at Vanderbilt is abundant and free. ■



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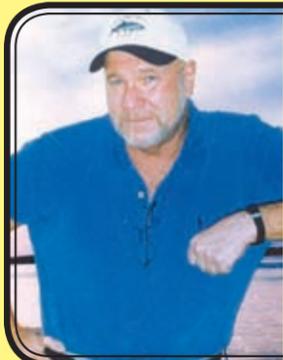
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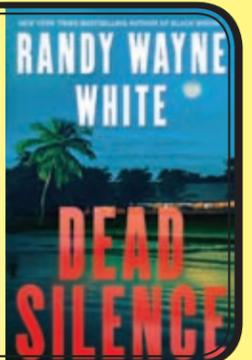
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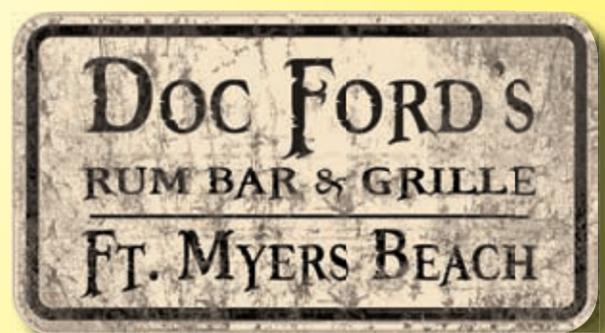
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JEAN
 LE BOEUF

Reviewed: Ft. Myers News Press 03/08

Be a star behind the scenes as a volunteer stage manager for The Naples Players

If you love live theater but prefer being behind the scenes rather than on stage, if you enjoy being a problem solver and have organizational and managerial skills, and if you'd like to be part of a show from auditions to the final curtain call, The Naples Players has a role for you.

The theater has opportunities for volunteer beginning and advanced stage managers for productions throughout the year.

Learn what's involved by attending the Beginning Stage Management workshop from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at Sugden Community Theatre. Production Manager Rhoda Pugh will discuss the responsibilities of being a stage manager or assistant stage manager, from the first reading of a script to the strike of the set.

How do you know if this challenging and fun position is right for you? Consider these telling conditions:

- You might be a stage manager if you can't resist adjusting a tilted picture (you need things to be right).

- You might be a stage manager if you have eyes in the back of your head and can juggle (you are adept at handling several tasks at the same time).

- You might be a stage manager if you get a kick out of rescuing a situation (you pride yourself on being a great problem solver).

- You might be a stage manager if you consider yourself a detail-oriented perfectionist (from start to finish, you know what's happening and who is doing what).

For information about becoming a volunteer stage manager, or about other volunteer opportunities at The Naples Players, contact Becky Troop, director of volunteer services, at 434-7340, ext. 14 or btroop@naplesplayers.org ■

New play contest entries wanted

The Naples Players ETC... Readers Theatre invites playwrights in Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Glades and Hendry counties to submit their original non-musical plays to An Evening of New Plays 2009 Contest. Plays must be 10 to 30 minutes long. Up to three finalists will staged later this year in the Tobye

Studio at Sugden Community Theatre.

Deadline for entries is May 31. Submissions should be mailed to New Plays Contest, Sugden Community Theatre, 701 Fifth Ave. South, Naples 34102.

