

NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY®

IN THE KNOW. IN THE NOW.

WEEK OF JULY 4-10, 2013

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ROCK ON

Rick Russell ▶
The Juice

Rock 'n' rollers reel in the years with a passion that never wanes

Vito Ameruso
TAT2

Deb Salyer
Deb & The Dynamics

A8

Activists work to curb candy-flavored tobacco use

BY GLENN MILLER
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Adults may never have heard of candy-flavored tobacco products, but their kids or grandkids have.

"They're kind of invisible except to kids," said Dr. Mary Bonnette, chairwoman of the Tobacco-Free Lee Coalition.

Many youngsters are aware these products are readily available and come in all sorts of flavors.

"Smells like grape soda," said Melissa Peacock, tobacco prevention specialist



with the Charlotte County Health Department. "Tastes like grape soda."

But these "invisible" products that taste

like grape soda or watermelon or blueberry candy or sour apple or chocolate are infused with something else — nicotine. The candy makes the tobacco more palatable to young tastes.

These products are not cigarettes. They include items such as chew, dip and snuff.

The product line includes dissolvable tobacco pellets called orbs. Then

SEE TOBACCO, A11 ▶

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Musical lessons

"Shrek: The Musical" teaches about diversity, acceptance.
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An evening with Opera Naples, and more fun around town.
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Garden center a go

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COMMENTARY

Weapon of mass construction



rogerWILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

A story lives only in the moment, a moment dressed in the past. Soon that story becomes history, where it carries on for as long as we can remember and act, translating new stories.

For that reason, the story of our Republic, like the story of a person, does not necessarily begin on its birthday — on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia.

Instead, it begins about 2,600 years earlier, when the Greek poet Homer first describes homophrosune in “The Odyssey,” a concept expanded by Aristotle.

Washed up on a beach at the knees of Nausica, Odysseus asks the gods to give her “a husband and a household, and ‘together-mindedness’ graced with virtue...for nothing higher or more noble exists than man and woman directing their household with ‘community of mind’ and feeling.”

Then, the wily adventurer concludes, “the greatest joy will be theirs in knowing friendship’s grace.”

I learned this in Rhode Island last week while listening to my nephew, Nick Romeo, a writer and classicist. He was toasting his sister, Lia, and her husband, Dan Ostrach, at their wedding. Nick translated the word homophrosune (pronounced homo-froon-ae) to mean “together-minded.”

Like-minded people, he said, may hold the same opinions. But people who remain together-minded in the most elegant Greek sense can disagree deeply, while taking

pleasure in the exchange of ideas.

They gain strength from such a sharing, which is what a good marriage ultimately requires for survival and longevity.

Although Nick has never been married, that may be the single wisest sentiment I’ve ever heard decanted for newlyweds.

As advice or revelation, it can carry the weight of a nation, too.

Shortly after the wedding, I drove with my family and friends to the rural New England home of military historian and replicator Mark Hilliard, an expert in the uniforms, habits and weapons of early America.

Mr. Hilliard supports his ongoing research as head of Heart of Oak Historical Services by outfitting film and TV productions, reenactors, national parks, and museums to recreate historic moments. He invited us to fire a .75 caliber musket with fixed bayonet, a reproduction of a type used during the Revolution.

Meanwhile, his father, the novelist and playwright Dr. Robert Hilliard, now 88, looked on silently. Dr. Hilliard, a combat veteran of World War II who carried an M-1 carbine (.30 caliber) in action, was wounded more than once as a 19-year-old at the Battle of the Bulge, and after.

All of it set me to thinking about American weapons, or more precisely, about American strength and American stories.

On the country’s climactic birthday 237 years ago this week in Philadelphia, the temperature never climbed above a cool 76 degrees, according to records kept by Thomas Jefferson. Which was probably lucky for the aromatically sensitive.

A group of wealthy old white men, no doubt sweating like hell and smelly from

the political heat alone, had gathered in a brick building now called Independence Hall to ratify a declaration not much longer than this column.

Preposterously, they married themselves to the notion that once-and-future folk from New England to the Carolinas should be accorded the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, no matter how hard-scrabble. Their insistence depended not just on muskets and their own bonhomie, but on the homophrosune of us, their progeny.

The demand was unprecedented and outrageous in the eyes of the British crown. Besides, blood had already been shed over the issue beginning 15 months earlier, on April 19, 1775.

That happened in a seven-mile stretch of clear-cut farm fields punctuated by trees and stone walls stretching from Lexington to the old North Bridge at Concord, in eastern Massachusetts.

After visiting the Hilliards, I drove there with my family — there where the new Republic began in earnest.

