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“They are content to simply have the attention of a person all to themselves.”

— Donna Forster, Greyhound Adoption Kennel in North Fort Myers

Greyhounds need home as track halts racing for summer

BY KAREN FELDMAN
cuisine@floridaweekly.com

Come Tuesday, greyhound racing goes on hiatus at the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track for the first time in almost 15 years. “We’re going back to the old days when there was a racing circuit,” says track general manager Larry Baldwin, referring to the era when the Bonita Springs track raced half the year then

the dogs moved to the Flagler Greyhound Track in Miami (which has the same owners as Bonita Springs) for the rest of the year. “About 60 percent are transferring over to Miami and others are going to Iowa and Alabama.” Summer attendance has been down for the past two or three years, Mr. Baldwin says. “There’s more competition out there with

KAREN FELDMAN/
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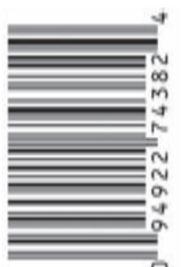
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COMMENTARY

Just one more time



rogerWILLIAMS

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Hot these days, isn't it?

Cone or cup, shake or malt, whadaya say? Let's go for ice cream at the end of the day, where ceiling fans turn like second-hand time and people sit like eager supplicants. I'll pray for your sweet indulgence, if that's OK.

Let's go, but remember to take me, too. We'll sit and lick and spoon and suck the ice cream evening bing-bang-boom through mulberry dusk into black-plum night, whadaya say? Outside, they'll glow like a neon premonition — all those trees, I mean, their oak-pine-palm-and-cypress insistence distinct in daylight ecosystems, but reborn before dark as the vast and singular: a boundless forest of Southern extravagance, cored of detail right down to the shimmering mangrove waterline.

Is all that too much to ask, just one more time? You can butter it up with a rising moon if you wish, I won't say no. Or trade the ice cream moment for any — for baseball and beer, or dogs and hogs, a ballet or a reverberating brace of six-string guitars. You pick, I'm good.

But if that's too much, then how about the boat? Let's load the coolers,

outfit the rods, stock the bait well, and hitch the trailer. Back'er down the ramp easy and squirt her out like a whipped-cream dollop, then tie her off to float high and pretty until we board her. Come on, let's make the open water now, with its wind-washed salt-cured musk, as fragrant as consummation (you know what I'm talking about). Whadaya say to that American day, just one more time?

If not that, then remember me this: I want to stand a quarter-mile downwind of a school playground — that's right, just one more time. Let me listen to the sounds of children laughing.

Or let me see them this way (I'll do the laughing, this time): Arranged in anxious lines before their parent's expectations, scrubbed and dressed and hopeful. I'll take a piano and a church-front stage to go with that, if you don't mind (any pew and any seat will do, no kidding), complete with smiling teacher dressed in blond to watch them play her baby grand. Let every recital note they hit, both limp and strong and sometimes wrong, become a tuneful prayer. I'd even settle for a single note, just one, to swell within my ear (and brain and heart and soul). A middle C — but I'm not fussy. Any D or E or F or G or A or B would do, it's true, along with variations sharp or flat, and bright or blue.

Something else. Can I just glimpse a slender road that rolls away but not

quite straight, dipping and lifting into those misty Southern mountains like 20 miles of whip-cracked ribbon? I'll take it at dawn or dusk or midday too, if you don't mind — and I don't need but a second or two, a second or two or three will do, of long clear look. You know, just one more time.

Do you think I can have this, too? You're wondering what and I'll make it plain: Just one more chance to stand beside them — brother, sister, mother, father, son and darling daughter.

Why? Well hell, that's obvious: To kiss them hard (I never did enough), to make my mouth a gentle 'dozer, to grade those grief-etched valleys in their faces right down to none — you know the ones. I'll kiss their eyes and lips so hard the ledges of their lids will rise like butterflies or birds, and fly away. Just let me kiss them hard — whadaya say? And then they'll see me standing there just one more time, beside them (I guess they'll have to, with all that kissy-'dozer loving).

Is that too much to ask?

If not that, then this. My mother's whisper in my ear (*I love you*). My father's arm around my shoulder (*freedom's lonely, sometimes hard*).

And there's something else I hesitate to breach — so I just won't. Instead, I'll beg.

I want her more than dusk can sing you, more than children shout or laugh, more than I want those ember stars that never look away except all

day (kindly, they always leave just one behind). I'll take her then, I'll take her later, I'll take her now — but just not never, never again.

I'll start with her lips and breasts and belly, her hips and legs, and we'll make a bed of her eyes and heart. And if you don't mind I'll take her young. And old. And early and late and happy and sad and sick and strong. I don't like to beg, but please: if you let me plow that rich earth once (she has a say in this, I know, go ask, I'll be there anywhere you say) — if you let us grow that garden of hers from dawn to shining dusk together — well then, I swear: I'll give you nothing but the best.

At least tell me this, then: What would our children have looked like? Or give me a glimpse, if you can. Hey, I could take them for ice cream, whadaya say?

Just one more time. ■

(Note on Memorial Day: Almost 1,315,000 Americans have been killed in war, from Independence Day through the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. That figure does not include the wounded or missing. Nor do our tallied losses include the histories the dead might have made; the generations they might have born to stand with us now; the broken hearts they would have mended; or the wisdom and words they might have offered us — if they'd had just one more time to come home again.)

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OPINION**Kagan's indefensible crusade**

BY RICH LOWRY

Elena Kagan is a pragmatic moderate because she only briefly obstructed the work of military recruiters at Harvard Law School in defiance of the law.

Or so her defenders maintain. They want to make a blot on her record into a qualification for the court, a sign of her judiciousness and common sense. Rather than embrace this argument, Kagan would be better served by apologizing for her participation in Harvard's indefensible discrimination against the military at a time of war.

Beginning in the late 1970s, Harvard Law School banned military recruiters from its Office of Career Services. Although the policy was in keeping with the anti-military ethos of Harvard, which has long excluded ROTC, the school justified it on anti-discrimination grounds — gays couldn't serve in the military.

In the mid-1990s, Congress did two things. It passed the law that became "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the policy forbidding openly gay people from serving in the military. And it passed the Solomon Amendment, denying federal funds to schools that bar military

recruiters. Harvard Law loosened up in response, allowing military recruiters on campus through the good offices of the Harvard Law School Veterans Association.

Initially, the military approved of the arrangement. In 2002, though, it told Harvard Law School that it would have to allow full, equal access, or Harvard would lose its federal funds. Deciding that keeping hundreds of millions of dollars was the better part of valor, the school backed down. It gave the military access to the Office of Career Services like every other recruiter.

This is the status quo that Elena Kagan inherited when she became dean in 2003 — and assiduously worked to overturn. She blasted "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" as "a moral injustice of the first order." That would presumably put it on par with the worst crimes in world history.

When the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals said in 2004 that the Solomon Amendment was "reasonably likely" to be unconstitutional, Kagan immediately used it as an excuse to reinstate strictures on military recruiters — never mind that Harvard isn't in the 3rd Circuit, or that the court blocked its own ruling from taking effect.

When the military again threatened to cut off Harvard's funds, Kagan backed off, an implicit admission that she was on shaky ground. In 2006, the Supreme Court upheld the Solomon Amendment and rejected an argument against it in an amicus brief from Kagan by a stinging 8-0 margin.

Rather than admitting this was not Kagan's finest moment, her defenders positively tout it. Vice President Joe Biden says she was right to disadvantage military recruiters, even though he himself voted for "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." On ABC News, Biden said that after the Supreme Court decision, "she immediately reinstated" recruiters. This bowdlerizes the record to suggest that Kagan was scrupulously following the law, when she acted in defiance of it until called on it by the military.

It is foolish of Democrats to import the mores of Harvard Yard into the national political debate by defending Kagan's stance; what's admirably levelheaded and cautious in the context of Cambridge is bizarre to most of the country. ■

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

The price of war**helenTHOMAS**

Special to Florida Weekly

Afghan President Hamid Karzai got a close look at the cost of war and American sacrifices last week in a rare travel schedule for a visiting head of state.

The Obama administration rolled out the red carpet as a peace offering to gloss over the public friction that caused the proud Karzai earlier this year to threaten to join the Taliban — the enemy. Or is the enemy al-Qaida? Or both?

Between meetings with administration officials, the Afghan leader's orientation visit included a trip to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where wounded U.S. soldiers from Afghanistan are treated. He also placed a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery. And he traveled to Fort Campbell, Ky., where he met soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division who are about to deploy to Afghanistan.

At a joint news conference with President Barack Obama, Karzai began with the expected amenities and then said:

"Mr. President, I yesterday had the honor of visiting Walter Reed hospital, where I visited with the wounded who had returned from Afghanistan, and it was very difficult for me, Mr. President, to meet with a young man — very, very young man — who had lost two arms and

two legs. It was heart-rending, and there were other wounded, too, just like I had seen in Afghanistan."

As Obama stood quietly at his podium, I wondered what he was thinking. Does he really believe in the righteousness of the cause? Trapped by the previous Bush administration, it's his war now.

If only he had lived through the Vietnam War years or had a better sense of the history of that era, where the American people forced the U.S. leadership to get out of a war that we should never have been in.

Now, we direct aerial drones thousands of miles away to blow up a house where suspected "insurgents" (Afghan rebels) and their families live. We target their leaders for assassination, even though assassination is against the law in our country. It's a wobbly moral standard.

Afghanistan is known as the "graveyard of empires" because of British defeats there in the 19th century and the Russians' futile occupation attempts in the 20th century.

In his remarks at a jam-packed news conference that was limited to two questions, Obama made no similar references to the personal sacrifices of Americans or Afghans. He spoke of the U.S. commitment to a "strong and prosperous" Afghanistan.

After nine years of war in Afghanistan — which is twice as long as either of the two world wars of the 20th century — the silence of the American people is deafening.

The automatic go-along of a detached, self-absorbed Congress also is incredible in view of the draining human cost of the two ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Earlier this week, the death toll of American service members in Afghanistan reached 1,000 since the war began in 2001.

Does anyone care, except those who volunteer to fight and their families?

The American public seems more worried about loss of jobs and dwindling opportunities to live prosperous lives and to raise their families. Who can blame them?

The war is so far off, out of mind, out of sight — except for the news photos of Afghan women weeping over dead relatives and children.

Obama told Karzai that "our shared goal" is to "defeat al-Qaida and its extremist allies in Afghanistan and Pakistan. And to prevent its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future."

The words have a nice rhetorical ring. But the president has no illusions, saying: "As I've said on numerous occasions, there are many difficult days ahead in Afghanistan. We face a determined and ruthless enemy."

For all that, there is hope. The Afghans are planning a peace Jirga — a consultative assembly — in Kabul on May 29. Obama said he hoped that confab would "open the door to Taliban who cut their ties to al-Qaida and abandon violence."

Obama has pledged to get out by mid-2011. Why not now? ■

MOMENTS IN TIME

► On **May 27, 1972**, Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev and U.S. President Richard Nixon, meeting in Moscow, sign the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) agreements. At the time, these agreements were the most far-reaching attempts ever to control nuclear weapons.

► On **May 28, 1754**, George Washington, a young lieutenant colonel in the British Army and future president of the United States, leads an attack on French

forces at Jumonville Glen in western Pennsylvania. The battle is later credited with being the opening salvo in the French and Indian War (1754 to 1763). It was Washington's first time in combat.

► On **May 29, 1922**, the United States Supreme Court rules that organized baseball did not violate antitrust laws as alleged by the Baltimore franchise of the defunct Federal League in 1915. The Supreme Court held that organized

baseball is not a business, but a sport, in spite of the fact that its clubs and players crossed state lines in order to play.

► On **May 30, 1963**, a New Jersey teenager named Lesley Gore makes her first appearance on "American Bandstand," singing her hit-to-be "It's My Party." Lesley Gore (nee Lesley Sue Goldstein) was just a few weeks past her own 17th birthday when she performed one of the greatest teen-drama songs of all time. ■

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15 MINUTES

Naples woman national advocate for the blind

BY DAVID LAGACCIA
dlagaccia@floridaweekly.com

Looking back at the memories of her experiences, Sandra Martin came up with what she called funny stories. They included the time she tied bells to her crawling daughter so she could hear where she was around the house, or the time when a man asked her for directions around Naples while she was standing on a street corner.

"No offense, but I'm totally blind," she said to the man. She then waved her hands to the side, gesticulating with amusement.

Her tone of voice, her style of dress (a white cardigan with a pink shirt and skirt and a pink bracelet), her assuredness of learning the layout of an unfamiliar building, all exude this same feeling of joyfulness and confidence. "I'm not a depressive person," she says.

Sandra "Sandy" Martin, lost her vision in her early 20s, due to juvenile diabetes, a condition the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund says is the most common chronic disease found in children.

Ms. Martin said she first started losing her vision at the age of 21, when she experienced what she called "shadow vision." She decided to have a child, believing that this was the only chance she could have a kid. "Physically I was OK," she said, "it's just I couldn't see."

At the age of 22, Ms. Martin had a daughter, Toni. A few weeks later, the new mother went completely blind.

"I remember feeding her with her bottle and I couldn't see the bubbles in the bottle," she said. This would be one of the last times she would be able to see her daughter.

She was married for 18 years, and it was her husband who helped raise her daughter; however, when she got divorced, Ms. Martin became dependent on Toni, who was then a teenager. That's when Toni became concerned that she would have to continue taking care of her mother for the rest of her life.

Looking to become more independent, Ms. Martin told her daughter that she loved her, but she didn't want stay with her. She went to the Florida Division of Blind Services in Daytona to learn to live on her own.

These are not sad stories in her life — rather, she reflects on them with a smile and with a sense of warmth, saying that even though the times were hard, "They were the most rewarding experiences in my life," she said.

"I grew up. I was growing up at the age of 35."

After five years of trying to start a career and trying to find somebody who believed in her, she went to Goodwill and went through its career program to help find a job.

Ms. Martin, a Naples resident, now works as outreach coordinator for the



DAVID LAGACCIA / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Sandra Martin and Anna

center of Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida in North Fort Myers.

"What aren't my responsibilities?" she laughed about her current job. She puts together meetings; organizes committees; counsels other visually impaired persons; and gives presentations.

It is at these presentations where she stresses both "integrity and confidence" — integrity and confidence referring to how the visually impaired are to be treated socially and how they should live their lives.

The VIP center helps both the blind and visually impaired adjust to everyday life.

For example, the center has a fully furnished kitchen, not for eating, but for practice. The kitchen is used to help build experience in a kitchen setting, as well as creating confidence in using household appliances.

For her service at the VIP center, Ms. Martin won the Kenneth Shaw Graduate of the Year award. The award is given to a person who has completed a Goodwill "career program" and is "competitively employed by a non-Goodwill employer." The award was presented during Goodwill Industries Week, observed the first week in May.

At the VIP center, Ms. Martin showed how she is able to walk to new places by introducing her guide dog. She also related on the method she was partnered with a new guide dog. After her last guide dog had to be retired due to age, Ms. Martin got her current guide dog three years ago, a big, black Labrador retriever named Anna, after a month's worth of training. Ms. Martin still had to get acquainted with Anna, like teaching the dog how to navigate the paths of her daily routine and knowing when Anna has to go outside to do her business.

"It requires a very close relationship," she says.

The dog, however, is more than just a companion. Ms. Martin said she also has to learn how to "use Anna as a tool." She said it's not always easy training and adjusting a dog to new situations.

"It's forever a learning process," she said, a motto she also applies to her own life. ■

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- Tuesday - 9-7
- Wednesday - 9-7
- Thursday - 9-7
- Friday - 9-6
- Saturday - 9-5
- Sunday - 12-4



ERIC RADDATZ/ FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track.

TRACK

From page 1

Internet wagering, the expansion of Indian gaming, slot machines in Broward and Dade counties,” gambling boats and the lottery, he says.

Live racing is expected to resume the first week in November, according to Mr. Baldwin. Meanwhile, the track’s poker room will continue to operate, opening earlier and closing later and offering larger pots after July 1, when new state laws take effect.

The upcoming holiday weekend is Fan Appreciation Weekend, with \$2 beer and hot dogs Friday, prize giveaways and the final live matinee starting at 12:15 p.m. Monday. With jackpots that have to be awarded Monday, along with the promotional giveaways, racing fans should fare well.

The fortunes of some of the racers, however, aren’t a sure bet.

When the final race ends Monday, the 10 individual operators who hold bookings at the Bonita Springs track will start clearing out the kennels they rent there, where they each house the 50 or more dogs they race.

With six kennels headed to Miami and one each to Alabama and Iowa, that leaves the future of two kennels in question. What’s also uncertain is how many dogs kennel operators will move to new bookings.

It’s virtually impossible to get an accurate count of how many will move to other tracks and how many will race for the last time Monday. Depending on who you talk to, the number of dogs that will no longer race ranges from a few dozen to a few hundred. Whatever the figure, local greyhound adoption groups, already at capacity, fear there will be too many for them to handle.

Once greyhounds stop racing, one of three things happens. A select few go to farms to breed while the rest either become house pets or are euthanized.

All four local, not-for-profit greyhound groups have limited space and



COURTESY PHOTO

Donna Forster grooms one of the dogs in her care.

funds to handle a sudden influx of dogs.

Bridget Cooper, who runs Joey’s Greyhound Friends in Cape Coral, says she’s already sent dogs to Ohio, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts and is working to send out more. She moves them by plane, car or van, however she can get them there.

“There aren’t enough homes here,” she says.

Donna Forster, who runs the Greyhound Adoption Kennel in North Fort Myers, has been contacting greyhound groups in other states to ask if they will take dogs and calling on people in the industry to help pay for their transport. The group’s kennel holds 22 dogs, although she’s working to make room for up to 10 more temporarily.

“I feel obligated to try my hardest after spending more than two decades asking racing people to give up their dogs for adoption,” Ms. Forster says. “They’re doing their job. Now I have to do mine.”

She plans to send two dozen dogs to Connecticut this week and is working on subsequent hauls in June and July.

Both the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track and the National Greyhound Association, the trade group for kennel operators, have pledged money for transporting retiring racers to other states. That will help, but the groups need all the support they can get.

John Bremer has had greyhounds as pets and has worked for various racing kennels on and off for five years. He currently works with WR Kennel and expects to help move its operation to Flagler.

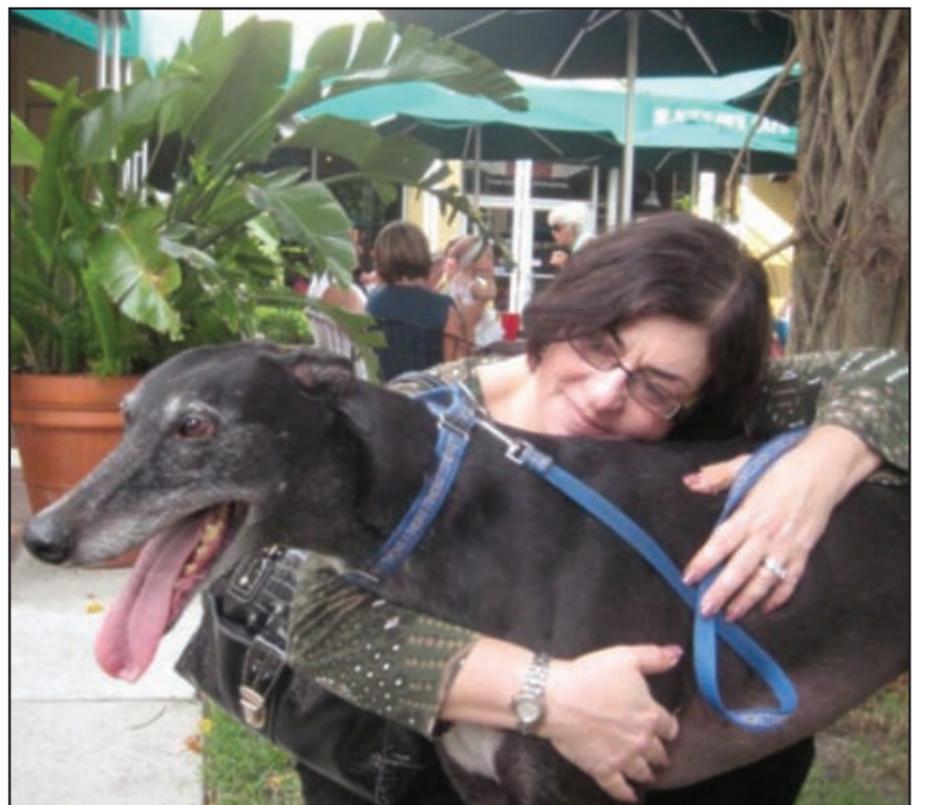
Meanwhile, he’s busily shuttling dogs from any kennel willing to relinquish them to Ms. Forster’s adoption shelter.

“The biggest thing right now is to get people aware that these dogs are available and hope that we’ll get people to take them,” Mr. Bremer says. “They’re the most easy-going dogs and make good pets. These dogs deserve it. They’ve worked hard.”

Although they appear to have loads of energy when running on the track, they only race for a couple of minutes once or twice a week.

“They don’t require a lot of exercise,” Ms. Forster says. “They are content to simply have the attention of a person all to themselves. That’s an utter novelty to a kennel dog.”

“They’ve been bred to do a job and be healthy so there’s no hip dysplasia,” she says. “They require about 4 cups of dry dog food a day and some biscuits. A fluffy quilt on the floor will suffice if you prefer a greyhound stay off the furniture, but many of us don’t mind sharing the couch or the bed.” ■



COURTESY PHOTO

Writer Karen Feldman caresses her dog Blaze.

Confessions of a greyhound lover

BY KAREN FELDMAN

I was 33 years old and married when I was seized by desire so strong I couldn’t stop myself from falling in love.

That’s when I touched my first greyhound. I’d admired them from afar as they raced, but one-on-one they are magical, the antithesis of those driven athletes.

My first greyhound was Arthur’s Gwen, a regal fawn female. As I stroked her long, velvety neck, she gently nuzzled my side with her sizeable snout.

The snout won out. Against my husband’s vehement opposition, I loaded her into my car and headed home from the Bonita Springs track with what was supposed to be a foster dog.

Ha! In a matter of days, she won over my husband and the word “foster” vanished from our vocabulary. Aside from a touch of kleptomania — she loved plastic combs and other small objects she could grip in her mouth and carry to her bed — Gwen was an angel. She never barked, rarely shed and tolerated my smaller dogs and cats. She’d follow me from room to room, settling down nearby, her front paws daintily crossed with the air of a well-mannered debutante.

We spent nine years together before she died at the age of 14. Throughout her leisurely retirement, she proved an

influential ambassador for her breed. My father, veterinarian, several friends and countless strangers who’d stop us on the street were so smitten, they adopted greyhounds of their own.

Over the past 20 years, I’ve opened my home and heart to four more greyhounds — Rovic, Augustus, Nicky and now Blaze — all big, gentle males who quickly adapted to retirement living, lazily napping on their backs on my living room couch, playing with stuffed animals and gazing adoringly at me with those brown, old-soul eyes.

People tell me what a good deed I’m doing. They don’t realize I receive far more than I give to these sweet, noble dogs that are impossible not to love.

In fact, I think it’s a good time to fall in love again. ■

in the know

>> Greyhound adoption groups

- Greyhound Adoption Kennel, North Fort Myers, 731-3187; www.greyhoundadoptionkennel.com
- Homeward Bound, Naples, 353-7335; and Port Charlotte, (941) 629-9752; www.homewardboundgreyhounds.com
- Joey’s Greyhound Friends, Cape Coral, 549-7693; www.joysgreyhoundfriends.org
- Homes for Happy Hounds, Bonita Springs, 465-3445; www.homesforhappyhounds.org

If you knew you could change the future would you?



Dear Friends...

If you knew you could change your future and the way you age would you? Do you look at people around town bent over, on a walker or even limping sideways and think "Man I hope that's not me someday!" Well I can give you a predictable assessment that will tell you what your future holds.

Posture Equals Health

People usually come see me initially to get rid of **pain**. Whether it's for headaches, neck pain, low back pain, sciatica, disc bulges, numbness and tingling, you name it. That the easy part. But the real secret is that those symptoms are just warning signs to VERY SEVERE postural distortions. These distortions to your posture are affecting your overall health. All of the functions in the amazing human body are controlled and coordinated by the extensive neural network continually sending and receiving electrical impulses to and from the brain in order to coordinate our optimal health. Interference or stresses to this system stop, delay or weaken these messages ultimately leading to "disease". Posture is so important because EVERY single one of your nerve pathways is housed in your spine.

Symptoms or No Symptoms

So if you have symptoms you must be checked. If you don't have symptoms but don't have any idea what your spine looks like you must be checked. Knowing what your spine looks like will tell you what your future holds. It may also answer questions about your health that you never even thought of. **Deviations in the body's center of gravity caused poor posture which resulted in intestinal problems osteoporosis, hip and foot deformities, poor health decreased quality of life and shortened life span.**

(Freeman, JT Posture and Aging in the Aged, JAMA 1957).

It's All About Curves

The curves in your spine represent the strength, stability and flexibility you will have to last you the rest of your life. That is better postured people live longer healthier lives.

(Kado DM, Huang MH, Karlamangla AS, Barrett-Connor E, Greendale GA., Journal American Geriatric Soc 2004) You can't have good posture without the curves!

The loss of the cervical (neck)curve stretches the spinal cord 5-7 cm and causes disease.

(Dr A. Dreig: neurosurgeon and Nobel Prize recipient).

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UNDERCOVER HISTORIAN

Tribute to another legend: Benjamin G. Parks

BY LOIS BOLIN AND LYNN HIXON-HOLLEY
Special to Florida Weekly

Our community has lost three legends this year who were instrumental in the second-stage development of Naples: Bubba Frank, Sheriff Aubrey Rogers and now Ben Parks, who passed away March 24, 2010.

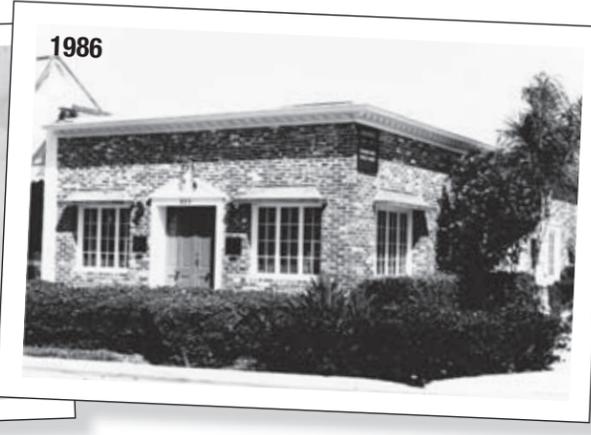
I never had the pleasure of knowing Ben, so I asked Lynne Hixon-Holley, the first woman attorney (and judge) of Collier County and one of the originators of the Collier County Bar Association, if she would write about him. Here is Ms. Holley's memories of one of Naples' legal and civic legacies, Benjamin G. Parks:

All who knew him received the news of his death with sadness. Each of us knew Ben Parks in a different way.

Ben was born in Waycross, Ga., Nov. 23, 1922. He came to Naples in 1951 with a law degree from Stetson University, becoming the fourth practicing lawyer in Naples after serving in the U. S. Air Force Intelligence during World War II.

George Davis (as in Davis Boulevard), a retired lawyer from Georgia living out his retirement years out in Naples, was instrumental in Ben deciding to choose Naples as a place to establish a law practice

When Ben and his wife, Jane, came to Naples, there were three practicing lawyers in Naples: Lynne and Bill Hixon, and Walter Sorokoty. There were not very many young couples in Naples so it was



COURTESY PHOTOS / LYNN HIXON-HOLLEY

The Parks law office has become a true landmark on Fifth Avenue South. Commercial offices and stores have come and gone, but the Parks law office has stayed on and on, immutable, unchangeable and dependable as a rock.

good to have them.

Also welcoming the couple were Mary and Hank Watkins of the Naples Beach Hotel, and Hazel and Jim DeVogt. Hazel, the daughter of Gene and Doris Gandeas, was the only Collier County native of the group.

Jim, the first paid full-time secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Naples in 1949, occupied the smallest chamber building in the U.S. ever actually used to lure tourists. In the reception room of Ben's law office hung the original picture of the chamber office used by Jim DeVogt.

"Why, I do declare," I (Ms. Holley) said to Ben not too long ago, "You all have a museum piece hanging on your office wall — our original Chamber of Commerce building." After Jim's tenure

as secretary of the Chamber, Doris Reynolds followed a few years later.

The Parks established their family home in Port Royal and reared three sons, Ben, Harry and Randy. Ben established his office on Fifth Avenue South just south of Park Street and of course became a member of our new Bar Association.

Ben liked to dispense his law on Fifth Avenue South so they wisely bought the old Brack Building, which had become B & W Hardware Store, owned by Brack and Walter Wolfe, on the north side of Fifth Avenue South.

Next to Ben's office on the west was a dress shop, to the east, the gas station of Wilson Dyches and Four Corners, where the Tamiami Trail turned sharply toward Miami — the location of the only red light

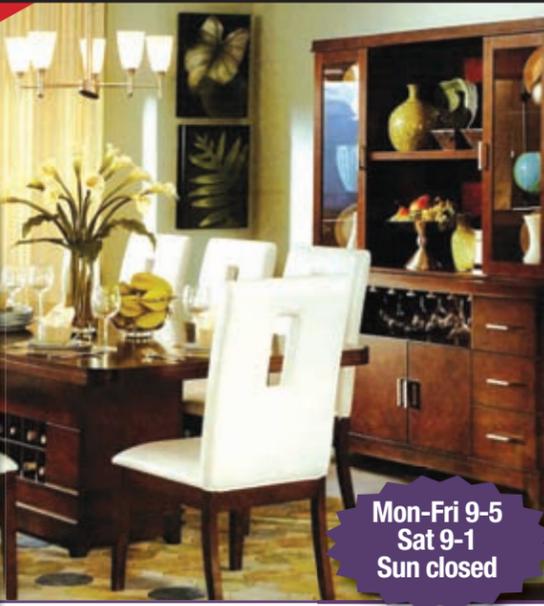
on Fifth Avenue South in our village of 1,500 people. Across the street was the Sorokoty law office in a separate little building also housing Prince's Liquor Store.

At Four Corners was the Rexall Drug Store, owned by Bill Hixon's father, the first resident pharmacist in Collier County. Across the street from Ben was the Dor-Len Shop of Doris and Pitt Orick and the Hixon law office in the John Pulling Naples Real Estate Exchange building. All are now gone except for the dependable, rock-like landmark, the Parks building, where Ben practiced law for well over 50 years, never actually retiring until a few months before his death.

As late as October 2009, Ben was still "holding court," so to speak, willing and able to discuss most any subject or memory you desired for as long as you wished. So it was with a twinge of poignancy that recently I was driving by the Parks law office building and saw Jane painting over a little sign or something on the front of the building. I'll bet it said Benjamin G. Parks, Attorney at Law. It was now time to close shop.

I was asked to prepare this piece and am honored to have been so asked. I do hope the landmark on Fifth Avenue South that Ben Parks established stays — for the past as well as the future. I don't think I could find Fifth Avenue without it; I need it. All else seems to have gone. Let's save it as well as his memories. ■

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Oral history films continue at historic Palm Cottage

The Cottage Theater at the Naples Historical Society has seen a flurry of activity since the March release of films from the organization's oral history project. Many NHS members, local residents and their guests as well as visitors and tour groups have watched the stories from many Naples pioneering families in the charming, 16-seat theater in historic Palm Cottage. Filmed in high-definition and shown on state-of-the-art Blue Ray equipment, these films are a treasure for the community.

"History in the form of a family story is a powerful tool to learn about a community, and captured as these stories have been, each will resonate in perpetuity," says Elaine Reed, the organization's executive director.

Ms. Reed says the project to record and showcase oral histories will continue. Slated for interviews this summer are several people who they themselves or their families have made contributions that have had important and lasting effects on the Naples community.

A 26-minute film showcasing a few stories runs at 1 p.m. on days Palm Cottage is open. Each showing is followed by an individual oral history film. Here's the summer schedule:

➤ **June 2-12:** George Vega, long-time Naples attorney

➤ **June 16 -26:** Gale Guild, a descendant of the Moxley family member who came to Naples around 1910

➤ **June 30-July 10:** John Beriault, Naples-born archaeologist

➤ **July 14-17:** Betty Van Arsdale, owner of Provincetown-Boston Airline, which began service between Naples and the Cape Cod area of Massachusetts, circa 1950s

➤ **July 21-31:** Lodge McKee, whose family came to Naples in 1930

➤ **Aug. 4-14:** Ann Echols Wynn and Mae Janelle (Judy) Echols Storter, sisters who recall their life and marriages into prominent pioneering families

➤ **Aug. 18-21:** Steve Briggs, grandson of the founder of Outboard Marine Corp.

➤ **Aug. 25-28:** Maria Stone (d. 2009), local historian who interviewed more than 300 Collier County pioneers

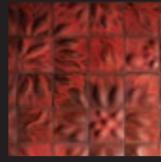
Palm Cottage is at 137 12th Ave. S., one block east of the Naples Pier. The cottage is open from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday through the summer. The suggested donation is \$8 per person to tour the cottage; access to the Cottage Theater is included in admission. NHS members are admitted free.

For more information, visit www.NaplesHistoricalSociety.org or call 261-8164. ■



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Join us for one of these group presentations about the Lifestyle and Lifecare available at Shell Point followed by a narrated bus tour of the community. Light refreshments. Space is limited, so call 466-1131 to reserve your place.



FREE!

Demystifying Revocable Trusts

with Jeff Moes and Dick Riley of FineMark National Bank



Wednesday, June 2 at 10 a.m. • The Woodlands at Shell Point

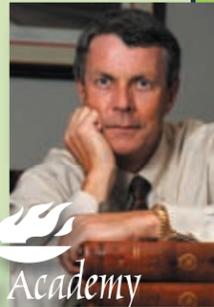
Jeff Moes and Dick Riley of FineMark National Bank will discuss and examine the myths and realities to help guide those who are considering the use of trusts in their estate plans. The seminar is free; however, seating is limited and reservations are required. To reserve your seat, please contact Jennifer Case at FineMark by calling 461-5956.



Ancient Rome Lecture Series

June 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 10:15 a.m. • The Island at Shell Point

The Academy at Shell Point presents *Ancient Rome – The History of Its Rise and Fall*, a 4-part lecture series. Join Professor Adrian Kerr of Edison State College as he explores the Roman empire in the turbulent ancient world of Europe and the Middle East. Attend just one or all four sessions. Cost is \$10 per session. Call 454-2054.



The Academy

Organist Crawford Wiley **FREE!**

Thursday, June 3 at 7:15 p.m. • The Island at Shell Point

Crawford Wiley is a native of Naples, Florida and has just finished his junior year at Bob Jones University, studying for a degree in Organ Performance with Dr. Ed Dunbar. This recital will feature Bach's *Tocatta in F*, Durufle's *Variations on VENI CREATOR*; Britten's *Prelude & Fugue on a Theme of Vittoria*, and various favorite hymn arrangements. This event is free. Call 454-2147 for information.



FREE!

Wellness Seminar: Healthy Bones...Healthy You!

Friday, June 4 at 2 p.m. • The Woodlands at Shell Point

Your bones are the frame of your body. Healthy bones are essential to a healthier you. This seminar will focus on osteoporosis, arthritis, and what you can do to improve your health. Presented by Lynne Fraser, Shell Point personal trainer. The event is free; however seating is limited and reservations are required. Call 454-2054.



Shell Point Summer Concert Series

Thursday, June 24 - Monday, August 2 • The Island at Shell Point

It's heating up outside, but cool summer sounds are coming your way! The *Dick Hyman Trio* kicks things off on June 24, followed by the *Naples Jazz Orchestra* on July 19, and *Reiko, Violinist and Friends* on August 2. Get your tickets today! Save by purchasing the entire series, just \$35. Individual concerts, \$15. Call 454-2067 for tickets.

Entire Series \$35



Summer Concert Series



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NEWS BRIEFS

Sarah Palin first up for Naples speaker series

The Naples Town Hall Distinguished Speaker Series announced the first speaker in its 2011 lineup: former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin.

"We are extremely pleased to be the first series to bring Sarah Palin to Naples," said Rick Borman, president and



PALIN

producer of the Town Hall Series. "Regardless of how you feel politically, she is one of the most powerful voices in America today. Sarah is a prime example of a high-profile speaker whose message will encourage dialogue

among our attendees on a variety of subjects and issues."

Tickets for the four-speaker series are \$600 per person; or \$1,350 per person for the dinner series, which includes a private cocktail reception, dinner and 45 minute Q&A session. For those looking to participate at the benefactor level at \$5,000, members receive series tickets for two with priority seating, private cocktail reception, dinner, the Q&A session and entry to special events and an invitation to dine with a guest speaker. Ticket information is available online at www.naplestownhall.org.

The Naples Town Hall Distinguished Speaker Series is entering its 28th year of presenting the world's most influential leaders and speakers. The non-profit organization's mission is to present ideas and issues that stimulate thought, promote dialogue and enhance understanding.

Announcements for the three remaining speakers will be made in the coming weeks, Mr. Borman said. ■

FGCU, The First Tee announce partnership

Florida Gulf Coast University PGA Golf Management Program and The First Tee of Naples/Collier announced a partnership where students act as volunteer instructors and receive course credit. In recognition of this partnership, FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw has designated a scholarship to be awarded to a graduate of The First Tee of Naples/Collier program who enters the PGA Golf Management Program at FGCU.

"We are very excited and appreciative of the scholarship that has been offered to our First Tee participants," said Cindy Dardland, executive director for The First Tee of Naples/Collier. "The FGCU PGA Golf Management Program has been a tremendous partner in the past year with students participating as mentors and volunteers within our programs. This scholarship will strengthen an already great relationship."

The First Tee of Naples/Collier's mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life enhancing values through the game of golf. Visit the local chapter website at www.thefirstteenaplescollier.org or the national website at www.thefirsttee.org. The First Tee of Naples/Collier is a nonprofit organization.

The FGCU PGA Golf Management Program is one of 20 PGA of America accredited programs in the U.S., and currently has over 120 students from all over the country including several international students. The 4 1/2 year curriculum educates its students in the business, the people and the game of golf. ■

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And when it comes to saving prematurely born infants, The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida is the #1, top-rated program in the state boasting the best survival rate among all 11 certified Level III neonatal intensive care centers in Florida's Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Program.

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HEALTHY LIVING

TO YOUR HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

Frank Smith

Make time for CPR, AED classes

The American Heart Association wants more people to take action and help cardiac arrest victims. That's why the organization challenges 1 million people to learn about CPR during National CPR & AED Awareness Week, June 1-7.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillators are important links in the American Heart Association's "Chain of Survival," which consists of early detection, early CPR, early defibrillation and early advanced care. More people trained in CPR and more AEDs in the community increase the likelihood that the four links can work together to save a life.

Frank Smith, owner of Collier CPR and Safety Training, is passionate about teaching groups of people to perform CPR, use an AED and perform the Heimlich maneuver. An authorized provider for the AHA, he CPR, AED, Basic Life Support and First Aid classes to the general public as well as to health-care providers and those needing a certification for work or school. Classes are held throughout Collier and Lee counties multiple times per month.

"I notice AEDs in most public places, but the majority of people I talk to do not know how to use them, nor do they know the current steps of performing CPR," Mr. Smith says. "I want to change that."

In honor of National CPR and AED Awareness Week, he encourages everyone to take the challenge and learn about CPR and AEDs. For more information, call 537-0495 or visit www.colliercpr.com. ■

Laser treatment can do away with nail fungus

The Family Foot and Leg Center announces a new laser treatment for stubborn nail fungus, or onychomycosis, a common infection that causes yellowed, discolored, thickened and flaky nails. Depending on the severity of the condition, the GentleNail Laser by Cool Touch can alleviate unsightly toenail fungus in as little as one or two treatments. Gentle on the nail bed but tough on fungal cells, the treatment includes a Keryflex nail resurfacing procedure that utilizes shockwave therapy.

Dr. Kevin Lam founded the Family Foot and Leg Center in Naples in 2005. For more information, call 430-3668 or visit www.gentlenaillaser.com. ■

SEE HEALTH, A15 ►

Giving kids a fighting chance

How parents can prevent childhood obesity

BY KELLY MERRITT

Special to Florida Weekly

Part two of a two-part series

The thought has been for many years that overweight kids will outgrow their weight, but in reality, overweight kids most often become overweight adults.

Despite a multi-billion dollar diet industry, American society doesn't encourage healthy eating or healthy lifestyles. American children eat mostly highly processed, high fat foods. By the time a child is overweight, many pediatricians agree that the problem is difficult to correct.

In fact, 34 percent of kids are overweight and almost 18 percent are considered overweight to the point of obesity. Many health experts believe the current generation of children will be the first to not live longer than their parents. Humans have been good about treating infectious disease since 1900 so each of those generations have experienced a greater increase in life expectancy than the previous. Thanks to poor diet, overeating and sedentary lifestyles, the current generation of children will be the first to experience a decrease in life expect-

COURTESY PHOTO



tancy due to the increase in obesity.

People who become overweight after age 50 are vastly different than those who are overweight all of their lives. Heart disease is showing up in these individuals in the 30s and 40s rather than later as in previous generations.

"The longer a person is overweight, the longer they are subjected to the metabolic effects of excessive hormones and other factors produced by fat cells," said Dr. Caroline J. Cederquist, medical director of the Cederquist Comprehensive Weight Control and author of the family book "Helping Your Overweight Child."

Overweight and obesity in children cause two groups of medical conditions. The first includes the hormonal and metabolic effects of body fat such as stroke, cancer, diabetes and heart disease. The other side of obesity is the physical wear and tear it creates in the body, such as more arthritis, joint problems, skin problems and sleep apnea among others, all due to the structural effects of excess fat.