For more information, contact Joan Laughlin at 434-4192 or venus46@naples.net. ■

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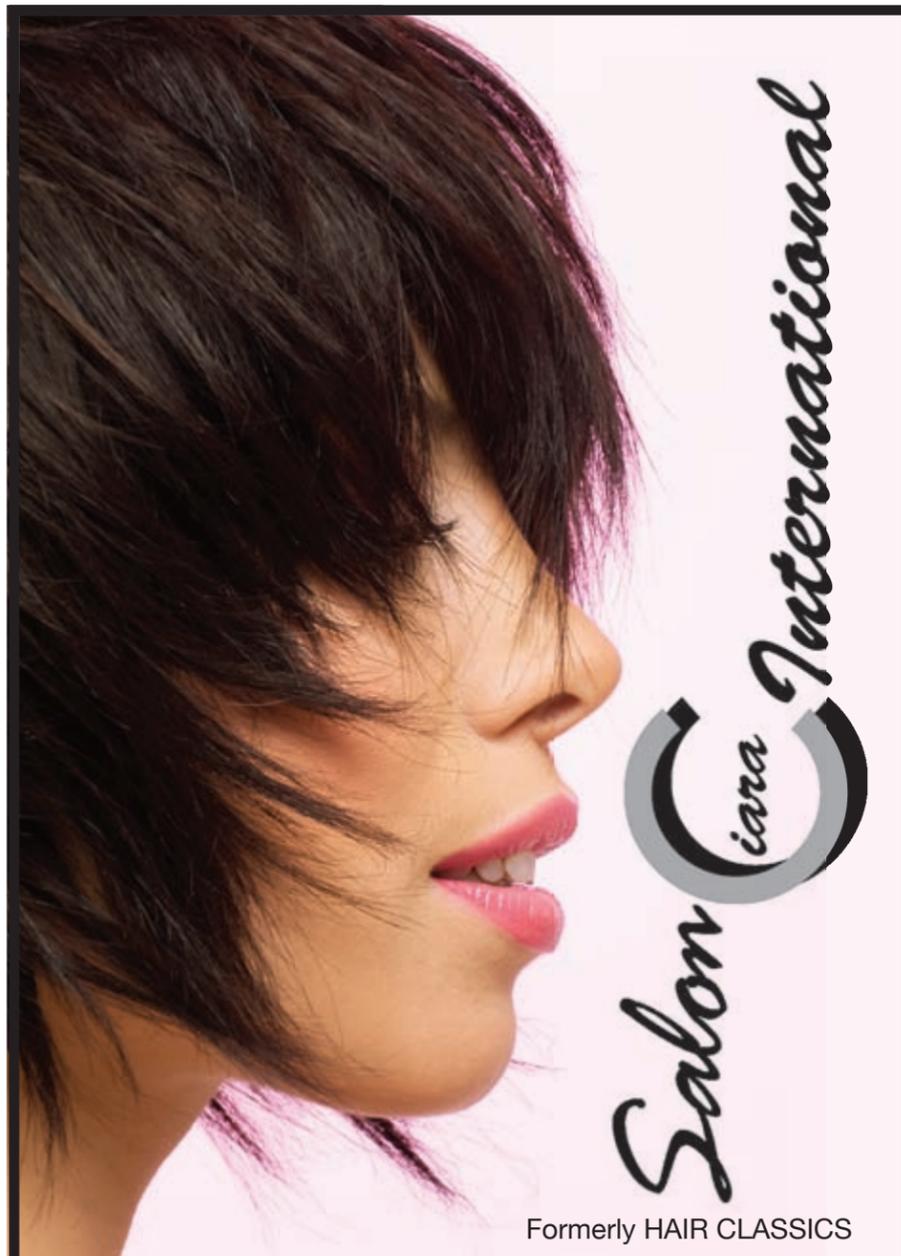
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Subway • Johnny's Pizza • Kelly's Cocoons • Sanibel Art & Frame • Curves • Island Grooming by Lisa

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Orchid Show at The Village Shops
March 21st
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For Ticket information call 239-985-3550

Art Modern Gallery showcases works by Captiva's Stella Farwell

Captiva Art Modern Gallery presents "Stella Farwell: New Works," a much-anticipated solo exhibition of works by the Captiva Island artist March 7-28. The show opens with a reception with the artist from 5-9 p.m. Saturday, March 7.

With swirling shapes of biomorphic compositions, Ms. Farwell develops her ideas in two- and three-dimensional form. In her multi-colored world, viewers can view her works as art and also interact with them.

Ms. Farwell's organic, contemporary forms represent a hint into the artist's world that is bright, elegant and whimsical but also highly technical with mediums such as hand-made paper, acrylic, metal and stone.

Formally trained in fine art at Tulane University, Ms. Farwell has exhibited in high-profile gal-

eries and museum shows through the course of her career. Her works are in public, corporate and private collections in North America and as Europe and Asia.

The public is invited to meet the artist at the opening reception March 7. Art Modern Gallery is at 751 12th Avenue South. Regular hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday. For more information, call 263-1137, e-mail info@artmodern-gallery.com or visit www.artmodern-gallery.com. ■



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Rauschenberg Gallery features 'black' works of Syd Solomon

The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery, on the campus of Edison State College, hosts "Syd Solomon: On Black," March 13-April 9, with an opening and reception March 13 from 6-8 p.m. There will be a gallery talk at 7 p.m. with Mike Solomon.

Syd Solomon (1917-2004) was born in Union Town, Pa., and studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. After serving in Europe during World War II, he attended L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. In Sarasota, he studied at the Ringling School of Art and Design.