British troops had marched out from Boston, shot a few resisters on the green in Lexington at 5:30 in the morning, then marched over to Concord to find a cache of weapons.

At about 9:30 a.m., a larger force of Americans — they were well-trained farmers, artisans and merchants — met them at the narrow bridge and stopped them cold when they tried to come across.

Outnumbered, the British lost three men there and many more in their subsequent retreat back to Boston.

The powerful words of four authors who later lived around Concord — all inscribed on monuments or plaques near the North

Bridge — put the events of that day and future ones into perspective.

“By the rude bridge that arched the flood, their flag to April’s breeze unfurled, here once the embattled farmers stood, and fired the shot heard round the world,” wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson.

“They came three thousand miles and died, to keep the past upon its throne,” observed James Russell Lowell, describing the sharp sting of loss in a lost cause, for the red coats.

Louisa May Alcott, who lived a quarter-mile from the North Bridge and wrote prolifically until her death a century after the Revolution, called for a second revolution — this one for the rights of women.

Her plea is inscribed near the words of Henry David Thoreau, acknowledging (like she did) the great weakness of the Declaration of Independence: it’s hypocrisy. The problem would be remedied by future generations.

“Do we call this the land of the free?” Thoreau asked in 1854.

“What is it to be free of King George and continue (as) the slaves of King Prejudice? What is it to be born free and not to live free? What is the value of any political freedom, but as a means to moral freedom? Is it a freedom to be slaves or a freedom to be free of which we boast?”

That such writers can be celebrated as patriot-critics on July 4, 2013 — that together we can debate and answer their questions or any others about our country — speaks not just to muskets, rifles or bombs in defense of freedom, but to homophrosune.

Whatever form it takes, our own together-mindedness is the greatest weapon of mass construction ever invented. ■



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OPINION

Race preferences rumble on



richLOWRY

Special to Florida Weekly

The entrenched regime of racial preferences in American academia is a fit subject for study by the nation's top psychiatrists.

It's never OK to discriminate on the basis of race in American life, except when it is. Schools lionize the 1964 Civil Rights Act in their classrooms, and then violate it in their admissions offices.

This system is bad for the moral fiber of academic institutions, bad for the ideal of race blindness in America, and bad, the latest research suggests, for the minorities supposedly benefiting. It is good only for salving the guilty, race-obsessed consciences of university administrators and appeasing the PC gods and the usual interest groups.

The Supreme Court decided to let the dinosaur keep roaming the Earth, although it tightened up the standards in its 7-1 ruling. The court said that racial discrimination is permissible in fostering educational diversity, but schools have to prove that such discrimination is narrowly tailored.

In the majority opinion, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote, "Strict scrutiny does not permit a court to accept a school's assertion that its admissions process uses race in a permissible way without closely examining how the process works in practice." No, it will require "a careful judicial inquiry."

In other words, if you are wondering if a given school meets the Supreme Court-approved standard, there's an easy way to find out — sue and spend years trying to find out. The answer, by the way, will probably change the next time the Supreme Court deigns to hear the issue.

In the real world, there is little doubt that racial preferences are a failure.

"Large racial preferences backfire against many and, perhaps, most recipients," Richard Sander and Stuart Taylor Jr. write in their book "Mismatch," "to the point that they learn less and are likely to be less self-confident than had they gone to less competitive but still quite good schools." They note that "even though blacks are more likely to enter college than are whites with similar backgrounds, they will usually get much lower grades, rank toward the bottom of the class, and far more often drop out."

When racial preferences were ended

in California by referendum in 1996, disaster was supposed to ensue. *The New York Times* reports that enrollment of blacks and Hispanics in the University of California system dipped slightly from 4 percent and 15 percent; now the numbers are 4 percent and 25 percent. The state university has begun to reach down into middle schools to find promising students — minority and nonminority alike — and work to ensure that they are better prepared. This is affirmative action worthy of the name, based on improving students rather than checking a box.

It has begun to dawn on liberals that preferences are a clumsy and ineffectual social tool. In a *New York Times* column titled "The Liberals Against Affirmative Action," David Leonhardt notes research showing that preferences don't really help the poor. "In effect," he writes, "poor and middle-income students are rejected, while others with the same scores and grades — legacies, athletes and minorities, often from privileged backgrounds — are admitted."