Dr. Cederquist says to combat childhood obesity parents must abandon the mentality of deprivation and focus instead on eating healthier.

SEE OBESITY, A15 ►

STRAIGHT TALK

Emphasis on wellness is catching on throughout the hospital



allenWEISS

allen.weiss@nchmd.org

One small health bar for Hospital Week, one giant leap for community wellness.

Last week, we celebrated Hospital Week by distributing healthy snacks to our 3,500 colleagues. The reception was gratifying. I must admit that in past years, we served decadent sweets and high-calorie junk food. But management has gotten the message, and our new emphasis on disease prevention and wellness is spreading.

In my own rounds passing out fresh fruit and health bars, I encountered associates such as clinical technician Martha Cecilia and unit secretary Sandra Hack, who were excited about the new healthy choices. Clinical technician Rhonda Lozo e-mailed me asking about healthier choices in our cafeterias.

Ms. Lozo has waged her own healthier campaign by complementing her diet with regular exercise at the Wellness Center. We also discussed the NCH Program, "Eight Weeks to Wellness," as a route to positive personal change.

We've also made great progress on

the smoking front. Last year, NCH had at least 150 folks who smoked. Since the Jan. 1 adoption of our new wellness-oriented health plan, about 96 have stopped smoking.

Where there's smoke

When you stop smoking, it translates to adding an average of four years to your life. That's got to be great news for former smokers Sarah Bell, a new grandmother, and OR nurse Dawn Hutchison-Finucan, a concerned mom. Bill Diamond, OR director, is celebrating his one-year anniversary of being smoke-free. And then there's Mary Glaser, an RN in the operating room who recently quit after smoking a pack a day for 50 years — at today's cost of \$6 a pack, that's equivalent to \$110,000 spent on cigarettes. Congratulations to these individuals and all of our colleagues who have quit. We will continue to encourage others to stop smoking as we have tobacco free campuses and smoking cessation programs.

NCH is serious about promoting wellness. Eighty-nine percent of our employees have completed a health risk assessment, participated in age/gender health screens and biometrics and have met with a health coach to design an individualized "Road to Wellness" plan.

The health risk assessment poses

questions about behaviors and attitudes ranging from seat belt use to alcohol consumption to the hours of sleep a person gets. (Too little or too much sleep shortens your life span.) Answers to the questions, coupled with family history, provide a health assessment score up to 100 points. The questionnaire will be repeated yearly, looking for improvements.

Age/gender screens include simple lab tests of cholesterol, triglycerides, blood sugar, mammograms, PSAs, colonoscopy, etc. We've had more than a few colleagues with occult-elevated PSAs and breast and colon lesions.

Biometrics calculate body mass index and waist-to-hip ratios, good predictors for cardiac disease.

I have no doubt we've already saved lives by early detection of asymptomatic disease. Working together, NCH health coaches and individuals can ensure a healthier employee population. It's important, therefore, that NCH employees who haven't yet taken advantage of this terrific program, consider doing so in the future.

Part of our job, after all, is improving our own wellness so that we can set the standard for a healthier community.

So keep eating those health bars! ■

— Dr. Allen Weiss is president and CEO of the NCH Healthcare System.

TO YOUR HEALTH

From page A14

Physicians Regional Plans BabyFest

Physicians Regional-Collier Boulevard invites the public to BabyFest 2010 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 26. Attendees will be able to tour the Women's Center and meet obstetricians, pediatricians, family practitioners and other health professionals. There will be free car seat safety checks and information about CuddleBugs, the hospital's new maternity program, as well as about birthing classes, baby nutrition and breastfeeding. Guests will enjoy free food, and for youngsters there will be a bounce house, balloon animals, face painting and more fun. ■

Children's hospital screens for autism

The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida and Ronald McDonald House Charities of SWF conduct free autism spectrum disorder screenings for children ages 18 months to 5 years.

Conducted by an advanced registered nurse practitioner, the screenings are courtesy of The Children's Hospital's neurosciences center under the guidance of pediatric neurologist Jose Colon and pediatric psychiatrist Marianne Krouk, D.O. Physician referrals are not required.

Early diagnosis and early intensive behavioral intervention can make a difference in development of children on the autism spectrum and for their families. To schedule a screening, call 985-3608. ■

OBESITY

From page A14

"It's not unusual for parents to pack a lunch every day that includes dessert, and kids often celebrate birthdays at school, so before you know it, they're having dessert after every meal," she says. "But the whole family can turn around and lighten up meals."

Children don't function independently when it comes to eating and nutrition. Parents with picky eaters often take the easy way out by giving kids what they want rather than what's good for them. The crucial hours after school are when kids are most likely to sit in front of the television and eat poorly.

"Our children follow our behaviors. So if we tell our kids to exercise and don't do it ourselves, adherence to that will be minimal and temporary," said Dr. Cederquist. "It's very important to not say things like 'you can't afford to have cookies but your thin brother can.' You don't want to set up an adversarial system."

Preventing childhood obesity

Children have everything they need to stay fit within their own bodies. And, for a few extra dollars, parents can add some fun to the mix. Here are some suggestions:

■ **Do your chores** - Assign chores that provide a boost of exercise and energy. These might include making the bed, washing the car, and even vacuuming. A child who is overweight and inactive can build up to the suggested 60 minutes of activity a day, a few minutes at a time.

■ **Chalk it up to a some outdoor**



COURTESY PHOTO

Fun - For about a buck at the Dollar Store, kids can get a box of chalk and beneficial exercise. Hopscotch is a great workout for children. It's fun and the game changes based on the child's design. A carport or garage can suffice during inclement weather. Start a hopscotch club at your house and invite neighborhood kids over to participate.

■ **Hit the park** - Cities like Naples, with sidewalks and biking paths, typically have healthier residents. Parks and recreation Web sites list places where children can play outside and exercise programs available just for them.

■ **Jump rope** - Jumping rope is the king of cardio. Kids can learn to jump rope one at a time or in groups. Experts agree that jumping rope is the single most comprehensive form of exercise a person can do. The other great thing about jumping rope is that it can be done just about anywhere, even in your child's own room.

■ **Play catch** - Grab a Frisbee, softball and glove or football and play catch. A 20-minute game of backyard football is like an hour in the gym.

■ **Tag, you're it** - Make it a family affair with a game of chase in the backyard. Your child's own body is his best piece of fitness equipment. Walking, running, cartwheels and skipping are great ways for kids to get the exercise they need. ■

Fit 2 Win summer camp

Designed as a developmental approach to healthy living, Fit 2 Win summer camp will keep your kids (ages 11-13) on their toes with fun fitness classes and exciting games used to reinforce a healthy and balanced lifestyle. The first hour is all about fitness. Classes include: Pilates, yoga, agility and more.

The second hour of Fit 2 Win is about having fun with healthy eating and creating a balanced lifestyle. Interactive lessons and exciting games are used to reinforce positive habits that will last a lifetime.

Camp runs three days a week for three weeks.

>> **Dates:** June 14, 16, 18; July 19, 21, 23; Aug. 2, 4, 6

>> **Time:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day

>> **Cost:** \$125 per week

>> **Register:** 254-9300.

>> **Location:** Camp takes place at Beyond Motion fitness studio, 11985 Tamiami Trail North, Suite A, Naples. For information, visit www.go2beyondmotion.com or call 254-9300.

in the know

Tips for keeping kids healthy:

- >> Make sure children get enough exercise and eat a healthy, balanced diet.
- >> Take an active role in exercising with your kids and eating right together.
- >> Do not put your child on a diet without your health-care provider's direction.
- >> Work with your pediatrician to compile a list of "good choices" for household meals.
- >> Don't buy unhealthy foods and beverages.
- >> Plan active outings.
- >> Help your child find fun physical activities he or she would enjoy.

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The nose knows: UF to help train experts to sniff out oil spill-contaminated seafood

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

To keep consumers safe from seafood that could be tainted by the Gulf oil spill, regulatory officials will rely on an incredibly sophisticated, delicate tool: the human nose.

Next month, University of Florida researchers will help government seafood inspectors learn to use their sense of smell to evaluate seafood products harvested from the Gulf of Mexico. The training is meant to keep consumers from eating seafood tainted with oil spilled in the water following the April 20 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling rig.

Seafood harvested in the Gulf may have ingested the water-soluble chemicals, making it dangerous for human consumption.

Scientific instruments can perform the same task but take much longer to get results, says UF professor Steve Otwell, who has led the university's professional seafood sensory school since it began in 1995. The instruments can only run about 20 to 30 samples in a week, and at a cost of \$700 per sample, are expensive.

Those instruments rely on electronic recognition signals and can detect chemicals in much smaller concentrations, down to parts per billion. But the nose can quickly detect levels that are considered unhealthy — and when it comes to getting seafood from the ocean to a diner's plate,

the clock never stops ticking.

"Sensory analysis can be a very powerful tool," says Dr. Otwell, a professor of food science and human nutrition with UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. "And it can be recognized for regulatory purposes. But only if you are trained to do it and it's proven that you have the ability to do it."

For years, UF has taught government inspectors and food industry professionals to evaluate seafood for freshness and consumer appeal, so it made sense to have UF the contaminant-detecting training, Dr. Otwell says.

In the next three weeks, UF officials have been busy freezing baseline sample fresh, uncontaminated seafood use in the training expected to be held in June on the Gainesville campus. UF will also help officials in Texas, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi set up similar training.

The Food and Drug Administration and Department of Commerce and the federal regulatory agencies oversee seafood safety.

During the four-day training, which will be based on techniques learned from earlier oil spills such as

E Exxon Valdez in 1989, a group of about 25 inspectors and regulators will learn protocol for handling seafood samples and examine different types and levels of contaminated seafood. They'll be tested on their ability to sniff out polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, in fish, shrimp and crab.

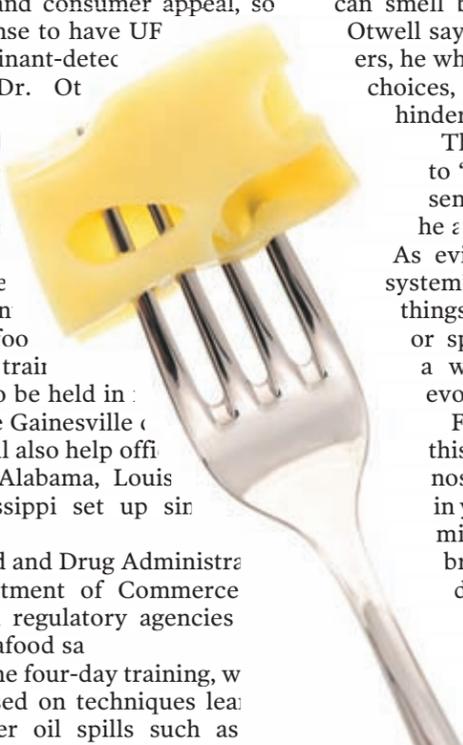
And if history's any guide, some of them won't pass the smell test.

"You know from your own personal experience that some people can smell better than others," Dr. Otwell says. Some are gifted sniffers, while others make lifestyle choices, such as smoking, that hinder their ability.

The training is an attempt to "educate and sharpen" a sense that's naturally there, he adds.

As evidence of the olfactory system's power, he points to things like just mowed grass, or spring flowers, and how a whiff of something can evoke memory.

For doubters, he offers this challenge: Hold your nose. Pop a slice of cheese in your mouth. Once you're mid-chew, let yourself breathe normally. "The difference is phenomenal," he says. "The nose is a powerful instrument. If you don't believe it, take the cheese test." ■



Local efforts under way in reaction to oil spill

Two Naples women are behind efforts to support the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary in its fight against the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Lisa Adams of Knotts Plastering and DeAnn Kamp of Box Galaxy Florida are gathering and shipping supplies to those on the front lines of the cleanup. The sanctuary is receiving birds affected by the oil spill.

Especially needed are Dawn detergent, rubber gloves, paper towels and bath towels, sheets, kennels, bottled water and Gatorade. Donations can be delivered to Box Galaxy at 12980 Tamiami Trail N., where they will be packed and shipped.

In Indian Shores, Fla., the nonprofit Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary is the largest wild bird hospital and bird sanctuary in the United States, based on the admission of up to 8,000 birds per year.

For more information about donating supplies locally, call Ms. Adams at 963-5369 or Ms. Kamp at 592-9425.

In Bonita Springs, Colour U Salon has signed up with Matter of Trust to participate in the Hair Mat Oil Spill Program. The salon is collecting and shipping hair clippings to designated U.S. manufacturers who will then stuff the swept-up hair into oil-absorbing booms to assist in the cleanup of the Gulf.

Hair is the perfect oil-fighter: It's light, spongy, flexible and free. A clump of it, stuffed into recycled nylons, can soak up oil, be wrung clean and immediately reused. Technically, hair does not absorb oil; rather, oil clings to hair's surface.

Color U Salon owners and stylists John Spencer and Julia Warosh urge their regular customers and anyone who needs a haircut to call for an appointment, 498-5788. ■

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OUTDOORS

They're rather drab, but lichens deserve to be liked

BY LEE BELANGER

Special to Florida Weekly

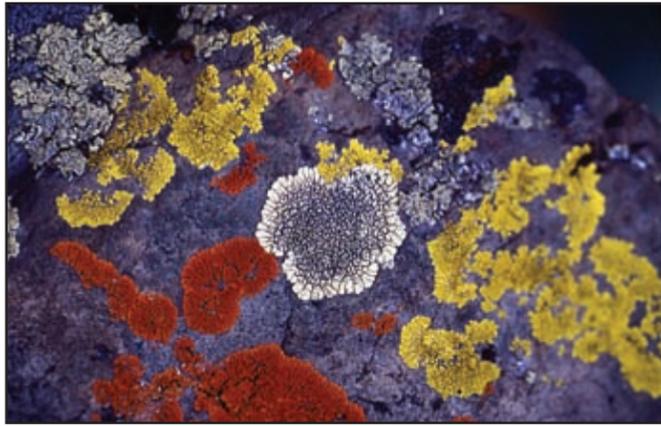
Have you ever seen bright red, yellow, or white blotches on tree trunks or rocks and thought they were paint spots? Chances are you were looking at lichens rather than paint.

Lichens are a combination of a fungus and one (sometimes two) alga living together. The fungus provides the organism's foundation and protects the alga from too much sun and water loss. In exchange, the alga takes nitrogen from the air and, using chlorophyll, makes food for itself and the fungus. This relationship of mutual benefit is called symbiosis.

In most lichens, the alga cells are scattered throughout the fungus; occasionally, however, the alga forms a layer below the top surface of the fungus. This is usually a green alga. Some lichens cultivate blue-green algae, which is called cyanobacteria. Others contain both.

Lichens vary in color, shape and size. Although they lack roots and leaves, some do look like leaves. Others look like hair or twigs, and still others grow as a thin crust resembling paint.

Since lichens do not flower, they're usually a rather drab color. Nonetheless, they are quite useful. Most lichens quickly absorb pollutants from air and water, concentrating them in their tissues. When this happens, they often die. Because of this,



Lichens

U.S. FOREST SERVICE / COURTESY PHOTO

they are a rough estimator of air and water quality. My husband and I found lichens clinging to our shingled roof when we lived in Connecticut. The lichens were difficult to remove, but we were pleased the air was clean enough to support them.

Despite their sensitivity to toxins, lichens can tolerate just about anything else. They live in deserts, the arctic and most places in between. You'll find them growing on sun-baked rocks, in the alpine tundra and even on bare soil.

Lichens often go unnoticed, but they dominate about 8 percent of land worldwide. They secrete acids that break down rock, a slow but important process that results in needed soil for plants and trees.

There are more than 30,000 lichen species worldwide, each with a different fungus; but the same alga can be present

in many different lichens. Scientists believe some colonies are 9,000 years old. If so, mammoths may have tread on them.

When freezes occur or water is scarce, lichens lie dormant until conditions improve. Even when conditions are good, growth is very slow — a few millimeters a year. Only about 5 percent of the lichen is the food-producing algae, one reason for their slow growth.

Some lichens reproduce by fungal spores. With this method, the new fungus must capture suitable algae or else die. Another type of reproduction is separation. Animals and weather break off pieces that reattach and continue to grow.

Egyptians used lichens as packing material for mummies. Native Americans used the colorful lichens to dye clothing. Today chemists use litmus paper made from lichen dyes, and the Japanese use a chemical from lichens to kill mildew. One puffy Florida variety, *Cladonia perforata*, was used in model railroad landscapes and also in floral arrangements.

Next time you pass a tree, some rocks or even some undisturbed soil, look for lichens. If you find some, breathe deeply. Their presence means the air is likely quite pure. ■

— Lee Belanger is a volunteer at the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

June 1 marks start of summer at Rookery Bay

Summer hours at the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve begin June 1. Through August, the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center at 300 Tower Road on the way to Marco Island is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday (no Saturday hours).

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-12. Admission is always free for members of the Friends of Rookery Bay; children 12 and under are admitted free on Fridays from June 11 through Oct. 29.

Here's the schedule of programs led by a staff naturalist:

- **Mondays at 11 a.m.** — Sea turtles
 - **Mondays at 2 p.m.** — Manatees
 - **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m.** — Take a nature walk around the butterfly garden and discover fascinating uses for native plants.
 - **Tuesdays at 2 p.m.** — Bird identification
 - **Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m.** — Explore the estuary of the Rookery Bay Reserve in a kayak. Tours include all equipment, paddling instruction, trip guidance and education. Children ages 12-18 must have an adult present.
 - **Wednesdays at 11 a.m.** — Explore the touch tank in the Environmental Learning Center.
 - **Wednesdays at 2 p.m.** — Find out what you can learn about animals from panthers to spoonbills by examining their skulls bones.
 - **Thursdays at 2 p.m.** — Sharks
 - **Fridays at 11 a.m.** — Learn about the amazing diversity of native fish and estuarine organisms as the naturalist feeds the residents of the center's 2,300-gallon aquarium.
 - **Fridays at 2 p.m.** — Shells and the animals that inhabit them
- For more information, call 417-6310 or visit www.rookerybay.org. ■

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PET TALES

Clearing the air

Pet gas-passing is normal, but can be reduced

BY DR. MARTY BECKER
Universal Uclick

Pets don't try to hold it, move to a more discrete area or blame it on their human family. It's usually no secret when a pet passes gas and commits a four-pawed faux pas. They don't giggle with embarrassment or blush.

Intestinal gas is just a natural part of digestion, after all, however funny we humans may find it.

While dogs seem to be the main offenders, cats are also prone to flatulence, although they produce less gas, and their tendency to keep their distance makes their gassiness less noticeable. Plus, there's a big auditory and olfactory difference between a flatulent 10-pound feline and a gassy 120-pound Great Dane.

But if you are like most people, you'd like to find ways to wind down the passing of wind. Here are a few tips:

▶ **A wind walker:** Exercise helps move everything along the digestive tract and out the back door. Just remember to stay upwind and pass up after your pet.

▶ **Watch what you feed:** Consider a change of diet.

While gas is a normal byproduct of digestion, if your pet is gassy as a blimp, his diet may need some adjustments. Talk to your veterinarian not only about your pet's regular meals, but also about any between-meal snacks he is enjoying, whether you're handing them out or he's finding them himself. For cats, especially, realize that while they may enjoy milk, many don't digest it well. To see if your cat is among these, stop the dairy for a bit and see if it helps.

▶ **Say "know" to supplements:** Supplements are a mixed bag: Some may increase gas, while others may aid digestion. Again, your veterinarian can help you sort out the choices and their pros and cons. One supplement that may well help is the introduction of beneficial bacteria — probiotics — that help with digestion.



▶ **Fast eaters and short faces mean more gas:** Not only do wolfers swallow air when they inhale their food, but they often overeat as well, backing up the digestive system. Pets with short noses — pugs and bulldogs, for example — are also not designed for an optimal intake situation. The result of swallowed air and excess fermentation is belches, flatulence or both. Several companies make bowls designed to slow down gulpers. You can also toss the bowl and feed from food puzzles — toys that make a pet work to get food a little bit at a time.

Some veterinarians and grateful pet owners also swear by a product called CurTail. The same as Beano for people, this anti-gas product contains an enzyme that helps break down food, so that it can be digested more fully with more internal combustion and less, shall we say, external combustion.

While we sometimes laugh when the dog passes gas, some top veterinarians caution that sometimes peculiar, persistent smells are more than meets the nose. In fact, sometimes underlying medical problems can generate those ty gasses that are more like tear gas n laughing gas.

It means that if the situation is on the occasional toot session, the farts are especially noxious — yes, I realize it's relative — and the strategies I've shared seem not to help at all, you'd better get your pet in for a veterinary checkup. There may be something more serious going on.

In other words: If you really want to clear the air, see your veterinarian. ■

Pets of the Week



>>>**Bud** is a handsome, 2-year-old orange tabby. Although he hangs back a bit at first, he comes out with a little coaxing. His adoption fee is \$55.



>>>**Pearl** is a 2-year-old American bulldog mix who's super friendly and eager to please. Her adoption fee is \$75.



>>>**Captain Jack** is a 7-year-old Jack Russell-terrier mix. He lost an eye to an early injury, but that doesn't seem to have slowed him down. His adoption fee is \$125.



>>>**Fred** is 12 years old. Although he's a serious guy, he likes people and enjoys being petted. His adoption fee is \$35.

To adopt a pet

All dogs and cats adopted from The Humane Society Naples come with a medical exam, vaccinations, sterilization surgery, ID microchip and 30 days of free pet health insurance. Visit the fine pets ready for adoption at The Humane Society Naples, 370 Airport-Pulling Road North, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Call 643-1555 or visit www.HSNaples.org.

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MUSINGS

The impassible dream



*Simply being alive demands faith.
To tell you my secrets demands
great faith.
To be silent demands greatest faith.
In the silence embrace emerges.*

So, on the way, let me tell you my dream. It is a beginning.

It is a road trip: "Are we there yet?"

Not yet: Summer solstice solace merely beckons. From the movement of this beckoning mudra winds move, anticipating the cooling of the longest day and the shortest night. These winds carry road trip songs: rowing boats ashore; disappearing grog bottles; tasteless untasteable feasts. And carried, too, are plans for passing by odd roadside attractions: huge baseball bats and huger turnips. And there are games to play on the way there: games of animals, vegetables, minerals, spying, and vehicular hues. These songs, plans, and games are walls surrounding secret gardens. There are always more songs and more plans and more games. Mothers bring them on the road with packs of gum and Lifesavers. And they feel in that bringing a deep competence and completion and safety.

And then there are the maps, both hard copied and spacey satellite mediated, rivals of the ancient sacred triptychs in providing method for the madness of travel. All of time and space is reduced to algorithm. It is a familiar song: "I know where I'm going, and I know who's going with me. I know who I love, and my dear knows who I'll marry..." We gladly sacrifice experience for control.

But down the road, beyond road show and road test, comes the fork. Here we separate the stolid from the solid, decisively.

To the right, there is diamond destination. Diamond is colorless, flawless, impenetrably hard, infinitely faceted. Only one, but an infinitely big one. I am longing to go to her, but my eyes flutter left.

And there I see fun house halls of mirrors and insect compound eyes of many thousands of lenses. I see fractals and kaleidoscopes and dancing endlessly nested matryoshka dolls. I see mosaics of infinite Baskin Robins ice cream matrices and innumerable continuously bifurcating wonderland rabbit holes.

A moment of terror ensues. We are



clearly not in Kansas anymore. And the road fork seems to be the ultimate physical manifestation of necessary and final choice. In this existential moment many old friends come out to play. I hear the singing and singeing of Sartre and Camus and Heidegger and Kafka. And then I hear simply the cacophonies

of frogs and insects that drown out the ballads of birds and evaporating dew.

Then all in one moment my vehicle lifts off, the angle of erection increasing. The trajectory unfolds path beyond bifurcation. What choice? Choice becomes excellence rather than decision. The one and the many melt, no distinctions remaining. It is truly all good, impassible, nothing impossible. No posse. No crime. Beyond suffering. It is in the time before the Towers of Bable. Before radicalization; before self and other.

Let's take this show on the road. Let's believe in fairies and fever and splendid night songs and heart-shaped leaves and swan neck embraces.

Faith is not mindless adherence to doctrine. Faith is not questionless conviction.

Rather in faith I bide my time. I sojourn in silent distinctionless gardens of experience. In going nowhere I arrive again, moment by moment, in embrace. There is only one Mother. And she travels light. No more needs to be said. ■

— 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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BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE

WEEK OF MAY 27-JUNE 2, 2010

A GUIDE TO THE NAPLES BUSINESS INDUSTRY



Drive-by marketing: The business of billboards

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

Listen up.

No more than seven bold words.

A single picture worth a thousand more.

And answers: Who, how fast and how many drive past? What's their median income? Where do they live and shop?

One other thing. Don't just one-off your billboard campaign on a couple of signs or a bus. Pound it home like buckshot — everywhere.

"Researchers have showed that the average person has to see a message 21 times before it sticks. So we encourage clients to make everything consistent — from business cards to billboards to magazines and newspapers to Web sites. Coordinate your colors, your thoughts, your message and your theme. It's critical, because the competition is so high."

Those are the words of Samantha Scott, president of Pushing the Envelope Inc., and immediate past president of the Southwest Florida chapter of the American Advertising Federation. "I would advise you to consider a billboard not as a one-off campaign, but as part of a complete communications plan," she adds.

In a nutshell, that's the soft science of the American billboard, a classic outdoor advertising tool paradoxically dating to the dark ages but still vividly current, according to the

experts (who will not bill you for reading this story).

"Billboards really serve as a reminder media, in the moment, to place something in the mind of the commuter," explains Ludmilla Wells, associate professor of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University. Professor Wells has studied the art of such advertising from the Americas to Russia and the former Soviet republics, where she travels periodically.

"You drive by a billboard and it's like, 'A-HA!' That's the whole premise of their campaign. It hasn't changed since the Burma Shave signs that were found on rural American roads beginning about 1925. You traveled along and you read a little story (from one sign to the next). Now a billboard campaign has evolved into banner ads on Web pages,

SEE BILLBOARDS, B5 ►

"Researchers have showed that the average person has to see a message 21 times before it sticks."



SCOTT

— Samantha Scott,
president of Pushing the
Envelope Inc.

WEEK at-a-glance



Wake Up Naples

And other networking social events in Collier County. **B9** ►



Your money

The Motley Fool tells the truth about investing. **B6** ►



On the move

Check out what local business men and women are doing in Collier County. **B4** ►

The trend is your friend... until it isn't

There have been some well-established trends that have benefited investors and businesses over the past 30 years. These key factors made investing and business simpler in yesteryears. It made the decision to remain invested, even during heightened volatility, much easier.

It is hard to focus on longer term themes if you think the investment sky is falling. You may want to take a reprieve from the panic of the European problems and concerns over China's equity market (down some 20 percent in 2010). You might want to consider the historically dominant

themes and if are they still in play.

First and foremost, for 30 years, the world has enjoyed the benefits of declining

interest rates. Amazingly, this long-term trend has not yet been violated. No one can deny that a huge amount of corporate growth and profits and investment returns, both bond and equity, have come from lower rates.

To continue to see gains generated by

jeannetteSHOWALTER, CFA
jshowaltercfa@yahoo.com



this factor, interest rates would have to trend lower in the U.S. The only G5 country boasting lower rates is Japan and their rates are a

result of 20 years of low growth alternated with years of outright deflation.

Are rates set to rise? While the EU/euro scare continues, there will probably continue to be a flight to U.S. dollars and U.S. government bonds. At some point, if American triple deficit trajectories remain

unaddressed, our government interest rates will reflect our heightened credit risk.

Making an assessment of interest rates is important and, to the extent the future is unclear, adopting a policy, which is interest neutral or protects you from much higher rates might be a good idea.

Another long term trend has been an acceleration in technology. Largely birthed in the U.S., these tech advances have driven down costs and may have had as much positive impact on corporate profits as

SEE MONEY, B5 ►

BUSINESS PROFILE

With one call, everything your home needs

BY EVAN WILLIAMS
ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

After 38 years as a custom home builder in Connecticut, John Doran moved to Fort Myers for the sunshine and to launch a new business. Since 2007, instead of earning his living building homes for clients, he manages them instead.

"The beauty of our business, for the client, is everything they need on a personal or home maintenance level is taken care of with one call," Mr. Doran said.

His company, Executive Home Concierge, manages your air-conditioning repairs, mows the lawn, washes the car and the dog, picks you up from the airport, makes sure the air in your bicycle tires is full, or does anything else prescribed by the homeowner. He keeps a personalized checklist for each house. One client on Captiva Island asks him to rake the beach sand out in front of the house on a regular basis.

His company is aimed at single-family homeowners who stay in town all year, or people who go out of town and leave the house empty. Especially during the summer, many homeowners live in second homes up North. With the help of four other employees in his company, who bring along their own experience in real estate, construction and other areas, they manage major repairs and minor details.

"Everything gets done so the house is in perfect condition, the pool's at 86

degrees, and the only thing they need to do is occupy the house," he said. "They don't spend two weeks taking care of items that got lost in the shuffle during the summer months."

Although his service might seem like a luxury reserved for the wealthy, Mr. Doran says it's not. His business is aimed just as much at people with a \$200,000 home or a \$20 million home.

"We save our clients two things: aggravation and money," he said.

They are charged a \$35 per week fee for house visits while they're gone, and a \$1,650 per year management fee. He works with other companies to provide things like pest control, major repairs in a disaster or other services. He bills clients for those services and adds a 10 percent fee on top of that for his service. But Mr. Doran says that fee is usually offset because he is able to negotiate a lower price on repairs and service than a homeowner could. Normally that savings comes to about 10 percent.

Initially, homeowners choose a set number of services and get a monthly bill based on what that will cost for one year.

"Every home is priced differently," Mr. Doran said. "When we get an inquiry, we reach out to all of our service providers and get pricing for that house. No two houses are the same."

Born and raised in Easton, Conn., Mr.



EVAN WILLIAMS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

John Doran

Doran, 60, lived near Fairfield most of his life, and raised children there. He and his wife, Jodie Chase, spent 12 years in Essex before moving to Fort Myers three years ago.

"I wanted to escape the cold," Mr. Doran said.

He also felt his future career as a luxury homebuilder in Connecticut looked less bright than it once had. That was not necessarily because of the economy, he

said, but because larger builders took over an increasingly large market share there.

"I could see the future not being what it was for those 38 years," he said.

Instead, he saw home management as a niche industry he could pursue in Southwest Florida. His venture has been a success so far. After a marketing campaign this year, he nearly doubled the number of homes he looks after. In January, Mr. Doran had 21 clients, all on Captiva and Sanibel Islands. Now he has 38 homes to care for throughout Lee and Collier counties.

When he's not managing homes, Mr. Doran is writing two books. With a ghostwriter, he's finishing a non-fiction account of long-time love of NFL football. He's been in the stands, or in the owner's box, for nine Super Bowls. He's also working

on a "John Grisham-style" plot-twister set in the Cayman Islands. He also likes to sing, and still performs the music of his youth, 1950's era "street-corner doo-wop."

In the years to come, he plans to grow Executive Home Concierge and take care of many more local homes.

"Our goal is to be the premier home service company in Southwest Florida," he said. ■

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Beautifully conceived living space overlooking the natural habitat of Lantern Lake. Designed by the well known Naples firm of Herscoe-Hajjar, Architects, Inc. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. \$5,950,000



GORDON DRIVE

One of Naples' most sought after beachfront locations. Expansive beach frontage on south Gordon Drive with older home. \$10,495,000



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Situated on two wide water estate lots with magnificently landscaped grounds. Originally built in 1993 and renovated in 2006 & 2008 by Newbury North Associates. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. \$10,995,000



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Three and one-half Port Royal lots overlooking Naples Bay with multiple building opportunities. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. \$18,990,000



GORDON DRIVE

Pristine estate lot on Cutlass Cove provides a remarkable safe harbor just around the bend from Gordon Pass and the Gulf of Mexico. Cutlass Cove Beach Club and Port Royal Club membership eligibility. \$2,750,000



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Spectacular long water view estate site. Close to the Port Royal Club. Expansive lot and one-half creates a large building envelope along Morgan's Cove. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. \$5,900,000



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Two and one-half Port Royal lots with commanding southeast views over Naples Bay. Multiple building opportunities. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. \$12,500,000



KINGS TOWN DRIVE

Dramatic views over Treasure Cove from this architectural masterpiece designed by renowned architect Kasimir Korybut. Elegant, yet comfortable, tropical living. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. \$5,950,000

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Accounting



MONTALBANO



NESBIT

■ **Peter Montalbano**, CFP, has joined the Naples office of Rehmann to lead the financial advisory team. He joined **Brett Nesbit**, CPA, who leads the office's accounting practice. Mr. Montalbano has more than two decades of experience in the wealth management business. He joins Rehmann from Oppenheimer & Co., where he oversaw the assets of high net worth families and retirees. Rehmann is an integrated accounting, business consulting and wealth management firm with offices in Michigan and Ohio as well as in Florida.

■ **Anthony Scrocco** of Hill, Barth, & King LLC, Certified Public Accountants and Business Consultants, has completed the CPA exam and been promoted to supervisor. Mr. Scrocco holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting from Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. His industry experience includes contractors, engineering companies, manufacturers, not-for-profit organizations and individual clients.

Also at HBK, **Genie Reeves** has obtained licensure in the state of Florida upon transferring her CPA license from Ohio and has also been promoted to supervisor. Ms. Reeves holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Her industry experience includes not-for-profit organizations, investment companies, real estate, contractors and common interest realty associations.

Board Appointments

■ **David Farmer** has been elected chairman of the board of directors for the Urban Land Institute Southwest Florida District Council for the 2010-2012 term. Mr. Farmer is the managing principal of Keystone Development Advisors LLC. He also serves as a commissioner for the Collier Mosquito Control District and sits on the Collier County Value Adjustment Board, the city of LaBelle Code Review Committee, the Florida Governmental Utility Authority, the Home Owners Association of Golden Gate Estates and the Golden Gate Fire Department Citizens Advisory Board. He is also the publisher and editor of Floridadevelopmentnews.com.

com. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Florida.

Hospitality Management



MILES

■ **Daniel Miles** has been named general manager of Bonita Bay Club. He previously was general manager of Medinah Country Club in Chicago. Mr. Miles is responsible for all facilities and personnel at the member-owned Bonita Bay Club, including operation of 90 holes of championship golf, two clubhouses, three practice facilities, fitness center and an 18-court tennis and swim center. Prior to Medinah Country Club, he was general manager of The Denver Country Club. He holds a bachelor's degree in business from Indiana University and has completed all five courses of the Business Management Institute of the Club Managers Association of America at Cornell University. He has also developed course curriculum and served as an instructor for the private club management course at Purdue University.



COLEMAN

■ **Ian Coleman** has been named director of golf sales at Bonita Bay East, home to two Tom Fazio-designed championship golf courses now available for daily fee play. Mr. Coleman has more than 14 years of experience in golf club marketing and membership sales, including serving as director of membership at Shadow Wood Country Club and The Commons Club at The Brooks. A graduate of Bryant and Stratton College in Buffalo, N.Y., he is a member of the Club Managers Association of America, Membership Directors Association of Southwest Florida and the Professional Convention Management Association.

Interior Design



MCDONALD

■ **Jinx McDonald Designs Inc.**, a high-end residential interior design firm, is celebrating its 10th year serving commercial and residential clients from Port Royal in Naples to Canada, Costa Rica, Ireland and Jamaica. Head designer Jinx McDonald and business director Trudy Norcombe are the company's co-founders. ■

Chamber of commerce welcomes new members

The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce welcomed the following new members in April:

5th Avenue Coffee Company; Café Italia Ristorante; Cheryl Diermier McDonnell; Chris Wortman, South Bay Realty; Custom Made Palm Tree Company; Health Team LLC; Life Alliance, Miami; Physician Led Access Network (PLAN) of Col-

lier County; Quantum Energy Services, Bonita Springs; Sun Saver Magazine, Bonita Springs; and Way Too Cool LLC.

To learn more about the new members, visit the chamber's online business directory at www.napleschamber.org. To learn more about joining the chamber, contact Don Neer at 403-2906 or don@napleschamber.org. ■

Captain Jim Albert

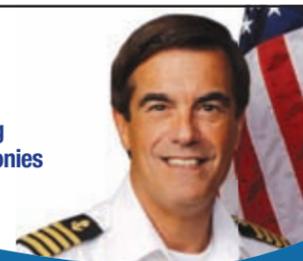
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BILLBOARDS

From page 1

for example. But wherever it appears, it's there to prompt you to do something."

Seems simple to most of us, perhaps — just a few witty words and a good picture. What could be easier?

But a great billboard requires the precise and elegant mastery of a fine artist, the blunt impact of a sledge-hammer poet, and the demographic research of an anthropological techie, the experts say.

"It's not easy," concludes Professor Wells.

From Naples to Sarasota, however, a lot of people don't appear to know that. There are thousands of signs decorating our roadways and cityscapes, not to mention the Web sites we frequent, but most of us can recall only a few.

A quick survey of very alert *Florida Weekly* staff members — people who spend significant time on the road and get paid to pay attention — suggests how hard it is to do this well.

Like victims of an ambush Rorschach test, when 12 eyes-wide-open staffers were asked out of the blue to name their favorite billboards, seven didn't even bother to respond, probably because they were struck mute (or too busy). Only one could get past the first recollection, to two or three noteworthy examples of the outdoor advertiser's art. And that was it.

Responses went like this.

Pason Gaddis, publisher: "Gold's Gym, on U.S. 41. Something about, 'Are you a MILF?'"



EVAN WILLIAMS/ FLORIDA WEEKLY.

Electronic billboards allow advertisers to rent space by the day, week or month.

Michelle Noga, publisher of the Punta Gorda-Charlotte edition. "I saw a great one for a sports radio station. It had a zoom-in on a girl from the waist up and the neck down with huge fake breasts, wearing a skimpy bikini top. Underneath the breasts it said, 'FAKE LEFT,' then 'FAKE RIGHT,' then 'WQAM 560.' It was hysterical and attention-grabbing!"

Oswaldo Padilla, assistant managing editor of the Fort Myers edition and champion billboard observer: "I like the 'Mommy, take my hand not my life' billboard, just south of Alico Road, I think, or maybe Corkscrew. No matter how many times I see it, it always gets a rise out of me.

"In Miami, I always look out for the Aldo Shoes billboards. Gorgeous women wearing nice shoes — do I need to say more?"

"Of course, Chick-Fil-A has those great billboards with the cows."

Evan Williams, writer, "15 Minutes"

columnist: "For some reason I'm drawing a complete blank on this one... something vaguely comes to mind... something about beef or cows or milk or something..."

Kathy Grey, editor of the Punta Gorda-Charlotte edition: "I do have a favorite — a favorite three. Maybe I shouldn't mention them because they happen to be *Florida Weekly's*, but I will — all strategically planted along U.S. 41 as you approach the outskirts of Punta Gorda. 'Free. For All.' It's very good. It got the name out. It got the price out. It opened itself to everyone and anyone. It repeats itself (old sales rule) about a half-mile down the road, and it repeats itself again, later. (Ditto the sales rule.) A year ago, drivers were saying, 'What IS *Florida Weekly*?' Now they know."

But how much does it cost to get them to know? The prices can range from \$100 to the thousands, says Ms. Scott. That doesn't mean a well-designed campaign has to be expensive, she adds — especially in the age of electronic billboards, where you can change the words frequently, and rent

by the day, the week or the month.

"You're not buying the billboard so much as the traffic that drives past it," notes Professor Wells.

And if the traffic drives past it at high rates of speed, you're limited to the briefest hard-hitting message. But if traffic has to stop or slow down significantly in front of your billboard, you can do something else — maybe even think out of the box and ignore the seven-word rule.

At Outofhome Billboard, a national outfit with local offices (www.ooh-center.com), hundreds of billboard locations all over Southwest Florida are conveniently listed online. By clicking on a given location, you can get a 360-degree motion picture of the spot, detailed demographics based on the last U.S. Census, and a cute little form to be filled out with your ambitions, your budget, your art thoughts if you have any, and so on — a campaign primer, of sorts.

After all the effort (that's TEAM effort, the experts strongly advise), perhaps a great billboard campaign can make you rich — or not.

"Nothing I've read or studied — and that includes everything from the popular trade press to academic research — has suggested that a billboard campaign can alter the history of a business," Professor Wells says. "I would be impressed if I saw that.

"But it is an efficient way to tell a story, and it can enhance a business significantly."

Good enough for government work — and most anybody else's. It can "Enhance A Business Significantly."

Need an enhancement, anyone?

COURTESY PHOTO

The Chick-fil-A and Take my Hand billboards adhere to the seven words or less rule of thumb.



MONEY

From page 1

interest rates. The U.S. lead, however, is increasingly being challenged by foreign country copy cats (e.g. a Baidu vs. a Google) and technology piracy. Technology gains have come from the private sector and will continue to require raising large amounts of risk capital.

To suggest that the past 30 years was characterized by currency stability would be incorrect. The big BUT is that there is now greater currency volatility; as is possible termination of the Euro as a currency; several key trading partners might move away from a fixed exchange with the dollar (if the Euro stabilizes); and there is now a meaningful debate of the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency. That is a "kitchen sink" of currency issues.

Without relatively stable currency exchanges it is increasingly difficult for countries to externally finance their

debt and for international companies to figure overseas expansion and purchasing/pricing — less so if they are broadly diversified. In the upcoming June G5 meeting, it is quite possible that the world leaders will discuss the merits of fixed exchange rates for the Euro until problems are resolved... if they can be resolved.