This exhibit is the first survey of paintings that focuses exclusively on Mr. Solomon's career long involvement with the color black. The exhibit includes 30 works selected from the estate's collection dating from 1945-1989. Mr. Solomon's works are held in numerous permanent collections, including The Baltimore Museum of Art, Butler Institute of American Art, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Norton Gallery of Art, Tampa Museum, Tate Gallery in London, Tel Aviv Museum and the Whitney Museum of Art.

Though the use of the color black has been an important element of Mr. Solomon's work since the beginning of his career, there has

never been an exhibition devoted exclusively to his use of the color. The paintings in this exhibit represent some of his most complex works in which black plays a crucial role. For an artist whose formal interests had to do with layers of colors that are punctuated by gesture, black served as the ultimate context from which all other light emerges.

Mr. Solomon's experimental use of water-based polymers, the precursors to acrylic paint, led him to develop a unique understanding of layering, which manifested itself in his invention of a resist technique using spray paints and masking paste on colored canvas grounds. His technique had a precedent in the watercolor tradition, in which oral atomizers are used to spray wet colors over existing dried colors saved in certain areas by wax. Mr. Solomon was able to make a much larger version of the resist effect using his technique on large canvases. Although Mr. Solomon used many colors for grounds to receive his spray applications, it is certainly black which absorbs all other colors so absolutely. Most of the paintings in this exhibition were started on black grounds.

For additional information, call 489-9313 or go to www.bobRauschenberggallery.com. ■



Syd Solomon *Marcho*, oil and acrylic on canvas, 1976



Syd Solomon *Stratalure*, oil and acrylic on canvas, 1980

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- 4. Carol Lutgen and Diane Welsh
- 5. Mosey Gunther, Jean Hertzog, Martha Fligg and Donna Eskra
- 6. Barbara Jordan, Kathy Pezzuti, Peggy Redlinger and Boo Mortenson
- 7. Bunny D'Amico and Laurie Emfield
- 8. Jill Jackson, Carol Tyskwicz and Charmaine Powers
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Preview party for the Naples Botanical Garden Trunk Show

7. Albert and Jean Snead, Nita Leftwich, Ruth Kern
8. Kevin and Jennifer Walker
9. Judy Sproul and Connie Dickinson
10. Catherine and Tim Ware
11. Joan Hazelton, Sherry Mills and Bev Haas
12. Connie Alsbrook, Sondra Quinn and Pat Blankenship

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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY



The Naples Art Association's Third on Canvas Gala and Auction

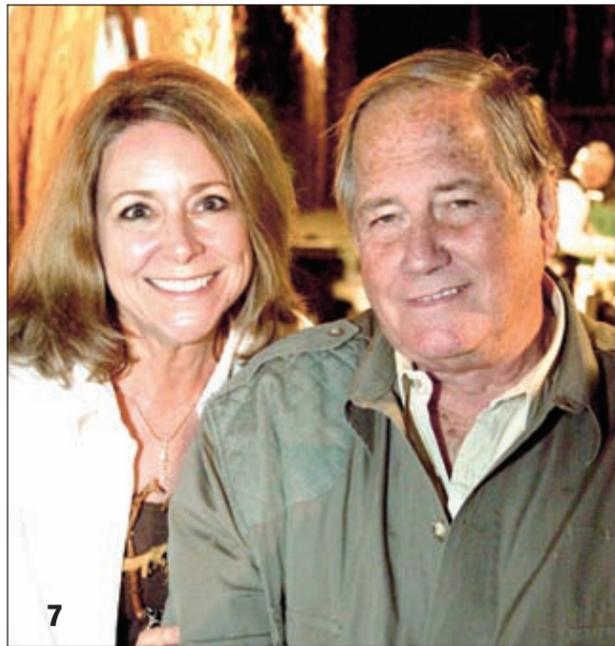
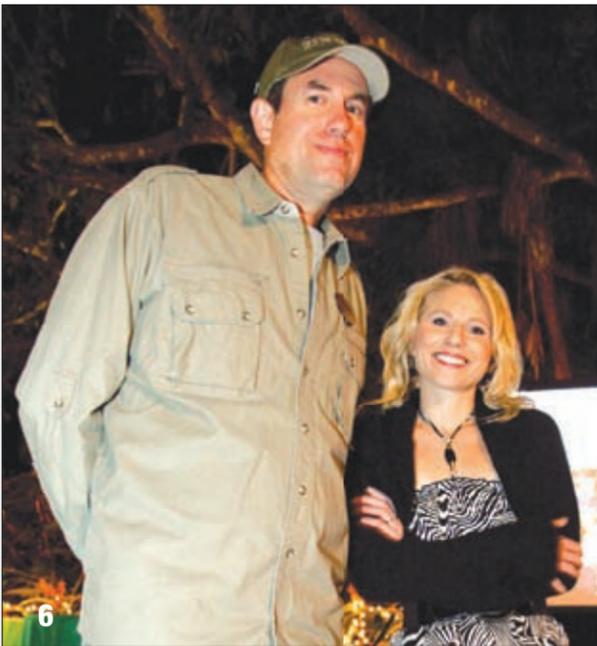
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PAST REPASTS