Still, racial preferences rumble on, immune to logic or law. ■

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

The Supreme Court makes history: Two steps forward, one step back



amyGOODMAN

Special to Florida Weekly

The U.S. Supreme Court announced three historic 5-4 decisions the week of June 24. In the first, a core component of the Voting Rights Act was gutted, enabling Southern states to enact regressive voting laws that will likely disenfranchise the ever-growing number of voters of color. The second pair of cases threw out the federal Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, the legal travesty that defined marriage in federal law as only between a man and a woman, and effectively overturned California's Prop 8, which bans same-sex marriage. For those who struggle for equality and civil rights, these three decisions mark one brutal defeat and two stunning victories.

"What the court did ... is stab the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in its very heart," Georgia Congressman John Lewis said of the June 25 decision. "It is a major setback. We may not have people being beaten today. Maybe they're not being denied the right to participate or to register to vote. They're not being chased by police dogs or trampled by horses. But in the 11 states of the old Confederacy, and even in some of the states outside of the South, there's been a systematic, deliberate attempt to take us back to another period."

Lewis is the 73-year-old dean of the Georgia congressional delegation. As a young man, he led the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and was the youngest speaker to address the March on Washington 50 years ago. He recently recalled a signal moment in that struggle, appearing

on the "Democracy Now!" news hour:

"On March 7, 1965, a group of us attempted to march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to dramatize to the nation that people wanted to register to vote. ... In Selma, Alabama, in 1965, only 2.1 percent of blacks of voting age were registered to vote. The only place you could attempt to register was to go down to the courthouse. You had to pass a so-called literacy test. And they would tell people over and over again that they didn't or couldn't pass the literacy test."

What happened to those marchers as they tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge into Selma has entered the canon of American protest history. Lewis continued: "We got to the top of the bridge. We saw a sea of blue — Alabama state troopers — and we continued to walk. We came within hearing distance of the state troopers ... you saw these guys putting on their gas masks. They came toward us, beating us with nightsticks and bullwhips, trampling us with horses. I was hit in the head by a state trooper with a nightstick. I had a concussion at the bridge. My legs went out from under me. I felt like I was going to die. I thought I saw Death."

Lewis had his head bashed in, and was one of 17 seriously injured that day. He recovered and continued the struggle. Months later, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law.

Throughout his career, John Lewis has forged a solid record of fighting for civil rights — not just for African-Americans, but for all who suffer discrimination.

Which brings us to the second key decision from the Supreme Court. The court ruled unconstitutional the Defense of Marriage Act, which federally defined marriage as between

a man and a woman. Backing that up was another 5-4 decision that essentially overturns California's notorious Prop 8, which banned same-sex marriage. Soon, it will be legal for gay and lesbian couples to marry in the most populous state in the country.

Back when DOMA was being debated in 1996, with President Bill Clinton championing it and with bipartisan support in Congress, John Lewis spoke out against it with the same passion he showed in the struggle for voting rights. Lewis said then, on the floor of the House: "This bill is a slap in the face of the Declaration of Independence. It denies gay men and women the right of liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Marriage is a basic human right. You cannot tell people they cannot fall in love. I will not turn my back on another American. I will not oppress my fellow human being. I fought too hard and too long against discrimination based on race and color not to stand up against discrimination based on sexual orientation." After the DOMA decision, he reiterated, "It's better to love than to hate."

For John Lewis, human rights cannot be compromised, they are indivisible. Following his lead, people should channel the joy they feel for the marriage equality victories today to a renewed struggle for voting rights, for equality for all. ■

— Denis Moynihan contributed research to this column.

— Amy Goodman is the host of "Democracy Now!," a daily international TV/radio news hour airing on more than 1,000 stations in North America. She is the co-author of "The Silenced Majority," a *New York Times* best-seller.



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PROFILES IN PARADISE

Artist guided by divine hand in creating patriotic series



completing the painting, he was able to present a check for \$40,000 to the cause. "I'm so glad I could help out," he says.

Among those who proudly display "On Freedom's Wing" in their homes are actor Joe Montagna and Maj. Gen. Joe Engle. In 2003, Rick presented former President George Bush Sr. with a Master Edition canvas of the painting. Two years later, he met the former president in his Houston office to present him with Master Editions of "Reflections of Freedom" and "Liberty's Flight," the remaining pieces of the "American Freedom Series."

In the days following Sept. 11, 2001, Naples artist Rick Kelley found himself at his easel creating what would become one of the most important and impactful series of art in his career. The piece, "On Freedom's Wing," would be the beginning of his "American Freedom Series."

Frustrated like most Americans with the cruelty that had been bestowed on his country, Rick felt he had to do something. The seemingly simple search to buy a flag for display at his house became an exhaustive ordeal; all stores were sold out of Old Glory. When Rick's wife suggested that he paint a flag, he poured out "On Freedom's Wing."