For some 30 years, we have had a shift from communism to capitalism all over the world, be it in China, Russia, Eastern Europe, South America and even Africa. It is generally not the U.S. form of capitalism as it is not within democratic principles or government.

Third World countries with natural resources no longer need the IMF or the World Bank. They can turn to India or China to create quick and easy deals which trade their resources for infrastructure improvements financed and completed by the buying country. The deal terms disregard the oppressive nature of the government and the lack of civil freedoms and humanitarian/social justice. It would seem that the Third World countries can continue to grow

without the traditional financiers exporting democracy and attendant values.

For 30 years, the emerging markets and countries were still in the process of emerging. Can we all agree that India and China have emerged? In the game of capitalism, they are no one's fools and they are, together, equivalent to the U.S. in economic power.

True, all countries and multinational companies benefited from the growth in China and India but the lion's share of gains went to them. (The U.S. bought "stuff" at cheaper than a "made-in-USA" prices while China built up its infrastructure and business base, still saving \$2 trillion in foreign exchange reserves.)

These new engines of world growth are not natural resource rich. Beginning in about 2002, these countries embarked on an acquisition frenzy to buy and bid up the resources needed for the present and the future. Nothing suggests this trend will end.

For 30 years, many countries, municipalities and individuals have been able to borrow beyond their means — the U.S., Ireland, Dubai, the PIIGS (Portugal, Italy,

Ireland, Greece and Spain), etc. (Generally, this largesse has not characterized corporations except foreign, state-owned companies used to effect country monetary or fiscal policy.) Deleveraging is painful — painful to the borrower who adopts austerity or painful to the lender who faces write-offs or changed terms. Deleveraging, once in place, is a difficult trend to reverse, absent strong inflation.

All this does not mean that the U.S. and world economies will fail to expand or that markets will collapse. Not at all. It might mean that business and investing has a lot more challenges in today's world than in previous years.

So whether you are committing new funds or taking some off the table, you might want to consult with your adviser about how you can "play" long term trends to your benefit. ■

— Jeannette Rohn Showalter is a Southwest Florida-based chartered financial analyst, considered to be the highest designation for investment professionals. She can be reached at jshowaltercfa@yahoo.com.



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Investing in individual stocks can be terrific. Some of them can double and triple and quadruple for you over a few years, after all. But that doesn't usually come easily. To succeed in stocks, you need time to research them, skills to study and evaluate them, and enough interest to keep up with them. If that doesn't describe you, it can make lots of sense to steer clear.

But wait; if you stay out of the market, you'll miss out on a great way to build your wealth — a way that, over the long haul, trumps most alternatives. The stock market's historical average annual return is around 10 percent. That's enough to increase your money nearly 1,000 percent over 25 years.

Fortunately, you can still invest effectively in the stock market — via mutual funds. You don't need lots of money to start. Yes, some funds have minimum initial investment amounts of \$3,000 or \$10,000. But others require \$500 or less.

When you invest via a retirement

account such as an IRA, some funds have lower minimums or waive them entirely. And with exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that trade like stocks, you can buy as little as a single affordable share — though the commission on that small a trade might make it not worthwhile.

Consider the Schwab Total Stock Market (SWTSX) fund. It's a great broad-market index fund with a low expense ratio of 0.21 percent annually. (Index funds typically have very low fees.) In recent years it has outperformed the S&P 500, and its minimum investment amount is a mere \$100.

Among actively managed funds (as opposed to passively managed funds that just copy indexes), the Homestead Value (HOVLX) fund sports market-beating results and has a reasonable expense ratio of 0.80 percent. Its minimum investment? \$500.

Those are just two of many low-cost, low-minimum funds.

To see our fund recommendations and model portfolios, take advantage of a free trial of our "Rule Your Retirement" newsletter at www.ruleyourretirement.com. ■

My Dumbest Investment

Better & Beyond

One of my dumbest investments was selling 400 shares of Bed Bath & Beyond in early December, betting on a price drop after poor Christmas sales. The company ended up reporting better-than-expected results, and I bought the shares back at a \$1,200 loss. Short-term trading is gambling.

— Paul, online

The Fool Responds: You're right: Investing based on what you think a stock will do in the coming days or months is often little more than gambling. A better way to build a fortune is to find great companies and hang on for as long as you believe in them, ideally for years. For such investors, what really matters is how they expect the company to perform over the coming decade, not the coming holiday season.

Bed Bath & Beyond stock has been performing well, but investors in our CAPS. Fool.com community are mixed on its merits, with some feeling the stock has gotten ahead of itself. Indeed, its price-to-earnings ratio is near the high end of its five-year range. ■



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

Based in California, I'm America's second-largest integrated energy company, involved in every aspect of the crude oil and natural gas industry. I'm investing in alternative energies, too. I employ about 60,000 people globally, including roughly 4,000 service station employees, and my annual sales top \$160 billion. My roots go back to the 1870s and the Pacific Coast Oil Co., which later became Standard Oil Co. of California. I got my current name when I acquired Gulf Oil in 1984. I merged with Texaco in 2001. I produced 2.7 million barrels of net oil-equivalent per day in 2009. Who am I? ■

(Answer: Chevron)



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.

What Is This Thing Called The Motley Fool?

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

Ask the Fool

Retiring at 50 Takes Careful Planning

QI've bought stocks and have a diversified portfolio. How many shares should I buy to actually start making money to retire in, say, 10 years? I'm 40. Is this attainable in 10 years?

— C.S.M.

A Don't think about the number of shares; think about the dollar value of your portfolio. By itself, a stock price doesn't mean much. A \$6 stock can be wildly overvalued, while a \$200 stock can be a screaming bargain, destined to double in a year or two.

The stock market has advanced at an annual average of 10 percent over the long haul, though over the course of your investing time frame of 10 (or 20 or 30) years, it might average considerably more or less. If you have a portfolio worth \$100,000 and it grows at 8 percent over a decade, it will amount to about \$216,000. Will that be enough to retire on? Probably not, but it will depend on your other sources of income.

Remember, too, that if you retire at age 50, you'll likely have a very long retirement, so plan carefully to ensure that your money will last.

QDid I hear correctly that some wealthy Americans are lobbying for higher taxes on the rich? Who are they?

— S.U., Gainesville, Fla.

A Indeed, more than 700 high-income folks have banded together to support the Obama administration's plan to roll back tax cuts they received over the past decade, in order to reduce our deficit. They have pledged to donate the tax breaks they enjoy in 2010, while pushing for the breaks to be removed in 2011. Learn more about the Responsible Wealth project at www.faireconomy.org. ■

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

Name That Company

Born in Dallas in 1975, I'm a top global casual dining chain, with more than 1,700 restaurants and 125,000 employees in 27 countries.

Most of my units bear the Chili's name, but I also operate Maggiano's Little Italy. I'm selling my On the Border Mexican Grill and Cantina brand, and recently sold a majority interest in Romano's Macaroni Grill. My stock has beaten the market over the past



decade. My ticker symbol is what I want my customers to do in my restaurants — frequently. I've pledged \$50 million to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. 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

P&G Pays the Price

After getting its mojo back at the end of 2009, consumer-goods giant Procter & Gamble (NYSE: PG) continues to grow sales and product volume. These improving metrics, however, are taking their toll on profit growth. Fiscal 2010 third quarter sales of \$19.2 billion represent a 7 percent year-over-year gain. Organic sales, which strip out the effects of currency movements and acquisitions and divestitures, rose 4 percent. For comparison, Colgate-Palmolive recently posted organic sales growth of 6 percent.

In order to sell more goods, P&G is bringing down prices and stepping up advertising. Quarterly earnings per share (EPS) from continuing operations advanced 6 per-

cent. That's decent, given that we're still in the early innings of P&G's product shake-up. Moreover, "core EPS," which excludes items such as charges related to health-care reform, gained a larger 10 percent.

Volume performance was also encouraging; the company posted a jump of 7 percent, showing P&G regaining traction.

In terms of developed-market consumers, P&G may never again recapture its mid-to-high double-digit income growth of the pre-recession years.

With a forward price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio around 15, P&G is appealing. As the economic cycle matures, it could become the relative value leader. (Procter & Gamble is a "Motley Fool Income Investor" pick, and The Motley Fool owns shares of it.) ■

BUSINESS MEETINGS

► **Young Professionals of Naples** members meet for networking, socializing, sports and charity work at various locations and events around town. For membership information and a calendar of events, visit www.ypnnaples.com.

► **CREW**, Commercial Real Estate Women of Naples/Fort Myers, meets at noon Thursday, May 27, at Quattrocento in Coconut Point. Guest speaker will be Betsy Allen of Gaining Results Inc. Cost is \$20 for members and \$30 for others. To register, visit www.crewnetworkswfl.com.

► The **Empowered Network North Naples** chapter meets at 11 a.m. Friday, May 28, at Bucca de Peppo. Guest speaker Nancy Susteric will discuss "Creating a Vision Board." Registration at [\[working.com\]\(http://working.com\) or e-mail \[info@Empowered-Networking.com\]\(mailto:info@Empowered-Networking.com\).](http://www.empowerdnet-</p>
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► **A Job Search Support Group** sponsored by the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce meets from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday at chamber headquarters. For more information, e-mail Karen Klukiewicz at kluk77@comcast.net or visit www.napleschamber.org.

► **The Council of Hispanic Business Professionals** meets at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 2, in the Bella Vista Lounge at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, 2600 Tiburon Drive. Cost is \$18 for members and \$23 for guests. For more information, visit www.chbnaples.org.

► **N.A.P.L.E.S.** (Naples Area Profes-

sional League of Executive Services) meets for networking beginning at 7 a.m. Thursday, June 3, aboard the Naples Princess, 550 Port O'Call Way. The meeting begins at 7:45 a.m. Guest speaker Richard Pegnetter, dean of the Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University, will discuss "Strategies for the Business School and the University in Regional Economic Development." For more information, call Tim Tillapaugh at 825-7711 or Patrick Dearborn at 877-4340 or visit www.naplesgroup.net.

► **The Naples Area Board of Realtors Community Involvement Committee** meets from 8:30-10 a.m. Thursday, June 3, at NABOR headquarters, 1455 Pine Ridge. For more information, visit www.NABOR.com.

► The next **Accelerated Networking**

Luncheon for members of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 3, at Buca di Beppo, 8860 Tamiami Trail N. Cost is \$15. Register by June 2 at www.naples-chamber.org.

► **The CBIA Remodelers Council** meets from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 3, at Affordable Flooring, 2700 Immokalee Road. For more information, visit www.cbina.net.

► **The Jewish Business Network of Southwest Florida** meets for breakfast and business on the second Friday of the month from 7:30-9 a.m. in the conference room at Robb & Stucky, 13170 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers. To RSVP and for more information, call 433-7708 or e-mail yourjbn@chabadswf.org. Next meeting: June 11. ■

Research shows office buddies can boost job performance

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

It pays to keep employees who are good friends side by side in the workplace, suggests a University of Florida study that finds pals often help each other by working closely on a job but can reduce productivity if they labor in separate departments.

Further complicating the generally accepted idea that friendships are good for work is that too much empathy and emotion between friends can reduce their performance, says Jessica Methot, who did the study for her doctoral dissertation in management at UF.

“Although previous research has suggested workplace friendships are positive because they raise employees’ morale, we found a dark side to these relationships,” Ms. Methot says. “When friendships involve someone who works outside your department or performs different kinds of tasks and is not able to help you with your job, they are more of a distraction.”

Too often these employees chat about non-office related topics with chums, interfering with their ability to focus on their duties and interrupting the flow of work, she explains. Co-workers feel obligated to stop what they are doing to help their friends when they have a question, knowing their friends would do the same for them, she adds.

While other studies find that having office buddies boosts job satisfaction, they have not examined the effect of friendships on work performance, Ms. Methot, who will become a professor at Rutgers University when she graduates, says.

The implications of workplace friendships are important in today’s tough

economy with businesses that have job openings increasingly relying on referrals from employees, who suggest people they know and like, she says. Such hires have better retention rates, prompting some employers to offer rewards to staff members who make referrals.

“Referrals are a very common and inexpensive way for employers to hire people because they don’t have to go through the entire recruitment and selection process,” she says

Ms. Methot adds good friends give each other — and their employers — a boost on the job through familiarity and freely sharing information that lead to jobs well done.

“Friends are much more open than other co-workers about providing each other with deep and valuable information, which can make a difference in how well they do their jobs,” she says. “This is especially important in the present economic downturn, with people being laid off and supervisors having less time to spend with their employees.”

Ms. Methot, who owns and operates several restaurants with her husband, says she became intrigued with the topic after noticing that workplace friendships were a good influence on some people and not others. She surveyed 182 employees at three clothing stores and six restaurants in North Florida



lot more to you than having a disagreement with someone you don’t know as well.”

Particularly problematic is reports of good news, such as raises and promotions, which cause hard feelings if coworkers feel they are passed over in favor of friends, Ms. Methot says. “When someone else is rewarded who does the same type of work, you want to be happy for them, but there is likely to be tension.”

American businesses have shifted their emphasis

from independent tasks to group-based work, with eight out of 10 U.S. organizations that employ 100 people or more using teams, Ms. Methot reports. Managers try to build employee cohesion in this new work design by taking steps like creating informal break rooms and scheduling group picnics.

These results suggest that organizations should focus on practices that promote friendship among co-workers who interact for work-related purposes.

Despite the risks of these social connections, of a subsample of 26 survey respondents Ms. Methot personally interviewed, 23 people said such friendships were worth having.

With work’s dominance in people’s lives, it’s not surprising how influential these relationships have become, Ms. Methot says. “Often times you end up spending more time with your co-worker than you do your own family.” ■

about the effects of these friendships. A month later she surveyed each of the employees’ supervisors, who rated their job performance.

While she learned it is more productive to keep friends in the same department, she also realized that personal closeness can backfire if employees become too emotional and distracted on the job. “This finding is quite interesting because it suggests that having co-workers who provide empathy and boost one’s spirits may actually detract from the ability to do the job,” she said.

The emotional distress that goes along with managing friendships in a professional setting — even though they offer some benefits — makes it more difficult for employees to focus on their work. “We found these relationships cause a certain amount of exhaustion to maintain,” she says. “If you have a disagreement with a friend, it means a

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Coral Hospitality takes over Miami Beach's Gansevoort Hotel

Naples-based Coral Hospitality, a full-service management and investment company specializing in hotels, clubs and residential communities, has been awarded the contract to manage operations at The Gansevoort South Hotel in Miami Beach and its adjacent condominium residences. Conde Nast Traveler (UK) included the property in its list of the top 50 hottest hotels in the world.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gansevoort South Hotel in Miami Beach

"We are excited to be appointed as the manager of the Gansevoort South," said Lee Weeks, CEO of Coral Hospitality. "As in other similar transitions in which we have been involved over the years, we expect the change to go smoothly during the next few months."

Following a \$100 million renovation, the 334-room Gansevoort South, with its prime oceanfront location in South Beach and some of the largest guest rooms in South Florida, is one of the most popular destinations in the market. Adding to its allure is a 43,000-square-foot David Barton gym; celebrity-favored restaurants Philippe by Philippe Chow and STK by The ONE Group; and VIP lounge Louis, operated by Opium Group, Miami's premier nightlife operator.

At 2377 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, the Gansevoort South includes 259 condominium residences and 334 guest-

rooms. The guestrooms average more than 700 square feet and have views of the Atlantic Ocean, Biscayne Bay or the city skyline. Guests and residents of the property have their choice of three pools: the infinity edge ocean view pool by the Gansevoort Beach Club, the South Pool, and the adults-only, rooftop Plunge pool, which doubles as an ultra-chic club lounge at night.

With close to 30 properties in its portfolio, Coral Hospitality has built a reputation of excellence in the industry for strong leadership and the ability to deliver results for third-party institutional and private owners of fine resorts, hotels, clubs and residential communities. One of its key properties, Sandpearl Resort on Clearwater Beach, was voted Top 10 in the world by Expedia customers and in the top 10 percent of all Preferred Hotels. ■

Job search support group meets weekly

A job search support group for downsized employees of local businesses meets weekly at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce. The group is geared toward white



collar, administrative and professional workers, rather than trade and service workers. It is not a job placement service. Emphasis is on networking, resumes, interviewing skills and best practices for a successful transition.

Participants should come prepared to discuss who they are, what type of opportunity they seek and what makes them good candidates for jobs. Assistance is available to those who are still working through these topics. Each session offers an in-depth look at tools and critical elements for a successful transition. ■

For more information, e-mail Karen Klukiewicz at kluk77@comcast.net. No advance registration is required, and there is no charge to attend. ■

The Marino Group expands fleet services

Local business owner Tony Marino has revamped The Marino Group, the parent company of Regency Transportation and Marino Parking. The Marino Group has undertaken an aggressive new marketing campaign to promote the addition of new vehicles, services and programs. Mr. Marino has added three new buses and is planning to add an SUV in time for summer.

The company Web site and all marketing materials have been recreated and the firm is utilizing more current technology such as mass texting and video e-blasts to reach clients. Regency Transportation has added services such as "The Marino Casino," "NonCash NonCab," scavenger hunts and "The Star Treatment" in an effort to encourage people to use the larger vehicles. The Marino Group is also in talks with MADD to set up a designated driver program for Marino Parking's valet customers.

Mr. Marino has been in the valet business for 25 years and in transportation for six years. ■

Charter fishing boat ready for adventures

After a brief retirement, Capt. Gene Luciano, former owner of Double Sunshine, Lady Brett and Capt. Paul at Tin City, has purchased a custom charter fishing vessel and is operating out of Tin City. He has named the boat Dalis, a family name synonymous with his fishing business in the Naples and Marco area for the past 38 years.

A 43-foot twin diesel, the Dalis travels at 23 knots and has a half-tower



COURTESY PHOTO

Tin City

and teak decks and is outfitted for serious offshore fishermen. Capt. Luciano and Capt. Dan Jordan are booking private half-day, three-quarter and full day charters. Call 450-4870 or 595-4982. ■

Sportalm opens at Mercato

Sportalm has made its U.S. debut at Mercato. Founded in Kitzbühel, Austria, Sportalm is well known in high-end European fashion markets as one of Austria's best-known winter sport resorts. With high-end sports, high-end fashion often follows in step.

Sportalm at Mercato is located along Strada Place and will feature high fashion and ski apparel for men and women including exclusive collections by Van Santen & Van Santen, L'Argentina, E-motion and Philipp Plein.

"This is our first store in the United States and Mercato makes a good fit for us," said Veronika Bustamante, manager of Sportalm at Mercato. "It's the new place to be in town and our store is very unique. "There is nothing like this in Naples."

Revered as the alpine center of high-society and trend origins, Kitzbühel serves as the inspiration for the Sportalm women's line E-motion. The new line is touted as focusing on an elegant lifestyle with top fashion that is sensuous and infinitely feminine. E-motion stands for a collection that will arouse one's emotions, at the same time as incorporating the motion, the movement and the activity. As ease of movement is key in sports, it is no less important to the Sportalm philosophy of a graceful, feminine, flowing style. ■

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Wake Up Naples with the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce



Bob Sandy, Barry Nicholls and Peter Manion



Mike Reagan, Ross Obley and Ted Soliday



Rachelle Youmans, Bob Sandy and Russell Tuff



Bob Krupp, Orly Stolts and Joe Whitehead



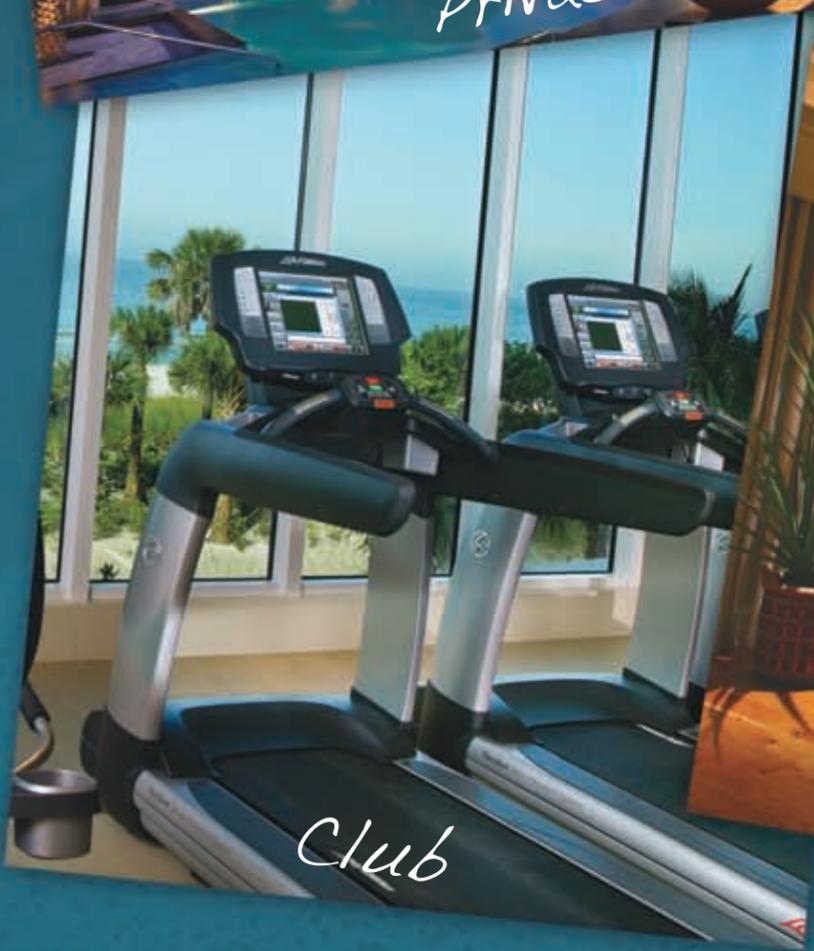
Kathy Swank and Tony Marino



Ken Shevin, Sandra and Reg Buxton

COURTESY PHOTOS

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REAL ESTATE

WEEK OF MAY 27-JUNE 2, 2010

A GUIDE TO THE NAPLES REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY

| B11

Let the experts help spice up your home life

Robb & Stucky Interiors hosts a series of free design seminars to help homeowners make the best of their surroundings. All seminars take place in the showroom at 2777 Tamiami Trail N. Although attendance is free, space is limited and reservations are requested. Call 261-3969 or visit www.RobbStucky.com to reserve a seat.

Here's what's coming up:

► **11 a.m. Thursday, May 27: "Kicking Off Summer: Bringing the Beach Inside"** - Design consultant Jeanine Lofendo will demonstrate how to incorporate soft pastel colors and the cottage theme into your home for a year-round, fun-in-the-sun atmosphere that has the relaxed feeling of the beach — without any sand to sweep up. The session will showcase the Watercolors Collection from Robb & Stucky.

► **11 a.m. Thursday, June 3: "Redress Your Next"** - Interior designer Cynde Thompson and design consultant Mike Hayes will illustrate how to create a new look with your existing furniture. From rearranging your floor plan to mixing and matching your current accessories, learn the tips and tricks that you'll need to redecorate your home. Be sure to bring pictures, samples and floor plans for this interactive seminar.

► **11 a.m. Thursday, June 10: "Headboard Help"** - Design consultant Joan Schneider will offer four fresh ideas for headboards to spice up your bedroom retreat, whether you want to bring color, tie in bold artwork or create a more feminine look for your room.

► **11 a.m. Thursday, June 17: "Luscious Leather"** - Design consultant Fred Rondina and American Leather representative Scott Crawford will explain everything you need to know about selecting and caring for leather pieces for the home.

► **11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 24, Complimentary design consultations** - Gather your floor plans, blueprints, fabrics, color swatches, photos and questions and join members of the Robb & Stucky design team for a one-on-one, hour-long consultation. Reservations required. Call now. ■



COURTESY PHOTO

Grande Preserve near sellout

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Premier Properties of Southwest Florida announced that The Grande Preserve at The Dunes is 80 percent sold.

Overlooking 100-acre preserve, Turkey Bay and beyond to the Gulf of Mexico, the towers of Grande Preserve, Grande Phoenician and Grande Geneva offer resort-caliber recreational facilities in a private guard-gated enclave north of Bluebill Avenue and west of Vanderbilt Drive.

Each residence has a private foyer elevator entry and two access-controlled parking spaces. Other features include 9-foot-plus ceilings, high-efficiency HVAC systems, GE Monogram stainless steel appliances, gas cooktops and granite countertops.

Only seven developer residences remain at Grande Phoenician. With a total of 90 residences, the high-rise has 17 floors and six floor plans ranging from 2,747 square feet under air to 2,893 square feet under air.

Grande Geneva has 75 units on 18 floors, with 27 developer residences



COURTESY PHOTO

The Dunes Floridian Club on the Gulf of Mexico

remaining available. Floor plans range from 2,798 square feet of living area to 3,728 square feet of living area.

Residences in Grande Phoenician and Grande Geneva all have three bedrooms and three full baths, and prices begin at \$875,000.

The lakefront Plantation Club is an inviting retreat designed to reflect the casual elegance of a Caribbean resort. A tennis center with pro-shop, six lighted tennis courts, fully equipped fitness center and spa services plus an enticing

pool, gazebo-ensconced hot tub surrounded by a furnished plaza and sundeck, casually elegant dining and a social calendar chock full of special events are all part of this gracious lifestyle. Guest cottages are available for use by family and friends staying overnight.

Fully staffed until just past sunset, the beachfront Floridian Club offers food, and beverage service at dining tables, poolside and beachside. Five bayside guest cottages are available to accommodate guests in a first-class setting, and a beach shuttle service is available for members and guests.

Premier Properties of Southwest Florida Inc., Realtors is the exclusive sales and marketing representative of The Grande Preserve at The Dunes. For more information, call the on-site sales center at 594-1700. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

For more information about Premier Properties, the real estate division of The Lutgert Companies, visit www.premier-properties.com. ■

Summer pricing in affect at Lely Resort's Caldecott

Stock Development has released new summer pricing in the Caldecott single-family neighborhood at Lely Resort, a country club community in Naples.

Caldecott is a private neighborhood of 63 single-family residences located in the north half of Lely Resort and offering a mix of sweeping golf course, lake and nature preserve views. Caldecott offers a total of six single-story, two-story and courtyard-style floor plans that range from 1,647 to 2,394 square feet under air and priced from the \$320,000s.

"Fifty-three of the 63 homes in the neighborhood are sold," said Tim Clark, vice president of sales. "For a limited time, homebuyers receive \$25,000 towards options and upgrades on lots 6 - 14 in the Caldecott neighborhood or a free standard pool package. On lot 8, the San Remo is available for immediate purchase at \$25,000 off of the regular price of \$382,990."

All homes in Caldecott are built by Stock Construction and feature the finest interior appointments, including: Corian countertops, GE appliances, and 16-inch ceramic tile flooring. Exterior features include a pool and spa option package, brick paver driveway and walkways and a landscape package.

The San Remo is a two-bedroom, two-bath great room-style home that features a gourmet kitchen, a dining room, a study, a screened covered lanai and a two-car garage. The home offers 1,647 square feet under air and is a total of 2,369 square feet including the lanai, the garage and the entry.

Lely Resort offers 11 neighborhoods showcasing flats, townhomes, casitas, coach homes, twin villas, single-family homes and custom estate homes. Extraordinary values are on offer throughout Lely Resort with prices beginning in the \$180,000s.



COURTESY PHOTO

The living room of the Tivoli model in the Caldecott neighborhood.

Amenities at Lely Resort include The Players Club & Spa and three championship golf courses designed by legends of the game Robert Trent Jones, Gary Player and Lee Trevino, as well as two golf clubhouses.

The Players Club & Spa offers more than 20,000 square feet under air with a 3,500 square foot fitness center, a 2,500 square foot social room, a 1,200 square foot aerobics room, an arts and crafts room, a card room, a media room, billiards room and a theater room.

Outside, in a tropical setting, is a resort-style pool and spa with a cabana area. There are also private cabanas and a beach area around the pool. Adjacent to the pool and beach area is a lap/fitness pool set up for water aerobics. A children's tot lot and a private yoga garden round out the amenities at the pool. The Players Club also features a tennis Pro Shop which services the seven Har-Tru courts of the tennis complex.

The central sales center is located at 8020 Grand Lely Dr. For more information, call 793-2100 or (866) 392-2100 or visit www.leyl-resort.net. ■



BAY WOODS ▲ Spectacular, London Bay built 4 bedroom plus den on an elevated, expansive lot with an estate-like approach. **\$3,795,000**
Gary L. Jaarda/Jeff Jaarda | 248-7474



BAY WOODS ▲ Exquisitely detailed 4 bedroom + den, 4.5 bath home with 3-car garage. Private view of lake and nature preserve. **\$3,395,000**
Carol Wood/Claire McMahon | 822-3709



ROOKERY LAKE ▲ Oversized cul-de-sac S. exposure lot. Custom 4BR/5.5BA, den + family room home designed for outdoor/indoor living. **\$2,999,000**
Connie Lummis | 289-3543



COCONUT ISLE ▲ Expansive lake and golf course views. Three bedrooms plus den, 3 full baths. Marble flooring & granite countertops. **\$1,585,000**
Gary L. Jaarda/Brian Nelson | 248-7474



IBIS COVE ▲ Extraordinary lake view! Charming Bermuda styled architecture. 3BR/3BA main home, guest house has 4th BR/BA, pool. **\$1,375,000**
Carol Wood/Claire McMahon | 822-3709



COCONUT ISLE ▲ Fabulous 3BR + den villa. Many upgrades; Hardwood floors, newly painted interiors & salt water pool filter system. **\$1,295,000**
Connie Lummis | 289-3543



RIVERWALK ▲ Gracious traditional custom 4BR+den/3.5BA home on a 1/2 acre+ lot. Three-car garage and oversized heated pool. **\$1,199,000**
Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff | 777-2441



OPEN SUN. 1-4
SANCTUARY ▲ 4363 Sanctuary Way Remodeled courtyard-style home. Sunny pool & paved lanai. Travertine floors, faux painting, custom built-ins. **\$1,150,000**
Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff | 777-2441



WOODLAKE ▲ Rarely available cul-de-sac location 3BR/2.5BA + den home! S. exposure, lake view, continually upgraded. Pool/spa. **\$998,000** | Roxanne Jeske | 450-5210



BERMUDA COVE ▲ Turnkey with timeless, beautiful furnishings. Hardwood floors, granite counters, plantation shutters. Lanai & pool. **\$975,000** | Connie Lummis | 289-3543



OPEN MON-SAT 10-5 & SUN 12-5
ESPERIA & TAVIRA ▲ 26951 Country Club Drive (Sales Center) Breathtaking views over Bay Island Golf Course, Estero Bay & the Gulf. An idyllic community devoted to golf, parks, marina & more! New construction from the \$700s | 239-495-1105



EAGLES NEST ▲ Spacious 3BR/3BA plus den carriage home overlooks lake, golf course & preserve beyond. Flex room, tile floors. **\$595,000**
Carol Wood/Claire McMahon | 822-3709



ARBOR STRAND ▲ Charming cottage-like villa, 3 bedrooms or 2 bedrooms+den, 2.5 baths & family room. Private pool & spa. Furnished. **\$549,000**
Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff | 777-2441



THE HAMPTONS ▲ Fresh paint, many new features, tile floors, 3BR/3BA + den. World-class golfing community, marina, private beach. **\$549,000** | Doug Davlin | 272-5060



OPEN SUN. 1-4
MONTARA ▲ 3253 Montara Drive Charming 2BR+den villa with S. exposure & preserve view. Handicap accessible. Furniture negotiable. **\$519,000**
Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff | 777-2441



WEDGEWOOD ▲ A rare find, 3BR/4BA+den end residence, great golf views! Glassed-in lanai, newer kitchen appliances, new roof. **\$470,000**
Carol Wood/Claire McMahon | 822-3709



OPEN SUN. 1-4
OAKWOOD VILLAS ▲ 27105 Oakwood Lake Drive - Immaculately kept, updated villa. Serene views, tasteful upgrades, recently painted interior, new A/C in 2010. **\$355,000** | Cheryl Mease | 691-8104



HARBOR LANDING ▲ NEW NEW NEW! Everything has been replaced from the door hinges on up. HVAC replaced in 2008. **\$349,900**
Carol Johnson/Michael Lickley | 564-1282



WEDGEWOOD ▲ Remarkably fresh and clean, light and bright. Sunsets over lake. Three bedrooms, 2 baths, volume ceilings. **\$339,900**
Maryanne Kennedy | 405-0266



NEW LISTING
HARBOR LANDING ▲ Very private, quiet SW preserve view, 2BR+den (or 3rd BR), 2BA 1st floor coach home. Many new features throughout. **\$308,000**
Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff | 777-2441



HORIZONS ▲ 4731 Bonita Bay Blvd. Spectacular vistas of Estero Bay & lush preserves. State-of-the-art fitness center, pool, spa & sunning decks overlooking the estuary, guest suites & on-site manager. **FROM \$1,395,000** | Call 239-948-4000



AZURE ▲ 4931 Bonita Bay Blvd. Outstanding bay & golf views from extended terraces. Remarkable residences. Roof-top entertaining area, theatre, resort-style pool. Private marina and beach access. **FROM \$1,090,000** | Call 239-948-4000



ESTANCIA ▲ 4801 Bonita Bay Blvd. Captivating Gulf views! Luxurious residential tower, semi-private elevator vestibules. Upscale finishes. Resident manager, fitness center & tropical pool/spa area. **FROM \$799,000** | Call 239-948-4000



OPEN SUN. 1-4
ESPERIA SOUTH ▲ 4951 Bonita Bay Blvd. Luxurious high-rise living. Explosive views of Estero Bay, Gulf & golf. Resort-style amenities, covered & screened-in lanais adjoining the lagoon style pool/spa. **FROM \$725,000** | Call 239-948-4000



VISTAS ▲ 4751 Bonita Bay Blvd. Views over the Gulf of Mexico, bay and Bay Island golf course. Private, five 18-hole courses, marina, beach facilities & more. Carefree living. **FROM \$499,000** | Call 239-948-4000

Single Family Homes

- OAK KNOLL** 27160 Oak Knoll Drive - A captivating, custom elegant lake front estate home! Three golf courses, fitness, tennis, Beach and Golf Clubs. **\$1,690,000** | Mary Catherine/Larry White | 287-2818
- ANCHORAGE** 27599 Riverbank Drive - Spectacular waterfront villa! Courtyard pool and protected inlet views. Beautifully appointed 3 BR+den, great room. **\$1,175,000** | Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff | 777-2441
- ANCHORAGE** 27500 Riverbank Drive - Spectacular, updated 3BR/4BA+den villa. S. lake views, W. preserve views. Impeccable pool & spa area, guest cabana. **\$895,000** | Gary L. Jaarda/Jeff Jaarda | 248-7474
- BERMUDA COVE** 26187 Isle Way - Freshly painted interior, 3BR/4BA+family room villa with heated pool & spa. Small enclave, overlooks 9th fairway. **\$799,000** | Carol Wood/Dru Martinovich | 822-3709

Condominiums/Villas

- BERMUDA COVE** 26240 Isle Way - Well-kept 3BR/3BA, former model offered turnkey. South facing pool & spa overlooking lake. Private guest cabana. **\$745,900** | Cheryl Mease | 691-8104
- MONTARA** 3368 Montara Drive - Dramatically proportioned ceilings, high windows, open, bright 3BR/2.5BA+den villa. Southern exposure lake views. **\$679,000** | Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff | 777-2441
- BAY HARBOR** 27099 Shell Ridge Circle - Rarely available 2-story 3BR/4BA+loft detached villa overlooks lake. Oversized lanai, large community pool and spa. **\$629,900** | Connie Lummis | 289-3543
- BAY HARBOR** 27134 Shell Ridge Circle - Beautiful preserve views. Two bedroom plus den, 2.5 bath villa. Granite countertops, wood flooring. Lanai with spa. **\$599,900** | Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff | 777-2441
- THE HAMPTONS** 26960 Wyndhurst Court #202 - Exotic tropical landscaping, spotless former model. Elevator, 3BRs, 3BAs, media room, Romeo & Juliet balcony, pool. **\$574,900** | Cathy/Jim McCormick | 850-4278
- BAYVIEW I** 4811 Island Pond Court #503 - Gulf and Bay views! Leaded glass front door, 10' ceilings, 3 BR, 3BA, plantation shutters, electric storm shutters. **\$574,000** | Carol Johnson/Michael Lickley | 564-1282

Condominiums/Villas

- HAMMOCK ISLE** 26001 Hammock Isle Court #101 - Private golf course views from this 2BR+den, 3BA. Two-car attached garage. Turnkey furnished. **\$559,000** | Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff | 777-2441
- TUCKAWEE** 2911 Greenflower Court - Charming villa with heated pool, three bedrooms, two baths, great room plan & vaulted ceilings. Turnkey furnished. **\$549,000** | Harriet Harnar | 273-5443
- BAY HARBOR** 27098 Shell Ridge Circle - SW exposure & preserve views. Bright, open plan 2BR/2.5BA plus den villa, screened-in lanai, built-in grill & spa. **\$549,000** | Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff | 777-2441
- THE HAMPTONS** 26891 Wyndhurst Court #101 - Unmatched lake/fairway views, SE exposure, corner location. Immaculate 3BR/2.5BA, custom features. Partially furnished. **\$499,000** | Gary L. Jaarda/Jeff Jaarda | 248-7474
- WATERFORD** 26270 Devonshire Court #202 - Location, location, location! Great room plan 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Neutral palette. Endless community amenities. **\$489,900** | Billie Jans | 980-0522
- HAMMOCK ISLE** 26021 Hammock Isle Court #101 - Overlook the 7th fairway & preserve! Very private end residence, numerous custom features. Walk to Estero Bay Park. **\$435,000** | Roxanne Jeske | 450-5210
- LAKE VILLAS OF WEDGEWOOD I** 26881 Wedgewood Drive #201 - Recently refurbished 3 bedroom with new tile in the living areas, new tile counters in kitchen & new refrigerator. **\$389,000** | Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff | 777-2441
- WATERFORD** 3311 Glen Cairn Court #204 - Unobstructed lake and fairways views! In excellent condition, 2nd floor 3BR/3BA end condominium. Two-car garage. **\$379,000** | Bet Dewey | 564-5673
- BAY POINTE** 26951 Montego Pointe Court #202 - Furnished turnkey, 3BRs, 2BAs, volume ceilings, tile on the diagonal, tiled lanai for comfortable year-round use. **\$365,000** | Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff | 777-2441

Condominiums/Villas

- HARBOR LANDING** 4510 Riverwatch Drive #101 - Neutrally appointed 3BR/2BA home has long S. lake views. Move-in ready, very well maintained, many recent updates. **\$349,900** | Carol Johnson/Michael Lickley | 564-1282
- LAKE VILLAS OF WEDGEWOOD** 26911 Wedgewood Drive #204 - Immaculate 3BR/2BA carriage home, W. exposure with sunsets over lake. Beautiful green space, walk/bike to the Club. **\$349,000** | Carol Wood/Claire McMahon | 822-3709
- HAMMOCK ISLE** 26010 Hammock Isle Court #101 - S. facing 1st floor 3BR/3BA carriage home next to clubhouse/pool & across from park. Golfing & boating available. **\$349,000** | Carol Johnson/Michael Lickley | 564-1282
- WEDGEWOOD** 26890 Wedgewood Drive #204 - Turnkey magical 2BR/2BA + den golf course view home. Impeccable, new appliances & all new furniture, 2-car garage. **\$344,000** | Roxanne Jeske | 450-5210
- CROSSINGS** 3260 Crossings Court #13 - Long lake views. Furnished 2 BR+den, 30 ft. wide screened lanai, 2-car garage. Walk to fitness center & clubhouse. **\$329,000** | Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff | 777-2441
- HARBOR LANDING** 4511 Riverwatch Drive #101 - Perfect NW to SW lake views. First floor 2BR+den. Glassed-in lanai, new features, near beach tram, dining & marina. **\$328,000** | Linda Sonders | 860-0119
- HARBOR LANDING** 4440 Riverwatch Drive #101 - Beautiful lake views, move-in ready 2BR/2BA + den. Short walk to pool. Marina, beach park, 5 golf courses, tennis. **\$310,000** | Carol Johnson/Michael Lickley | 564-1282
- WEDGEWOOD** 26876 Wedgewood Drive #102 - Huge price reduction! Unbelievable price for 3BR/3BA + 2-car garage! Open first floor carriage home, large lanai. **\$299,000** | Carol Wood/Claire McMahon | 822-3709
- SANDPIPER** 4100 Lake Forest Drive #114 - Incredible wildlife & lake views, 1st floor 3BR with newer appliances, ceramic tile & wood flooring. Tennis/pool. **\$279,000** | Harriet Harnar | 273-5443



CAXAMBAS COURT ▲
Slocum-Christian waterfront with 243 ft. of direct access water frontage. Great docking facility. Quality built. **\$9,500,000**
Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133



HIDEAWAY BEACH ▲ Premier beachfront home with guest suite. Luxurious appointments, 6BR+, 8,800 A/C SF. Beautiful beach, Gulf views. **\$8,900,000**
Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133



MADEIRA ▲ #PH202 - Beachfront penthouse with 6,500+ SF of living area. Gulf, beach & island vistas from 2,140 SF of multiple terraces. **\$7,495,000**
Brock/Julie Wilson | 595-5983



MADEIRA ▲ #PH201 - Beachfront 4 BR+den, 7,414 total SF. Rookery Ambassador Membership included, up to 100' boat slip lease included. **\$6,950,000** | Chris Adams | 404-5130



HIDEAWAY BEACH ▲ Custom-built modern architectural masterpiece with 152' on pristine beach. Luxury appointments. FURNISHED. **\$5,000,000**
Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133



COPELAND DRIVE ▲ Gated, dramatic negative edge pool/spa. Family room, 3BR/4.5BA, den, 125 ft. of water frontage, direct access dock. **\$4,175,000**
Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133