Here are capsule summaries of previous restaurant reviews:

Blue Water Bistro, Coconut Point, 23151 Village Shops Way, Estero; 949-2583

The newest of the Culinary Concepts restaurants, Blue Water Bistro fits in well with the contemporary look and feel of Coconut Point. A casual bistro specializing in seafood, there's something for everyone on the menu. High points of a recent meal included crab- and lobster-stuffed pot stickers, crispy crunchy calamari, morning-after mussels, chicken limone and a delicious vegetable platter (create your own from the list of veggies and starches). Less successful was a nightly special, of three white fish that came devoid of sauce or color. Pineapple upside down cake with rum raisin ice cream ended the meal nicely. Full bar.

For a rich dessert that's big enough to share, consider the dark chocolate cheesecake with Oreo crust at Blue Water Bistro.

Food: ★★★½ Service: ★★★ Atmosphere: ★★★½

M Waterfront Grille, Village on Venetian Bay, 4300 Gulf Shore Blvd. N., Naples; 263-4421

Maxwell's on the Bay has undergone a fabulous update with a sleek new look and a sophisticated menu to match. There was no improving upon the view of Naples Bay, which remains a focal point, but the

dining room, done in lots of woods and earth tones, gives the restaurant a contemporary, stylish air. Executive Chef Brian Roland's menu features cutting-edge Continental cuisine, with dishes such as heirloom beets with fired goat cheese, escarrot with wild mushrooms, spinach and Boursin cream, orange miso-glazed sea bass with goat cheese dumplings and milk chocolate lava cake. Polished service and an exemplary wine list further enhance the meal. Full bar.

Food: ★★★½ Service: ★★★ Atmosphere: ★★★½

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



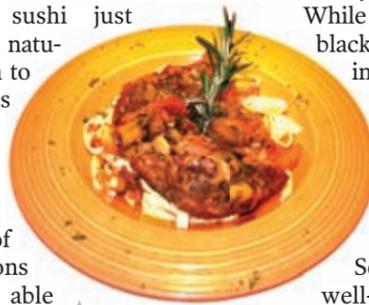
Naples Tomato wine lounge

south 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 raviolinni 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

Noodles Italian Café and Sushi Bar, Mission Square Plaza, 1585 Pine Ridge Road; 592-0050

Pasta and sushi just doesn't seem a natural combination to me, but Noodles makes it work, offering upscale Italian fare, first-class sushi and a handful of low-carb options served by an able staff in a swanky club setting. Items from both East and West were excellent, including a nightly special of grilled shrimp and the whimsically named Paisano roll (fried snapper, scallions and cucumber topped with smoked salmon, avocado, sesame and sweet sauce). The lamb shanks were tender and delicious,



Slow-roasted lamb shanks are tender and moist, accompanied by their natural juices, herbs and vegetables.

served with natural juices enhanced by a bit of wine, garlic, rosemary, bay leaves and celery over house-made fettuccine. The cioppino featured a fresh mix of seafood also served over pasta. For dessert, one wedge of light, creamy Key lime pie was plenty for two. Full bar.

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

Randy's Fishmarket Restaurant, 10395 Tamiami Trail North, Naples; 593-5555

For fresh seafood served in an ultra-casual setting, Randy's is a keeper. Well-worn tables and floors attest to the popularity of this north Naples restaurant. While I'd advise steering clear of the blackened items, in which the seasoning overpowers the seafood, I can heartily recommend the crab cakes, stone crab claws and the Key lime pie, which is a specialty of the house. There are a few non-fish items as well in case a confirmed carnivore happens in by accident. Service was swift but friendly. The well-stocked seafood market affords home cooks ample options for creating their own fish dishes as well. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★★★ Service: ★★★½ Atmosphere: ★★★

Key to ratings

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

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Cote D'Azur showcases cuisine of Provence



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The bright and sunny flavors that comprise Provencal cuisine seem a natural fit for the culture and climate of Naples.