"Usually I have in my mind what I am going to paint before I start, but with this piece everything seemed to come automatically. It was like something divine was guiding my hand as I was painting," the artist recalls. And when he finished painting the flag in the mountain, he adds, "I knew I had truly created something special."

He decided to make prints to sell and would donate 10 percent of all sales to the American Red Cross Liberty Disaster Relief Fund.

"I knew I would sell a few prints that would make for a small donation," he says. He's still shocked that four months after

Rick began his quest to be an artist out of a love for nature when he was just 10 years old. He continued to paint through his studies at Eastern Montana University and in 1980 began painting full-time as a professional.

Rick paints from his emotions and creates images that depict the beauty and mood of nature. An avid outdoorsman and naturalist, he donates much of his artwork to conservation fundraising efforts and other charitable organizations.

His newest project entails giving Southwest Florida families of fallen soldiers of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq their choice of one of the three prints in his "American Freedom Series." Find out more by calling him at (800) 949-4945 or by visiting www.KellyFineArt.com. ■

— Bob Harden is the producer and host of "The Bob Harden Show," airing from 7-8 a.m. weekdays at www.bobharden.com.

Talking points with Rick Kelley

Mentor: My high school art teacher, John Grengs.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? I always wanted to be an artist.

First job: At 14, I was a dishwasher at an Italian restaurant in Minnesota.

One thing on your bucket list: Scuba diving for lost treasure with my son Adam.

Next vacation destination: Whitefish, Mont., in August.

Skill or talent you wish you had: I would have liked to play professional hockey or baseball. I was good at both, but I pursued my art instead.

What makes you laugh: My children. They also make me cry tears of joy.

Advice for kids: Love everyone and pray for your enemies

Guilty pleasures: I don't have any yet.

Something you'll never understand: Wow. So many things: How people can take from each other knowing that a greater satisfaction comes from giving. How the dignity of human life has become minimized to a point that our wants are more important than doing what's right.

Pet peeve: When someone leaves the cap off the toothpaste.

What are you most proud of? My children, watching them grow in faith, values and morals.



COURTESY PHOTO

Rick Kelly standing in front of his "On Freedom's Wing" painting.

What the Paradise Coast really needs: More industry to help lessen the tax burden of its citizens.

Favorite thing about the Paradise Coast: Saltwater fishing.

What you miss about the Paradise Coast when you're away: My kids, and the warmth when I do shows up north for too long.



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Construction begins next month on new visitor center at the Garden

Naples Botanical Garden has received a \$500,000 grant from the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs, to help with construction of the Eleanor and Nicholas Chabraja Visitor Center. Groundbreaking by general contractor Manhattan Construction for the \$15 million project is planned for early August.

Designed by Texas-based Lake/Flato Architects, the center will be surrounded by new garden vignettes designed by famed landscape architect Raymond Jungles. Set to open in the fall of 2014,

the center will increase the Garden's capacity for educational exhibits, programs and other events. The café, ticketing and retail spaces also will be enhanced.

Site preparation is under way and includes the relocation of many palms and trees and the addition of construction fencing. The Garden remains open for visitors, however.

Summer hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. For the latest construction information, visit www.naplesgarden.org. ■

Before school starts, it's time to collect necessary supplies

Summer is in full swing, but area businesses and nonprofit organizations are beginning to collect school supplies for children to take back to the classroom come fall. According to the website for Collier County Public Schools, more than 63 percent of local students (more than 27,500 children) qualify for free and reduced-priced lunch. No doubt those children's families cannot afford basic school supplies.

Among the most-needed items are: glue sticks, crayons and markers, index cards, pens and pencils, erasers, paper (lined and also plain paper for printers), two-pocket folders, spiral notebooks, binders and rulers.

Fifth Third Bank locations throughout Collier County are collecting sup-

plies that will be distributed through the schools. To find the closest Fifth Third location, visit www.53.com.

The Shelter for Abused Women & Children hopes to collect and fill 500 backpacks with back-to-school supplies to give to children of Shelter clients throughout the school year. In addition to the items above, the Shelter welcomes backpacks and lunch boxes, Kleenex and hand sanitizers, gift cards to Walmart, Target and Payless Shoes and new school clothing.