BUTTERFIELD COURT ▲ Breathtaking views of Marco River from eye-catching spacious home. Alarmed, 4-car garage. Dock with lift. **\$2,499,000**
Natalie Kirstein | 784-0491



HIDEAWAY BEACH ▲ Views of Gulf, skyline & beach. Custom 3-story Eastwood-built home with 3,000+ SF, elevator & rooftop sundeck. **\$1,999,999**
Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133



CAPE MARCO - VERACRUZ ▲ #805 - Many decorative accents. Beachfront 3BR/3.5BA. Gated, beach, city & Pass views. World-class amenities. **\$1,700,000**
Natalie Kirstein | 784-0491



CENTURY COURT ▲ Incredible tip lot home with views of Smokehouse Bay; 169 feet of water frontage with 15,000 lb. boat lift & dock. **\$1,599,000**
Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133



MADEIRA ▲ 350 S. Collier Blvd. Situated along Crescent Beach, Madeira embraces pretty panoramas. Amenities invigorate mind, body and spirit. **From \$1,547,000** | Laura Adams | 404-4766



WOODBINE COURT ▲ Gorgeous, direct access, River-area 3BR/3.5BA pool home completely remodeled in 2008. Expansive waterway views. **\$1,299,000**
Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133



CAPE MARCO - COZUMEL ▲ #1906 - Impeccably decorated beachfront 3BR/3BA with incredible Gulf views! Gated entry, full-amenity building. **\$1,250,000**
Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133



MARCO COURTYARD TOWERS ▲ #PH2 - Beautifully decorated, turnkey furnished 3BR/3.5BA top floor penthouse. Incredible Gulf, Bay/City views. **\$1,199,000** | Chris Adams | 404-5130



CAPE MARCO - MONTERREY ▲ #805 - Views of the Gulf from this furnished 3 bedroom, 3 bath with wood floors, 9' ceilings, and double door entry. **\$1,099,000** | Darlene Roddy | 404-0685



HIDEAWAY BEACH ▲ Exceptional home, meticulously maintained built in 2005. Spacious 3BR+den. Heated pool, spa and preserve views. **\$1,000,000**
Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133



NEW LISTING
HIDEAWAY BEACH - RIVIERA ▲ #637 - Luxury beachfront 3BR/3BA. Panoramic Gulf, river & bay views! Immaculate. Golf, beach club! **\$1,000,000**
Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133



NEW LISTING
BARFIELD DRIVE SOUTH ▲ Direct access home with 100' of water frontage. Open 3BR/2BA, high ceilings, lanai, heated pool/spa. Dock with lift. **\$695,000**
Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133



NEW LISTING
PLANTATION ▲ #1004 - Top floor 2BR+den with breathtaking Gulf views. SW exposure, sensational amenities, walking distance to the beach. **\$599,000**
Brock/Julie Wilson | 595-5983



SUSSEX ▲ #501 - Inviting, immaculately maintained 3BR/2BA corner residence with views of Gulf and Bay. Newer waterfront complex. **\$459,000**
Brock/Julie Wilson | 595-5983

Single Family Homes

1411 Caxambas Court - Gulf & Caxambas Pass views. Spacious 4 bedroom with 3,600 SF of living area. Offered at lot value. Dock included. **\$3,250,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

686 Solana Court - Majestic custom home with spectacular panoramic views of Smokehouse Bay. Featuring 5 bedroom suites plus a study. **\$2,995,000** | Brock/Julie Wilson | 595-5983

1051 Barfield Drive South - Magnificent Caxambas Pass views! Four BR with approx. 80' of dock, 16,000 lb. lift and direct deep water Gulf access. **\$2,695,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

776 Hull Court - Elegant indoor and outdoor living with spectacular views, 130 ft. of water frontage, dock-lift, quick Gulf access. **\$1,995,000** | Natalie Kirstein | 784-0491

882 Magnolia Court - Panoramic views! Tip-lot location, 163 ft. of direct access, deep-water frontage. 3BR/3BA, dock with 20,000 lb. lift. **\$1,975,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

HIDEAWAY BEACH 716 Waterside Drive - Absolutely breathtaking views! Gorgeous, custom-built multi-level 5BR/3.5BA home backing up to the Gulf/preserve. **\$1,950,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

391 Copperfield Court - Custom Rutenberg built 3BR/4BA + den home on tip lot, 175 ft. of water frontage and dock. Newly painted inside and out. **\$1,450,000** | Roe Tamagni | 398-1222

1699 Barbados Avenue - Owner would consider a trade. Builder's own 3BR+den home, nearly 3,200 SF A/C. Dock, 20,000 lb. lift, River access. **\$1,299,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

1261 Laurel Court - Direct access and beautiful views! New home by Marco River with great room plan, 3 BRs, den, 3 BAs and Viking appliances. **\$1,195,000** | Brock/Julie Wilson | 595-5983

HIDEAWAY BEACH 871 Sea Dune Lane - Bright, exquisite home boasts a built-in pool & spa. Pickled red cedar ceilings, fireplace, 2nd floor loft. **\$1,168,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

173 Hollyhock Court - Meticulously maintained 3BR+den, 3-car garage, dock with 12,000 lb. lift (direct access), lanai, heated pool/spa. **\$1,079,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

1820 Travida Terrace - Gorgeous Estate Area 5BR/4.5BA home, 5,400 SF under air. On a hill for great views, no need for flood insurance. **\$1,000,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

633 Crescent Street - Incredible custom 3BR/3BA pool home. Direct Gulf access, 70' dock, 30' boat slip and lift. Many special features. **\$998,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

189 Columbus Way - Quality built custom 4BR/3.5BA plus office home by Ross Tackett. Pool, spa, new seawall, dock with 14,000 lb. lift. **\$950,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

1131 Vernon Place - Old Florida style home with quick direct access and 160 ft. of waterfront, large wraparound verandas, new floors & paint. **\$899,000** | Brock/Julie Wilson | 595-5983

721 Rose Court - Beautifully remodeled 4BR+den home, quick river access, long water views, car aficionado's dream - a 5-car garage. **\$890,000** | Natalie Kirstein | 784-0491

499 Adirondack Court - Incredible Bay views from this tip lot home with 169' of waterfront and quick Gulf access. Good rental history. **\$850,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

450 Joy Circle - Furnished 3BR on a huge lot (210' deep) with 166' of waterfront with SW exposure. Dock, lift and new seawall. **\$849,000** | Michelle Thomas | 860-7176

350 Rockhill Court - Spectacular, open 3BR+den custom pool home, quick, direct River access, 100' of water frontage (60' dock in place). **\$799,000** | Natalie Kirstein | 784-0491

243 Seahorse Court - Gorgeous 3 BR home, beautifully landscaped tip lot. Wide waterway views, 40 ft. dock, 14,000 lb. lift, new A/C 2009. **\$795,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

Single Family Homes

1084 Whiteheart Court - Wide water views! Showcase interior, 3BR home, pool, spa, summer kitchen. New docking facility, quick Gulf access. **\$779,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

761 Nautilus Court - Enjoy quick, direct access to River/Gulf. Wide water views, immaculate 3BR+family room pool home, turnkey furnished. **\$759,900** | Elizabeth Summers | 269-4230

921 Heron Court - Charming "beachy", nautical decor 3BR/2BA. Completely renovated, new pool/spa, quick, deep water-direct access. **\$749,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

1955 Sheffield Avenue - Builder's home in a private setting with walk out lower level & views of Barfield Bay. Three-story, 5BR, pool/spa. **\$747,000** | Chris Adams | 404-5130

986 Aster Court - Walk to beach, 3BR/3BA completely remodeled waterfront home. About \$60,000 in improvements. Dock, lifts. Furnished. **\$695,000** | Roe Tamagni | 398-1222

150 June Court - Beautiful 4BR waterfront home built within 2 miles of Resident's Beach. Just under 2,300 A/C SF. Lanai with pool. **\$685,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

1562 Jamaica Court - Enjoy long & lush views of 16th fairway. Spacious screened lanai, heated pool, custom-built 3BR/2BA plus loft. **\$609,000** | Roe Tamagni | 398-1222

1624 Villa Court - Great value for waterfront home. Beautifully updated 3BR/2BA home. Pool, interconnecting waterway views, dock. **\$599,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

1554 Jamaica Court - Scenic lake/golf views, 3BR/2BA home with updated kitchen and many new features. Large lanai, heated 15x30' pool. **\$575,000** | Roe Tamagni | 398-1222

1756 Granada Drive - Furnished 3BR/2BA + study custom home built in 2003 by J.J. Baker, 2,250 SF under air. Heated pool, 3-car garage. **\$549,900** | Elizabeth Summers | 269-4230

1370 Bayport Avenue - Outstanding golf course views! Quiet location, well-maintained 4BR/3BA + den home. Expansive screened lanai/pool. **\$498,000** | Brock/Julie Wilson | 595-5983

601 Somerset Court - Tigertail Beach area home includes spacious living area, updated kitchen & tropical lanai/pool. Turnkey furnished. **\$490,000** | Brock/Julie Wilson | 595-5983

Condominiums/Villas

MADEIRA 350 S. Collier Blvd.
#1005 - One of the last interior 3BR/3.5BA finished residences. Kira Krumm Interior Designs. Beach views, resort living. **\$2,499,000** | Natalie Kirstein | 784-0491

#302 - Spectacular views, tastefully appointed 3BR/3.5BA with 2 balconies. World-class living in a beachfront location. **\$2,095,000** | Richard Marquardt | 289-4158

#401 - Luxurious beachfront living! Corner 3BR/3.5BA, beach/city views. Professionally decorated and exquisite finishings. **\$1,750,000** | Roe Tamagni | 398-1222

#606 - Views of the Gulf from the beachside balcony and living areas of this professionally decorated 2,974 SF residence. **\$1,595,000** | Chris Adams | 404-5130

CAPE MARCO - VERACRUZ 940 S. Collier Blvd. #801 - Exquisite beachfront 8th floor 4BR/4.5BA estate with 4,709 SF A/C. Fabulous views, five-star amenities. **\$2,300,000** | Richard Marquardt | 289-4158

CAPE MARCO - BELIZE 970 Cape Marco Drive
#1205 - Spectacular! Custom woodwork, fireplace, 3BR+den and 4,000 total SF. Views of 10,000 Islands & beach. Furnished. **\$2,390,000** | Natalie Kirstein | 784-0491

#2107 - Stunning 3BR/3.5BA+den with over 3,844 SF of living area. Views of the Gulf. Beach access, luxurious amenities. **\$2,298,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

#2105 - Beautiful dream home in the sky. Over 3,600 SF of living area, 11'4" high ceilings. 3BR/3.5BA. **\$1,975,000** | Chris Adams | 404-5130

Condominiums/Villas

HIDEAWAY BEACH - RIVIERA 4000 Royal Marco Way #526 - Stunning, panoramic views of the beach and Gulf. Beautifully upgraded, marble floor and spacious glassed-in lanai. **\$1,880,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

HIDEAWAY BEACH - RIVIERA 5000 Royal Marco Way #731 - Upgraded throughout! Offering 3 BRs, glassed-in lanai with seating overlooking the Gulf, beach & sunsets. **\$1,450,000**

#635 - Beautifully upgraded, pristine 3BR/3.5BA+den, move-in ready. Gorgeous front to back views of Gulf, River & Bay. **\$1,275,000**
Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

DUCHESS 220 S. Collier Blvd. #305 - Just remodeled! Marble flooring, stainless appliances! South facing 3BR with 2,450 A/C SF. Beach views & 3 balconies. **\$995,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

THE PRINCE 176 South S. Collier Blvd. #1007 - Beautifully decorated condominium with Gulf views and numerous upgrades. Faux painting, granite, stainless and more. **\$949,000** | Natalie Kirstein | 784-0491

HIDEAWAY BEACH - ROYAL MARCO POINT I 3000 Royal Marco Way #PH-L - Penthouse 3BR, 3BA offering marble flooring, columns, glassed-in lanai. Beautiful beach, Gulf and sunset views. **\$845,000**

#311 - Attractive 3BR/3BA end residence, multiple balconies for optimum views. Golf, tennis, fine dining, steps to beach. **\$795,000**
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PIER 81 SOUTH 1069 Bald Eagle Drive #303 - Luxury waterfront living! Spectacular Bay, River and marina views. Upgraded 2BR+den, fully amenitized community. **\$815,000** | Natalie Kirstein | 784-0491

CHALET 520 S. Collier Blvd. #603 - Spacious 2BR/2.5BA beachfront condominium, over 1,800 SF of living area! Gulf and beach views, recently furnished. **\$799,000** | Darlene Roddy | 404-0685

THE ESPLANADE I 720 N. Collier Blvd. #204 - Magnificent Smokehouse Bay views await you in this waterfront condominium. Crown mouldings, new tile throughout. **\$749,000** | Darlene Roddy | 404-0685

MARCO BEACH OCEAN RESORT 480 S. Collier Blvd. #501 - Private courtyard, updated corner 2BR/2BA condominium. Professionally decorated, marble flooring. **\$720,000** | Roe Tamagni | 398-1222

ROYAL MARCO POINT III 6000 Royal Marco Way #246 Stunning views of Gulf & Marco River, 600 SF glassed-in lanai, upgraded 2BR/2BA+den. Beach, golf, tennis & more! **\$700,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

HIDEAWAY BEACH - HABITAT 828 Hideaway Circle East #444 - Rarely available 3BR/3BA penthouse overlooks golf course & Gulf! Over 2,800 SF under air. Incredible amenities. **\$695,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

PRINCESS DEL MAR 174 S. Collier Blvd. #205 - Attractively priced 3BR/3BA beachfront condominium. Lovingly updated, over 1,900 SF A/C, breathtaking Gulf views. **\$695,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

SANDCASTLE II 720 S. Collier Blvd. #106 - Tasteful beachfront condominium with Gulf views! Redesigned kitchen, new flooring, new tile, and wraparound balcony. **\$649,500** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

SANDCASTLE I 730 S. Collier Blvd. #205 - Beautiful, southern views of Marco's beach. Nicely furnished 2 bedroom with 1,313 total SF. Numerous amenities. **\$572,500** | Natalie Kirstein | 784-0491

SOUTH SEAS TOWER I 260 Seaview Court #906 - Walk to beach! Lovely 9th-floor 2BR/2BA end residence, great views from wraparound balcony. Gated entry, docks. **\$565,000** | Jim/Nikki Prange | 642-1133

SOUTH SEAS TOWER IV 440 Seaview Court #601 - Gulf sunsets & panoramic views of Tigertail Beach. Turnkey furnished 2BR/2BA with new A/C and updated kitchen. **\$539,000** | Brock/Julie Wilson | 595-5983

SOUTH SEAS TOWER III 380 Seaview Ct. #1705 - Stunning SW views! Delightful beachfront 2BR/2BA condominium, weekly rentals. Resort amenities, docks for lease. **\$535,000** | Brock/Julie Wilson | 595-5983



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Toll Brothers presents Outdoor sales event

Toll Brothers is offering new homebuyers the opportunity to create their own home oasis with the Outdoor Oasis Sales Event beginning Saturday, May 29, and running through Sunday, June 6, at communities throughout Florida. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

"This event is planned to enhance the Florida lifestyle with included amenities designed for residents to create their own outdoor retreat at no extra cost," said Ken Thirtyacre, president, Toll Brothers' Florida West Division.

Among the options are swimming pools, outdoor kitchens, screen enclosures, brick paver lanais and landscaping packages. During the week of the event, new homebuyers will receive select options included with the purchase of their new home that would otherwise cost thousands of dollars. Specific options vary by community.

In Southwest Florida, the Outdoor Oasis Sales Event will be held at Belle Lago, a single-family home community on Estero Parkway in Estero; The Reserve at Estero, a community of single-family homes also on Estero Parkway; and Firano at Naples, a



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Biella model in Firano at Naples has been sold.



The Tiena model is open for viewing at Firano at Naples.

community of single-family homes off Davis Boulevard in Naples.

"We also want to invite visitors to tour each community to see the extensive resort style of amenities included in communities by Toll Brothers," Mr. Thirtyacre said.

Belle Lago offers a total of 13 home designs, ranging in size from 2,561 to 4,354 square feet and priced from the mid-\$300,000s. Four award-winning designer-furnished models are available for viewing and completed amenities include community pool, clubhouse, tennis courts, fitness center and more.

A variety of home designs are offered at The Reserve at Estero, ranging from 1,489 to 2,545 air-conditioned square feet. Four designer-furnished models are available for viewing. Homes are priced from the low \$200,000s. Completed amenities include community pool, clubhouse, tennis courts and more.

Firano at Naples offers seven homes designs, ranging from 2,058 to 3,024 square feet and priced from the mid-\$300,000s. The Tiena, a designer-furnished model, is available for viewing. Amenities include a community clubhouse with resort-style pool, spa and a children's playground. ■



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Fiddler's Creek
 Golf course views from spacious 1st floor end unit coach home.
\$488,000

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1362 Bayport
 Fabulous Golf Course. 3bed/3bath renovated home. Priced at only
\$495,000



Dill Court
 Southern exposure lot with newer seawall. Wide water view, on city sewer.
\$629,000



Hideaway Beach Cottage
 2 Bed + Den, 3 Bath. Fabulous Gulf Views, updates galore!
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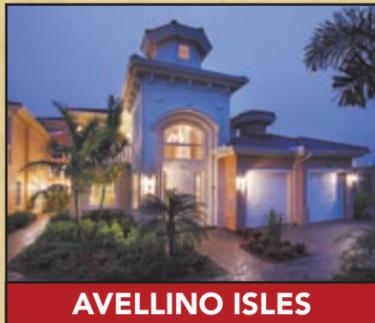


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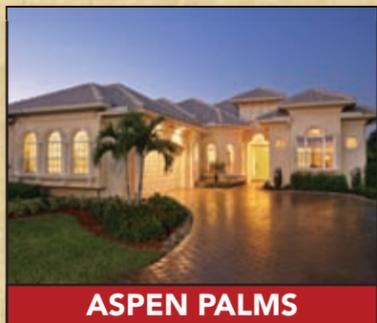


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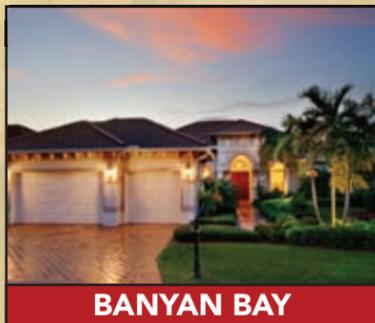


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CBIA taking entries for 2010 Sand Dollar Awards

The Collier Building Industry Association's Sales and Marketing Council is accepting entries for its 20th Annual Sand Dollar Awards.

The Sand Dollar Awards, the highest accolades given by the council, are presented each year to member builders, developers, architects, remodelers, interior design firms, landscape architects, trades, marketing, sales and advertising professionals who have demonstrated building, design and marketing excellence. Homes, communities, building projects and marketing campaigns com-

pleted between May 1, 2008 and May 31, 2010 are eligible. Deadline for entries is July 16 and winners will be honored at an awards gala on Sept. 18 at the Naples Grande.

For more information on entry requirements, sponsorship opportunities and membership, contact Carrie Horner at 436-6100 or visit www.cbina.net.

CBIA's Sales and Marketing Council's mission is to help members increase sales and provide training and support on developing effective marketing techniques for their businesses. ■

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Lely Resort Homesite - \$119,900
 8056 Tiger Lily - Oversized corner lot, peaceful preserve as your backdrop. Sits among million dollar homes. Plans available. No mandatory club affiliation fees.



Falling Waters Beach Resort - \$324,900
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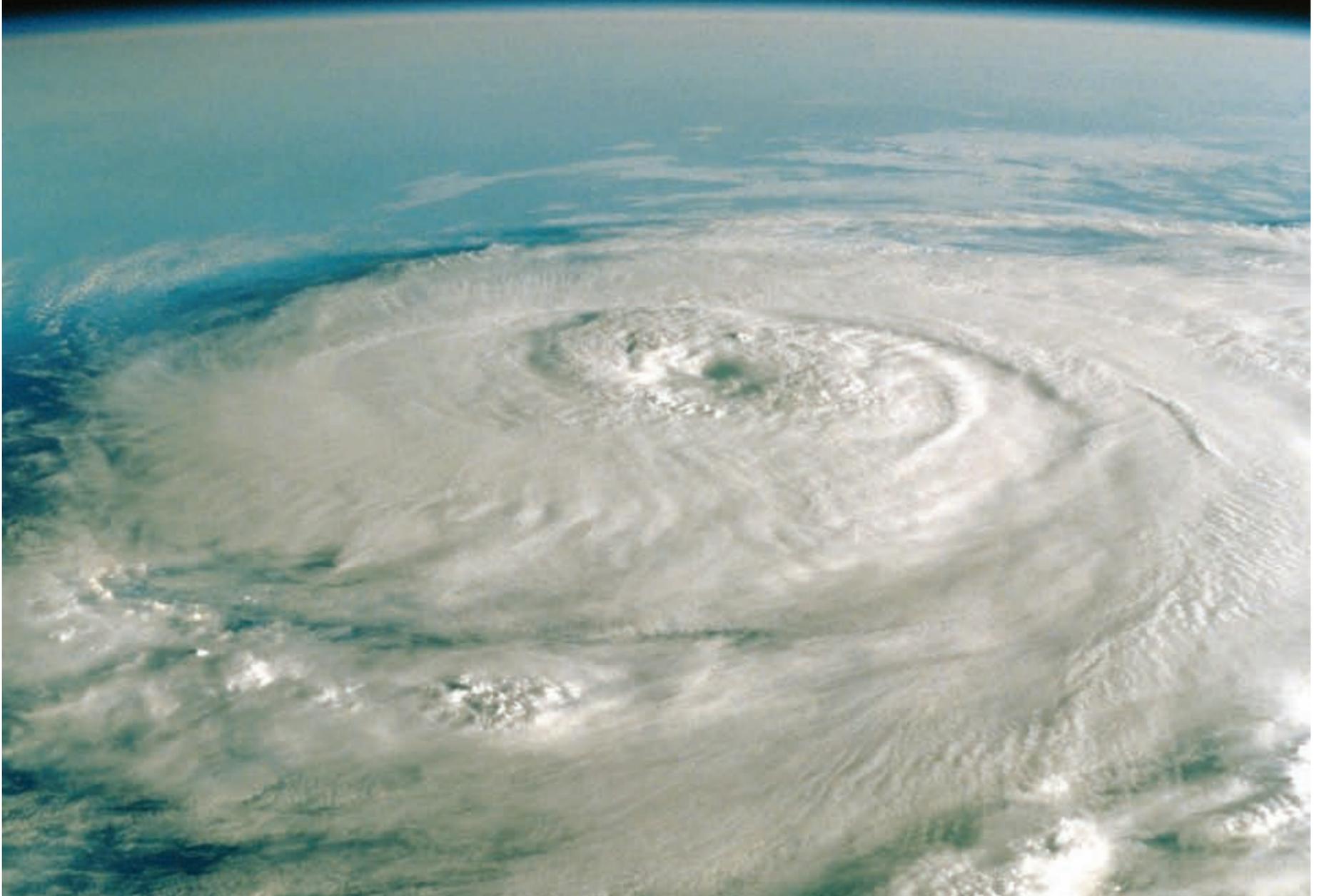
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Delinquencies, foreclosure starts increase in latest MBA national survey

The delinquency rate for mortgage loans on one-to-four-unit residential properties increased to a seasonally adjusted rate of 10.06 percent of all loans outstanding as of the end of the first quarter of 2010, an increase of 59 basis points from the fourth quarter of 2009, and up 94 basis points from one year ago, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association's National Delinquency Survey. The non-seasonally adjusted delinquency rate decreased 106 basis points from 10.44 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009 to 9.38 percent this quarter.

The percentage of loans on which foreclosure actions were started during the first quarter was 1.23 percent, up three basis points from last quarter but down 14 basis points from one year ago.

The delinquency rate includes loans that are at least one payment past due but does not include loans in the process of foreclosure. The percentage of loans in the foreclosure process at the end of the first quarter was 4.63 percent, an increase of five basis points from the fourth quarter of 2009 and 78 basis points from one year ago. This represents another record high.

The combined percentage of loans in foreclosure or at least one payment past due was 14.01 percent on a non-seasonally adjusted basis, a decline from 15.02 percent last quarter.

The serious delinquency rate, the percentage of loans that are 90 days or more past due or in the process of foreclosure, was 9.54 percent, a decrease of 13 basis points from last quarter, but an increase of 230 basis points from the first quarter of last year.

The seasonally adjusted delinquency rate increased for all loan types with the exception of FHA loans. On a seasonally adjusted

basis, the delinquency rate stood at 6.17 percent for prime fixed loans, 13.52 percent for prime ARM loans, 25.69 percent for subprime fixed loans, 29.09 percent for subprime ARM loans, 13.15 percent for FHA loans, and 7.96 percent for VA loans. On a non-seasonally adjusted basis, the delinquency rate fell for all loan types.

Given the challenges in interpreting the true seasonal effects in these data when comparing quarter to quarter changes, it is important to highlight the year over year changes. The non-seasonally adjusted delinquency rate increased 151 basis points for prime fixed loans, 172 basis points for prime ARM loans, 343 basis points for subprime fixed loans, and 244 basis points for subprime ARM loans from the first quarter of 2009. The delinquency rate was 48 basis points lower for FHA loans and 12 basis points for VA loans relative to the same quarter a year ago.

The non-seasonally adjusted foreclosure starts rate increased eight basis points for prime fixed loans, 36 basis points for FHA loans and 17 basis points for VA loans compared to the first quarter of 2009. The rate decreased 22 basis points for prime ARM loans, 10 basis points for subprime fixed loans, and 259 basis points for subprime ARM loans on a year over year basis.

About half of the states saw increases in the rate of foreclosure starts on a year over year basis, with the largest increases coming in Oregon, North Carolina and Maryland. The largest decreases were in Florida, Rhode Island and California. Almost all of the states saw year-over year decreases in subprime ARM foreclosure starts while almost all had increases in prime fixed-rate and FHA foreclosure starts. ■



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Virtual Tour

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REDUCED

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Virtual Tour Available!



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Virtual Tour Available!

NEW LISTING
TOO NEW FOR PHOTO

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Open Houses are Sunday 1-4, unless otherwise marked

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6 • LONGSHORE LAKE • 11613 Longshore Way East • \$450,000 • Nancy Burgess, Downing Frye Realty INC. 239-571-2287

7 • PELICAN LANDING - THE COLONY - MERANO • 23831 Merano Court #201 • \$480,000 • Premier Properties • Pam Umscheid 691-3541

8 • THE CROSSINGS - MILL RUN • 7061 Mill Run Circle • \$489,000 • Premier Properties • Dave/Ann Renner 784-5552

9 • PARK SHORE - VENETIAN COVE CLUB • 3500 Gulf Shore Blvd. N. #503 • \$495,000 • Premier Properties • Larry Roorda 860-2534

>\$500,000

10 • BONITA BAY - MONTARA • 3253 Montara Drive • \$519,000 • Premier Properties • Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff 777-2441

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15 • FIDDLER'S CREEK - MULBERRY ROW • 7630 Mulberry Lane • \$799,000 • Premier Properties • ML Meade 293-4851

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20 • WYNDEMERE - ROSEMEADE • 421 Rosemeade Lane • \$995,000 • Isabelle Edwards 564-4080. • NEW LISTING

Naples

>\$1,000,000

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22 • OLD NAPLES • 456 - 9th Avenue South • \$1,199,900 • Premier Properties • Marty/Debbi McDermott 564-4231

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24 • THE BROOKS - SHADOW WOOD - WOODSEdge • 22260 Wood Run Court • \$1,350,000 • Premier Properties • Doug Davlin 272-5060

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27 • OLD NAPLES - SANDY CAY • 300 - 3rd Avenue South • \$1,997,000 • Premier Properties • Celine Van Arsdale 404-9917

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31 • MOORINGS • 3139 Leeward Lane • \$3,895,000 • Premier Properties • Dave/Ann Renner 784-5552

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32 • PARK SHORE • 308 Turtle Hatch Road • \$4,495,000 • Premier Properties • Paula Sims/Julie Rembos 262-6600

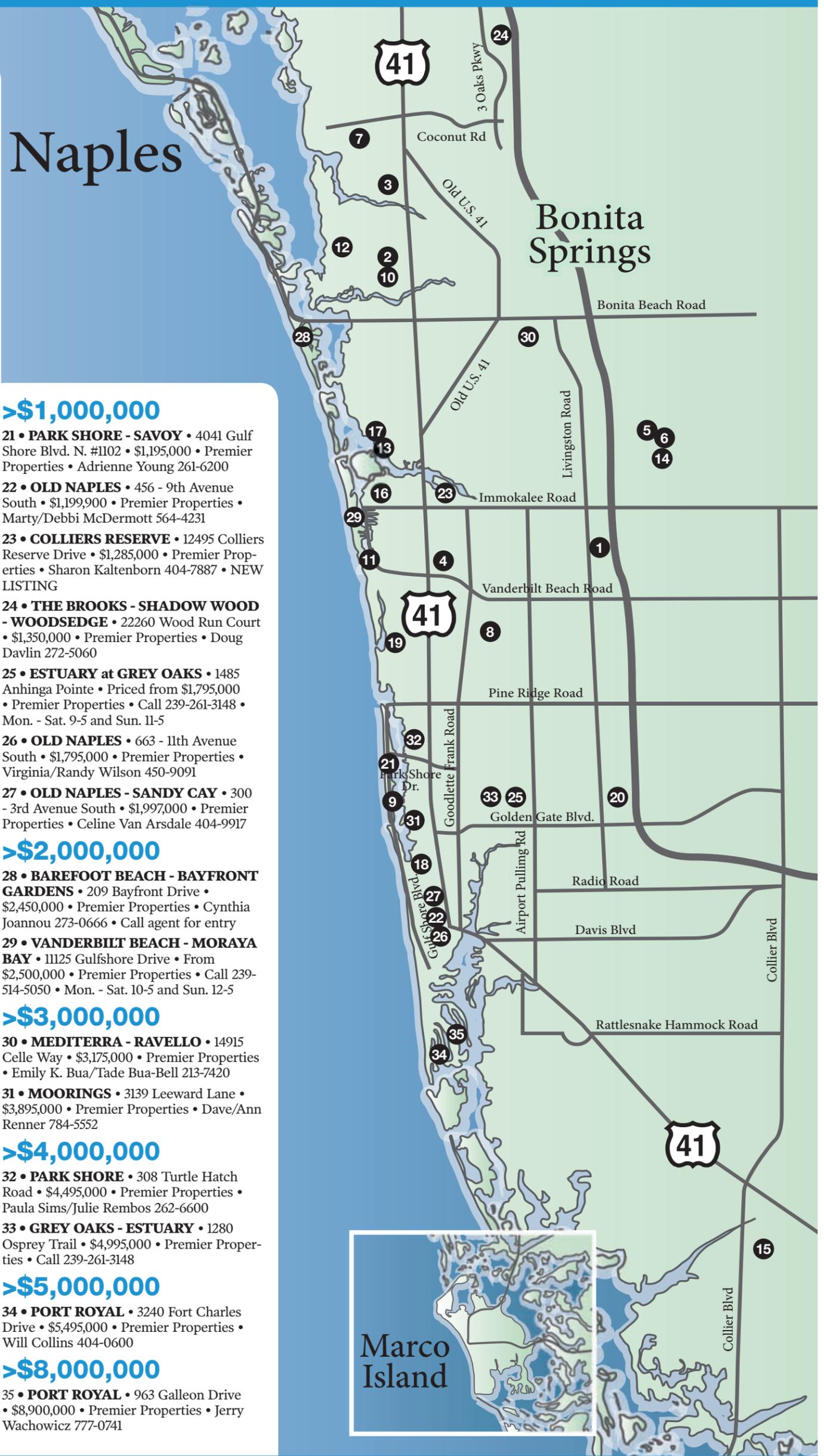
33 • GREY OAKS - ESTUARY • 1280 Osprey Trail • \$4,995,000 • Premier Properties • Call 239-261-3148

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34 • PORT ROYAL • 3240 Fort Charles Drive • \$5,495,000 • Premier Properties • Will Collins 404-0600

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OPEN SUN. 1-4

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Michael Lawler | 571-3939



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NEW LISTING • OPEN SUN. 1-4

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OPEN SUN. 1-4

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306 6th Avenue South - Lush tropical landscaping wraps corner condominium built in 2004 in privacy. Two bedrooms plus den. Well-appointed. **\$995,000**
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OPEN SUN. 1-4

COQUINA SANDS ▲
1170 Oleander Drive - Two blocks to the beach from this beautiful setting. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath is in move-in condition. Furnished. **\$988,500**
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OPEN SUN. 1-4

THE CROSSINGS - MILL RUN ▲ 7061 Mill Run Circle - Charming 3BR/2BA Coleman built home, solar heated pool, large backyard. Gated community, pool, tennis and more! **\$489,000**
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\$485,000 | Pam Umscheid & Stephanie/John Coburn | 948-4000



OPEN SUN. 1-4

PARK SHORE - TERRACES ▲
4751 Gulf Shore Blvd. N. #1403 - Value, location & view! Beachside building-Venetian Bay & city views. Floor-to-ceiling windows. Docks available.
\$485,000 | Ed Cox/Jeff Cox | 860-8806



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LEMURIA ▲ New luxury community of 3 or 4 bedrooms, 3 bath condominiums with open floor plans, high ceilings and attached 2-car garages. **Prices from the mid \$400s.**
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OPEN SUN. 1-4

FIDDLER'S CREEK ▲
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\$399,000 | ML Meade | 293-4851

PELICAN LANDING



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\$925,000 | Mary Catherine/Larry White | 287-2818



THE COLONY - FLORENCIA ▲
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\$925,000 | Jill Kushner | 691-5505



PINEWATER PLACE ▲
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Maryanne Kennedy | 405-0266



NAVONA ▲
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\$649,900 | Jill Kushner | 691-5505



OPEN SUN. 1-4

LOGLAKE ▲ 3510 Candleberry Ct. LAKEVIEW! Perfectly kept 3BR/2.5BA home with many special features throughout. Covered lanai area, heated pool/spa. **\$599,000** | Pam Umscheid & Stephanie/John Coburn | 948-4000



THE COLONY - MERANO ▲
Across from pool. Pretty golf course view, light and bright upgraded 3BR/3BA + media/family room end residence.
\$480,000 | Pam Umscheid & Stephanie/John Coburn | 948-4000



BAY CEDAR ▲
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\$454,000 | Roxanne Jeske | 450-5210



REDUCED

BAY CEDAR ▲ Cul-de-sac homesite - no neighbor to one side. Spacious single-family home. Pool, spa, 3 bedrooms + den, 3 baths. **NOW \$410,000**
Roxanne Jeske | 450-5210



OPEN SUN. 1-4

BAYCREST ▲ 25274 Galashields Circle - Expansive golf course views, western exposure. Beautifully maintained 3BR villa, 2-car garage. Endless amenities!
\$375,000 | Stephanie/John Coburn & Pam Umscheid | 948-4000



BAYCREST ▲ Furnished 2BR+den/3rdBR villa beautifully updated in 2009. Golf views, friendly neighborhood with good financials. **\$369,900**
Stephanie/John Coburn & Pam Umscheid | 948-4000



PALM COLONY ▲
Second-floor residence with mile-wide golf, lake and fountain views. Turnkey furnished 3BR with 2,565 total SF.
\$349,000 | Roxanne Jeske | 450-5210



SOLD

HERON GLEN ▲ Pretty, recently upgraded 2BR/2BA+den villa on the preserve, large heated pool. Close to tennis & beach shuttle. **\$347,500**
Stephanie/John Coburn & Pam Umscheid | 948-4000



SOUTHBRIDGE ▲
Quiet setting, views to creek & landscaped area. Exceptionally cared for 2BR + den condominium being sold turnkey.
\$285,000 | Cheryl Mease | 691-8104



NEW LISTING

CYPRESS ISLAND ▲
The perfect 2BR/2BA+den with S. preserve view! Boat shuttle to beach, tennis, patrolled security & more! Furnished.
\$259,000 | Jack Despart | 273-7931



SOUTHBRIDGE ▲
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\$258,500 | Roxanne Jeske | 450-5210



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF MAY 27-JUNE 2, 2010

A GUIDE TO THE NAPLES ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE

➤
*Parade at
Carnival in
Oruro, Bolivia*



*Couchsurfing:
Dispatches from a
four-month journey
through...*

▼ *Southwest
Bolivia near
Salar de Uyuni*



SOUTH AMERICA

➤ *photos and story by Kurt Williams* ◀

Special to Florida Weekly

COUCHSURFING CAN TAKE YOU PLACES. THE PHOTOS on these pages is the proof. Couchsurfing.com is a Web site similar to Facebook, where each person maintains a profile but instead of virtually socializing, the goal of the site is to match up travelers with places to stay on their journeys. You might be staying on a couch, air mattress, a floor or a guest bed. Typically, you don't complain about the accommodations as nobody charges a thing. Having couchsurf

SEE JOURNEY, C4 ▶



*Alpaca overlooking a red lagoon
in Southwest Bolivia* ▲

WEEK at-a-glance



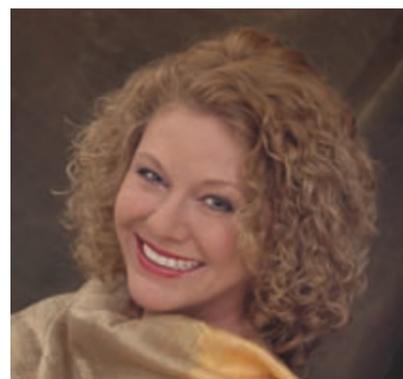
Three Dog Night

The popular band from the '70s returns to the Philharmonic July 31. **C14** ▶



Retail therapy

Closets expand during romantically lean months. **C2** ▶



Florida Writers

Connie May Fowler's new book is daring and satisfying. **C14** ▶



Cuisine

News for foodies from around Collier County. **C27** ▶

'I Love My Wife' opens June 12 at TheatreZone

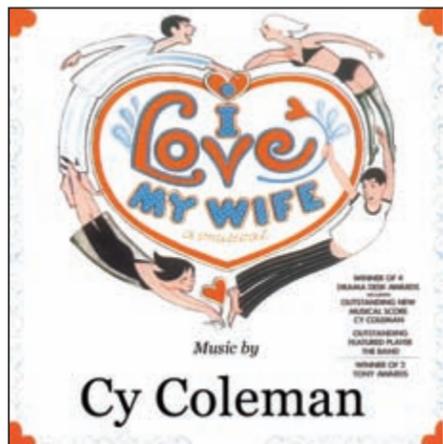
SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Directing the musical farce "I Love My Wife," with its toe-tapping Cy Coleman score, has been on TheatreZone artistic director Mark Danni's bucket list since he played Quenton in 1983.

When TheatreZone's season finale, "I Love My Wife," opens at the G&L Theatre on June 10, Mr. Danni can check this one off his list.

"In 1983, I was hired to play Quenton (the drummer) in "I Love My Wife" at the Lancaster Opera House," said Mr. Danni. "It was fun because the four-piece band had character parts and sang. I thought the show was hysterical and have always wanted to direct it."

In the original 1977 Broadway production, the band won a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Feature Actors



COURTESY PHOTO

in a Musical, he added.

While growing up in Buffalo, N.Y., Mr. Danni set sights on being a conductor who's main instrument was

the drums/percussion. Thanks to his notable talent, the then 16-year-old Mr. Danni was a favorite with the professional theater owners and often called to sit in on house bands. He could not only play the drums, he also read music and he was available.

Today, he admits he lied about his age (he said he was 18, then the legal age to drink alcohol) to play in a downtown Buffalo nightclub in an act called "Bravo Broadway It" was the first of many jobs in the theatre circuit and gave Mr. Danni an insider's view and appreciation of many different shows.

"I Love My Wife" features two married couples who find themselves contemplating a ménage-à-quatre. The cast includes: Karen Molnar (Monica),

SEE WIFE, C15 ▶

SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

Retail therapy



ArtisHENDERSON
sandydays@floridaweekly.com

Subsequent to my friend April's Great Break-Up, she embarked on the Great Shopping Odyssey. I trekked along for the retail therapy, as any good friend would, combing the racks for couture that might ease April's aching heart. She tried on exquisite numbers — flounced blouses and narrow pencil skirts — and bought an unseemly number of black dresses. There was a bandeau mini, in black stretch material so tight it outlined the jut of her narrow hips, and a flapper dress, with black tassels that swayed when she strutted across the dressing room. She asked my opinion on every item, and though I steered her away from several pieces (gold sequined shorts), I did not have the heart to make her put every outrageous purchase back. Nothing makes a girl feel better than a closet full of beautiful things.

In truth, my own closet also expands during romantically lean months. I spend more time with my girlfriends during these stretches, brunching and gossiping and shopping — time that would otherwise be spent with a beau. Without a man in my life and with few promising options, the wardrobe possibilities seem limitless. Suddenly,

every dress I try on could be worn to a fancy dinner, ever flirty skirt would be perfect for a date. Of course, in the real world of relationships, those sorts of dinners are few and far between; those kinds of dates are rare. In my relationships, jeans and T-shirts predominate. All those exquisite clothes purchased during romantic dry months hang limply in the back of my closet, languishing in relationship exile. The fun of post break-up shopping rarely relates to the clothes we buy. The appeal is in the opportunity to picture ourselves in a different setting, to envision a future in which we always look fabulous.

But when I shared the details of April's shopping spree with my current love, the Captain, he just laughed. "You know what she's doing, right?" he said.

I shook my head. "She's looking for a 'Look what you're missing' outfit. The kind you wear when an ex is around."