Cote D'Azur is a cozy, romantic and obviously popular spot for Neapolitans who appreciate the pure flavors of this region of southeastern France that adjoins Italy and borders the Mediterranean. Chef/owner Claudio Scaduto's menu celebrates Provencal fare, featuring simply roasted meats and fresh seafood accompanied by fresh vegetables, figs, dried fruit and chestnuts.

The restaurant has the ambience of a lovely little café nestled in the heart of France. With its deep blue walls, and booths with faux windows with white wood frames and flower-filled window boxes, it doesn't feel at all like the narrow strip center storefront that it is. And given the capacity crowd on a recent weeknight, it's clear that it has a loyal following.

Besides the attractive setting, Cote D'Azur has an attentive and knowledgeable staff, most of whom appear to be French. They greet newcomers warmly and keep a careful eye on them throughout their meals. All of that no doubt contributes to its popularity.

Our dinner began well, with a charming young server attendant swiftly producing a warm loaf of bread and a plate of the classic olive oil and balsamic vinegar dipping sauce, returning a short while later to replenish our supply.

The wine list offers 12 varieties by the glass and about 60 by the bottle. Most are French, but Italy, Australia,

New Zealand and California are represented as well. We tried a bottle of Avignonesi Vino Nobile di Montepulciano '04, which had a lovely ruby hue and a well-balanced structure with notes of black cherry and licorice that paired well with dishes such as roasted pheasant and heavily sauced steaks.

Burgundy-style escargots proved to be a refreshing variation on this staple of French menus. There were quite a few tender snails sans shell in a rich butter sauce blended with garlic, shallots, parsley and just a bit of basil.

A plate of house-cured Norwegian salmon carpaccio was so abundant I'd recommend that two — or possibly three — people share it. The fish was mildly flavored and buttery in texture, set off

Roasted red and gold beets lie beneath shaved cheese in a salad of arugula and poached figs.



nice by fresh arugula and watercress, figs, chives and a sprinkling of truffle oil and lemon.

Roasted gold and red baby beets were sweet little treats tucked among arugula and poached figs, then topped with shaved grana padano cheese and drizzled with aged balsamic.

The evening's special entrée was an imaginative presentation of sea bass, scallop and crabmeat with a champagne herb sauce. The crab was served chilled, while the sea bass and large scallop were perfectly cooked and napped with the subtle sauce that allowed their delicate flavors to shine. A surprising and tasty lagnippe was a mound of sweet chestnut puree topped with caviar.

Although not as showy, a New York strip steak looked appealing topped with a wine sauce overflowing with mushrooms. The steak was tender and satisfying, especially when accompanied by buttery mashed potatoes.



PHOTOS KAREN FELDMAN/FLORIDA WEEKLY
An appetizer of cured Norwegian salmon carpaccio topped with arugula and watercress is substantial enough for an entree.

Our other two entrees, however, proved disappointing. The roasted pheasant looked gorgeous — with the golden breast, leg and thigh appetizingly displayed with a generous portion of baby carrots, pearl onions, mushrooms, chestnuts, figs and apricots arranged diagonally on the plate. The vegetables were delicious, but the pheasant was far too salty, overpowering any other seasoning that may have been present.

The New York strip that was delicious with the mushroom and wine sauce looked unappealing beneath a drab beige blanket of au poivre cabernet reduction. The steak was much fattier than the first, and there was nothing to break up the sea of peppercorn-studded sauce that spread across the plate. Placing the mashed potatoes or the night's vegetable (garlic-laced haricot verts) on the plate would have enhanced its visual appeal immensely.

Although our server had assured us the steak wasn't very peppery, it proved to be so, with still more peppercorns embedded in the meat itself. When he saw that I'd eaten only a small portion of the meat, our server asked if I'd like a different entrée. I appreciated the offer (which further illustrates the management's desire to please) but declined since I'd already sampled three appetizers and three other entrees and couldn't do justice to yet another one.

We concluded our meal with poached pear and figs, fresh berries in raspberry coulis with mango sorbet and profiter-

ole with gelato and chocolate sauce.

A port wine cinnamon sauce was delicious with the pear, figs and cool gelato (which the menu said was espresso but tasted like amaretto). The berries were refreshing in a light raspberry coulis and finished with a mound of intensely flavored mango sorbet.