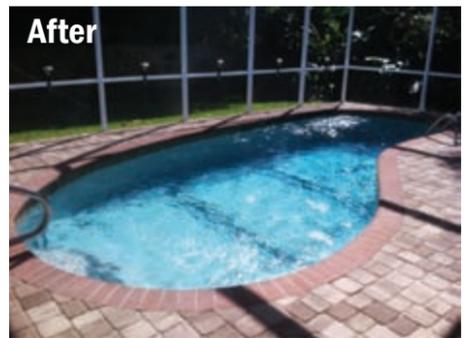
Donations for the Shelter can be dropped off at Options Thrift Shoppe, 968 Second Ave., between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday. For more information, call 775-3862 or visit www.naplesshelter.org. ■

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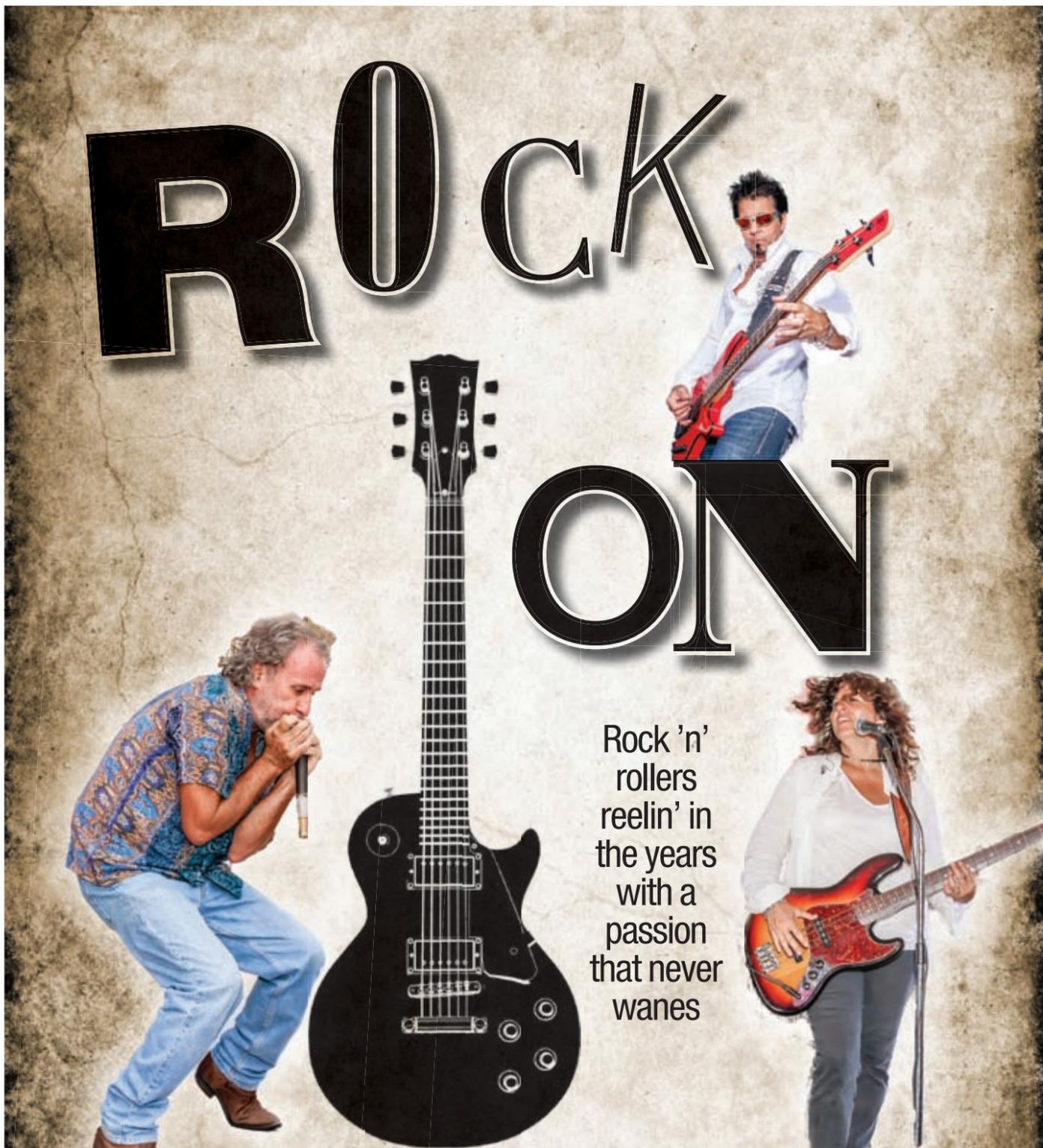


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Rock 'n'
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with a
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that never
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BY ATHENA PONUSHIS • aponushis@floridaweekly.com

DEB SALYER HAS BELTED OUT “ME AND BOBBY MCGEE” MORE TIMES THAN JANIS JOPLIN EVER sang it. She’s been singing it on stage ever since she was a teenager, entertaining her daddy’s request.