I scowled. Surely our shopping adventures could not be reduced to a pathetic attempt to make an ex-boyfriend jealous. Weren't we embarking on a nobler quest?

The Captain continued. "Every man knows that every woman has a special dress she puts on when she wants to show him what he can't have."

I held up a hand. The Captain stopped. I wondered if it could be possible, not only what he said about the dresses women own, but also that men

have divined our maneuvers. True, I have my own collection of little black dresses, all with short hems and plunging necklines, and, also true, I like to wear them on occasions when past and potential loves might have the opportunity for an eyeful. Come to think of it, I had worn one of those dresses on my very first date with the Captain, complete with snakeskin heels. It was the kind of outfit that said "I'll break

"Every man knows that every woman has a special dress she puts on when she wants to show him what he can't have..."

your heart" and dared him to try anyway. I thought I had been cunning, but now I realize he had seen through me all along. ■

Contact Artis
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SUMMER READING

'Never Tell Our Business to Strangers: A Memoir'

By Jennifer Mascia
(Random House, \$26)

REVIEWED BY KATHERINE BURNS OLSON
Special to Florida Weekly

Jennifer Mascia had a wild childhood.

When she was 5 years old, her father was arrested by the FBI. By the time she was 28, both of her parents — her criminal dad and his protective wife, her loyal mother — had succumbed to vicious, fatal bouts of cancer. All that happens in between — the family's crisscrossing the country; their ferocious fights and bitter, latent secrets; their ultimately unbreak-



able bond — is what makes Ms. Mascia's memoir, "Never Tell Our Business to Strangers," a humane, moving monument to the life and death of a most unusual family.

Chronicling the turbulent life she lived, unknowingly, on the lam, the author speaks raw truth to experiences

that others with less nerve might not have the courage to relive, much less retell.

Her father, whose arrests for murder and drug dealing injected equal parts fear and thrill into their transient lives, remains a beyond-all-odds beloved antihero, a tragic, romantic character whose love for his family, though tested by deception and division, is ever present in Ms. Mascia's life. Though his choices — right and wrong — forever alter the course of the lives of those he holds most dear, his love for his family is what sustains them, and their story.

Drawing on her experience as a professional journalist and news assistant at *The New York Times*, Ms. Mascia untangles the intricate knots of her family's shadowy history with both frankness and what must be sheer willpower. Her tale, though often unwieldy and at times disconnected, is revealing, a portrait of and confrontation with the vilest of truths with clarity, grace and a daughter's forgiveness. ■

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& GRACEFUL BYWAYS

JOURNEY

From page 1

more than 40 times in 20-plus countries I have met the kindest, most interesting people and had not one bad experience.

Couchsurfing has more than 1.5 million members in almost any country imaginable. Participants help you while expecting nothing in return except for the opportunity to meet someone new from a different culture.

Through a couchsurfing post I meet Kim, who tells me she wants to go to South America. It's an easy sell for me and three months later we fly into Panama City. After couchsurfing for a few days with a man named Roger, we find a sailboat going to Colombia sailing through the San Blas islands. We stop at the indigenous Kuna villages on various islands where we enjoy fresh lobster for a dollar.

We land in Turbo, Colombia and start one of many bus rides down the length of South America, stopping in Medellin, Bogota, Cali, and Pasto. All the cities we visit in Colombia are surrounded by the Andes and the people are friendly and dispel the popular notion of a crime-ridden drug culture. The guerillas and pan-military which are not part of the government aren't visible on our trip, and we're told they have been pushed out to the far off jungle areas.

In Bogota we spend Christmas with our couchsurfing host's family then head to Cali for a big Salsa festival. Next, in the city of Pasto, we celebrate the annual Blanco y Negro festival with big parades. Everyone paints their faces black one day and white the next day to celebrate the end of slavery. We spray each other with foam and throw flour at each other — lots of fun. We stop at the most beautiful church I have ever seen called Las Lajas Sanctuary on the border before entering Ecuador.

In Puno we visit local people who live on floating islands made out of thick grass. Stepping on the island is kind of like a waterbed. The people on the island all wear very bright clothes. Next we entered Copacabana, Bolivia, then leave for Isla del Sol or "Island of the Sun," which was breath-

taking, with snowcapped mountains in the distance and an amazing 360-degree view on top of the island.

We arrive in La Paz, the highest capital city in the world with an elevation of 12,087 feet. It takes time to get used to the thin air and you get winded walking up the street. From there I take a half-hour plane ride from cold La Paz to a place hotter than Southwest Florida, Rurrenabaque, in the Bolivian Amazon

jungle. I go on a Pampas tour where I grab hold of a wild 7-foot Anaconda that we find after an hour of looking and petting 8-foot wild crocodiles and monkeys. I swim with pink dolphins and go piranha fishing.

After a treacherous 18-hour bus ride, we head for Oruro, where the locals celebrate the second biggest carnival in South America aside from Rio de Janeiro's. This is the Diablo festival where the parades and festival lasts

for days and goes all night with lots of water balloons and more foam thrown at each other.

In Tupiza, Bolivia we start a four-day jeep tour of the salt flats. The landscape is varied, beginning with amazing canyons, then desert and many multi-colored lagoons where hundreds of pink flamingos live. During our last night there, we arrive at the biggest salt flats in the world and stay in a hostel where the walls, floor and furniture are all made of salt.

The next morning we get up early and see the most amazing sunrise over the flats. We return to Tupiza where we go horseback riding for five hours for around \$20.

We next make our way to Argentina, with many stops in Salta, and Mendoza, where Kim and

I part ways as she decides to head back home to family. I continue down Bariloche, El Bolson, El Calafate and El Chalten where I ice-climb and trek on the glaciers. I take note of how fast the glacier is melting and wonder if this hundred-thousand year-old piece of ice will be here in another 50 years.

I head to Chile to climb Torres del Pine and from there back to Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world where I meet some penguins and great people. After that, I take a flight to Buenos Aires where I couchsurf with two tango/belly dance instructors. They give me tango lessons in their studio and I head out to the tango clubs to try out what I've learned.

I arrived in Cuzco after the plane trip and a bus ride through Cochabamba and La Paz. There are two ways to get to Machu Picchu — by train or bus. I take the bus because of the price. It nearly costs me my life. Along the road, there is flooding and rockslides. We have to get out and walk over some areas, grabbing and throwing rocks off the road for the van to pass. Our group of about 10 walks across one of the slides when 3- to 4-foot rocks start falling down the mountain headed right for us. I yell to warn the others, running forward with my 35-pound backpack. The last girl in the group, who was from Holland, stops in the middle of the path after one of the guides tells her to look up, fearing that if she keeps going she'll be hit. She stops running just as a boulder rolls right in front of her and another tumbles behind her. Next, we pile into an open cart — designed for cargo, not passengers — over the canyon and river beneath us. After about four to five more hours of walking we arrive at Aguas Caliente where we visit Machu Picchu.

After getting back to Cuzco I take my last bus in South America to Lima where after four-month journey I fly back to Florida. When I can, I offer my couch to intrepid explorers curious about the strange ways in which we live in Southwest Florida.



Young girl with her kitten on the floating islands of Lake Titicaca, Peru

Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina



➤ *Parade at Carnival in Oruro, Bolivia*

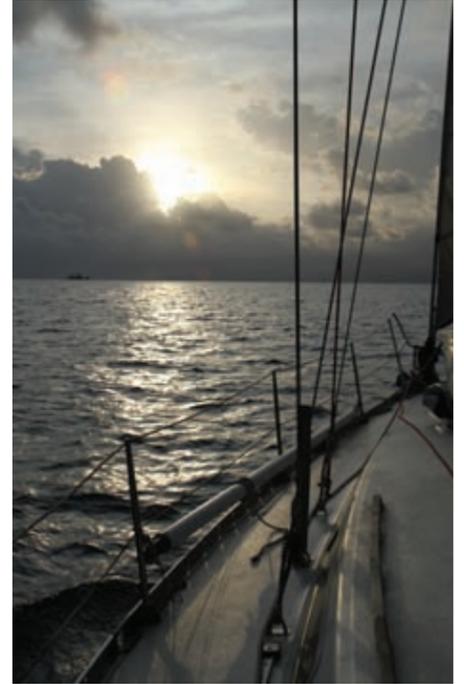
Las Lajas Sanctuary, Colombia ▼



☰ in the know ☰

>> **What:** In the know "Journey Through South America" by Kurt Williams Photographer
 >> **When:** Friday, June 18, from 6 to 9 p.m.
 >> **Where:** Sweet Art Gallery, 2054 Trade Center Way, Naples
 >> **Cost:** Free
 >> **Information:** 597-2110

▼ *Sunset sailing from Panama to Colombia*



▲ *Carnival in Oruro, Bolivia*

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

This week's theater

■ **Tea-A-Ria** - Presented by Fred's Diner June 6, 13 and 20. Enjoy a light-hearted comedy with '40's era cocktails and Italian entrees. 2700 Immokalee Road. 431-7928.

■ **The Emperor's New Clothes** - At Broadway Palm Children's Theatre through May 30. 278-4422.

■ **boom** - At Theatre Conspiracy May 28-June 12. \$22 or \$10 for students. May 28 is "Pay what you will" night. 936-3239.

■ **Ring of Fire** - At Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre through June 5. 278-4422.

■ **Murder on the Scottish Line** - On the Murder Mystery Dinner Train at 6:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. www.semgulf.com or 275-8487.

This week's symphony

■ **Star Spangled Spectacular** - By the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra at 8 p.m. May 27-29 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 597-1900.

■ **Strings Concert - Magic Carpet Concert** - Strings is performed at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. May 29. 597-1900.

Thursday, May 27

■ **Artist Event** - The Art League of Bonita Springs hosts Art Walk at the Promenade at Bonita Bay from 4-7 p.m. Enjoy exhibitions and musical entertainment. 495-8989 or www.artcenter-bonita.org

The Southwest Florida Chess Club invites players of all ages and abilities to gather at Books-A-Million at Mercado from 1:30-5 p.m. on May 29.

■ **Open Mic** - Naples Flatbread & Wine Bar in Miromar Outlets and on Naples Boulevard hosts open mic nights from 6:30-9:30 p.m. every Thursday. www.naplesflatbread.com.

■ **Thursdays on Third** - Enjoy live music and free entertainment along with shopping and dining every Thursday evening between November and May on Third Street South. www.thirdstreetsouth.com.

■ **Quiz Night** - The English Pub hosts Quiz Night at 8:30 p.m. 775-3727, 2408 Linwood Ave. East Naples. www.naplesenglishpub.com.

Friday, May 28

■ **Beauty Event** - Nancy Joseph Makeup Studio hosts Makeup Madness from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 4949 Tamiami Trail N, Ste. 102. Experience styling sessions with makeup artists and skin professionals and enjoy cocktails, appetizers, door prizes and music. \$20, reservations required. 643-5477.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Naples Philharmonic Orchestra performs "Star Spangled Spectacular" at 8 p.m. May 27-29 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts.

■ **Premier Party** - Bell Tower Shops and Bistro 41 host a premier party for "Sex & the City 2" from 5-11 p.m. \$41 provides unlimited Cosmos, champagne, live music, hot DJs and a ticket to the show in a private theater. RSVP: 466-4141.

■ **Weekend Concerts** - Gulf Coast Town Center offers its free Weekend Concert Series in Market Plaza from 8-0 p.m. Tonight: Classic hits by the Kappo Kings. 267-0783 or gulfcoasttowncenter.com.

Saturday, May 29

■ **Weekend Concerts** - Gulf Coast Town Center offers its free Weekend Concert Series in Market Plaza from 8-10 p.m. Tonight: Classic hits by Both Hands. 267-0783 or gulfcoasttowncenter.com.

■ **Chess Anyone?** - The Southwest Florida Chess Club invites players of all ages and abilities to gather at Books-A-Million at Mercado from 1:30-5 p.m. 898-0458 or e-mail swflchess@yahoo.com.

Sunday, May 30

■ **R&B Tunes** - The chart-topping "Sweet Philly" band from the '70s, The Stylistics, perform at the Seminole Casino Immokalee at 8 p.m. \$25. 800-218-0007 or www.SeminoleImmokalee-Casino.com.

■ **Water Ski Show** - A free water ski show by the Southern Extreme Water-Ski Team starts at 4 p.m. every Sunday at Miromar Outlets near the Restaurant Piazza.

Monday, May 31

■ **Holiday Concert** - A Memorial Day 2010 Concert is performed from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Cambier Park band shell in Naples. 404-7481.

■ **Love Trivia?** - The Pub at Mercato has Trivia Night every Monday at 7:30 p.m. 594-9400.

Tuesday, June 1

■ **Team Trivia** - Boston Beer Garden Team Trivia is played at 9 p.m. every Tuesday at 2396 Immokalee Rd. 596-2337.

Wednesday, June 2

■ **Pirate Night** - Join The English Pub every Wednesday for Pirate Night and Hermit Crab Races as well as live entertainment at 6:30 p.m. 775-3727 or www.naplesenglishpub.com.

■ **History Tours** - Walking tours of the Naples Historical District start at 10 a.m. at 137 12th Ave. South. Requested donations are \$15 adults, \$5 children. Reservations are required: 261-8164.



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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

■ **Song Night** - Wednesdays are Singer/Songwriter Night from 7-10 p.m. at Fred's Diner, 2700 Immokalee Road, Naples. 431-7928 or www.fredsiner.com.

Upcoming events 

■ **Village Nights** - The Village on Venetian Bay hosts Village Nights from 6-9 p.m. June 3. Enjoy live entertainment, waterfront dining and shopping. www.venetianvillage.com.

■ **Uncommon Evening** - The Uncommon Friends Foundation presents "An Uncommon Evening" starting at 5 p.m. June 3 at Harborside Event Center. The program includes annual scholarship awards, teacher awards and others. \$60 or table of eight for \$500. 337-9505.

■ **Live Music** - The Mercato First Friday Concert is set for 6-10 p.m. June 4. 403-2204.

■ **Pet Expo** - The Lee County Pet Expo is set for 9 a.m.-5 p.m. June 5 at the Lee Civic Center. www.angels-creations.net or 691-4764.

■ **Organ Music** - A Festival of Great Organ Music starts at 3 p.m. June 6 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 597-1900.

■ **Music Fest** - The Acoustic Music Society of Southwest Florida hosts Pickin' in Paradise from 2-5 p.m. June 6 at the Bonita Springs Elks Lodge, 3231 Coconut Road, Estero. 248-8906 or www.palmgrass.com.

■ **Footloose** - At Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre June 10-Aug. 7. 278-4422 or www.BroadwayPalm.com.

■ **I Love My Wife** - At Theatrezone June 10-13. 1-888-966-3352.

■ **Art Reception** - The Art League of Bonita Springs hosts a Summer Solstice Opening Reception from 6-8 p.m. June 11 at the Center for the Arts, 26100 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

A Festival of Great Organ Music starts at 3 p.m. June 6 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts.

■ **Musical Performance** - Higher and Higher, celebrating the Legacy of Ray Charles, Motown and beyond, starring Ellis Hall and The Truth, starts at 8 p.m. June 12 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. Multi-instrumentalist virtuoso and vocalist Ellis Hall has performed and recorded with a host of musical luminaries, including his mentor, Ray Charles. 597-1900.

■ **Spring Concert** - The SW Florida Gay & Lesbian Chorus presents a spring concert, "Why We Sing," at 7:30 p.m. June 12 and 4 p.m. June 13 at Cultural Park Theatre, 528 Cultural Park Blvd.,

Cape Coral. \$15 adults, \$10 students. 691-2532, swgaychorus@aol.com or www.gaychorus.com.

■ **GoldenFest** - Golden Retriever Rescue of Southwest Florida hosts GoldenFest, a block party-style event celebrating golden retrievers, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. June 19 at Ruffin It Doggie Day Care in Bonita Springs. www.grr-sw.org or 369-0415.

— Send calendar listings to events@floridaweekly.com.

Golden Retriever Rescue of Southwest Florida hosts GoldenFest, a block party-style event celebrating golden retrievers, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. June 19 at Ruffin It Doggie Day Care in Bonita Springs.



COURTESY PHOTO

**HOTTEST SHOWS.
COOLEST GAME.**

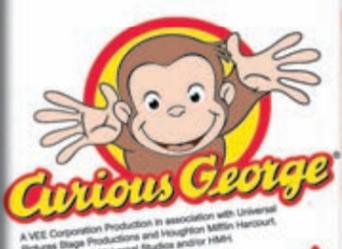


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JULY 3 - 11:00AM & 3:00PM**



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at 800.334.3309, or online at
www.Ticketmaster.com.

ARTS COMMENTARY

An 'alliterate' society? Just say 'la vee' (sic)

Nancy STETSON
nstetson@floridaweekly.com



With increasing regularity — and great sadness — my friends and I find ourselves bemoaning the current state of affairs when it comes to the written word.

The world, it seems, is becoming much more visual, and increasingly less literate.

Daily newspapers, which, in addition to providing news, also used to provide intelligent analysis and complex stories that examined an issue/situation/person in depth, are now rarely doing so. They seem to prefer what they call “quick hits,” or, what I call “hit-and-run journalism,” stories that are over before they’ve barely begun.

Some stories seem to possess all the depth of speed dating. “Just the facts, ma’am.”

One paper I looked at recently had a lot of quick profiles: name, town, age, profession, brief quote, maybe a second brief quote. That doesn’t strike me as journalism as it is just filling in the blanks.

Many newspapers, fearing the Internet’s stealing their readers, try to make their paper more like the Web: extremely short stories, lots of bulleted items, big colorful graphics, a minimum of words. But the Internet’s already doing what they’re attempting to do, and doing it much better. I mean, if you’re looking for shallowness and brevity, you can’t beat the Internet. And those who truly love words, who value complexity and depth — in short, your ideal newspaper reader — well, they’re turned off by the increasingly anorexic articles. They wonder where the real journalism went.

So in addition to not gaining younger readers — typically those who prefer to get their information from the Web — they’re also turning off their core readers — those who want their articles to have some substance.

A couple of things happened recently to make me think about this whole subject anew.

First, I was asked by a college to be an outside evaluator of its senior projects. No, I’m not going to mention the name of the institution, nor the department, town or state. With each project,

I perused the student’s bibliography to see what work they’d read while doing research.

I was completely stunned by one student’s bibliography. All of her research had been done online. She had not read one book or one magazine article. She hadn’t even physically opened a book. She simply surfed the Net. And to make matters worse, all her research of people was done entirely on Wikipedia! Wikipedia!

And this was for her senior project. I was incredulous.

Yes, the Internet can be extremely helpful for those trying to find old newspaper or magazine articles. But it didn’t appear that this student had even done that. Her “research” must have taken her all of one Saturday afternoon, if that.

I was dumbfounded a senior college student would think it acceptable to do all of her research on the Internet and not even physically pick up one book and read it.

The senior advisor I spoke with said that they’d noticed a growing problem and were going to set specific guidelines for future graduating classes: everyone would have to read a certain number of books for their research.

Second, in the course of one day, I found two incredible spelling errors on the Internet. I know that doesn’t sound like a lot. Believe me, there have been days when I’ve found many more mistakes. (And, I hasten to add, I myself am not the world’s best speller. As with all of us, things get past me, unfortunately.) But for some reason, these two errors just really hit me.

The first was someone using the term “per se,” in a paragraph. They spelled it “per say.” The second was someone using the term “c’est la vie.” But what they wrote was that such-and-such “had a certain say la vee attitude.”

(I told a writer friend of mine about these, and she was horrified, yet joked that she wanted to get buttons made that said, “Just say ‘La vee.’”)

Third, I just read Nicholas Carr’s cover story in the July/August issue

of *The Atlantic* magazine: “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” (sic)

In the beginning, he talks about how the Web is changing the way he thinks and reads:

“My mind isn’t going — so far as I

“My mind now expects to take in information the way the Net distributes it: in a swiftly moving stream of narticles”



can tell — but it’s changing. I’m not thinking the way I used to think. I can feel it most strongly when I’m reading. Immersing myself in a book or lengthy article used to be easy. My mind would get caught up in the narratives or turns of the argument, and I’d spend hours strolling through long stretches of prose. That’s rarely the case anymore. Now my concentration often starts to drift after two or three pages. I get fidgety, lose the thread, and begin looking for something else to do. I feel as if I’m always dragging my wayward brain back to the text. The deep reading that used to come naturally has become a struggle.”

And a few paragraphs later, he says, “...what the Net seems to be doing is chipping away at my capacity for concentration and contemplation. My mind now expects to take in information the way the Net distributes it: in a swiftly moving stream of particles.”

Many of his “friends and acquaintances — literary types, most of them,” doing the same thing, Carr quotes Scott Karp, who, in an article about how online media, who says they’ve stopped reading books. Carr also quotes lit major in college blogger Bruce Friedman, who says “almost totally lost the ability to read and absorb a longish article on the Web or in print.”

Reading takes time, effort, and concentration. It takes perseverance and a grit-your-teeth kind of determination. It takes a desire to stick with something and a desire to know doing so will be ultimately rewarding.

In our instant-access, skim-friendly, multi-tasking society, we face a courage that. What kind of society will we become if people choose speed over allowance over depth? Carr quotes Ray Bradbury’s novel “The Sound of Music,” about a completely new world in which books are illegible — they make people think and feel. Though written for the screen, the book seems eerily

relevant. Carr’s cover story in *The Atlantic* is an intriguing piece of commentary that raises many questions.

As you think, you’ll know how many people will read it. It’s six pages long. ■

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GIVING



COURTESY PHOTO

Lighthouse of Collier Inc. will hold its first summer camp for children who are blind or visually impaired this July. The camp is made possible with proceeds from 34th Annual Great Dock Canoe Race, of which Lighthouse of Collier was the beneficiary. Shown in the photo above are Lighthouse of Collier board members Bill Mercer and Art and Sue Bookbinder. For information about the summer camp for students in grades one through 12, call 430-3934 or visit www.lighthouseofcollier.org.

Community Foundation of Collier County making plans for transition in leadership

The board of directors of the Community Foundation of Collier County has announced that Mary George plans to step down as president and CEO of the foundation by the end of the year. The board expresses its strong appreciation for Mrs. George's 15 years of service and regretfully supports her personal decision.

Mrs. George started in 1995 as the foundation's first program officer. Under her leadership over the past seven years as president, the foundation's assets have grown to \$60 million, and more than \$40 million in grants have been made to the local community and beyond.

"This decision is part of a bigger, personal plan for me," Mrs. George said. "I am at a time in my life that I can step back, take an inventory of my skills and try something new, maybe equally as challenging."

Dolly Roberts, chairman of the foundation board, said, "Mary should feel a sense of accomplishment that the organization has reached a new level in leadership, that our board is strong and active, and our programs are relevant in the community. Mary's seven years as CEO positioned the foundation as the hub of community philanthropy in Collier County."

Mrs. Roberts added that the transition in leadership will offer the board "an opportunity to focus on the organization's strategic direction of assessing community philanthropic needs, educating the public about them and focusing grants and initiatives to meet those needs."

The board has appointed a Succession Planning Committee that will meet throughout the summer, working with Mrs. George and others to create a smooth transition. ■

\$10,000 grant from The League Club enables C'mon to buy 450 books

The Children's Museum of Naples, C'mon, has received a \$10,000 grant from the Community Trust Fund of The League Club. The award will enable C'mon to purchase 450 books for its family resource library and volunteer resource center. Books will include:

- ▶ 200 children's books for use in "Baby and Me" classes, school programs, camps, story times and after-school programs.

- ▶ 100 parent resource books, such as "What to Expect the First Year" and "Last Child in the Woods," which will be

used in parenting education classes.

- ▶ 100 books on world cultures, which will be used to develop exhibitions for the museum's World Café and in school programs and summer camps.

- ▶ 50 books on working with children with disabilities, which will be used in volunteer training, parenting education classes and teacher in-services.

Books will be purchased in both English and Spanish.

C'mon is scheduled to open in 2011 in the North Collier Regional Park. To learn more, visit www.cmon.org. ■

PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

ALP	SAGA	IBAR	OPALS						
RIOS	SLOSH	DELI	LABEL						
ISNT	TAWEE	ARAP	DRAMA						
DAYAN	SNARL	MIEN	CON						
TROD	BITUNNERVING								
BEATRICE	SLID	SWEE							
ARI	DALY	MAC	SNAPS						
ILL	COLLAPSE	ORATORIO							
TESLA	MACRO	MOM	MEAL						
EPA	HALS	BAA	NNE						
DICE	THATDOCTORS	TAOS							
EVE	LIV	OMAR	SOO						
LOSS	AKA	OBESE	DECOR						
FRACASES	UNSALTED	ARE							
TYROL	TNT	TINY	RCA						
WASP	OATH	PARENTAL							
CALLWHATTHEY	ERIE								
HBO	AREA	ANGST	INSET						
EAGER	TABS	DOPRACTICE							
STAGE	OSLO	ERROL	HARE						
TENON	NEED	PYNE	NUN						

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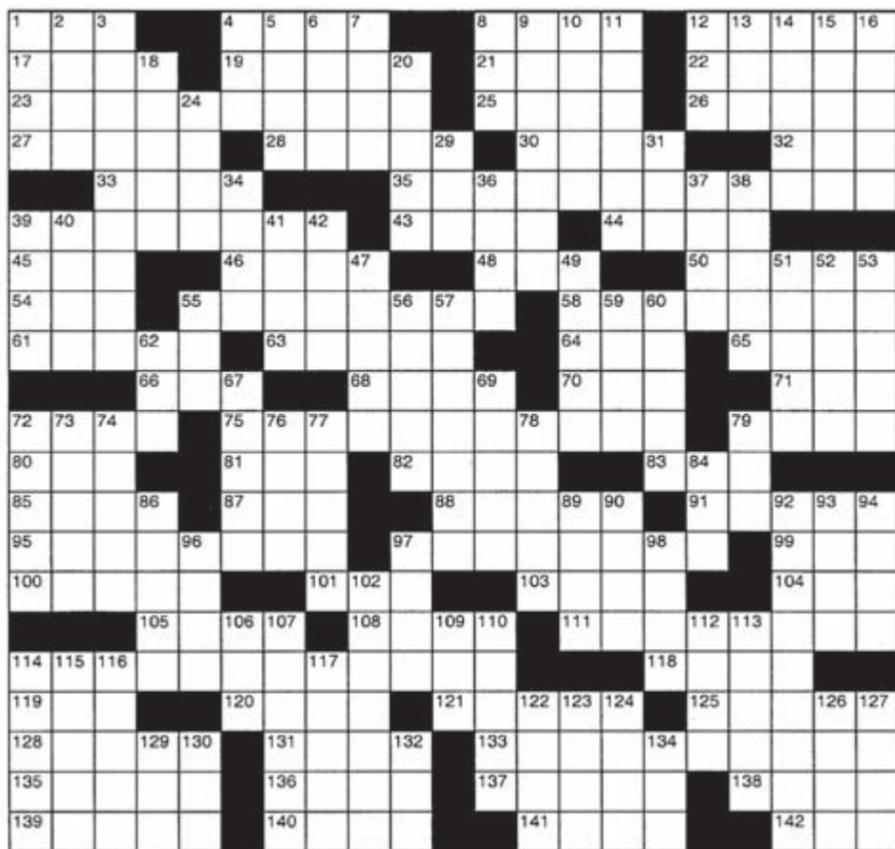
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FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES

HEALTH SCORE



- ACROSS**
- 1 Matterhorn, e.g.
 - 4 It's a long story
 - 8 Steel support
 - 12 Indescent stones
 - 17 Ocho —, Jamaica
 - 19 Move through mud
 - 21 Submarine base?
 - 22 Warhol subject
 - 23 Start of a remark
 - 25 Not give — (be indifferent)
 - 26 Play
 - 27 Moshe of Israel
 - 28 Growl
 - 30 Appearance
 - 32 Pro foe
 - 33 Walked
 - 35 Part 2 of remark
 - 39 Lillie or Straight
 - 43 Coasted
 - 44 — Pea (Popeye's kid)
 - 45 "The Greek Tycoon" subject
 - 46 Actress Tyne
 - 48 Rock's Fleetwood —
 - 50 Layette fasteners
 - 54 Unwell
 - 55 Fall in a heap
 - 58 "The Messiah," for one
 - 61 Electrical inventor
 - 63 Word form for "large"
 - 64 Morticia, to Pugsley
 - 65 Coarse flour
 - 66 Clean-air org.
 - 68 Dutch painter
 - 70 Ram's remark
 - 71 Compass pt.
 - 72 Casino cubes
 - 75 Part 3 of remark
 - 79 New Mexico resort
 - 80 Curie or Arden
 - 81 Actress Tyler
 - 82 General Bradley
 - 83 — Canals
 - 85 A bad figure?
 - 87 Alias initials
 - 88 Corpulent
 - 91 Furnishings
 - 95 Noisy quarrels
 - 97 Like some butter
 - 99 Exist
 - 100 Innsbruck's locale
 - 101 Cable channel
 - 103 Little than little
 - 104 JVC competitor
 - 105 Summer stinger
 - 108 Promise
 - 111 Part of PG
 - 114 Part 4 of remark
 - 118 New York county
 - 119 Sopranos' network
 - 120 Geometry calculation
 - 121 Trepidation
 - 125 67 Down feature
 - 128 — beaver
 - 131 Can openers?
 - 133 End of remark
 - 135 Put on
 - 136 Frozen capital
 - 137 Flynn of films
 - 138 Fabled racer
 - 139 Mortise's mate
 - 140 Have to have
 - 141 '60s talk-show host
 - 142 TV's "The Flying —"
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Parched
 - 2 One of the Simpsons
 - 3 Youthful hairdos
 - 4 Fast flier
 - 5 "Oh, wool!"
 - 6 Wedding wear
 - 7 Disoriented
 - 8 Journalist
 - 9 — onion
 - 10 Actor Delon
 - 11 Matures
 - 12 "Grumpy — Men" ('93 film)
 - 13 Norm loudly
 - 14 You can count on them
 - 15 "— Tree" ('62 hit)
 - 16 Street talk
 - 18 Get cracking
 - 20 Rosemary and basil
 - 24 "Are you — out?"
 - 29 "— Abner"
 - 31 Hot off the press
 - 34 "The Aeneid" character
 - 36 Use a stopwatch
 - 37 Take a breather
 - 38 Poison
 - 39 Angler's dangles
 - 40 Agatha's colleague
 - 41 Unruffle
 - 42 Grasso or Raines
 - 47 Marina sight
 - 49 Small band
 - 51 Where the action is
 - 52 Perahia's instrument
 - 53 Pump parts
 - 55 Graduation gear
 - 56 Bandleader Perez
 - 57 Wise guy
 - 59 Laugh loudly
 - 60 Pile up
 - 62 Poe's "Annabel —"
 - 67 Book of maps
 - 69 Strike-breakers
 - 72 Dutch pottery
 - 73 Tower material?
 - 74 Composer Franck
 - 76 Walk in the woods
 - 77 "Stop, sailor!"
 - 78 Pick up the check
 - 79 Low digit
 - 84 Eccentric
 - 86 Crab's expression
 - 89 Lingerie item
 - 90 Empedocles' last stand?
 - 92 — coordinates
 - 93 Namu or Willy
 - 94 Genuine
 - 96 Be — unto oneself
 - 97 Home of the Osmonds
 - 98 Thornfield governess
 - 102 Distinguished
 - 106 — Na Na
 - 107 C&W's Dolly
 - 109 It's in the bag
 - 110 Chrissie of The Pretenders
 - 112 Hockey's Lindros
 - 113 Last inning
 - 114 It's often heaved
 - 115 Subside
 - 116 Boston airport
 - 117 Make one's hair stand on end?
 - 122 Trail mix
 - 123 Nimble
 - 124 '82 Jeff Bridges film
 - 126 Neutral tone
 - 127 Rock hound?
 - 129 Freud topic
 - 130 Cartoon canine
 - 132 Turf
 - 134 Flagon filler

HOROSCOPES

■ **GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** Shyness might keep you from asking for more information on a potentially important matter. But your curiosity grows stronger by midweek and gives you the impetus for data-gathering.

■ **CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Taking on too many tasks may not be the wise thing to do at this time. You might overspend both your physical and emotional energy reserves, and have to miss out on some upcoming events.

■ **LEO (July 23 to August 22)** Try to keep your spending at an affordable level. Splurging now — especially on credit — could create a problem if your finances are too low for you to take advantage of a possible opportunity.

■ **VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** You might not approve of a colleague's behavior during much of the week. But don't play the judgmental Virgo card here. As always, check the facts before you assume the worst.

■ **LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** Coping with an old issue that has suddenly re-emerged could take a big toll on your emotional energies. Decide whether you really want to pursue the possibilities here.

■ **SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** For all your skill in keeping your secrets safe, you could be unwittingly letting one slip out by the way you're behaving in that new relationship. Are congratulations soon to be in order?

■ **SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** Good old-fash-

ioned horse sense could help you get around those who unknowingly or deliberately put obstacles in your way. Ignore the confusion and follow your own lead.

■ **CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** A puzzling attitude change in a colleague from friendly to chilly might stem from a long-hidden resentment suddenly bubbling up. An open and honest talk should resolve the problem.

■ **AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** This week, many ever-generous Aquarians might find themselves feeling an acquisitive urge. If so, indulge it. You've earned the right to treat yourself to wonderful things.

■ **PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** Expect to get a lot of advice on how to go about implementing your plans. But once you've sorted it all out, you'll probably find that, once again, your way will be the best way.

■ **ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** Still operating under a full head of self-esteem makes you want to tackle a matter you had shied away from. OK. But be sure to arm yourself with facts before you make a move.

■ **TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** That smart move you recently made caught the attention of a lot of people, including some with financial deals to offer. Use your Taurean wariness to check them out thoroughly.

■ **BORN THIS WEEK:** You enjoy the quiet times of your life, but when you're in the mood, you can throw a party everyone will want to go to.

By Linda Thistle

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

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Puzzle Difficulty this week:



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

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging ★★★ Expert

◀ SEE ANSWERS, C9

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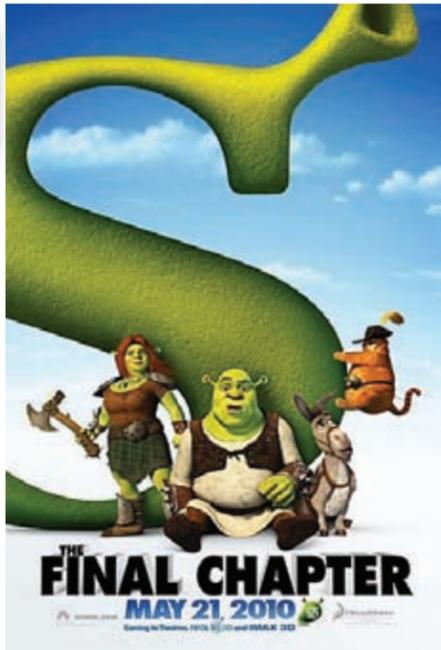
'Shrek Forever After'

danHUDAK
www.hudakonhollywood.com



★ ★ ½

Is it worth \$15 (3-D)? No
Is it worth \$10? Yes



When a franchise hits the creative bankruptcy of "Shrek the Third," there shouldn't be a fourth movie. The story has been exhausted, and there's no new direction for the characters. So what did the creators of "Shrek Forever After" do? They took the story sideways to an alternate reality. This is almost — almost — as bad as doing a prequel. Thankfully, "Forever After" is charming and humorous enough to warrant our attention, even if the 3-D visuals fail to impress.

Shrek (voice of Mike Myers) is bored. The jolly green ogre begins director Mike Mitchell's film as a consummate family man, with his life a dull repetition of changing diapers, dinner parties and noise, lots of noise. And it's driving him crazy. All he wants is to be a true ogre again — to be feared by others, take a mud bath in peace and be left alone.

Enter Rumpelstiltskin (voice of Walt Dohrn), a con man magician who dreams of great power. He makes a deal with Shrek: He allows Shrek to be a real ogre again for a day, in exchange for one day from Shrek's past that will no longer exist. Cleverly, Rumpel chooses the day Shrek was born, meaning Shrek will now cease to exist at the end of his 24 hours of ogre freedom. This also means Shrek didn't save Fiona (voice of Cameron Diaz) from her isolated tower, which has allowed Rumpel to rule Far, Far Away.

In true fairy tale form, writers Josh Klausner and Darren Lemke have allowed for true love's kiss to save Shrek from the spell. The problem is now he's never met Fiona, and he needs to quickly get reacquainted with Donkey (voice of Eddie Murphy) and an overweight Puss in Boots (voice of Antonio Banderas).

By the fourth film some actors would merely go through the motions, but Mr. Murphy and Mr. Banderas are especial-

ly good at keeping the laughs coming consistently. In contrast, Mr. Myers and Ms. Diaz are stuck covering the same territory they have in the three prior movies, and there's just not much room for them to maneuver.

As for the visual quality, seeing the film in 3-D did nothing to enhance the viewing experience. Sure, things pop out and it's fun, but it's likely just as enjoyable and much less headache inducing (not to mention cheaper) to see it in standard 2-D format.

"Shrek Forever After" has redeemed some of the franchise's good vibes, but it's also instantly forgettable. So go, enjoy, listen to your kids laugh. It may be fleeting, but it's better than nothing. ■

— Dan Hudak is the chairman of the Florida Film Critics Circle and a nationally syndicated film critic. You can e-mail him at dan@hudakonhollywood.com and read more of his work at www.hudakonhollywood.com.

Did you know?

>> In his work as the "head of story" for the film, Walt Dohrn read the part of Rumpelstiltskin (and other characters) opposite the actors during recording sessions. The plan was always to get a big-name actor to do Rumpel's voice, but Mr. Dohrn was so effective the producers deemed him "absolutely irreplaceable" and allowed him to do the voice for the film.

CAPSULES

REVIEWED BY DAN HUDAK
www.hudakonhollywood.com

Robin Hood ★½
(Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett, Oscar Isaac) A legend is born as archer Robin Longstride (Crowe) defends the widowed Marian (Blanchett) and her village of Nottingham from the tyrannical King John (Isaac). There are also storylines involving Robin's childhood, betrayals, love, etc., but this tedious bore of a movie is more about 12th century politics than it is a hero fighting for the everyman. Rated PG-13.

A Nightmare On Elm Street ★★
(Jackie Earle Haley, Kyle Gallner, Rooney Mara) Horror icon Freddy Krueger (Jackie

Earle Haley) returns to Elm Street to murder teenagers in their sleep, which also kills them in real life. It's an uninspired and lame attempt to restart the franchise, as the story lacks coherence and Mr. Haley takes the role way too seriously. Rated R.

The Back-Up Plan ★★½
(Jennifer Lopez, Alex O'Loughlin, Michaela Watkins) When an aging single woman (Lopez) meets Mr. Right (O'Loughlin) on the day she's artificially inseminated, their relationship follows an unusual trajectory. The movie deserves credit for taking an original approach to a romantic comedy, but even a nice performance from Ms. Lopez doesn't make the movie funny enough to fulfill its promise. Rated PG-13. ■



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Florida Weekly launches round two of fiction challenge



EVAN WILLIAMS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

BY OSVALDO PADILLA
opadilla@floridaweekly.com

The first round of our fiction challenge drew about a dozen submissions from readers who riffed on a vintage photograph to create tales of redemption and renewal among other themes. Based on the success of that first round, we're launching another round of this imaginative exercise.

Here at *Florida Weekly* we enjoy telling stories. We love to find people and situations that speak to us. When we write, we strive to capture the essence of life in Southwest Florida as honestly as we know how.

Now, we're asking you to tell us a story. We've already done some work to help you get started. *Florida Weekly* kindly asks you, dear reader, to submit an original work of fiction based on the

photograph seen here.

Our own Evan Williams snapped this shot during one of his sojourns through Southwest Florida recently. Under normal circumstances, the photo would end up in the delete folder, but it's our hope that instead, this nondescript picture inspires some engaging tales. That's where you come in.

Using this photo as a starting point for your creative process, we'd like you to come up with a narrative story of 600 words or less. *Florida Weekly* will accept your original stories in Word format until Wednesday, June 9. E-mail them to opadilla@floridaweekly.com and we will print the best submissions on these very pages. Be sure to include your name, address and contact information with your submission. Feel free to include a headshot of yourself as well. Thanks for writing and good luck. ■

Local student places in nationwide Google competition

Tyler Worden, a student at Island Coast High School, has been named one of the regional finalists for the Doodle 4 Google competition. This year more than 33,000 submissions were received from across America, and out of this pool of entries Google selected 40 top doodles as finalists.

From the considerable number of applicants, Mr. Worden has been chosen as the grades seven to nine winner for region 4, which consists of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. He received a trip to New York City for an event on May 26, a T-shirt printed with his doodle and his work will be featured in a national exhibit at the Smithsonian museum.

Anyone who has used the search engine Google knows the site's homepage logo changes for special holidays and events. Google calls these logos "doodles," and for the past three years it has been hosting a competition that invites students to "redesign" the Google logo according to a specific theme.

This year's theme is "If I Could Do Anything, I Would..." The winning student's school gets \$25,000 for a new computer lab and he or she wins a \$15,000 scholarship and the chance to have his or her design on the Google.com homepage for a day for millions of people to see. Regional finalists' entries can be viewed by visiting the popular search engine.

A panel of judges will select four national finalists. One entry from this select group will be named the national winner and will be displayed on the Google homepage for 24 hours. ■



GOOGLE / COURTESY PHOTOS

A sketch by finalist Tyler Worden.