The profiterole's puff pastry and the gelato with which it was stuffed were quite good, but they were drowned in a bowl full of warm Belgian chocolate sauce. I consider myself an unabashed chocolate devotee, but when there's twice as much sauce as what it covers, that's just too much sauce.

From start to finish, it was clear that the staff here prides itself on pleasing its customers. And there's much to recommend this charming little North Naples restaurant. But for Cote D'Azur to shine its brightest, there needs to be more consistency in the kitchen. ■

If you go

Cote D'Azur Restaurant

11224 Tamiami Trail North, Naples; 597-8867

Ratings:
Food: ★★★½
Service: ★★★★★½
Atmosphere: ★★★★★½

- >>**Hours:** 5-9 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday
- >>**Reservations:** Accepted
- >>**Credit cards:** Major cards accepted
- >>**Price range:** appetizers, \$10-\$24; entrees, \$32-\$40
- >>**Beverages:** Wine and beer served
- >>**Seating:** Conventional tables and chairs indoors and on the patio as well as booths in the dining room
- >>**Specialties of the house:** Prince Edward Island mussels, Burgundy style escargots, duck pate and country pate, roasted boneless quail, seared diver Maine sea scallops, filet mignon forestier, roasted Maine lobster in a clay pot
- >>**Volume:** Moderate
- >>**Parking:** Free lot
- >>**Web site:** www.cotedazurrestaurant.com

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

diningCALENDAR

* **Thursday, March 5, 6-8 p.m., The Good Life:** Shelling Out with the Girls is a cooking class with Annie DePiero, who will prepare warm shellfish salad, ragout of seafood on a bed of spinach rice and simple mussels, assisted by two members of the class; \$50, Collection at Vanderbilt, Airport Pulling and Vanderbilt Beach roads; 514-4663.

* **Saturday, March 7, 7-9 p.m., Robb & Stucky KitchenAid Culinary Center:** Wine dinner with wines presented by Frank Pulice of Austin's Wine Cellar and a five-course tasting menu by Chef Kristina San Filippo; \$95, 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; 390-2222.

* **Sunday, March 8, 3-4 p.m., The von Liebig Art**

Center: Greg Shapiro of Tastebuds Custom Catering conducts a culinary workshop, Coupon Shopping Without Coupons, explaining how consumers can evaluate purchases to ensure they get the best value; \$45, 585 Park St.; 262-6517, ext. 102.

* **Monday, March 9, 6-8 p.m., Robb & Stucky KitchenAid Culinary Center:** Join Chef Kristina San Filippo as she prepares a sampling of traditional Irish fare; \$45, 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; 390-2222.

* **Monday, March 9, 6-8 p.m., Whole Foods Market:** Wine Makes the Meal: South America cooking and wine tasting session with wines from Chile and Argentina paired with regional dishes by chef Lynn Novo of Comfort Sisters - Good Food; \$15; 9101 Strada Place; 552-5100. Advance registration required.

* **Tuesday, March 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Haskell's The Wine People:** Learn to cook Southern Italian cuisine with chef Vincenzo Betulia (four courses plus four wines); \$85, 2021 Pine Ridge Road; 254-1120.

* **Tuesday, March 10, 6-8 p.m., The Good Life:** A Gaelic Twist, with Annie DePiero preparing a traditional Irish dinner of dingle pies, lamb stew, champ (potatoes and onions) and tricolor cheesecake; \$50, Collection at Vanderbilt, Airport Pulling and Vanderbilt Beach roads; 514-4663.

* **Tuesday, March 10 and Friday, March 13, 6:30 p.m., Fleming's Steakhouse:** The Vintage Rock Wine Dinner features wines from Mick Fleetwood and B.R. Cohn, whose Doobie Red honors his years as manager of the Doobie Brothers; \$55, 8985 Tamiami Trail North; 598-2424.

* **Friday, March 13, 7-9 p.m., Robb & Stucky KitchenAid Culinary Center:** Frank Pulice of Austin's presents wines from the Finger Lakes and Long Island, N.Y., as well as Canada's Niagara Peninsula and British Columbia paired with a tasting menu by chef Kristina San Filippo; \$95, 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; 390-2222.

* **Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m., Whole Food Market:** Kids Club cooking class, with instructor Denise Petersen showing how to conjure up Dr. Seuss-inspired fare such as Green Eggs and Ham, Noodle-Eating-Poodle Noodles and Pink Yink Ink Drink; free, 9101 Strada Place; 552-5100. Advance registration required.

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