But when she wants to sing it now, she knows she’d better do it during her first set. If she waits until the second set, the song will be too rough on her voice.

She won’t even attempt “Piece of My Heart” anymore.

Ms. Salyer, the front woman, lead singer and bass slinger of Deb & the Dynamics, no longer drinks Jagermeister. She drinks vodka (less fattening, she says). And she spends more money on her hair and facials than she does on music equipment.

“It’s tough getting older in a young world,” she says. As she ages, her voice gets lower and lower, like Etta James, and she has to find different ways to sing the songs she’s always sung.

“That’s what happens when you get old,” she says. “Your ears get bigger and your voice gets lower.”

Mick Jagger might be back on tour, “but he’s not singing five nights a week,” she quips, finishing off her vodka-splash-of-cranberry before stepping up to the mike in the corner of a Fort Myers Beach tiki bar.

In black jeans, studded boots and a white V-neck under a white button-down, unbuttoned, Ms. Salyer looks like a real rock star. She runs her fingers up and down her bass guitar and starts to play the blues. When her rasp-worn voice chimes in, it sounds more wise than weathered. She kicks up her leg. She shakes her head. She raises her

eyebrows. She struts and she smiles, looking just good-girl and bad-girl enough.

A fan whirring at the base of the microphone stand turns her untamed reddish curls into wild, Vanity-Fair-photo-worthy, rock-star hair.

Ms. Salyer plays to a crowd of retirees who have been working on their retired tans. Women in sundresses, still flaunting toe rings. Men wearing Aloha shirts, still smoking cigarettes. A biker walks in, eight rubber bands lined down his ponytail. He looks around the joint and nods his head in approval. A waitress boogies down at the drink station. Ms. Salyer sings to them all.

“We are Deb and the Dynamixxxxxxxx,” she stretches out. “We’re here ‘til 9,” she tells them, “cause in Florida, we all go to bed by 10.”

Then she introduces her aging rock ‘n’ roll nemesis: “This is Robert McGee, the song.”

The crowd hears her intensifying rasp: “Busted flat in Baton Rouge, waitin’ for a train/And I’s feelin’ nearly faded as my jeans ...”

The crowd’s loving it. Dancing at their tables. Running their hands over

to drive coast-to-coast, shred her bass and wear spandex — and suddenly, the lyrics take on new meaning.

“You know feelin’ good was good enough for me/Good enough for me (and my rock ‘n’ roll dream). Yeah, yeah.”

With life and love and rock ‘n’ roll not living up to the super-star expectations of her childhood, Ms. Salyer, now 48, still sings: “He’s lookin’ for that home and I hope he finds it,” for ambition does not age, even when the road brings you nothing.

“Nothing. That’s all that Bobby left me, yeah.”

Ms. Salyer might not have made much of a name for herself beyond Southwest Florida, but she’s made a living. With her arms outstretched, she beseeches the crowd, “C’mon. Help me sing it, ‘La la la, la la la la, la la la, la la la.’”

The band breaks into a jam session. The 80-year-old saxophone player picks up the tambourine. The 19-year-old drummer hides his wide eyes behind sunglasses. Ms. Salyer inhales a big breath before the cocaine bump of the song: “Lord, I’m calling my lover! Calling my man! I said I’m calling my lover just the best I can! C’mon.” Her neck veins pulsing, throbbing, she strains, “Hey, hey, hey, Bobby McGee! Yeah! Whew!”

A Peter Pan profession

Ms. Salyer doesn’t have a day job. Her nights play out exactly as one would think: She rocks out, throws back a couple of cocktails, gets paid and goes home. Her fans are called Deb-heads.

Other aging rockers in Southwest Florida quit the band way back when to go to school. But they circled back, not quite able — or willing — to shake rock ‘n’ roll. Now they play gigs in Naples, Fort Myers and Punta Gorda until midnight and wake up the next morning to go play bankers, doctors, lawyers again.

These rockers have grandchildren. But being in a band gives them some kind of Fountain of Youth elixir. Physically they might change, their fingers might not be as nimble, but their ambition stays the same: to be a rock star. And in that way, rock ‘n’ roll proves to be a Peter Pan profession. When you play the music you grew up to, it carries you back to that part of you that does not change.

These rockers used to play for the dream; now some play to prove they’re not the stereotype. Professionals you would never suspect, dressing in ways you would never expect them to dress, are out to prove that they can rock.

To them, it’s not about the money; it’s about being good enough to be in a band.

“We make choices, I guess, based on the talents that we perceive ourselves to have. And if you’re not confident in your talent, then you probably don’t make that choice,” says Bob Sizemore, a private wealth advisor at FineMark National Bank & Trust who rocks out as the rhythm guitarist for the band Redemption.