Competing doodles



Julia Proctor



Tessa Marquard Burrell



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FLORIDA WRITERS

Connie May Fowler's novel of empowerment

"How Clarissa Burden Learned to Fly"
By Connie May Fowler
(Grand Central Publishing, \$23.99)

REVIEWED BY PHILIP K. JASON
Special to Florida Weekly

Readers of acclaimed, best-selling author Connie May Fowler will be thoroughly satisfied with her latest novel. The protagonist, Clarissa Burden, meets June 21, 2006, with frustration and trepidation. On the longest and hottest day of the year, she is trapped in a loveless marriage in what was once her dream house in Florida's panhandle. Not only does her husband demean her by neglect, withering remarks and compulsive attention to his transparent "business" of making artistic renderings of naked young women, but also Clarissa demeans herself.

Childless in her mid-30s, Clarissa is suffering writers' block after some early successes as a novelist. Her barrenness on various levels marks this highly perceptive and imaginative woman as, paradoxically, convention-bound. Dependent on the opinions and actions of others, she yearns for the independence that requires risk-taking. That is, she needs to learn how to fly.

The 24 hours of Clarissa's transition are narrated in a style that is exquisitely detailed, at once realistic, fantastic, and ultimately fabulous in all the various meanings of the word. The creatures who share Clarissa's space in the natural world seem responsive to her moods and actions. Her guardedness and fearfulness are reflected in the warnings of "Ovarian shadow women." The fauna and the shadow women serve as choric voices, aspects of Clarissa's own submerged wisdom-sounding alarms.

Clarissa's imagination — or is it some other force? — puts her in touch with a one-armed compromised angel named Larry Dibble, a carnival of dwarfs, a ghost fly and a magic tree. Her old house is haunted by the ghosts of a long dead and self-assured Spanish woman, her black husband (a free man when Florida was under Spanish rule), and their young child. Clarissa's encounters, whether actual or imaginative projections, challenge her as they guide her toward self-realization and self-assertion.

Purchasing, without her husband's approval, a customized classic 1970 Chevy El Camino SS sport truck seems to be a major step along Clarissa's pathway to recovery and independence.



of motorized trash that her husband refuses to maintain, gives Clarissa fledgling wings.

A quasi-romantic dalliance with a confident, attractive young man to whom Clarissa had been a writing mentor fuels her flight from doormat to determined butterfly. Her outfit, selected with great anguish, approaches the bravado and dash of the El Camino. Adams provides Clarissa with the kind of admiration that she needs. He forces her to see that she must take risks, and he assures her that she has it within her to do so. Clarissa's fascination with the carnival dwarf who is shot out of a cannon adds to the constellation of images dealing with flight and risk.

"How Clarissa Burden Learned to Fly" is itself a high risk, soaring achievement. Florida native Connie May Fowler challenges readers with a most original voice and manner. Her prose glitters, her imagination sparkles, and her mix of psychological and spiritual truth, of realism and fantasy,

takes readers up and away. The concluding crescendo of violence is an artistic risk as well, but it pays off. Independence must be won. Empowerment must be seized.

Learn more about this daring writer at www.conniemayfowler.com. ■



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Throughout the evening, Chef Darren McGrady will dish about experiences as a royal chef. He will be joined by dress owner Suzanne King, who will discuss how Princess Diana's dresses are being used to continue her legacy, and Richard Dalton, who will share his insights from being Princess Diana's hairdresser for 10 years.

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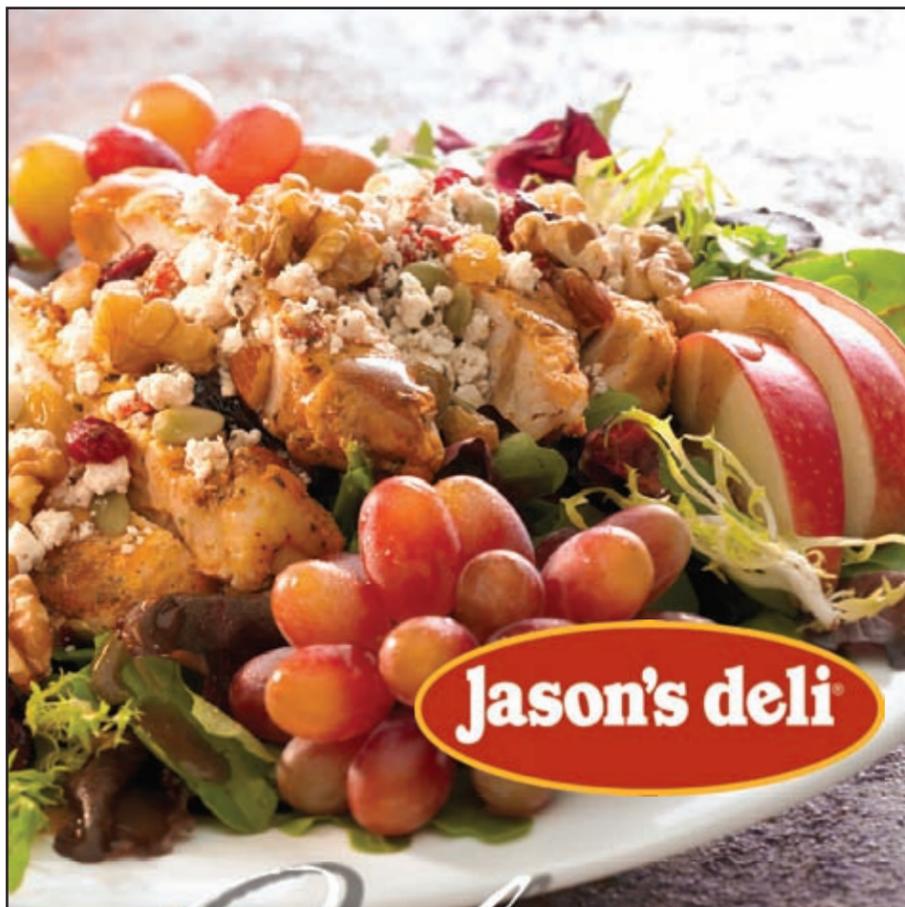


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COMING UP AT THE PHIL

Here's some of what's coming up at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. For tickets and more information, call 597-1900 or visit www.thephil.org.

Here's to the red, white and blue

"Star Spangled Spectacular," the orchestra's eclectic tribute to America, will fill the concert hall at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, May 27-29. Stuart Chafetz, music director of the Maui Pops Orchestra, returns to Naples to conduct the program with that includes "Armed Forces Salute," a rousing Sousa march, John Williams' "Summon the Heroes" (the 1996 Olympics theme) and the "1812 Overture."

Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$27 for students. ■

Area's finest organists will play the Casavant

The best organists in Southwest Florida will perform a wide range of music on the 3,604-pipe Casavant organ at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 6. The Festival of Great Organ Music features the members of the Southwest Florida Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, including the following musicians from local churches:

James Cochran, Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church and the Philharmonic Center for the Arts; Brice Gerlach, First Presbyterian Church, Naples; Becky Weese, Naples United Church of Christ; James Lorenz, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Fort Myers; James Crawford Wiley, Bob Jones University; Claire Marie Faasse, New Hope Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers; John Fenstermaker, Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church, Naples; Joyce Finlay, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Naples; Richard Crofts, Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples; Jonathan Birner, Grace Lutheran Church, Naples; Mary Mozelle, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers.

Selections will include classic organ works from all periods of music history, including Bach's "Toccatina" in F major, Lemmens' "Fanfare," "Festival Toccatina" by Percy Fletcher, Widor's Allegro vivace from the Fifth Symphony and "Allegro moderato" from Mendelssohn's First Sonata, as well as a duet or two.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students. ■

'Higher and Higher' celebrates Ray Charles

Multi-instrumentalist virtuoso and vocalist Ellis Hall has performed and recorded with a host of musical luminaries, including his mentor Ray Charles. Since Mr. Charles' death, Mr. Ellis has committed himself to making sure the music, life and legacy of the pioneering R&B star live on. Ellis Hall and The Truth bring their acclaimed "Higher and Higher: Celebrating the Legacy of Ray Charles" show to the Phil at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 12.

Tickets are \$39. ■

Blood, Sweat & Tears to perform

Blood, Sweat & Tears, one of the greatest horn bands in the history of popular music, will perform at the Philharmonic Center in Naples on Saturday, June 19 at 8 p.m.

A musical institution, Blood, Sweat & Tears has left an indelible mark on the American music scene since 1968, fusing rock, blues, pop and jazz to create its own dynamic hybrid known as "rock jazz." With such hits as "Spinning Wheel" and "You've Made Me So Very Happy," as well as new arrangements of classic songs, the band continues to play to sold-out audiences around the world.

Tickets are \$49. ■

Jim Witter tribute to Simon and Garfunkel

Jim Witter, who wowed Naples audiences with his Elton John/Billy Joel show in The Piano Men, returns to the Philharmonic Center

to pay tribute to Simon and Garfunkel on Saturday, July 10 at 8 p.m. in a program titled "Feelin' Groovy" - a musical journey through the '60s featuring the music of Simon and Garfunkel.

The music of Simon and Garfunkel comes alive in this rousing concert that will take you back to the days of flower power, peace signs, VW buses and Mrs. Robinson. Selections will include "The Sounds of Silence," "Scarborough Fair," "Bridge Over Troubled Water," "Homeward Bound," "The Boxer" and many others.

Tickets to Feelin' Groovy are \$39. ■



Jim Witter

Three Dog Night returns to The Phil

Three Dog Night, the most popular American band of the 1970s, returns to the Philharmonic Center on Saturday, July 31 at 8 p.m.

The legendary Three Dog Night had 21 consecutive top 40 singles, including three No. 1's. The group's hits include "Joy to the World," "One," "Mama Told Me (Not to Come)," "Shambala," "Black and White" and many others. Three Dog Night's music continues to wind through the fabric of pop culture today - on radio, in films, on television commercials. This legendary band - featuring founding members and lead vocalists Danny Hutton and Cory Wells - will appear for one night only at the Phil.

Tickets are \$60. ■



Three Dog Night

KidzAct is going to the dogs (and cats)

Theater camps begin June 14

The Naples Players Youth Theatre will conduct KidzAct Summer Theatre Camps beginning this June for children, from toddlers to teens, at the Sugden Community Theatre, 701 Fifth Ave. South. In addition, the talented KidzAct performers will participate in The Naples Players' big summer musical "Annie," plus presenting two of their own fully-staged productions: "Disney's 101 Dalmatians" and "Cats."

Each Summer Theatre Camp is a two-week showcase class, set according to age group, in which kids learn the basics of acting, dancing and singing, and then perform in a showcase for family and friends. No auditions are required, and registrations are accepted up to two weeks prior to the start of class. Summer Theatre Camps are held Monday through Friday mornings and run consecutively; the first Camp session begins on June 14, for which registration ends on June 11. For session dates, course fees, and to enroll, call 434-7340, ext. 10, or go to www.naplesplayers.org. Scholarships are available for all classes; application deadline is June 7.

In addition, kids can enjoy a morning of theater and an afternoon of art, when attending ArtsCool at the Von Liebig Art Center.

Kids bring their own brown bag for a supervised lunch and are escorted to the Art Center for supervised activities.

The KidzAct summer productions this year include the live stage version of "Disney's The 101 Dalmatians" featuring kids ages 8 to 14, and the magical Broadway musical "Cats," in a main stage production that combines the KidzAct teens and youth. In a special joint main stage production, KidzAct youth are joining Naples Players adults in a lavish production of "Annie." ■

WIFE

From page 1

Tom Wallace (Wally), Billy Sharpe (Alvin) and Jen Shubert (Cleo) in the lead roles. Band member characters are Matt Castle (Stanley) playing piano; TC Dolgin (Harvey) playing bass; Todd Betz (Quenton) playing drums; and Mario Arnez (Norman) playing guitar.

The show has five performances in the G&L Theatre, on the campus of The Community School of Naples, June 10 through 12 at 8 p.m. and June 12 and 13 at 2 p.m.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call TheaterZone at (888) 966-3352 or order online at www.theatrzone-florida.com. ■

CLUB NEWS

Photography club offers free services to nonprofits

DPI-SIG, the digital photography and imaging club of Naples, offering photography services free of charge to non-profit organizations in and around Naples. The club has more than 100 members who are amateur and professional photographers of every skill level and special interest.



Nonprofit organizations with a special event or need for a photographer can e-mail dpi-npphoto@naples.net with

a description of the event and contact information.

The club meets from 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Edison State College-Collier Campus. The next meetings are June 10 and July 8. ■

Polish your script for 'New Plays' contest

The Naples Players ETC... Readers Theatre is accepting entries in the seventh annual "An Evening of New Plays" contest through June 15.

Playwrights must reside in Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Glades or Hendry counties. Entries must run 10-30 minutes and have no more than seven characters. Any genre except musical is eligible.

The play must be original work, not an adaptation, and not previously pub-

lished or produced, though it may have been work-shopped or presented as a staged reading in a location outside Southwest Florida.

Each finalist will receive a commemorative award and a \$100 royalty fee at "An Evening of New Plays" and two tickets to the staged public readings in the Tobye Studio this fall.

For more information, call 263-7998 or visit www.naplesplayers.org. ■

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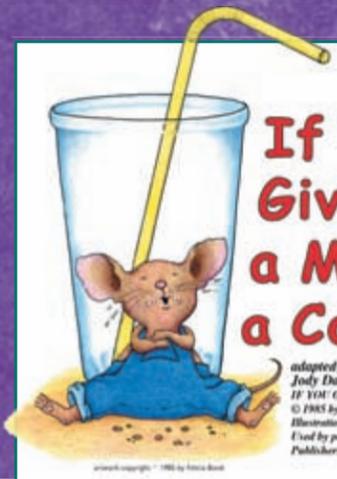
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Project Rescue has business sponsors for final gallery wall

The Art League, Marco Island's Center for the Arts, announced the establishment of a business sponsored gallery wall. A group of Marco Island businesses have joined together as PALs — "Patrons of the Art League" program — to help shore up the finances of the Art League. Georgie Doll, owner of the popular Georgie's and the Shoe Resort in Town Center, challenged other businesswomen and men to join with her to adopt the one remaining PAL's gallery wall. Other sponsors include Sandy Elliott, owner/CEO of Interiors, Interiors, Interiors Inc.; Keith Klipstein, Realtor, Keller Williams Realty; and Kristi Williams, branch manager and assistant vice president Marco Island M&I Bank.

A plaque on their gallery wall will read, "Marco Island Business Supports the Art League." Nancy Carrington, interim board president, commended each of these businesses for recognizing that the Art League is a valuable economic asset on Marco Island.

"Most local businesses appreciate the vital role the arts play in our local economy and quality of life," said Ms. Elliot, an Art League board member and wall sponsor.

"PALs" is a Project Rescue program designed to help save the Art League.

For more information on how you or your business can support the Art League, contact Linda Henell at 394-4221. ■

Adult art classes at von Liebig this summer

Summer school isn't just for kids. The von Liebig Art Center is offering two sessions of adult art classes. Session 1 is June 12, 19, 26 and July 10, while Session 2 is July 17, 24, 31 and Aug. 7. Most classes take place from 9 a.m. to noon (unless otherwise noted) at the center, 585 Park Street. Cost is \$120 for Naples Art Association members and

\$140 for non-members. The courses include: "How to Approach Portraiture with Jose Castillo;" "Watercolor with Genie Kell;" "Drawing with Sam Platt;" "Mixed Media Collage with Genie Kell" (1-4 p.m.); and "Acrylic Landscape with Sam Platt" (1-4 p.m.). Call 262-6517 or visit naplesart.org to register or for more information. ■

Hazel's Closet outfits luncheon fashion show

The Naples Christian Women's Connection is planning a luncheon with a fashion show by Hazel's Closet consignment store beginning at 11:30 a.m. Friday, June 4, at Quail Creek Country Club. Marilyn Nase

will be the inspirational speaker. Cost is \$23 per person. For reservations, call Roberta McFarland at 591-2074 or e-mail robertamcfarland00@comcast.net. ■

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SPORTS SHORTS



Get prepared for Boy Scouts' fishing derby

The Boy Scouts of America is holding a Family Fishing Derby from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 5, at the Naples Pier. Boy Scouts and their families are welcome to enter the derby. Registration is \$7 per family.

Fishermen need to bring their own rod and bait. Several prizes awarded, from prettiest fish to biggest fish. For more information, call 352-6611 or e-mail bdcleland@embarqmail.com.

Volleyball pros prepared to hit the beach

Join the EVP Pros along with regional amateur teams for the third annual Naples tour from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 29, on Vanderbilt Beach. It will be a full day of exciting competitive beach volleyball starting with a welcome party at The Lighthouse, 9180 Gulf Shore Drive, and ending with a party at Capri Pizza Sports Lounge, 11140 Tamiami Trail N.

Admission is free, and parking is available in the parking garage at Vanderbilt Beach. Food and drinks will be available from the Cabana Dan concession on the beach and from The Turtle Club at the Vanderbilt Beach Resort. For more information, call 252-4267 or visit www.evptour.com.

Fitness Challenge Triathlon set for June 6

The 24th annual Fitness Challenge Triathlon begins at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, June 6, at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. The challenge consists of a 3.1-mile run, a 15K bike ride and a quarter-mile swim in the Gulf of Mexico.

Registration is open until midnight Thursday, May 27. Cost is \$75 for individuals and \$140 for teams. All finishers receive medals during the awards ceremony and pancake breakfast after the race.

For more information, call (877) 228-4881 or visit www.active.com. ■



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KOVELS: ANTIQUES & COLLECTING

Milliner's head a rare collectable

terryKOVEL
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Hats are not as popular today as they were years ago, so there are fewer hat shops and fewer people making special hats fitted to a particular buyer. But in the 19th and early 20th centuries, milliners were found in every city and town. A hat was designed and created with the help of a "milliner's head." The milliner shaped, cut, pinned and fashioned the hat on the head. A life-size head made of soft wood or papier-mache was used. If you plan to buy an old milliner's head, be sure to look for pinholes. There probably will be flaking or damaged paint, too. Early ones were painted, but by the 1850s some were made with printed eyes and mouths pasted in place. The hairstyle also helps date the head. An early one could cost \$1,500, and a 20th-century example \$500 or more, depending on condition.

Ms. Kovel answers your questions:

Q: I have a six-piece dresser set of Val St. Lambert's uranium glass from the 1890s. Since it has uranium in it, is it safe?

A: Uranium glass was first made in the 1800s by adding uranium dioxide to melted glass. Most uranium glass contains only a small amount of uranium, although older glass may contain as much as 25 percent uranium. The amount of uranium

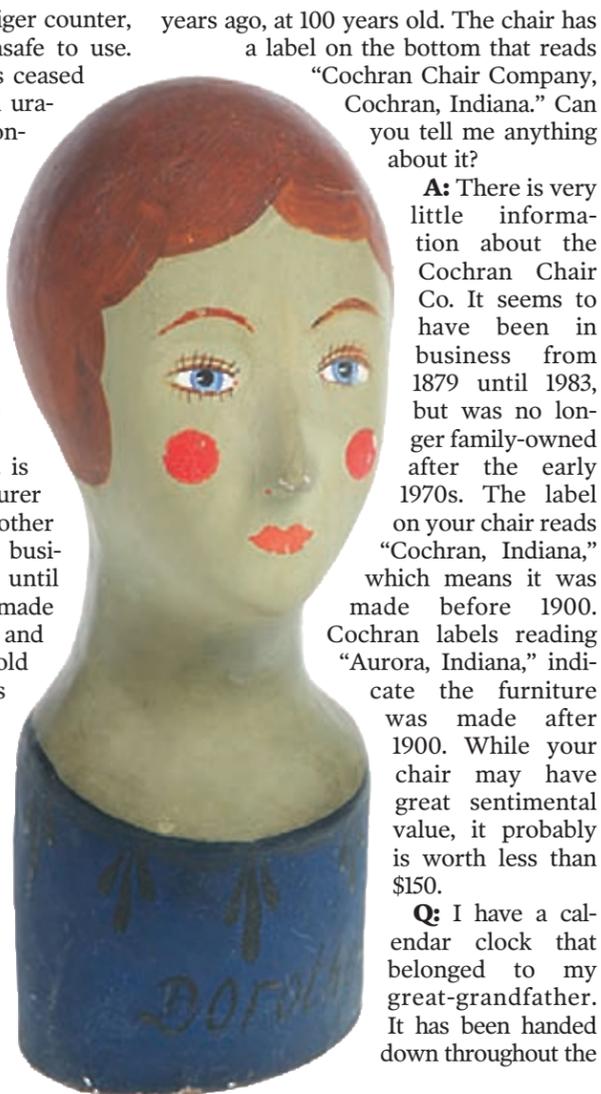
in the glass will set off a Geiger counter, but it is not considered unsafe to use. Production of uranium glass ceased during World War II, when uranium was not available for non-governmental use.

Q: I have a toy pot-belly stove that my husband bought about 30 years ago. It is embossed "Grey Iron Casting Co., Mt. Joy, Pa." The stove is about 13 inches high and has a piece to open the top and another to stir the ashes. I would love to know if it's worth anything.

A: Grey Iron Casting Co. is best-known as a manufacturer of cast-iron soldiers and other toys. The company was in business from the late 1800s until the mid-1900s. Grey Iron made toys, banks, hardware, tools and other iron products. It was sold in 1967, and the name was changed to Donsco Inc. in 1974. Your stove is worth about \$100.

Q: I have an armless rocking chair that was my great-grandmother's. She passed away more than 20

This early-20th-century French papier-mache milliner's head has original paint with some crazing. It sold in March at Garth's Auctioneers in Delaware, Ohio, for \$646.



years ago, at 100 years old. The chair has a label on the bottom that reads "Cochran Chair Company, Cochran, Indiana." Can you tell me anything about it?

A: There is very little information about the Cochran Chair Co. It seems to have been in business from 1879 until 1983, but was no longer family-owned after the early 1970s. The label on your chair reads "Cochran, Indiana," which means it was made before 1900. Cochran labels reading "Aurora, Indiana," indicate the furniture was made after 1900. While your chair may have great sentimental value, it probably is worth less than \$150.

Q: I have a calendar clock that belonged to my great-grandfather. It has been handed down throughout the

years to the youngest child in the family. The clock was patented March 18, 1879, by Southern Calendar Clock Co. of St. Louis. It has two dials, one with the numbers of the hours and one with the numbers of the days of the month. The word "Fashion" is written in gilt letters between the two dials. Can you tell me the approximate value of my antique clock?

A: The Southern Calendar Clock Co. was founded in 1875 by three brothers, Henry Harrison, Lucius L. and Wallace W. Culver. The movements for the company's Fashion calendar clocks were made by the Seth Thomas Clock Co. of Thomaston, Conn., and the calendars were made by Randall Andrews. A clock like yours sold for \$1,770 a few years ago.

Q: We have a collection of World War I postcards from Germany and Holland. Are they worth anything?

A: A postcard can sell for anywhere from 5 cents to several hundred dollars. The price is determined by the type of picture on the card, the artist or manufacturer, condition and rarity. Even the stamp or postmark can contribute to the value. Cards with pictures of street scenes with stores, advertising, people or special events are very collectible. You can go to a postcard show and see what cards like yours are selling for. Dealers may be interested in buying your cards but will pay you a lot less than the retail value. They have to make a profit.

Tip: Do not wrap ceramics, wood, marble or other porous materials in old newspapers. The ink used for print eventually will stain the pieces. Newsprint is high-acid paper and can discolor other materials, especially other paper, over time. Recycled paper usually is bad for storage, too, but some photocopy paper is acid-free and good for archival storage. Cardboard boxes, plastic boxes and many folders, scrapbooks and plastic sleeves can damage old paper items, including autographs, photographs and baseball cards. ■

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

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GOLFING NEWS

Tee off with CBIA at Vineyards

The Collier Building Industry Association and Insurance and Risk Management Services are holding a golf tournament at the Vineyards Country Club on Friday, June 4. Registration begins at noon, and the shotgun start is at 1 p.m. A scoreboard party and dinner will follow the competition.

Cost is \$125 per player and includes cart and green fees, two mulligans, 10 raffle tickets, one complimentary drink on the course and dinner following the tournament. For reservations or to sponsor a hole, call 436-6100 or visit www.cbia.net.

PGA can help with charitable tournaments

The PGA and golf tournaments go hand in hand.

For local organizations that host tournaments to raise funds for charitable causes, the PGA Tour Superstore has a program that adds extras to entice more players to participate.

"This program is part of our overall philosophy of becoming involved in the community," says Doreen LaPierre of the PGA Tour Superstore in Naples. The store offers prizes and incentives including a \$1,000 shopping spree for the winner of a hole-in-one contest and a \$20 gift card and a 45-minute practice bay certificate for every tour-

nament participant, along with driver or putter fittings, hole sponsor signage, discounts on in-store merchandise and/or gift card purchases and bulk pricing on items that can be used as player gifts. The store also organizes a silent auction to help raise funds for the event.

For more information, call Ms. LaPierre at 384-6380.

Bonita Bay adds to Golf Book

Bonita Bay has added 12 discounted rounds at its Cypress and Sabal golf courses to the 2010 Ultimate Experience Golf Book, which is sold by the ACE Group Classic. The book costs \$130 and has 178 discounted rounds at 22 golf courses. It is available at the PGA TOUR SuperStore or by calling 593-3900 or visiting www.theACE-GroupClassic.com.

Bonita chamber announces inaugural tourney

The Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce is planning its inaugural Hackers & Smackers tournament on Saturday, June 5, at Copperleaf Golf Club. The shotgun scramble will tee off at 8:30 a.m. Participation is open to the public for \$80 per person. For more information or to register, call 992-2943 or visit www.BonitaSprings-Chamber.com. ■

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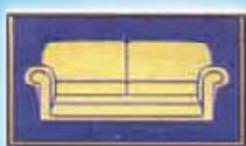
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SAVE THESE DATES

'Speakeasy Evening' will benefit Naples Backyard History

Naples Backyard History is planning its first gala fundraiser, The Heritage Ball: "A Speakeasy Evening," on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011, at the Port Royal Club. Contraband, gambling and the Charleston will be order of the night, all for a good cause. Lavern Norris Gaynor is the event's honorary chair. Further details will be published as they become available. In the meantime, call 261-6664 if you just can't wait.

Dine like a king at Hilton Naples

Dine like, well, royalty at "Dine Like Royalty" at Shula's Steakhouse on Sunday, June 27. The six-course wine dinner will benefit Bosom Buddies, the NCH Mammogram Fund and The von Liebig Art Center Scholarship Fund.

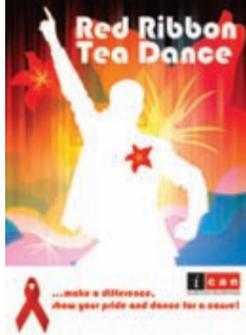
Special guests will be Darren McGrady, former senior chef at Buckingham palace and the late Princess Diana's personal chef; Suzanne King, owner of several of the princess' gowns that are on display at The von Liebig; and Richard Dalton, the princess' hairdresser.

Hosts for the evening are e'Bella magazine and Marianna Foggin of Coldwell Banker. A champagne reception begins at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$150 per person or \$225 for VIP seating with one of the

guests of honor. For reservations or more information, call 591-2709.

Tea dance will benefit ICAN

It's the official party of the summer, and everyone is invited. Make a difference and dance for a cause at the Red Ribbon Tea Dance to benefit the Island Coast AIDS Network from 2-6 p.m. Saturday, June 12, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort.



Dance the afternoon away to the music of Tommy T on the hotel's Caloosa Terrace. A celebrity dunk tank will be part of the fun.

Tickets for \$50 per person include a picnic buffet. There will be a cash bar, plus numerous auction items.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call ICAN at 337-2391, ext. 211, or e-mail Mitch Haley at mhaley@icanswfl.com.

Area concierges plan dinner dance

The Southwest Florida Concierge & Guest Service Association is holding a dinner dance and silent auction begin-

ning at 6 p.m. Friday, June 25, at the Hilton Naples.

Among the "Concierge Favorites" up for bid will be:

Chef's dinner for 10 at Shula's Steakhouse; Hawaiian fusion cooking class for 10 at Roy's; dinners at M. Waterfront Grille, The Capital Grille, Fleming's Steakhouse, The Turtle Club, The Bay House and McCormick & Schmick's; salon services; golf outings; and adventures with Cruise Naples and Dolphin Explorers.

Tickets are \$30 per person; there will be a cash bar.

For reservations, call 877-4607 or e-mail hopesparkie@aol.com.

Naples Winter Wine Festival set for January

With a theme of "Uncorking A New Decade," the 11th annual Naples Winter Wine Festival is set for Jan. 28-30, 2011.

Bruce and Cynthia Sherman, trustees of the Naples Children & Education Foundation, are co-chairing the program of social and educational events for 600 guests.

Founded by trustees of NCEF, the festival has raised \$82.5 million 2001 for underprivileged and at-risk children. Proceeds have helped fund major projects including a pediatric dental center and an early learning center.

The festival has been ranked among the most successful charity wine auctions in the nation for the past six years by Wine Spectator and among the top

10 arts and entertainment events by the Luxury Institute. Tickets are \$7,500 per couple and \$20,000 for reserved seating at the same vintner dinner for two couples.

For a schedule of 2011 festivities and more information, call (888) 837-4919 or visit www.NaplesWineFestival.com.

Have a heart for Hospital Ball

We don't have a lot of details yet, but we do have the date and we know that the NCH Hospital Ball on Saturday evening, Oct. 23, at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples, will benefit NCH Cardiology. Co-chairs of the event are Sharon Treiser and Ellin Goetz; auction co-chairs are Stacey Herring and Vicki Tracy; sponsorship chair is Jeanette Simmermon. That's enough information to warrant saving the date until the formal invitation arrives in the mail. For more information, call 436-4511 or e-mail foundation@nchmd.org.

Sea Salt evening will benefit missing, exploited children

Sea Salt on Third Street South is hosting a wine dinner to benefit the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children on Wednesday, Nov. 10. Four wine bars will be set up in the restaurant's Naples Room, and buffet dinner will be in the Sea Glass Room. Save the date and watch here for details. ■

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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

'Woof & Wine' for The Brody Project Animal-assisted therapy group gathers at Tony's Off Third



1. Peter Miles, Karen Lasker, Deborah Elliott, Godfrey Levy and Diane Koestner
2. Perla Chung, Ann Butts, Patty Drace, Jane Laustsen and Louie John
3. Beth and Greg Gilman with Terra
4. Bettye Chew and Jerry Grove
5. Erin Peachin and Carol Polk
6. Albert Abramovitz, Karen Lasker and Mary Treptow

MARLA OTTENSTEIN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Shula's 48-ounce Hall of Fame chow-down



1. Dave Shula and contest winner John Rossi
2. Adriano and Dawn Krause
3. Christopher Gore and Michelle Hancock
4. Jamie Admonius and Earl Morral

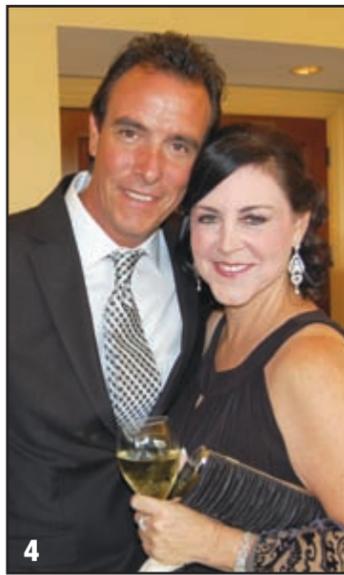
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CORI HIGGINS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

Dancing with the Stars for Make-A-Wish



1. Joe and Alexis Pearson, and Kendra Sutton
2. Rita Keltner, Carlos Salcedo, Sandra Weintraub, Stephanie Durham and Sharon Casey
3. Judith Yevick, Mike Hoffman, Amy Sedlacek, Kirsta Zivkovic and Rovert Zivkovic
4. Mike Burkee and Linda Holt
5. Michele Eddy and Laurie Harrelson
6. Angela Schvinski and Natalie Van Horn
7. Cindy Crocker, Steve Wilkie and Susan Scott



MEGAN DANLEY / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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PAST REPASTS

Here are some capsule summaries of previous restaurant reviews:

► **David Wong's Pan Asian & Sushi, 25301 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; 992-5600**

From its subtle gold and maroon dining room to the knowledgeable and accommodating wait staff to the menu that affords diners a well-executed taste of several Asian cuisines, David Wong's is a satisfying choice for lunch or dinner. The Thai-style papaya salad with peanuts, long beans and chili lime dressing was a resplendent starter, along with a sampler platter of flavorful (not sweet) coconut shrimp, savory chicken satay and tender Vietnamese shrimp ravioli. The crispy duck was, indeed, crisp yet still moist within, served with sautéed bok choy and three sauces. The ahi tuna two ways showcased the fish sushi style and as lightly seared fillets with stir-fried veggies and citrus sauce. Tempura cheesecake - yes, that's fried cheesecake - with vanilla ice cream was a decadent and delicious finale. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★★★★★½ Service: ★★★★★ Atmosphere: ★★★★★½

► **Fred's Diner, 2700 Immokalee Road, Naples; 431-7928**

The dining room here is a cheery, casual spot where diner classics and some more ambitious fare are served by an accommodating staff. The patio is for the dogs - and their people. The diner is named for the owners' beefy

Chihuahua, Fred, and all canines are warmly welcomed to the dog-friendly patio. The food runs the gamut, including mile-high stuffed French toast, bada bing shrimp, pepper-crusted ahi tuna, chicken piccata and homemade chocolate cake. Prices are low to moderate, with specials just about every night and Yappy Hour from 5 to 7 p.m. daily, when people who accompany their dogs get discounts on their meals. Full bar.

Food: ★★★★★½ Service: ★★★★★½ Atmosphere: ★★★★★½

► **Noodle Saigon, 13500 Tamiami Trail North, Naples; 598-9400**

This well-appointed but modest restaurant touts itself as "the freshest and healthiest taste of Vietnam" and I fully concur. The menu has lots of photos and descriptions, making ordering easy even for novices. For those who love pho that's not fiery hot, Noodle Saigon allows you to control the heat by adding the hot sauce yourself. Other noteworthy dishes include shrimp-filled summer rolls, a vegetarian salad (tastes far better than it sounds), pan-fried crepe and rice noodles with seafood. All were wonderful, but it's the pho, a soup that's a meal in itself, that was the star of the meal. Those who live within a 5-mile radius of the restaurant can have the full menu delivered to their doors. Beer and wine served.

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

► **The Pub, Mercato, 9118 Strada Place; 594-2748**

At this lively gastro pub, servers in tartan kilts deliver well-prepared British fare in a room that appears to have been lifted whole out of the U.K. then plunked down in Naples. It offers a broad assortment of beers - 25 on tap alone - as well as a full bar that includes an impressive range of gins, bourbons, single-malt scotches and wine. The Scottish egg was a tasty concoction of hard-boiled egg wrapped in sausage and breadcrumbs then fried. A spicy pub mustard completed the dish. An order of curry chips - crisp fries with red and yellow curry sauces - was plenty for two. The fish and chips (made with pollock) were excellent and the Young's Double Chocolate Stout BBQ burger was large, juicy and delicious with bacon, cheddar and tangy-sweet barbecue sauce. For dessert, we shared a Topsy Laird - two slices of fried pound cake with fresh berries sautéed in brandy and creamy English custard. Full bar.

Food: ★★★★★ Service: ★★★★★ Atmosphere: ★★★★★½

► **Tavern on the Bay, 489 Bayfront Place; 530-2225**

It's a sports bar, but one that offers a more diverse selection of food and drink than one might expect in a place where people gather to cheer on their teams via satellite TV. Revel in wings, burgers, nachos and such if you want, but there are also wok dishes, salads



COURTESY PHOTO

The Pub at Mercato

and full-scale entrees, some even of a heart-healthy nature. Thai Bangkok wings were crisp, sweet and spicy, while an ahi tuna appetizer was lightly seared with a peppery-herbed exterior accompanied by pickled ginger, wasabi and soy vinaigrette. A mushroom Swiss burger was well executed, served with delicious house-made potato chips and a fried shrimp platter with fries was bountiful and tasty with the exception of some room temperature slaw. Service was above average throughout the meal, from the host to the server and expeditors. Full bar.

Food: ★★★★★½ Service: ★★★★★ Atmosphere: ★★★★★

Key to ratings

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

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FLORIDA WEEKLY CUISINE

Fleming's revamps menu to suit contemporary diners

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KAREN FELDMAN/ FLORIDA WEEKLY

Fleming's chef/partner David Gossett discusses some of the restaurant's new menu items at a recent tasting. Below: The new peppercorn steak is a prime New York strip encrusted with cracked white and black peppercorns.

In an effort to appeal to customers who no longer want a massive slab of steak, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar has revamped its menu and approach to provide greater variety, smaller portion sizes and healthy options at accessible prices.

At a recent tasting, chef/partner David Gossett introduced new beef dishes as well as some creative seafood offerings.

The chain worked with two independent female chefs to create new beef dishes: a porcini rubbed filet mignon center cut with gorgonzola cream sauce and grilled asparagus spears (\$35.95), developed in partnership with Los Angeles-based chef Jamie Gwen; and a peppercorn steak, a prime New York strip with cracked black and white peppercorns and the restaurant's signature (and possibly addictive) F17 steak sauce (\$38.95). The peppercorn steak was developed with chef Jeannie Pierola, a James Beard Award winner based in Tampa.

New seafood dishes include Tillamook Bay Petrale sole with crab beignets and lemon butter sauce (\$27.50) and salmon nicoise salad with roasted Yukon potatoes, French green beans, truffled deviled eggs, roasted sweet baby peppers and lemon-balsamic vinaigrette (\$21.95). New appetizers include roasted mushroom ravioli with porcini butter sauce (\$9.95) and lump crab Louis wraps (\$9.95).

I was impressed with the new dishes. The ravioli had intense mushroom flavor and the lemon butter sauce enlivened the delicate sole without overwhelming it. The crab beignets were a creative and crunchy addition.

Both of the new beef dishes were excellent. The peppercorn steak had enough pepper to be noticeable but not fiery, and the porcini-rubbed filet was tender and richly flavored, pairing well with the gorgonzola cream sauce. For traditionalists, there are still beefy options such as bone-in rib eyes and, on Sundays, prime ribs.

Fleming's is at 8985 Tamiami Trail North. Call 598-2424 or visit www.flemingssteakhouse.com.



[flemingssteakhouse.com](http://www.flemingssteakhouse.com).

Ridgway's rewards summer diners

If our northern visitors knew the bargains they were missing during the summer, I suspect some might choose to stay all year.

Take, for example, the two seasonal specials Tony Ridgway is offering at his eponymous Ridgway Bar & Grill.

For starters, you can buy one entrée and get another free every evening.

Thursday through Sunday, there's also a \$24 prix fixe menu available. Choose either a mixed field greens or classic Caesar salad to start, then one of five full-sized entrees — sautéed salmon, sliced hanging tender steak, Bell & Evans herb-roasted chicken, fettuccine pomodoro or lump crab cakes — and a carrot cupcake

for dessert.

Ridgway, at 1300 Third St. South, is open for lunch and dinner every day. Call 262-5500 for reservations or visit www.ridgwaybarandgrill.com.

Sea Salt has hot-weather specials

Here's another great summer deal: a three-course prix fixe dinner at Sea Salt for \$24.95, available 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.

Start with watermelon gazpacho, salad or crispy calamari, then choose rigatoni, Irish organic salmon, mahi mahi or chicken breast for an entrée, and finish with homemade gelato or sorbet.

Chef/owner Fabrizio Aielli is also offering some great summer bites priced at \$7-\$9. Available after 4 p.m. each day, they include jumbo lump Maryland style crab cake, waygu beef sliders, korobuta pork with udon plum sauce and green apple salad, grouper in crispy polenta crust and pizza on naan bread with fig, prosciutto and fontina cheese.

Sea Salt is at 1186 Third St. South. Call 434-7258 or visit www.seasaltnaples.com.

Angelina's offers seasonal treats

Angelina's offers a variety of cool specials as well as some new menu items.

In the lounge, all appetizers are half-price from 5 to 7:30 p.m. during Angelina's Daily Indulgence Therapy. Beer and selected cocktails are two for one.

New appetizers offered in the lounge include rock shrimp hushpuppies, calamari French fries, Angelina's gyro, Tuscan beef crostini, mussels puttanesca, beef carpaccio and black grouper ceviche.

The restaurant is also running a great summer special on wine: all bottles priced up to \$175 are available at 50 percent off.

And, as hurricane season commences on June 1, it's a good time to pick up a copy of "Recipes for Disaster," a booklet that includes a week's worth of recipes from Angelina's Executive Chef Nick Costanzo, using canned and non-perishable items that can be prepared with minimal heat. There are also disaster preparedness checklists from the American Red Cross. The booklets, available at the restaurant, are \$10, with proceeds benefiting the local chapter of the Red Cross.

Angelina's is at 24041 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs. Call 390-3187.

Naples Tomato cuts wine prices

Wine lovers get double discounts at the restaurant's Enomatic wine dispensers this summer. Prices on all wines in the Enomatic dispensers have been cut in half through Nov. 1. In addition, when you buy a wine card — essentially a debit card

— or add to an existing one, you'll get 50 percent more credit. For example, if you buy a \$100 card, it will be worth \$150 in purchases.

Naples Tomato is at 14700 Tamiami Trail N. Call 598-9800 or visit www.naplestomato.com. Incidentally, when you sign up for the restaurant's e-newsletter, The Vine, you'll be alerted to lots of other specials offered throughout the year.

Cafe Italia opens at Miromar Outlets

Cafe Italia has opened at Miromar Outlets in Estero, the second Naples establishment to add a branch there.

The full-service Italian restaurant recently opened directly across from Naples Flatbread on the east side of the complex facing Ben Hill Griffin Parkway.

Café Italia has a full bar, including an extensive wine list. The restaurant is open 11 a.m.-midnight Sunday through Wednesday and 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Thursday through Saturday. The Naples location, at 2500 Vanderbilt Beach Road, is open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 3 p.m.-midnight daily. For more information and a complete menu, visit www.cafeitaliaofnaples.com or call 596-5600 in Naples or 498-4900 in Estero.