Mr. Sizemore’s mother bought him his first electric guitar at Sears & Roebuck when he was 13. Apparently, she didn’t know enough about electric guitars to know that he also needed an amplifier. His uncle, an electronics repairman, rigged it up to the family’s Curtis Mathes stereo.

The young teen played his guitar around the house for a couple of years, but gave it up as he grew more interested in playing baseball and chasing girls. He didn’t play a guitar again until he turned 50.

His son had gone away to college, and Mr. Sizemore was cleaning out the boy’s closet when he came across the



ATHENA PONUSHIS / FLORIDA WEEKLY
Dave Neuser works at ABC-7 and performs with the band Redemption.

their arms to warm the shivers from her singing.

“Freedom’s just another word for nothing left to lose ...”

She transports them back to that time when they were free spirits, young lovers running together, until the world tore them apart to be heartbroken on their own.

Replace Bobby McGee with Ms. Salyer’s lifelong rock ‘n’ roll dream — the one she skipped out on college for, jumping in a van with an all-girl band

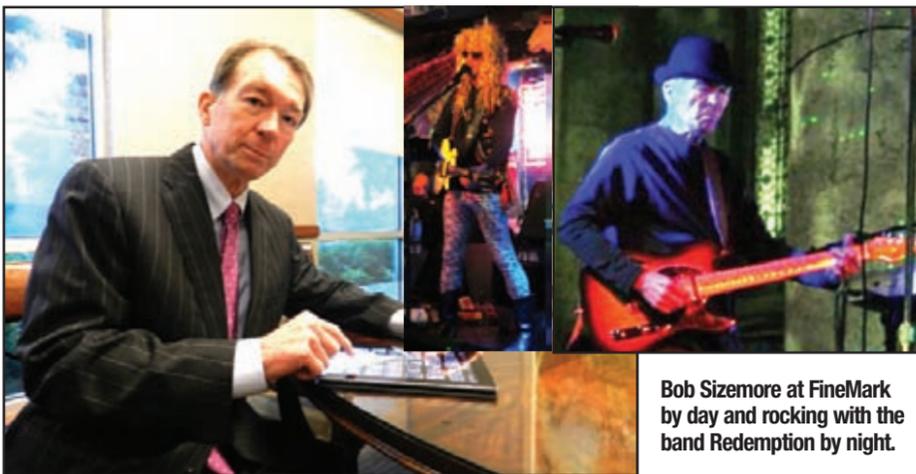


VANDY MAJOR / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Deb & The Dynamics

“We make choices, I guess, based on the talents that we perceive ourselves to have. And if you’re not confident in your talent, then you probably don’t make that choice.”

— **Bob Sizemore**, a private wealth advisor at FineMark National Bank & Trust who rocks out as the rhythm guitarist for the band Redemption



Bob Sizemore at FineMark by day and rocking with the band Redemption by night.

ATHENA PONUSHIS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

electric guitar and amp he had bought for him. He plugged it in and started playing around with it. He recalls thinking, “You know, I’m making enough money now, I could have a decent guitar if I wanted one.” So he went straight to the music store and bought an Ovation Celebrity 12-string acoustic/electric guitar.

Mr. Sizemore played at home for seven years. He was working at Merrill Lynch at the time. Turned out one of his work buddies played the guitar, too. And another played the drums. They formed a group quickly enough to play the Merrill Lynch holiday party out at Cabbage Key.

“We started playing and it was like everybody was shocked,” he says. “Everybody we worked with was shocked that we had any talent at all, I guess.”

The group stayed together long enough to play that one gig. Plenty of tryouts and breakups later, Mr. Sizemore, 57, has learned the toughest part about being in a band is staying together.

It took him four or five years, but Mr. Sizemore found a group that gelled. In 2011, Redemption played its first gig at Miceli’s Restaurant on Pine Island. It was pouring down rain and the band worried no one would show. The night proved to be standing room only. By the time they had played 10 songs, the manager had booked the band to come back.

“I’ve gotten beyond proving anything,” Mr. Sizemore says of playing in a rock ‘n’ roll band. “I do think it’s a really good stress reliever. It’s a way to let it all hang out ... dress like you never would dress at work, wear a fedora and dark sunglasses and pretend you’re something that you’re really not. I think it’s just an opportunity to do something you never thought you would do.”