Special at Naples Flatbread

Both the Naples and Estero locations of Naples Flatbread offer something special every night besides flatbreads, pizzas, pastas, salads, wines and beer.

Sundays and Mondays are date nights, with an appetizer or dessert, two entrees and a bottle of wine for \$29.99 from 4 p.m. to close. On Tuesdays, buy a flatbread or pizza and get another of equal or lesser value free. On Wednesdays, wine and beer are half price all day and there are flatbread samples at the bar from 4 to 7 p.m. From 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays, it's open mic night for local singers, musicians and poets. On Friday and Saturday night there's live entertainment.

Naples Flatbread is at 6434 Naples Blvd., Naples, and Miromar Outlets, 10801 Corkscrew Road (on the east side facing Ben Hill Griffin Parkway), Estero. Call 687-3454 for the Naples location and 495-3528 for the Estero location.

Closings

*We bid at least a temporary farewell to Chef Martin Murphy of the Robb & Stucky KitchenAid Culinary Center in Bonita Springs, who's headed north for the summer.

*Alexander's Restaurant closes for the summer on Sunday, May 30. Chef/owner Alexander Bernard says it will reopen in September. ■

diningCALENDAR

➤ **Thursday, May 27, 4:30-7 p.m.**, Ruth's Chris Steak House: It's girls' night out with a "Sex and the City 2" party featuring \$3 Prime Hour appetizers, \$6 Carrie cosmos, Mr. Big martinis and glasses of wine, plus drawings for movie tickets and other items; Coconut Point, 23151 Village Shops Way, Estero; 948-8888.

➤ **Thursday, May 27, 6-9 p.m.**, Tropic Arts: An open house featuring appetizers, wine, beer, tropical drinks and dog treats will benefit Collie Rescue; 2355 Vanderbilt Beach Road; 514-4550.

➤ **Saturday, May 29, 7:30-11:30 a.m.**,

Third Street South: The weekly farmers market features fruit, veggies, cheeses, desserts, breads, flowers and many more items along with music; parking area behind Tommy Bahamas between Third Street and Gordon Drive.

➤ **Wednesday, June 2 and 8, 5 p.m.**-the wee hours, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar: It's Girls Night Out, aka "Sex and the City 2" night, starting at 5 p.m. with Skyy Vodka cosmos while checking out makeup, purses and shoes with experts from Saks and Waterside Shops; 6:30 p.m., limo rides to Silverspot Cinema accompanied by Lifestyle Fitness trainers to see the movie; 9:30 p.m.,

back to Fleming's by limo for chocolate lava cake and chocolate martinis, a movie trivia game and prizes; \$60, 8985 Tamiami Trail North; 598-2424. Reservations required.

➤ **Wednesday, June 2, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**, ABC Fine Wine & Spirits: Meet fellow wine lovers, test your wine knowledge and find the perfect wine for the holiday weekend while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and conversation with wine experts as well as cigars, a souvenir wine glass and \$5 off any purchase made that evening; \$10, 6425 Naples Blvd.; 514-2316.

➤ **Wednesday, June 2, 6:30-9 p.m.**, Norman Love Confections: Learn to

make decadent molded milk chocolates; \$95, 11380 Lindbergh Blvd., Fort Myers; 561-7215.

➤ **Thursday, June 3, 5:30-8 p.m.**, Decanted Wines: This tasting focuses on value wines from the Italian regions of Chianti, Veneto, Umbria and Sicily; \$10, 1410 Pine Ridge Road; 434-1814. Reservations required.

— Submit event listings to Cuisine@floridaweekly.com.



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HORSE LOVERS ESTATE
\$750,000
10 Acre estate w/5 bed 4 Bath. Large lanai w/in-ground heated pool. Pole barn, workshop, beautiful uplands property. Ask for 802NA9031803.
1-866-657-2300



CUSTOM POOL ESTATE HOME
\$602,000
Beautiful Custom Estate Pool Home built by Lundstrom Development Corp on 7th Fairway of championship golf course. Ask for 802NA10016438.
1-866-657-2300



LAKE AND GOLF VIEWS
\$527,500
Victoria Model - Bank owned home located in Mustang Island in Lely Resort. 3 Bedrooms plus Den - pool home Ask for 802NA10016737.
1-866-657-2300



IMPERIAL RIVER LIVING
\$519,900
5 Bedroom home with 3 1/2 baths and 3 car garage - pool and boat dock - boat lift and access to the Gulf of Mexico Ask for 802NA9036763.
1-866-657-2300



BETTER THAN NEW - BEAUTIFUL FLOOR PLAN
\$489,000
Expansive pool lanai area - tile and wood flooring - large workshop / storage - fenced property horses & pets welcome. Ask for 802NA9026354.
1-866-657-2300



PRIVATE ESTATE HOME
\$449,900
Wonderful pool home on almost 3 acres. Pocket doors open to pool and built-in cabinets-this gem includes a 30K workshop Ask for 802NA10004909.
1-866-657-2300



STUNNING 4 BED 4 BATH POOL HOME
\$411,500
2 master suites, 20 X 42 foot pool with raised spa, two covered lanai's and a covered BBQ area, all on 2.50 acres. Ask for 802NA10004740.
1-866-657-2300



OASIS IN PARADISE
\$349,900
This lovely home sits on beautifully manicured property of 4.78 acres that includes 2 ponds. Ask for 802NA10007916.
1-866-657-2300



CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
\$279,900
Builders former model with so many upgrades! beautiful home features an open floor plan decorator mirrors, crown molding Ask for 802NA10001761.
1-866-657-2300



BEAUTIFUL 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH
\$269,400
1 car garage. The original owners of this well maintained condo have methodical and tastefully added upgrades to many of the areas, Ask for 802NA9026365.
1-866-657-2300



HEMINGWAY CABIN ON PRIVATE ISLAND
\$249,000
2 Bed 2 bath beautifully decorated cabin on 4.2 Acre Island in the Fishing Capital of Florida. Private Ferry to Island. Ask for 802NA8017808.
1-866-657-2300



GOLDEN GATE CITY BEAUTIFUL HOME
\$246,000
Move In Condition. This 3 BR/2BA home with a 2 car garage is in move-in condition. Not a Foreclosure or Short Sale. The owner has updated Ask for 802NA9028326.
1-866-657-2300



THREE BED PLUS BONUS ROOM 2.5 BATH
\$239,999
Pool Home. Immaculate 3 plus den (18x13) or family room, 2.5 bathroom Pool and Spa Tub Home with caged enclosure and huge lanai Ask for 802NA10011887.
1-866-657-2300



FORMER BUILDER'S MODEL
\$229,000
Garage was originally built into an office by the builder, later converted to a family room Large kitchen, tile thru-out Ask for 802NA10011406.
1-866-657-2300



2 BED + DEN/2 BATH/2 CAR GARAGE
\$199,000
Attached Villa. Pay to play golf - club house with restaurant, tennis and pool and under \$ 200,000. Short sale - private banker. Ask for 802NA1001656.
1-866-657-2300



FIDDLERS CREEK NAPLES FLORIDA
\$169,900
Huge 3 bed/2 bath with one car garage. Super open kitchen, lots of room with over 2000 sq. ft. Ask for 802NA10013301.
1-866-657-2300



GULF ACCESS
\$149,999
This charming home is located in the boating community of Henderson Creek Park, which has direct access to the Gulf. Ask for 802NA9024291.
1-866-657-2300



WINTER PARK BEAUTY
\$149,900
2 Bedroom / 2 Bath, fully renovated, tenant occupied, 4 miles to the beach, convenient to shopping. Such A Deal Ask for 802NA1000431.
1-866-657-2300



SECOND FLOOR CONDO 2 + DEN
\$147,900
Great condo 2 plus den priced to sell yesterday. Pool, tennis, BBQ, club house and low fees, will go fast. Ask for 802NA9029766.
1-866-657-2300



GOLDEN GATE ESTATES GREAT PRICE
\$119,000
Potential Short Sale, spacious 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 2 car garage, tile throughout, vaulted ceilings, 2,020 sq under air Ask for 802NA8046224.
1-866-657-2300



TRIPLEX 2 BED/1 1/2 BATH IN EACH UNIT
\$109,000
Bank owned. Income procuring property located within Golden Gate City. Close to school and shopping. Great investment. Ask for 802NA1001106.
1-866-657-2300



BEAUTIFUL HOME ON 1.14 ACRES
\$105,900
Golden Gate Estates. Bank owned property. 3 bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage situated on 1.14 acres. CBS construction, shingle roof. Ask for 802NA10010377.
1-866-657-2300



HIDDEN GEM NEAR DOWNTOWN NAPLES
\$105,000
Great location and convenient to the best Naples has to offer. This thoroughly up to date Villa has been remodeled. Ask for 802NA10015454.
1-866-657-2300



TWO STORY HOME - BEDROOMS UPSTAIRS
\$100,000
Bank Owned Property This spacious property is a 3 bed 2 1/2 bath 1 car garage townhouse located close to everything Ask for 802NA10012936.
1-866-657-2300



BANK OWNED PROPERTY WATER FRONT
\$95,000
Port Of The Islands Located on Orchid Cove. Second floor unit with water view and 1 car garage Ask for 802NA10015115.
1-866-657-2300



GOLDEN GATE ESTATES
\$89,000
Potential Short Sale, this lovely home has 3bed/2bath/2 car-garage on a mostly clear lot. Ceramic tile throughout, Ask for 802NA10012872.
1-866-657-2300



GOLDEN GATE ESTATES BUILT IN 2004
\$85,000
Bank owned 3 bed 2 bath property situated on 2.27 acres Ask for 802NA1001648.
1-866-657-2300



3 BED 2 BATH 2 CAR GARAGE
\$82,900
This is a potential short sale subject to lender approval. Beautiful lake front view to enjoy with your family. AS IS Ask for 802NA9042546.
1-866-657-2300



GOLDEN GATE ESTATES 3/2/1
\$82,500
On 2.03 Acres. A potential short sale subject to lenders approval. Private setting nestled on over 2 acres backing up to a canal Ask for 802NA10014570.
1-866-657-2300



SHORT SALE 4 BED 2 BATH
\$79,750
1 Car Garage. 4 bed 2 bath on 1.14 acres priced to sell yesterday needs some paint and carpet and a little TLC. Ask for 802NA10009867.
1-866-657-2300



GREAT BUY IN GOLDEN GATE ESTATES
\$79,000
This cozy 3 bed 2 bath is a great opportunity for a first time home buyer or investor. Call and make an offer. Ask for 802NA9023648.
1-866-657-2300



GOLDEN GATE ESTATES
\$79,000
Bank owned property - spacious 3 bedroom 2 bath home on luxurious 2.73 Acres Ask for 802NA10012248.
1-866-657-2300



GREAT INVESTMENT GATED COMMUNITY
\$58,000
Immaculate Condo close beaches, shopping, schools and I-75 Ask for 802NA10015384.
1-866-657-2300



MOROHEAD MANOR GREAT COMMUNITY
\$49,900
55+ Park, Resident owned land close to 5th Avenue!! Approximately 3 miles from Naples Beaches and 1.5 miles from Bayview Ask for 802NA10009131.
1-866-657-2300



BANK OWNED CONDO
\$39,900
Second floor condo with 1 bedroom plus den and 1 bath - Stainless steel appliances, needs floor coverings. Ask for 802NA10013511.
1-866-657-2300



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REAL ESTATE SERVICES | WEEKLY

MAY 27-JUNE 2, 2010

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Upside Down? Consumer Default Mortgage Hotline May Have Solution

I started a default hotline for a consumer advocacy agency to share with people the available alternatives and also point out the deceptive practices that are being done by predatory organizations," says Anthony.

The goal is to keep people updated on all the new laws and alternatives that are available to homeowners who are struggling to make their mortgage payments. "So many people take this emotionally. They don't understand how to get out of this. They think that their lives are going to be ruined. They think that they're going to be evicted," says Anthony.

While fearful emotions are running high, Anthony says another emotion is causing a bigger problem. He found that many people who just want out of a "debt trap" are willing to walk away from their properties. "Some people intentionally wanted to default which became an ethical call from my position as the founder," says Anthony. "Americans are realizing that a lot of the housing and mortgage lending practices were actually a ponzi scheme. People with low-financial literacy were targeted for a disproportionate amount of subprime loans. A lot of people are very angry at this so they no longer feel the moral obligation and they're doing what's called an 'intentional default' or a 'strategic default' and they're making it more of a business decision to walk away from their house," explains Anthony.

But he says as more people strategically default the problem worsens for the economy. "Walking away from your house contributes to the problem and that's a rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul type of mentality considering that there are three main elements. There's the bank, the people borrowing the money, and the people who actually put their money into mortgage-backed securities. Unfortunately, a majority of the people investing in mortgage-backed securities include pension funds for teachers and firefighters, retirement funds, and 401(k)s. So, it's like we're borrowing our own money but yet we're not repaying ourselves. So a lot of people's re-



irement savings have been greatly affected," says Anthony.

Anthony says there's a better solution than walking away. "What I encourage, which I see is a huge solution, is utilizing a rule around a rule which is Section 702 of the [2009] Helping Families Save Their Homes Act. You take [people] who want to abandon their house because they can't pay for it. You introduce a buyer (either first-time homebuyer, FHA or VA—there's tons of people who want to buy but they can't get into this market because it's so difficult). They take possession of these abandoned houses and they pay fair market rent to a third-party property manager (real estate agent or asset manager) and that money is now dedicated to the note holder—the person who actually lent the money," explains Anthony.

More people are becoming interested in strategies like this one because they can help out all involved. Instead of having an abandoned property depreciate due to vandalism and lack of care, a tenant pays fair market rent until a short sale is completed. "Now you have a new owner taking possession and care of the asset which holds up the community value—saves people millions of dollars," says Anthony.

The key to making the right decision about a short sale, foreclosure, or the need

for a loan modification is education. Here are a few things to consider:

If there is a second mortgage on the home, determine if it is a recourse loan.

Recognize that walking away causes a bigger problem for everyone.

Validate that it is a hardship and not just someone who is trying to modify a loan because the value of the home went down. "Is that really fair?" asks Anthony.

Understand tax implications and what may be required if they have to file bankruptcy to extinguish a judgment from a foreclosure or from a second mortgage that was a recourse [loan]. Ultimately doing the short sale correctly shows "settled and satisfied" on all your mortgage trade lines. "So if I do a short sale, I have to get my second to do a re-conveyance for a lesser payoff (so you get a reduced payoff) and if you don't negotiate that properly you will have that judgment against you," says Anthony.

Think about using Section 702 to bring in money while the short sale is being completed. Weigh your options carefully so a logical and practical decision can be made. For more information about Anthony's hotline, visit: default hotline.com.

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HUNT FOR HOUSES!

**OPEN SUNDAY,
MAY 30TH
FROM 1-4PM**

QUAIL CREEK VILLAGE
11638 Quail Village Way
\$240,000

Don & Sandy Lasch 285-6413

QUAIL CREEK VILLAGE
10033 Heather Lane #504
\$154,900

Don & Sandy Lasch 285-6413

BERMUDA PALMS
4925 Sandra Bay Dr #102
\$145,000

Roseanne Brennan 293-2327

QUAIL WEST
4661 Idylwood Lane
\$1,375,000

Steve Levitan 269-4700

QUAIL CREEK ESTATES
13033 Coco Plum Lane
\$759,000

Tiffany McQuaid 287-6308

LONGSHORE LAKE
11113 Phoenix Way NOW
\$729,900

Sandy Sims 595-2969



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Bankrate.com

This site offers up-to-date rates for just about everything from mortgages and auto loans to CD's!

It offers amazing calculators that will assist you in finding out how long it will take to pay off credit card debt and more...

Selectquote.com & accuquote.com

These sites allow you to browse through hundreds of life insurance policies which give you rates comparison and assists you in finding the best deals.

HOT BAR

Quail Creek's BEST BUY



ONLY \$625,000!
3 BEDROOM, 3 BATH
PRIVATE LAKEFRONT LOT!

**CALL TODAY,
BEFORE IT'S GONE...**

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tiffmcquaid@gmail.com



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5628 STRAND BLVD #2 • NAPLES, FL 34110 • (239) 594-5555 • MAY 27-JUNE 2, 2010

The Estates of Quail Creek!



Allow Me to Introduce You to Quail Creek Estates...

A stunning North Naples Community with only 291 Single-Family Homes surrounding beautiful Quail Creek Country Club. Each home has a view of one of the TWO 18 hole golf courses and the lots are close to, or more than an acre. This is a unique community offering excellent golf, tennis, fitness and fine dining. Conveniently located to the airport, hospitals, shopping and the beach. As a homeowner, Quail Creek Country Club Membership is optional, but the convenience of Country Club Living is a lifestyle not to be missed! Quail Creek is member-owned and uniquely **DEBT-FREE!**

Directions: From I-75, take Immokalee Road 1/2 mile east to Valewood Drive, turn left (North) and follow road to the Gatehouse.

 13401 Rosewood Lane \$2,900,000 \$2,350,000 Knock your Socks off!	 13102 Valewood Drive NOW \$1,775,000 4+ Den, Entertainers Dream!	 12955 White Violet Drive \$1,695,000 5+ Den, Perfect in Every Way!	 UNDER CONTRACT! 12824 Pond Apple Drive \$1,575,000 New Listing! 4 BR, Walls of Windows!	 13324 Pond Apple Drive W. \$1,449,950 4+ Den, New Construction!
 UNDER CONTRACT! 4788 Pond Apple Drive N \$1,400,000 NEW LISTING! 4 BR, 5 BA, PRISTINE!	 13501 Pond Apple Drive E \$1,399,000 4 BR, LOTS OF STYLE	 4302 Pond Apple Drive N. \$1,395,000 4+ Den, Resort-Style Lanai	 13001 White Violet Drive \$1,395,000 4+ Den, Renovated to Perfection!	 4456 Pond Apple Drive N NOW \$1,295,000 4+ Den, Move Right In & Enjoy!
 13388 Rosewood Lane \$1,292,000 3+ Den, Estate Row!	 UNDER CONTRACT! 12955 Pond Apple Drive E \$1,275,000 NEW LISTING! 3+ Den, Water View!	 13255 White Violet Drive NOW \$1,197,000! 5+ Den, Knock Your Socks Off VIEW!	 SOLD 13102 Bald Cypress Lane \$1,150,000 4+ Den, One of a KIND LOCATION!	 13024 Valewood Drive \$1,164,000 3+ Den, Very Serene & Very Special!
 4255 Pond Apple Drive S NOW \$1,100,000 4 BR, Walls of Windows!	 NEW LISTING! 4287 Silver Fox Drive \$1,100,000 3+ Den and Guest Cabana!	 4388 Silver Fox Drive NOW \$1,035,000 5 BR Spacious & LOADS of Charm!	 SOLD 13323 Pond Apple Drive E. \$990,000 3+ Den, Palatial Home with View!	 4687 Pond Apple Drive S NOW \$925,000 4+ Den, Features Galore!
 UNDER CONTRACT! 4355 Silver Fox Drive \$1,310,000 \$849,000 POTENTIAL SHORT SALE	 4301 Snowberry Lane NOW \$799,000! 3+ Den, OVER AN ACRE!	 13033 Coco Plum Lane NOW \$759,000 4 BR+ Den, Best Buy!	 UNDER CONTRACT 13002 White Violet Drive \$625,000 3 BR, Spectacular LOT!	

"Quail Creek is a RARE-Find in Naples!"



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Leviton-McQuaid's BEST BUYS!

LONGSHORE LAKE

\$449,000

Sandy Sims • 595-2969



WHAT A GREAT HOME! Located on the lake, this home has its own dock. Built in 2000, featuring gorgeous wood floors and big open kitchen and family room with fireplace. All the main living is on the first floor with an additional suite upstairs with full bath and a bonus loft area, perfect for guests or a private retreat. New Air Conditioning Unit - This house is truly a home...

HOLLYBROOK

\$399,000

Janet Carter • 821-8067



AMAZING OPPORTUNITY! This magnificent "BELMONT" model offers a HUGE LANAI AREA, and the PRICE is well-below the Sellers' investment YET not a short sale. This incredible home boasts tile in the Great Room 2 bedrooms plus a den and 2 full baths. Granite counters with an amazing amount of cabinets, stainless steel appliances, plantation shutters, built-in safety features such as pool safety & security system.

SABAL LAKE

\$349,900

Steve Levitan • 269-4700



Beautiful Lake View with Water Display Fountain!! This 3BR/2BA home comes with pergo floors and tile throughout, heated pool, outdoor kitchen with built-in grill. Totally remodeled kitchen with \$40,000 in upgrades, new granite countertops, new plumbing, new electrical new appliances!!! Tennis community, clubhouse and low fees are just some of the features that this fantastic community offers you. Oversized refrigerator in garage included!!

QUAIL CREEK VILLAGE

\$240,000

Don & Sandy Lasch • 285-6413



Grasp this Opportunity! This home in Quail Creek Village is an exceptionally fine residence with two bedrooms plus den and a 2.5 car garage! Enjoy the birds from your stately trees with a view that you will truly enjoy. This home is spotless and is waiting for you!

TUSCANY COVE

\$309,900

Kim Boyer • 784-4401



Three bedroom with Den, 2 Full Bath, 2 car garage, lake view, single family home. Home includes hurricane impact windows, vaulted ceilings, and security system. Tuscany Cove 7,000 sq. ft Clubhouse offers many attractions including an Olympic size adult pool with spa, kiddie pool with splash fountain, and kiddie play area.

ISLAND WALK

\$289,000

Pam Maher • 877-9521



PARADISE is found in this fabulous Aruba home. Upgrades include wood flooring and exceptional tile Granite countertops with tiled backsplash, and deep sink make this kitchen stand out. This townhome is an end unit, provides 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, preferred bay window design, and detached 2-car garage. Screened lanai area offers total privacy, enhanced by lush plants and extra living space.

Happy Memorial Day

Quail West



4661 Idylwood Lane
\$1,375,000 ~ 3BR+Den
3,609 A/C Sq. Ft.



4549 Brynwood Drive
\$1,395,000 ~ 4BR+Den
4,335 A/C Sq. Ft.



6435 Highcroft Drive
\$1,495,000 ~ 3BR+Den
4,074 A/C Sq. Ft.



5927 Burnham Road
\$1,495,000 ~ 5BR+Den
5,030 A/C Sq. Ft.



6524 Highcroft Drive
\$1,595,000 ~ 3BR+Den
3,917 A/C Sq. Ft.



5000 Groveland Terrace
\$1,795,000 - 3BR+Den
5,854 A/C Sq. Ft.



4436 Brynwood Drive
\$1,795,000 ~ 3BR+Den
4,695 A/C Sq. Ft.



4172 Brynwood Drive
\$1,795,000 ~ 5BR+Den
5,601 A/D Sq. Ft.



6265 Highcroft Drive
\$1,850,000 ~ 4BR+Den
4,850 A/C Sq. Ft.



28901 Cavell Terrace
\$1,895,000 ~ 4BR+Den
4,904 A/C Sq. Ft.



13770 Pondview Circle
\$1,995,000 ~ 5BR+Den
4,250 A/C Sq. Ft.



6357 Highcroft Drive
\$1,995,000 ~ 3BR+Den
3,821 A/C Sq. Ft.



4484 Wayside Drive
\$2,375,000 ~ 4BR+Den
4,730 A/C Sq. Ft.



4484 Brynwood Drive
\$2,395,000 ~ 4BR+Den
6,213 A/C Sq. Ft.



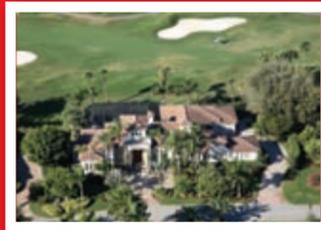
4430 Wayside Drive
\$2,495,000 ~ 4BR+Den
4,730 A/C Sq. Ft.



28871 Cavell Terrace
\$2,795,000 ~ 4BR+Den
6,078 A/C Sq. Ft.



6241 Highcroft Drive
\$2,795,000 ~ 4BR+Den
5,951 A/C Sq. Ft.



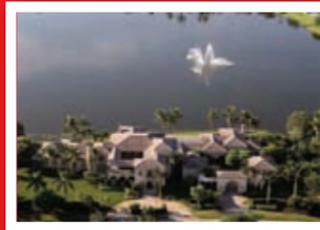
13710 Pondview Circle
\$2,795,000 ~ 4BR+Den
5,435 A/C Sq. Ft.



28870 Cavell Terrace
\$2,995,000 ~ 5BR+Den
5,800 A/C Sq. Ft.



4300 Brynwood Drive
\$6,900,000 ~ 6BR+Den
11,160 A/C Sq. Ft.



13621 Pondview Circle
\$9,950,000 ~ 6BR+Den
11,933 A/C Sq. Ft.



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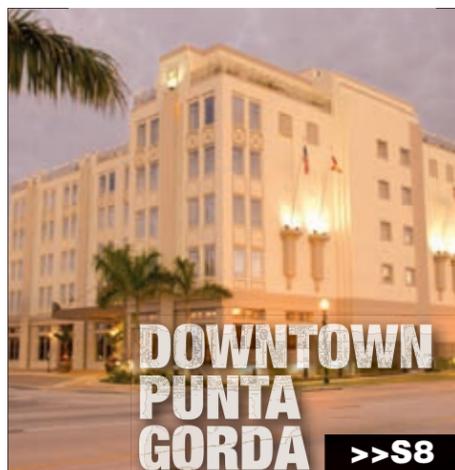
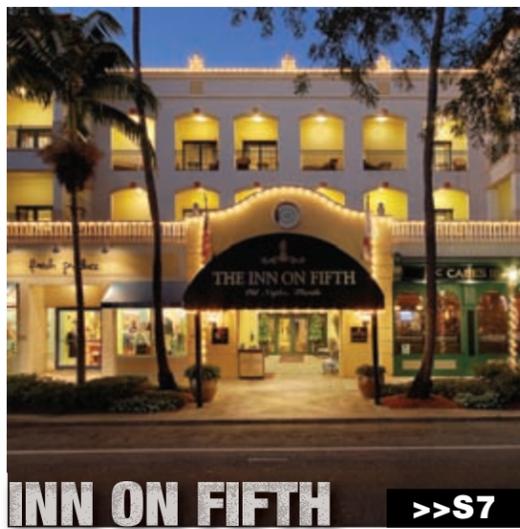
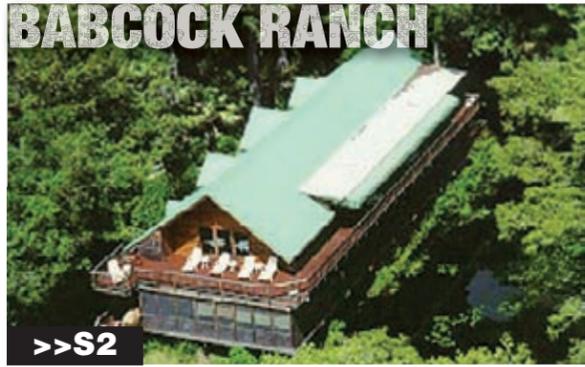
Give us a call at (239) 269-4700

Ann & Steve Levitan
Quail West Residents
VIRTUAL TOURS @
www.LevitanMcQuaid.com



Quail West: From I-75, take Bonita Beach Road (exit 116) 1/2 mile east to Bonita Grande, turn right (south) and follow road to Main Gatehouse.

STAYCATION



12 VACATIONS YOU CAN HAVE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD THIS SUMMER

Why let the tourists have all the fun?

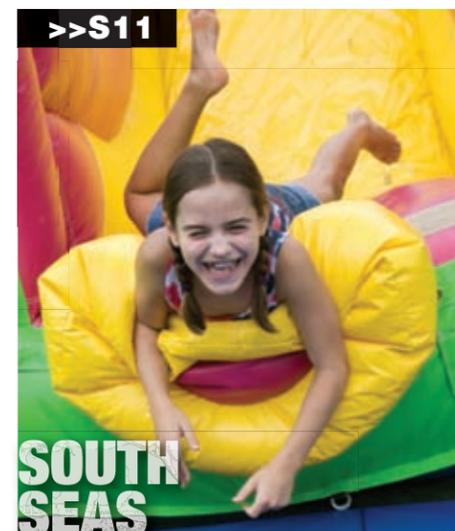
Now that the snowbirds are gone, it's time to take back what's rightfully ours, Southwest Florida. So, get out there. Enjoy all the things that drive a couple million people each year to our sandy beaches, tropical landscape and incomparable wildlife.

After all, you probably worked like a dog all tourist season and could use a little R & R. But Europe is a little too unstable this year and the airlines are charging extra for everything (want two pilots up front, that's an extra \$50).

So, stay put.

Florida Weekly has compiled a handy guide to having a terrific STAY-cation: getaways not far from home that offer all the requisite components of a relaxing respite without the expense of jet travel, airport parking lots, roaming charges or rental cars.

Enjoy! You deserve it.



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By Land or by Sea
Hotel & Suites or Marina
Call for Special Rates
Close to Downtown Fort Myers
One or Two Bedroom Waterfront Suites





Legacy Harbour
 239.461.0775 • legacyharbour.com
 West First Street, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Swimming Pool
Fitness Room
Chickee Hut & Deck






DISCOVER OLD FLORIDA CYPRESS LODGE AT BABCOCK RANCH

A taste of natural Florida

BY KAREN FELDMAN
cuisine@floridaweekly.com

There are some among us — and we won't name names — who simply have lost the ability to relax. Unable to exist without constant multi-sensory stimulation, they clutch the television remote in one hand, the computer mouse in the other and somehow manage to text and talk on their cell phones all at the same time.

This is not the way to achieve quality time with loved ones.

So here's a radical idea: Go someplace where neither television nor computer is available, where the sole soundtrack consists of a capella choruses of birds and frogs and the visuals star stands of cypress trees draped in gently rustling Spanish moss shading vast swaths of swampland where alligators and other native fauna dwell.

Imagine sitting comfortably on a spacious screened porch, sipping a cool drink and watching gators, birds, fish, raccoons and possums go about their business just a few yards away. Dig out those dusty old board games you used to enjoy and get everyone involved. Or gather the group and talk face to face.

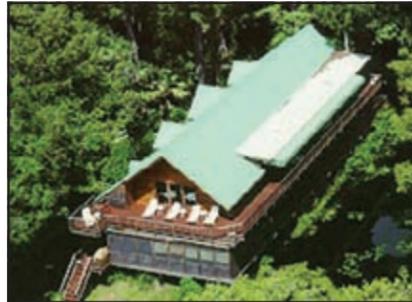
This enforced relaxation is what's in store for those who spend a night or more at the Cypress Lodge at Babcock Ranch. Once the home of Fred C. Babcock, the lodge sits in the heart of the 10,000-acre Telegraph Cypress Swamp that straddles the line between Charlotte and Lee counties.

The spacious lodge, which is currently undergoing renovation and should reopen in early June, can accommodate two to 14 people and is a prime place for a family reunion, gathering of friends, a corporate retreat or small meeting.



COURTESY
PHOTOS

The Cypress Lodge at Babcock Ranch sits in the heart of Telegraph Cypress Swamp.



"There's really not a lot to do here," says office manager Maria Pascucci, "but it's a beautiful place to relax. There's a sense of peace and beauty and lots of wildlife."

There's a full kitchen for those who want to bring their own food and prepare it or, says Ms. Pascucci, the lodge can arrange to have a woman come in and cook a meal or two. Some people bring already prepared food so all they have to do is break it out and eat.

Guests can lounge indoors or on the large screened porch that sits above the swamp, from

which they can watch nature take its course. (Unescorted walks around the property are prohibited for safety reasons.)

The lodge and swamp are all part of the 90,000-plus-acre Crescent B Ranch, more commonly referred to as Babcock Ranch. It is a working ranch, with beef cattle, farming and mining operations, the sort of business that used to be common in these parts before Southwest Florida became popular as a vacation and retirement Mecca.

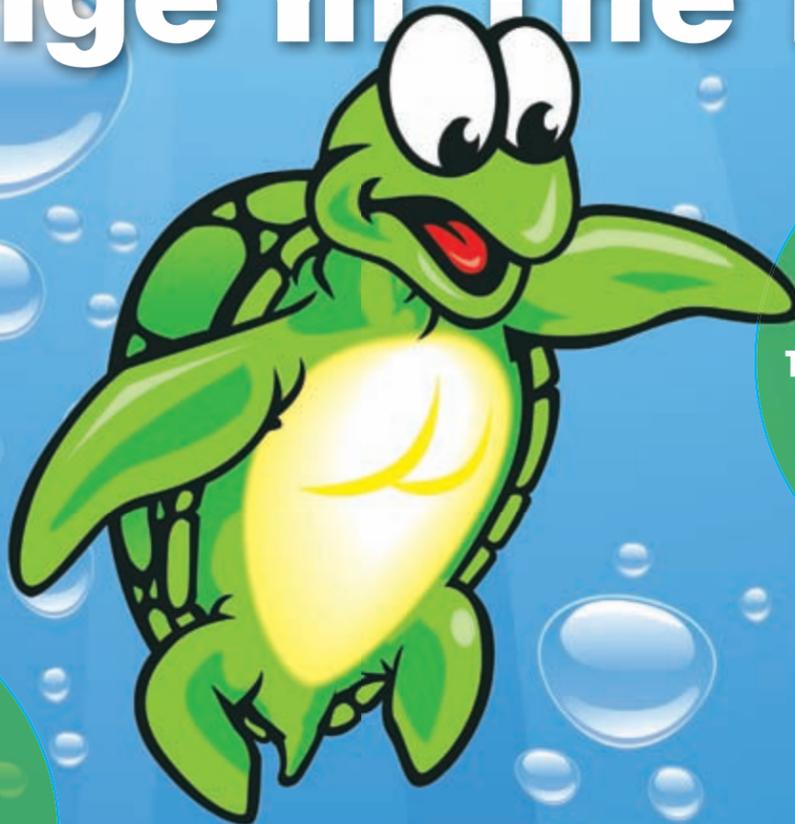
The primary activity for vacationers in these parts is Babcock Wilderness Adventures, which offers 90-minute guided swamp buggy tours through Babcock Ranch and Telegraph Cypress Swamp. Well-informed guides explain the ecosystems and the animals that live there as the large buggies rumble through the lush landscape. Tours include up-close looks at alligators and rare Florida panthers.

A museum on the grounds provides still more insight into the area's history, the ranch operations and even the set used in "Just Cause," a movie starring Sean Connery, parts of which were shot on the property.

But the main activity is chilling out, letting the natural world's rhythms replace those pulsing from televisions and passing cars, and getting back in touch with family and friends.

■ To arrange a stay at Cypress Lodge, call (941) 639-3958, ext. 2. The lodge can be reserved for \$125 per room, with seven rooms available. Some have twin beds, some have doubles or a queen. Some have private baths, others share them. For reservations at Babcock Wilderness Adventures (8000 State Road 31, Punta Gorda), call (800) 637-4611. Tours are \$19.95 plus tax for adults, \$12.95 plus tax for children 3 to 12 years.

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DISCOVER CHARM
OLDE SANIBEL

Hidden getaways provide respite from technology

BY LIBBY MCMILLAN
Special to Florida Weekly

You already know all the best reasons to hang out on Sanibel Island: the seashells, the beautiful beaches, the fishing, the wildlife, the grouper sandwich at the Lazy Flamingo. But have you thought about what it would really be like to shut off your Crackberry for a weekend, wear nothing but a swimsuit and a pair of shorts, and squish



COURTESY PHOTO

Gulf Breeze Cottages.

your toes into wet sand absolutely any time you felt like it?

If technology is a major component in your life, or that of someone with whom you like to vacation, consider stepping back in time with an Olde Florida-style cottage on Sanibel. Life is darned hectic, whether we

mean for it to be or not. What if you walked into a quaint little beachfront cottage (sans your computer!), took off your watch, hid all the clocks, and centered life around your own sleeping pattern and a bunch of seashells you haven't yet met?

TiVo and gmail and Facebook will all there waiting, when the getaway is over. So why not let your surroundings encourage a slower, quieter way of life? Let the gentle surf be the only measure of time, and feel your heart rate coming down. Sit in a beach chair and watch the sunset sky turn from blue to pink to orange. Listen to night herons and frogs. Look up at a star-drenched sky unfettered by city light. Sip a Dark and Stormy. Let your whiskers grow.

Sanibel Island has several classic places in which to indulge this particular fantasy, each of them older, smaller, charming and decidedly non-resort-like. The kind of places where a well-worn jigsaw puzzle box awaits you in the lobby and a shelf of DVDs reminds you that life did exist before HD and BluRay.

Three properties spring to mind. The first is Gulf Breeze Cottages, near the entrance to the island. Tucked into the most secluded gulf-front location on the beach, this quaint mom-and-pop property has discounted summer rates on cottages



VANDY MAJOR/ FLORIDA WEEKLY

Shalimar Resort.

(efficiencies can run even less and some come with a gulf view). The friendly owners have developed a loyal following through their many years of ownership, but you'll find availability in the off-season months.

Gulf Breeze has no pool, but this serene stretch of Sanibel beach is so inviting you'll never miss the pool. Throw a couple of chairs and a beach umbrella in your car and pack that paperback novel you've been meaning to get to, or a couple of magazines. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to simply sit on the sand, listen to the surf, read or watch the dolphins and try to stay awake. No reports required, no negotiating, no 30-minute lunch break, no oil change, no dry cleaning, no voicemail. Perfect. If you feel industrious, walk to the lighthouse and back. Then reward yourself with a cold beer or a shrimp cocktail.

A good second choice is Shalimar, on West Gulf Drive. These adorable stand-alone cottages are on another pretty stretch of beach, and, like Gulf Breeze, each cottage has its own kitchen, but restaurants are not too far away. Choose a one-bedroom Gulf-front or Gulf-view cottage, or take your best friends with you and opt for a larger place. This property has a pool, for those times you can tear yourself away from the beach. You may think you're not a sheller . . . but there's a good chance that by the second day, you'll be doing "The Sanibel Stoop" like everyone else.

Tropical Winds is a third option, this one more remote than the other two, and farther "up island." Off Sanibel-Captiva Road on the way to Blind Pass, Tropical Winds is far enough west that it enjoys spectacular sunsets. These small, attached cottages are cute as can be, with screened porches and Gulf views. A short stroll puts you right on the beach. This is Olde Florida at its best, so relax and enjoy stepping back in time. Captiva's village is less than 10 minutes up the road, too, which could be a plus for some.

To fully enjoy your Sanibel time machine, here are a few tips: Bring some groceries with you, or pop in to an island grocery and grab essentials. (Don't forget the dark rum, ginger beer and limes if you want to try a Dark and Stormy). A few gallons of water are a good thing to bring; Sanibel's tap water is not tasty. Bring or buy some polarized sunglasses; \$15 will dramatically change the way you

see the gulf, and see the shells hiding in it. Pack your beach bag with good sunscreen, a hat, some wading shoes, and bring something to hold your inevitable beach finds: a mesh bag, a small pail or plastic bags.

If you think you'll grill, throw some charcoal in the trunk, and you might enjoy a cooler for the beach, along with your chairs and umbrellas. Whatever you do, don't overpack, especially when it comes to clothing. Sanibel is 100 percent casual, even if you go out to eat.

For quick and easy dining, try Sanibel Island Pizza or fish tacos from Doc Ford's (and pick up a book while you're there). Lunch at Hungry Heron is a good bet if you have kids. Happy hour at Trader's for tasty appetizers at great prices; and find out when Danny Morgan is playing the pool bar at Thistle Lodge. The Sanibel Grill will be full of locals and has cold beer, great food and about a zillion TVs. The Lazy Flamingo's two locations — one near the causeway on Periwinkle, and one at Blind Pass — both serve until the wee hours. Jerry's Grocery hides an affordable



COURTESY PHOTO

Sanibel's famed lighthouse.

restaurant and Bailey's Grocery has a lot of takeout options at lunchtime. Amy's Over Easy, Sunset Grill and The Lighthouse Café are popular breakfast spots.

Call Billy's Rentals to arrange for bikes if you're moved to pedal a bit. They'll deliver and pick up. Or head to Tarpon Bay for kayak or canoe rentals. And don't worry, if you absolutely have to post pics on Facebook while you're out on Sanibel, it's OK. We understand. It will be hard, after all, to resist making your friends jealous of your clever "getaway."

■ Gulf Breeze Cottages, 1081 Shell Basket Ln.; 472-1626

■ Shalimar Resort, 2823 West Gulf Dr.; 472-1353

■ Tropical Winds Cottages, 4819 Tradewinds, at Jamaica Dr., 472-1765

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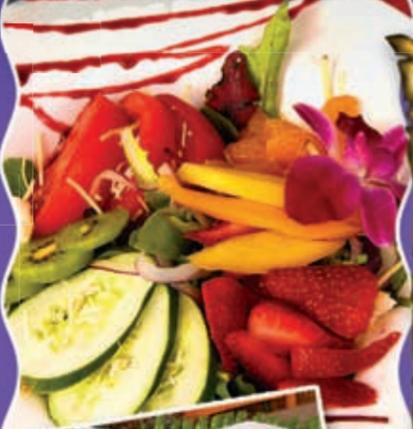
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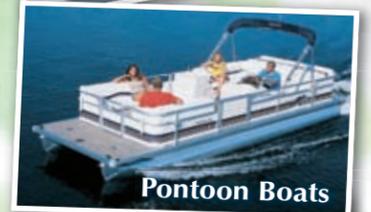


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Come by Land or Sea



An almost-secret getaway off the Charlotte County coast

BY KAREN FELDMAN

cuisine@floridaweekly.com

No one winds up on Boca Grande by accident. It takes effort to find your way to the lone bridge that connects this lush and low-key outpost to the rest of the world.

Boca Grande lies mostly in Lee County, but the only bridge to it sits in northwestern Charlotte County, making for something of a drive. And that's how locals and visitors-in-the-know like it.

The town is situated on Gasparilla Island, a seven-mile-long barrier island with nary a traffic light, high rise, billboard or fast-food chain. It does have a century-old lighthouse and Banyan Street, where the road is completely shaded by a massive canopy of 80-year-old banyan trees. The village itself offers a bounty of shops, art galleries and restaurants best enjoyed on foot, bicycle or golf cart.

It's a relatively sleepy community, where gracious living is the standard, attracting those of means who desire some time in the sun without stepping into the limelight. It's long been a favorite getaway for industry scions, and has become the annual Christmas getaway locale for the Bush family.

Pristine white beaches span the full length of the island's Gulf flank. Charlotte Harbor sits to the east. In between, mangrove-lined protected waterways wend through the island.

One of the activities for which Boca Grande and its plentiful waters is best known is fishing, particularly for prized tarpon in the spring, although it's also a great spot in which to angle for a host of other saltwater species. August through November



COURTESY PHOTOS

This picturesque lighthouse sits at the entrance to Charlotte Harbor at the southern tip of Gasparilla Island.

is prime time to hook snapper, grouper, mackerel and kingfish. Charter fishing captains — many of whom are the second or third generation to make their livings on the water — are plentiful.

You don't have to fish to enjoy the water. From Boca Grande, it's a short but scenic trip to Cayo Costa, the mostly undeveloped island known for shelling, and Cabbage Key, a privately owned island with a small inn and large restaurant, said to be the inspiration for Jimmy Buffett's hit "Cheeseburger in Paradise." Chances are good you'll see some dolphin or manatees along the way.

Get a close-up view of Boca Grande's flora and fauna by renting a kayak and paddling through the smaller waterways and bayous.

The long beach is a prime attraction by day, but from May to October, it's the season when endangered sea turtles head ashore to lay their eggs in the sand. People can watch the annual rite of sum-

mer but are not permitted to employ flashlights or camera flashes when doing so and it's illegal to approach the turtles or interfere in any way. Instead, stand quietly and savor this rare opportunity from a respectful distance.

By day, golf carts and bicycles are popular modes of transport and, thanks to the Florida Rails-to-Trails program, there's a path leading from one end of the island to the other for just these conveyances on what was once a railroad track.

For a look back at the island's history, visit the Port Boca Grande Lighthouse and Museum. The lighthouse, built in 1890, now holds history exhibits and a gift shop.

The grandest structure in a community known for its affluence is the Gasparilla Inn, a grand dame listed on the National Register of Historic Place, which has received guests since 1913. Among those who have stayed in this quietly elegant spot are Henry Ford, the Rockfellers and the aforementioned Bushes.

If you want to sample its many charms, which include a spa and Pete Dye-designed golf course, plan to visit before June 27, when it will close until late October for a facelift. That's the exception to the rule, however, as virtually everything else is open all summer and prices are low. Beachfront house rentals can be had for as little as \$700 a week during the island's Summer Sanctuary promotion, says Lynda Lancaster, executive director of the Boca Grande Area Chamber of Commerce.

Though somewhat off the beaten path, Boca Grande has its share of great food, some of which can be found at the funky Temptation restaurant and at the more pub-like but equally welcoming Pink Elephant.

If it's nightlife you're after, this isn't the place, but for a laid-back getaway in the lap of luxury, Boca Grande delivers.

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DISCOVER LUXURY THE INN ON FIFTH

Charming hotel offers nearby getaway

BY LIBBY MCMILLAN

Special to Florida Weekly

Sometimes the shortest drive can provide the greatest escape. This may well be the case with a weekend stay at The Inn on Fifth, an elegant boutique hotel on downtown Naples' tony Fifth Avenue.

There's something thrilling about pulling up in front of a lovely inn, handing the valet your car keys, and knowing you won't really need the darn thing until you depart. The Inn on Fifth is so sublimely situated that guests can, indeed, walk to enough dining and entertainment options that they'll have a hard time choosing which to patronize. The inn is also loaded with on-site amenities, from spa to rooftop pool, so one might also opt to simply hide and luxuriate.

Finding the inn is easy: Fifth Avenue lies where U.S. 41 in Naples makes its short jog to the east. The hotel's gracious size — only three stories high — helps it blend in seamlessly with the galleries and restaurants that surround it. You'll find a parking garage behind the hotel, but valet services are complimentary. Staff recommends you not leave your car long-term in a marked parking spot on the street, out of concern you'll get a ticket. The inn's lobby is small yet elegant, the front desk staff efficient and adept at making dining recommendations. They go the extra mile on service.

Summer room rates at the Inn on Fifth are deeply discounted and include free wi-fi, Italian marble baths with oversized showers, and iPod docking stations. The beds are luxurious, the kind you sink into and never want to leave. The property is comprised of several wings that wrap around its second-floor pool area. If you prefer to have a room overlooking the pool, or Fifth Avenue, be sure to say so at time of booking. Rooms on the back side of the hotel are extremely quiet but offer no view to speak of.

There is a state-of-the-art gym on-site, so if you like to counter-balance a nice meal with some calorie-burning, pack your workout clothes. No special clothes required, however, if it's the spa that piques your interest. Pampering treatments have been designed for both men



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Inn on Fifth sits in beautiful downtown Naples.



But beef aficionados will also find a tempting assortment of Niman Ranch cuts.

One might take a glance and write off McCabe's Irish Pub as a "what were they thinking?" curiosity next to such a nice hotel. But step inside for a drink and don't be surprised if you wander back out four hours later. McCabe's is packed with locals, and while the service is extremely professional, the pub's entertainment is its main draw. Live music by a talented performer with diverse repertoire sets the mood in this bois-

and women. Fellows will enjoy the Gentlemens' Renewal Facial and a nice massage. Ladies might have a hard time choosing their method of relaxation. We like the sound of a Pinot Noir Vinotherapy Detoxing Wrap and the Chocolate Raspberry Brown Sugar Scrub. Yet who could resist a seaweed facial with hot stone foot reflexology, and a gentle hand massage? Really indulge with an in-room massage for one or both of you.

The pool area is a great place to head at check-in with its large deck, abundant chaises and Jacuzzi. Drinks and snacks can be ordered while poolside, and are brought up from one of two restaurants on the property. The same goes for room service, which is available until 9 pm.

Dining options are diverse at Inn on Fifth. Truluck's offers the freshest of seafood to patrons; its signature dish is stone crab claws in season. Monday nights are "all you can eat" fresh Maine Jonah crab claws. An appetizer of Brazilian pacu fish ribs with watermelon barbecue sauce show off Chef Henry Howard's adventuresome spirit. Lobster bisque, tuna tartare, Icelandic char, Scottish salmon, rainbow trout... the menu is nirvana to seafood lovers.

terous establishment, where seats are at a premium on the weekends. The menu is a roundup of traditional bar appetizers, Irish entrees, pizza and pasta, and a full continental-style variety of steaks, seafood, burgers and more.

Within walking distance of the hotel are a bevy of even more dining options: the sexy Café Lurcat; Bistro 821; BICE; even Abbott's Frozen Custard. Several coffee shops are also nearby. Have the valet bring your car around, and in minutes, you can enjoy a repast at Bleu Provence and its Cave of 20,000 bottles of wine; or the supremely romantic Campiello, in the historic Naples Mercantile Building on Third Street South. Tommy Bahama is across the street and pulls a good crowd with its tropical environs.

Of course, the Naples pier is hard to beat at sunset, and it's just a few blocks away. For a real change of pace, leave the car in the lot, and rent bicycles from the hotel. You can easily ride to the pier, the art galleries along Third Street South and the City Dock.

The Inn on Fifth is a charming change of scenery, and the perfect base for exploring downtown Naples, from sunup to the wee hours.

■ The inn is located at 699 Fifth Avenue South. For more information, call 403-8777.

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A plucky city that's reinvented itself

BY LIBBY MCMILLAN
Special to Florida Weekly

Before Hurricane Charley made a direct hit on Punta Gorda, it was a sleepy village with small-town charm, brick streets, and an old-fashioned downtown. There was no real reason to contemplate a getaway there, nor was there a great place to stay if the mood struck. All that has changed.

Punta Gorda was on its way to reinventing itself when the unthinkable happened, and both the historic district and downtown were smashed to smithereens by a Cat Four. Out of lemons comes lemonade, however, and once all the debris was removed, and the unsalvageable buildings razed, this Southwest Florida burg had a fresh slate on which to write its future. The city has certainly recognized opportunity. It's now a terrific place to hang out, with four-star dining, lovely new hotels, a terrific marina, and no car is required once you arrive.

The best of what Punta Gorda had to offer is still there, too, and now shines even brighter. Gilchrist Park, which faces Charlotte Harbor and offers pavilions, tennis courts, picnic areas and live music jams, is as perfect for a sunset picnic as it is for tossing a Frisbee or playing with your dog. Architectural diversity was already a huge asset in the historic residential district adjacent to downtown and the park, and an evening stroll or bike ride through this lovely neighborhood is both relaxing and intriguing. You almost expect to see Jimmy Stewart step out on the front porch and say hi.

At the same time, downtown is hopping, and offers so many great dining, drinking and entertainment options, it's actually hard to choose where to go. Choose your hotel base — either the Wyvern or the Four Points by Sheraton — and then start exploring. Both lodging options are in the heart of the renovated Punta Gorda; you'll see the great lengths the city has made to make its downtown an inviting, pedestrian-friendly hub of fun.

The relatively new Wyvern Hotel is a stylish, modern oasis with per-



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: The Wyvern Hotel boasts a rooftop pool and bar. Left: The new Four Points by Sheraton is within walking distance of the downtown night life.

haps the greatest single space in town: its rooftop bar. A small stage accommodates a band, but the view is the real star; cocktails are somehow tastier when enjoyed with the vivid hues of a Southwest Florida sunset from up high, the water of nearby Charlotte Harbor reflecting the sky.

Guests will find their rooms to be luxe, with bathrobes, a fully-stocked mini-bar, imported linens, an iPod docking station and complimentary wireless. Don't want to lug your own gear? The hotel will actually loan you a PC notebook for your room. There's also a decent gym and a rooftop pool.

Another nice surprise is the Latin-inspired Lulu restaurant, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. A tapas menu offers temptations like yucca fries, lamp lollipops and olives with manchego, while Lulu's "dessert experiences" are memorable as well.

Four Points by Sheraton is just a few yards farther from downtown than the Wyvern, but offers tremendous waterfront and nighttime views

from some of its rooms. Sheraton made a design nod to its neighbor, Laishley Park City Municipal Marina (consider boating up for your stay) with a full-blown nautical theme inside the hotel, from lobby to rooms. This was a smart but risky design move that could have come off as kitschy; instead, the effect is tasteful, with lots of teak, the occasional porthole, primary colors and boat-like pocket doors and built-in furnishing in the guest rooms.

Sheraton guests love to lounge or surf the Web in the hotel's relaxation space, a large, inviting room at ground level with contemporary, oversized sofas and ottomans, big TVs, a game table, and a nearly endless bank of high-speed work stations for road warriors or Facebook addicts.

The property also has a large gym, an outdoor pool, free wireless, safes in the rooms, and a dry cleaning service. The hotel's Dockside Grill makes the most of the nautical theme with its clean, crisp look and signature dish of firecracker shrimp. It serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, and even has a library-like coffee station. An outdoor patio also makes a great place to meet friends.

Both hotels make it possible to walk to all sorts of wonderful options for dining and entertainment. Laishley Crab House is right at the marina, and pairs seafood with stellar water views. For upscale dining, consider The Perfect Capers, a semifinalist in The James Beard Foundation's Best Chef in the South category. River City Grill, on Marion, is large and lively yet still cozy, and packs in the locals for happy hour and dinner. It offers live entertainment on weekends.

The Celtic Ray has been a popular Irish pub for many years, serving colcannon and Guinness Pie, while the newer Ice House pub is an Olde

DISCOVER A NEW CITY DOWNTOWN PUNTA GORDA

English style pub with 24 beers on tap and enough dartboards to float a city. The Ice House is located inside a former ice house from the 1890s; it's worth popping into if only to see the space.

Jack's is a newer entry to the dining scene, with its outdoor tables and live music, while Bin 82 and Café Ruelle serve up delicious wines by the glass. If you like the idea of a picnic in the park, head to Presseller's Deli for a delicious takeout lunch. The menu here is terrific, and there's an outdoor patio if you want to rest a minute in a pretty spot.

Fishermen's Village, a unique waterfront mall, resort and marina, offers more than 30 boutique shops, five restaurants, marine activities, a military museum and live entertainment. It also has spacious, two-bedroom vacation villas located on the second floor of the Village, close enough to activities while being far away from everyday hassles.

Looking to do some fishing this summer? Fishermen's Village has teamed up with King Fisher Fleet to offer a fishing package for two. The two-night packages include plenty of time on the water as well as free time. Enjoy a sunset cruise on the calm waters of the harbor and shallow water fishing in the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve. After your excursion, shopping, dining and nightlife await.

If fishing is not your style, Fishermen's Village has two getaways: One for the beach bum and one that creates the perfect spa day. The Beach Bum vacation starts with a wine and cheese basket and a personalized shopping experience at one of the Village's unique clothing shops. The



Fishermen's Village offers guest accommodations, shopping and dining in one complex.

next day, enjoy a King Fisher cruise to Cabbage Key or Cayo Costa.

The Girls Getaway package is designed for women who need extra pampering. You still get to start your getaway with a wine and cheese basket and a personal shopper at one of the unique boutiques. The next day, you and your girlfriends will spend six hours of relaxation at Charles of the Village Salon and Day Spa. Finish your day with a sunset cruise around the harbor on one of King Fisher Fleet's boats.

Make your stay in Punta Gorda even more fun by taking your own bicycles; this way, you can bike throughout the historic district. An evening pedal will reveal how many locals like to walk around the 'hood and over to Gilchrist Park after dinner. Don't be surprised if you find yourself wondering what it would be like to live in or near this delightful downtown.




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DISCOVER RELAXATION FORT MYERS BEACH

Local color and affordable accommodations abound

BY NANCI THEORET

Special to Florida Weekly

Savvy vacationers have done the math. They realize that a weeklong cottage rental is often a more budget-friendly choice than a resort stay — provided they can live without luxuries like room service, daily bed-making or those cute mini tooth-paste tubes delivered by the front-desk staff.

In Southwest Florida, Fort Myers Beach reigns as the cottage rental king; and Century 21 Tri-Power Realty may just be its queen. The agency offers more than a hundred vacation rentals, many right on the beach. Housing choices range from little bungalow cottages and larger four-bedroom beach homes to on- and off-island condos with pools and fitness centers. The company's Web site lets browsers choose location, housing style and number of guests, plus request features like boat docks, pools or a unit sans phone and television.

Check out the prices and here's where economy factors in. Many rentals cost half of a hotel room. Case in point: Tri-Power's popular two-bedroom, two-bath beachfront cottage at 718 Estero Blvd. Its weekly summer rental fee of \$1,325 works out to about \$197 a night. Half that if you're joined by another couple.

"It's an adorable, very lovely unit that guests love," says Ann Alsop.

The fully furnished cottage, rebuilt in 2006, has a large deck and windows overlooking Sanibel Island and the gulf — perfect for picturesque sunsets. There's also a full kitchen, a king and two full beds and even a washer and dryer. Its location — about a half mile from Times Square — is also perfect for those who want a little piece and quiet yet have the option to walk to Times Square, says Alsop.

As the heartbeat of Fort Myers Beach, Times Square offers great people-watching opportunities, the beachfront Lynn Hall Memorial Park and a number of long-time restaurants, shops and can't-miss dive bars. There's a constant parade of humanity that extends well into the wee hours of the morning.

Seafood, and shrimp in particular (Fort Myers has its own shrimping fleet), is a must for visitors who may just notice that many restaurants tout grill in their names. The off-island Parrot Key Caribbean Grill would make Forest Gump proud with its renditions of the crustacean — coconut-fried, broiled, baked or scampied. The parrot-themed restaurant, next to Salty Sam's Marina, overlooks Matanzas Pass, serves cocktails with fun names like Funky Monkey and Flamingo Freeze, and offers nightly entertainment from 80s to Motown.

New to the beach dining scene is Nervous Nellies, whose bird mascot is a frenzied pelican, and daily specials include \$2 drafts. The menu has a full page of starters, salads and soup, including its self-proclaimed "Florida's Best" smoked fish dip, a trio of mussel preparations, and crab-stuffed arti-



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: The beaches on Fort Myers Beach offer prime shell-ing, cool white sand and amazing sunsets.

Left: The Pieces of Eight Pirate Cruises sail daily from Salty Sam's Marina.



choke dip. Entrees range the gamut from burgers and sandwiches (seven styles of Ruebens), lobster roll, meatloaf, paella, paninis and baskets.

South Beach Grille, in a hidden-away shopping plaza on the island's southern end, offers a fine-dining experience that locals love. Fish dishes — yellowtail snapper, blackened ahi tuna and parmesan-encrusted grouper served with sautéed spinach, lump crab meat, shrimp and pesto buerre blanc — are featured alongside landlubber options like lamb and filet. The grill has a dark moody interior with Deco-inspired décor, an open kitchen and every stool at its large bar is generally filled with folks noshing on an assortment of sushi.

Closed just six hours daily, the Gulfshore Grill has been serving three meals a day — plus cocktails and in-between snacks — since the 1970s. Overlooking a wide sweep of beach, this popular local hangout has an eclectic menu that covers several nationalities and most food groups. Dine inside or out, where you're more than welcome to stick your toes in the sand.

Bonita Bills on Fisherman's Wharf offers the

ultimate local color, attracting mostly local boat-ers and fisherman and visitors in the know. This dive of a waterside grill and bar serves food but it's really the cheap beer and wine that keep people coming back — a convenient watering hole for those who live on their boats at the adjacent docks. Patrons shake bean-filled cans in time (mostly) to entertainer Peppermint Patty, whose only musical accompaniment is a keyboard.

Off-island miniature golf courses and Lynn Hall's playground provide more kid-friendly entertainment. Ninety-minute cruises aboard the Pieces of Eight Spanish galleon also appeal to families as costumed actors relive the area's pirate past with tales of Blackbeard, treasure chests and the Jolly Roger. The cruises set sail Tuesday through Sunday from Salty Sam's Marina and also offer a cannon-firing, face-painting and a full bar.

"The show is continually evolving," says Jeanette Goff. "A lot of its impromptu and there is some adult humor. It's fun and entertaining."

- Bonita Bills, 702 Fisherman's Wharf; 463-6119
- Century 21 Tri-Power Realty, 2001 Estero Blvd.; 463.5887; www.c21tripower.com
- Gulfshore Grill, 1270 Estero Blvd.; 765-5440; www.gulfshoregrill.com
- Nervous Nellies, 1131 First St.; 463-8077; www.nervousnellites.net
- Parrot Key Caribbean Grill, 2500 Main St.; 463-3257; myparrotkey.com
- Pieces of Eight Pirate Cruises, 2500 Main St.; 765.7272; www.piecesofeight.com

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DISCOVER FAMILY
SOUTH SEAS ISLAND RESORT

Renewing its focus on family and nature

BY NANCI THEORET

Special to Florida Weekly

Forget Disney. When the kids whine about nothing to do this summer, pack them into the car and head west instead — to the Gulf of Mexico and South Seas Island Resort on Captiva. They'll soon be so immersed in programs tailored to the property's sand and sea setting, they won't realize they're learning about Southwest Florida's unique habitats and its wildlife.

With a renewed focus on family, the resort has launched a concerted effort to shed its image as the ultra-exclusive playground for the wealthy. The new H2Whoa! Water Park, part of a \$140 million Hurricane Charley-necessitated renovation, and family and kid-friendly programs have shifted South Seas back to its origins: family, nature and comfort, says Carolyn Hudson, communications director.

"Our programs and amenities have to fit that trio," she says. "Our original vision in the early 1970s was centered around nature and we kind of got away from that. We've come full circle."

Activities like learn-to-swim and sail programs, day camps and nature walks offer the proverbial something for everyone — from toddlers to those hard-to-please teens and tweens, who just might forget about texting for awhile and actually enjoy being outside and learning. The resort's GO! Program, part of that revamped mission, also offers catch-and-release fishing for tarpon and snook, and "Under the Sea"-themed tide-zone wading, which allows bucket- and net-totting children to scoop up urchins and crabs. It's this kind of emphasis that earned kudos from Parents Magazine's as one of



COURTESY PHOTO

the top 10 beach resorts for families.

Nestled within palm trees, tropical landscaping and a 330-acre wildlife preserve, South Seas stretches from Captiva's northern tip and is embellished by a 2.5-mile fringe of the island's famous white-sand beaches and the aqua-tinged gulf water. Accommodations — condos with screened balconies and full kitchens — allow families to whittle expenses by making their own meals. The resort also has several restaurants, a marina, nine-hole family golf course and a village of shops, including a grocery store.

"We don't have room service and we don't apologize for it," says Ms. Hudson.

A de-emphasis on the auto (most visitors get around on foot, bike, golf cart or historic trolley) adds to the property's safety. Older children can scurry about unaccompanied between activities and amenities, which also includes a nature center where resident parrots Belle and Butch and their six offspring hold court among marine-themed touch tanks and instructional displays. There's also a teen lounge, complete with dancing and disco ball, and the water park, which offers corkscrew and 16-foot plunge slides.

Fishing is one of the resort's most popular activities,

according to Kayla Shepard, activities manager.

"We always have a huge turnout, and our resident fishing master teaches kids the safe ways to catch and release fish," she says. "Our shark dissection is also fun. Kids get to see what a real dogfish shark looks like. It's an educational talk about how sharks are misunderstood. Children love it."

Daily youth and family programs include kayaking, tailored to different skill levels, plus guided walks, often led by the resort's onsite naturalist, in search of turtles, birds, manatees or dolphins. Program pricing ranges from \$15 for shelling to \$65 for sailing.

"Everything the kids do, yeah it's fun, but they're also going to learn something," says Ms. Hudson. "They're going to learn about our indigenous wildlife and they're going to learn how to do outdoor activities like fishing and sailing."

Youngsters — mom and dad, too — can also channel their inner pirate or mermaid. Swimtastic, the resort's long-time swim instruction school, offers half-hour mermaid lessons, taught by a former Weeki Wachee mermaid, and the occasional multi-day mermaid and boy-oriented pirate camps.

"We have different colors and sizes of tails," says Swimtastic founder Sue Waincott. "The girls learn all kinds of underwater swimming moves, and we'll even offer a photo shoot so they have a video to take home."

South Sea's Nature and Nurture package, available through Sept. 30, provides accommodations for four, guided shelling and kayak excursions and enrollment in the Go! Fish program. The \$349 nightly price is based on a three-day visit.

The upside of all this fresh air? The kids won't fight bedtime, giving mom and dad some quiet time.

■ South Seas Island Resort, 5400 Plantation Road; (888) 2-CAPTIVA; www.southseas.com.

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Old Florida town replete with charm, antiques

BY NANCI THEORET

Special to Florida Weekly

From Interstate 75, Arcadia appears as one of those can't-get-from-here towns. Exits for the DeSoto County city, about 25 miles east of Punta Gorda, begin appearing north of Sarasota and continue into Collier County. Whichever way you choose to get there, be prepared for two-lane roads that wind past cattle and horse farms and dig deeper into rurality. Traffic can be slow-going especially if a tractor is moseying along (road signs inform of that possibility).

Hard hit by Hurricane Charley, this city of about 6,600, is working on its comeback. Antique collectors are among Arcadia's prime tourist market and its downtown delivers with about two dozen stores, selling everything from Amish furniture to Victorian-era heirlooms and turn-of-last century toys and collectibles. Prowl Oak Street and you'll also discover a quaint used-book store, specialty boutiques selling colorful Vera Bradley bags and gift items, and the old train depot, a brick building trimmed in green and now professional offices. Three of Arcadia's late-1800s buildings, including the 12-room Oak Park Inn, survived a fire that ripped through the city in 1905. The "Tree of Knowledge," a large oak, presides over a park adjacent to the inn and was once the favorite soapbox for local politicians.

For a true sense of the community, explore Arcadia's side streets, where towering live oaks shade Victorian-era homes with graceful front porches, tin roofs and gingerbread trim and boast a palette that run the spectrum from yellow and blue to coral and white. More than 370 of the city's historic homes and business were placed on the National Registry of



COURTESY PHOTO

Downtown Arcadia is home to a wide variety of antique shops.

Historic Places in 1984; many were claimed by Charley.

One of Florida's first five cities selected for the Main Street program, Arcadia hosts an antique street fair the fourth Saturday of each month so plan your accommodations accordingly. Frequent guests at the historic 1890s Parker House Bed and Breakfast reserve their rooms months in advance. The charming tree-shaded inn, built by one of Florida's original cattle barons and just two blocks from downtown, has five elegant guest rooms that reflect the home's Victorian era. Rooms are furnished with vintage-appropriate antiques and have access to a sitting porch. The house also has a large verandah and several garden spots. The "blue room" is the most popular, according to Kay Higley, who's been operating the B&B for six years with her husband Leonard.

Air-conditioning, cable TV and complementary cold beverages are among the inn's modern conveniences. The Higleys serve fresh fruits and juices, homemade pastries and muffins each morning and "work as a team" to prepare the breakfast entrée. "Our apple-cinnamon pancakes with cinnamon syrup are probably our guests' favorite," says Mrs. Higley.

DISCOVER MAIN STREET ARCADIA

The Higleys will also prepare a candlelight gourmet dinner, if notified in advance; however a summer package — a two-night stay with dinner (choice of baked chicken, pork chops, slow-roasted roast beef or Virginia ham with raisin sauce) — is priced at \$180.

Mary Margaret's Tea and Biscuit, operated by top-hat-and-tail-wearing Dennis Tyson and Bruce Neveau and open daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., offers a bona-fide tea-room experience that captures the grandeur of the Victorian era — settees, linen covered tables and not-too-feminine floral wallpaper. Guests sip on the restaurant's proprietary white tea blended with rose hip and citrus while noshing on crepes or its signature sandwich of smoked turkey, asparagus, Dijon and horseradish cheddar cheese. Because this is a tea room, it's almost obligatory to sample the scones, which are served with clotted cream and lemon curd or strawberry jam.

"We also have four quiches and wonderful English desserts like sticky toffee pudding, which we're known for," says Mr. Tyson. "We have guests who drive or fly in from Naples and West Palm Beach."

Arcadia lacks a true fine-dining restaurants; however, its locally owned eateries, including authentic Mexican food, capture the essence of the city. Wheelers, a mainstay since 1929, is where the locals hang out. The family-run restaurant, complete with a lunch counter and pictures of prized 4-H animals, has daily plate specials, fried chicken, a bacon cheeseburger and a Waldorf salad that could very well be the pride of the town. Barbecue, of course, is popular in this city whose stockyard proudly advertises "Beef. It's what's for dinner."

True to its cowboy and cattle roots Arcadia has a championship rodeo, with events offered throughout the year, and trail riding along Deep Creek Preserve's nine miles of equestrian paths. Canoe Outpost, just five minutes from downtown, allows visitors to explore and search for fossils along the Peace River.



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A state of mind as well as a place to visit

BY KAREN FELDMAN

cuisine@floridaweekly.com

Although there's water everywhere, there are no white sand beaches to be found on Pine Island. There aren't any traffic lights, movie theaters, chain hotels, waterfront high rises or big-box stores either.

What there is is an abundance of natural beauty and tranquility lying just off the Lee County coast.

Many Southwest Floridians have never set foot on this 17-mile-long stretch of land that sprawls between Cape Coral and the barrier islands of Captiva, North Captiva and Cayo Costa.

Although it's called an island, it's more than that. It comprises the communities of Bokeelia at the northern end, Pineland below that, Pine Island Center (considered the island's downtown region) in the middle and St. James City at the southern end. The fifth community, Matlacha (pronounced MAT-luh-SHAY), sits partially on Little Pine Island, just east of the main island, and partially on the mainland abutting the western edge of Cape Coral.

The 10,000 or so people who call it home are a colorful mix of commercial fishermen, farmers raising tropical fruits and palm trees and a growing number of artists and writers drawn to its quirky charms.

For the rest of us, Pine Island serves as a convenient getaway from the daily grind. A prime spot in which to adopt an island frame of mind is at Tarpon Lodge, a picturesque inn and restaurant perched on the edge of Pine Island Sound.

The main lodge dates to 1926 and houses nine guest rooms, a few with water views, as well as a restaurant and bar. The Island House, built on stilts, offers a dozen rooms, half of which have water views. For families or small groups, the one-bedroom cottage and two-bedroom boathouse have kitchenettes and a pull-out bed in the living room along with views of the water.

Enjoy a meal in the gracious dining room (hint: reserve a table just before sunset and take in Mother Nature's show over dinner) or drinks and live entertainment in the bar.

One of Pine Island's greatest charms is its ability to transport visitors back



COURTESY PHOTOS
Biking, kayaking and funky art are island favorites.

Rent a canoe or kayak and explore segments of the Great Calusa Blueway, a 190-mile canoe and kayak trail that meanders along Lee County's waterways and tributaries. (The annual Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival, which includes lots of water-

to an era when Florida's attractions weren't manmade.

Bring a boat and dock it at the inn or book a seat on a tour boat that heads to lunch at Cabbage Key — long credited as the inspiration for Jimmy Buffett's "Cheeseburger in Paradise" — shelling on Cayo Costa and nature watching along Pine Island Sound, where dolphins feed and frolic.

Spend a half or whole day fishing in Pine Island Sound with any of the seasoned charter captains who supply all the gear and a boatload of expertise on hooking a fish you can proudly take to a restaurant where chefs happily cook it for you. Some of the world's best tarpon fishing can be found in the waters just north of Bokeelia. Also plentiful are snook, redfish, snapper and grouper. For a more budget-conscious experience, cast a line from the Matlacha Bridge, known as "the World's Fishingest Bridge," because of the abundance of fish caught from the span and the multitude of anglers almost always found there.

DISCOVER NATURE PINE ISLAND

based and eco-friendly activities, is set for Oct. 29 through Nov. 7.)

The entrance to the Calusa Heritage Trail is just across the street from Tarpon Lodge, leading visitors along a path that passes shell mounds created by the ancient Calusa Indians and affording glimpses into the region's history.

Although summers are typically sleepy, Pine Island offers some hot-weather fun, particularly the annual Mangomania, a weekend-long celebration of one of the island's major crops. This year's festival is set for July 10 and 11.

No trip to Pine Island is complete without a visit to the colorful little fish houses in Matlacha's historic district along Pine Island Road. The waterfront bungalows now hold art galleries, boutiques and cafes that have contributed to the island the moniker Florida's Creative Coast.

On June 11, galleries in Matlacha, Bokeelia and St. James City are open late for Art Night, when artists are on hand to talk about their work and, in some cases, create it on the spot. Some galleries offer live music, wine and light refreshments as well, a fitting celebration for this free-wheeling community.

■ For more information on vacationing on Florida's Creative Coast, contact the Greater Pine Island Chamber of Commerce at 283-0888 or www.pineislandchamber.org.

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DISCOVER THE RIVER RIALTO HARBOR MARINA

A place where time stands still

BY LIBBY MCMILLAN
Special to Florida Weekly

We're betting that Alva's Rialto Harbor Marina will take the prize as this year's least-known staycation destination. Tucked away behind an island, on a lush oxbow of the Caloosahatchee, lies this stunning Olde Florida-style Garden of Eden. For your getaway pleasure, Rialto offers transient docks and a lovely guest cottage. The shade of towering oaks and a lush green landscape provides the chance to unplug in a natural setting worthy of a magazine.

Despite accommodating yachts up to 100 feet in length (a nice staycation option if you have one!) Rialto Harbor exudes a laid-back vibe that's anything but grandiose. An intriguing red barn, a porch swing that hangs from a 150-foot tall oak, and the gracious porch of the property's only guest cottage exude a welcome matched by visionary owners Bus and Nifty Hamilton. The Hamiltons, avid mariners, keep their own large vessel at one of 10 lovely docks along the oxbow's curve, and share their rural paradise with anyone ready to unwind.

A heated pool and cushioned tennis court seem like surprising bonuses on a property that caters to so few visitors at any one time. First-time guests can rarely anticipate



The carriage barn at Rialto Harbor Marina in Alva.

what fills the rest of the Rialto Harbor acreage, either, but soon discover six very happy horses, Maybeline the goat, several chickens, and Isabella, a miniature Sicilian donkey. Two horse barns, the carriage barn, a small but charming bath house, a picnic area, and the owners' own tin-roofed home are all scattered about this immaculately groomed property.

Bus Hamilton began creating his amazing freshwater respite in

1983. His yacht brokerage has been the engine that drove the labor-of-love project, and Hamilton still offers yacht design, management and brokerage services from his cozy office, although today he is more consumed with finding and refurbishing antique horse carriages, after his wife and daughter began racing carriage horses competitively. He is currently working on one formerly owned by none other than Brigham Young, and the red carriage barn that greets visitors is where Mr. Hamilton's passion keeps him busy most days.

Every inch of Rialto Harbor is a thing of beauty; even the simplest of things has been carefully considered and designed to fit in to the surroundings. Architect and family friend Steve Handley lives in a large riverfront home just outside the Rialto gates, and keeps a small office at the marina. He's been responsible for designing the welcoming Olde-Florida-style guest cottage; the Hamiltons' own tin-roofed home with its coral-rock chimneys; and all the barns. Mr. Handley has an obvious affinity for fine woodworking, as evidenced in his remarkable use of it, and attention to detail.

The property is awash with gleaming wood, from beadboard walls, to custom fireplace surrounds, to coffered ceilings, all created with a distinct nautical feel. Mr. Handley also thought like a space-efficient boat designer when laying out the guest cottage interior. He employed an open kitchen that still manages to feel like a galley, a bay window near the breakfast nook which gives the illusion of space, and the room's piece de resistance, the tightly-wound wooden staircase leading up to the second guest room.

The cottage leaves nothing desired, with its cozy ambience, full kitchen, oversized bath and tub, and inviting bedrooms full of handsome antiques and warm wood. While six could be accommodated, four is far better; two is ideal.

The guest cottage's back porch overlooks a large horse corral, and Hamilton has a nearby butterfly

garden planned. An unthinkable large ship's wheel anchors the front porch; something the couple "picked up in Cartagena." This side of the cottage faces the docks and makes a perfect place to read a book, play a hand of cards or sip a cocktail.

Rialto's guest cottage is just far enough from the docks and the stables for true privacy, but a short stroll puts guests at the pool, the shady picnic area or any one of the barns. There's even a small laundry on site, should your cabernet decide to get intimate with your favorite white shorts. If you paddle, by all means take your kayak or canoe.

Fishing gear will allow you to land your own entrée, but if your idea of a getaway does not include spatulas, the Alva Village Market marks the spot on Highway 80 where tiny Balsey Road leads to the marina. It offers fresh pizza, assorted casual food options, wine, beer and sodas. A full fridge in the cottage also gives the option of taking your own deli treats.

The wonderful cast of characters at Rialto Marina includes a quiet but supremely talented gardener named Frank. Frank moves about the property in a cowboy hat, the devoted steward for this fertile piece of riverfront. He caresses life and beauty from everything he touches, and 15 years of loving attention is apparent in this splendidly serene oasis. You'll hardly know what to photograph first — if you're so inclined — and just strolling about the grounds is a wonderful experience.

Night-blooming cirrus cling to some palms while others are ringed by profusions of bromeliads. Orchids hang from many a tree and the grass is soft and verdant, a barefoot pleasure. All one's senses come alive at Rialto. Patent leather's sheen draws the hand to caress an antique carriage. The smell of fresh hay in the stables is oddly evocative, and pleas-



The inviting guest cottage at Rialto Harbor.

ing. The mechanical purr of occasional skiffs is often accompanied by laughter and happy voices. The Hamiltons' beautiful Morgans nicker softly in the dark, while soft coos from the dove cage are lifted on the breeze and carried down river. Time stands still.

■ *Getting there: Take State Road 80 (Palm Beach Boulevard) nine miles east of I-75. Pass the Alva Village Market, make a U-turn on 80, then turn right (north) on Balsey Road. At the end of the road, the gate will be on your right. Ring the buzzer for entry. 1901 Balsey Road, Alva; 728-3036; VHF Channel 16.*

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A blend of old and upscale

BY NANJI THEORET

Special to Florida Weekly

Marco Island has that mixed personality Southwest Florida is known for: Upscale resorts and fine dining or old-school Florida, where sand, surf and Sundays at Stan's, a no-apologies dive bar on Goodland, are the big draws. The largest of the Ten Thousand Islands, this tropical paradise (it was purposely designed in the 1950s as the "Hawaii of the East") offers an eclectic mix of high-end and low-brow. Visitors can boat or angle for game fish aboard private yachts or retell their fish stories over \$2 beers at Jack's Lookout, a spit of a bar at the Marco River Marina, or play beer bong every Saturday night at the Sand Bar restaurant and bar.

Water is the main attraction here, and many of Marco's 100 miles of canals connect to the Gulf of Mexico. One of the island's oldest resorts, the Marriott Beach Resort Golf Club and Spa, is also one of its largest, with 727 rooms, suites and beachfront lanai accommodations in twin towers and low-rise buildings. And, as its name implies, the property offers the best of the beach and beyond — spa, golf and a wide sweep of crescent beach with sand so white, it practically glows at night.

Inside, the resort's signature lemongrass wafts through the lobby and a marble- and wood-clad gallery that seems to stretch for miles leads to exclusive shops and boutiques. World champion sand sculptor John Gowdy creates new works of art every four months in the main staircase landing, where large windows overlook a formal promenade, the sand and surf.

Resort guests enjoy the benefits of a \$225 million renovation and redesign that retained the property's original Balinese-inspired A-frame entry and shell mosaics while adding high-definition plasma TVs and 300-count bedding. Despite its grandiose, the resort offers plenty of quiet places, including the spa, which features a signature Balinese massage, body wraps and scrubs, facials and a full nail and hair salon. Relax on beach or poolside chaises while servers



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: A signature Marco Island sunset. Left: The Marriott Beach Resort, Golf Club and Spa is one of Marco Island's oldest.



deliver frosty pina colodas, among the best in Southwest Florida. Lets the sounds of surf and fountains lull you to sleep.

Shimmering sea-shaded mosaic tile, floating glass globes and blue-cove lighting create an under-the-sea ambience at Kurrents, the Marriott's fine-dining destination. Guests can choose padded banquettes, a seat at the exhibition kitchen or outside next to a cozy firepit. Start with a glass of wine or angel food cake martini (Stoli vanilla vodka, pineapple and 7-Up) and consider dessert first — the restaurant's signature chocolate soufflé requires advanced notice. The eclectic menu offers seafood, steaks, lamb and pork chops and Pan-Asian-influenced small plates, entrees and sides, including a decadent boursin and mascarpone lobster mac. Tea-scented biscuits, bagel rolls and muffin tops are served with Vermont butter. Finish with the soufflé, a vanilla Sambuca milkshake or ice cream drizzled with sauvignon sauce.

For a more party-pulsing atmosphere opt for Quinn's, offering gulf-view indoor and alfresco seating, live entertainment and nightly conch-blowing celebrations to wel-

DISCOVER THE WATER MARCO ISLAND

entific survey, these eco-cruises are identifying Marco's resident dolphin population and migratory patterns. The animals are identified by dorsal fin nicks, and passengers get to name any new finds — better than any T-shirt souvenir. A side trip includes a shelling stop at remote Keewaydin Island.

Make a pledge to sample Marco's local color — the boat-in Snook Inn, where locals dine alfresco at the chickee bar or under umbrella-shaded tables while savoring fresh Florida grouper and pickles plucked right from an old-fashioned barrel, or Stan's, which offers the area's largest party on any given Sunday.

Through Sept. 30, the Marriott is offering a "Flip for Paradise" two-night package that includes an 1120 FlipCam and accommodations in a tropical view room. Rates are priced from \$259 a night.

■ **Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort**, 400 South Collier Blvd.; 394-2511; www.marcoislandmarriott.com

■ **Dolphin Explorer Marco River Marina**, 951 Bald Eagle Dr.; 642-6899; www.dolphin-study.com

■ **Sand Bar**, 826 East Elckam Cir.; 642-3625

■ **Snook Inn**, 1215 Bald Eagle Dr.; 394-3313; www.snookinn.com

■ **Stan's Idle Hour**, 221 Goodland Dr. W.; 394.3041; www.stansidlehour.net

come the sunset.

For more active pursuits, try the off-site Bob Cupp-designed Rockery golf course, a bird sanctuary, or venture to the resort's water sports tiki hut and sign up for a guided Jet Ski tour of the Ten Thousand Islands' mangroves in search of dolphins, manatees and seabirds. Sea Excursion's three-hour Dolphin Explorer cruise, which embarks from the Marco River Marina, lets you continue your search of bottlenose dolphins. As part of a five-year sci-

\$5 off any Water Sports activity

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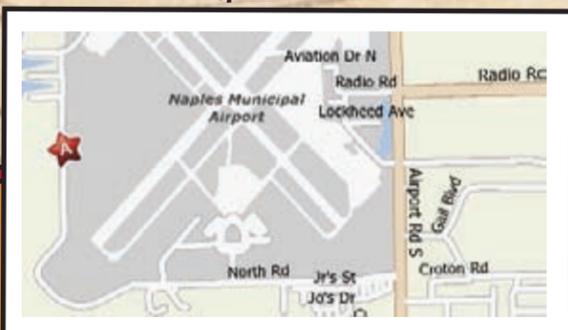
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