He can’t help but draw parallels between his own background and that of one of his idols, Tom Petty: “He was born in 1950, small town, poor family — same as me, only he did not have the options I had. I was academically smart. I had baseball talent. I don’t think he



Richie Ianuzzi of The Juice

SEE ROCKERS, A10 ►

ROCKERS

From page 9

liked school. He didn't have any physical talent, so (playing rock 'n' roll) was all he knew how to do. And thank God he did what he did ... I was too practical, I guess, and looked at what could I earn."

Redemption lead guitarist Dave Neuser, 56, also works as the master control chief operator for ABC-7. He went down the school path at his fork in the rock 'n' roll road, too.

Mr. Neuser joined his first band, The Foreign Affairs, when he was 12. "That was before Foreigner, so we were onto something there," he says. Although he started out on drums, the lure of guitar playing stole him away. Heightened by influences including Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and Jimmy Page, lead guitar became the dream.

"Oh, yeah. It's still my dream," he says. "I figure we all want to be rock stars deep down. But it's just so tough. You have to be with a bunch of good guys and you have to write some really good music to make it in the business."

Up in New York, Mr. Neuser was in a band and in college at the same time. They were playing out, they had a chic singer, things were swell. But Mr. Neuser wasn't coming home 'til 3 a.m. when he had an 8 a.m. class. "I couldn't do it," he says. "I had to quit the band."

He knows it's tough to second guess yourself, but Mr. Neuser will always wonder, "What would have happened if we stuck together?"

Playing with Redemption, Mr. Neuser says he's in it for the long haul now.

"Being the central part of everybody having a good time, seeing people dancing and laughing and cheering ... there's nothing like it," he says. "You're the one responsible for that moment."

Portrait of a Rocker

Richie Ianuzzi, drummer for the blues band The Juice, looks like a rocker. He has the scruff, the swagger and the style. Now 57, he played his first gig at age 14 for some Toronto firefighters on New Year's Eve. He made \$300 that night. He thought he was on his way to the moon.

As soon as he graduated high school, he hit the road with his band, Trigger Ledge. They toured for five years. They got a recording contract (he still has the reel-to-reel tapes of the first time the band was recorded).

"I saw this band taking off," Mr. Ianuzzi says. "We were booked with the same agency as The Guess Who and Rush. We were on the bottom of the roster ... but I thought we were going to be rock stars, Canadian rock stars."

"We had a manager. We had a stylist come in and an image consultant and the whole bit. It was happening so fast ... They were grooming us ... I thought we were going to take off."

But egos got in the way. The band broke up. Mr. Ianuzzi thought his life was over. Then he enrolled at Berklee College of Music in Boston.

After years of playing in bands and producing bands, recording radio jingles and documentary film scores, Mr. Ianuzzi moved to Southwest Florida in 1989. He started the Naples Institute of Music for students who wanted to learn to play contemporary or classical music, as well as good old rock 'n' roll.

He scored a gig at a bar in downtown Fort Myers by telling the owner a little white lie: He handed the man a cassette tape and said it was his group — which it was, except the group was back in Boston.



Vito Ameruoso and Geoff Schmith of TAT2

VANDY MAJOR / FLORIDA WEEKLY



The Juice

VANDY MAJOR / FLORIDA WEEKLY

"You have this band here?" the bar owner questioned.

"Yeah," Mr. Ianuzzi fibbed. Then he scurried to put together a blues band. Calling themselves The Mambo Brothers, they recorded a radio spot: "Tonight at the Brick Bar: The Mambo Brothers. One night only."

The gig went on for years, then some of the guys butted heads. When Mr. Ianuzzi finally split from the band, he says, he cried for a couple of months — and then formed The Juice.

"No ego problems," he says of his band made up of medical professionals, a mother, a schoolteacher and a couple of professional musicians. "We only play a couple of times a month because of everybody's schedule, but we can go three months without playing together, come back and the band's on fire. It's like riding a bike, or like a friend that you haven't seen in 20 years but when you see them it feels like you just saw them yesterday. It's that kind of thing."

The Juice features a lineup of well known local musicians, including Lynn Richardson, Joe Connors, Larry Hobbs, Ernie Cantu, Doug Simonds and Rick Russell. The band has opened for Tower of Power and shared the stage with Ziggy Marley & the Wailers.

Mr. Ianuzzi says he could have pursued greater ambitions, he could have gone to California and tried to further

his dreams as a drummer, but he had a family and that was his responsibility. He worked in construction and in restaurants by day and played music for \$100 to \$200 a night. He thought he could make a living, and he did make a living.

His children grew up going into clubs with the band, ordering Shirley Temples with extra cherries. Now two of them are at university on music scholarships.

"What are you going to do at this point in your life? I still think there's something, I still think there's good stuff to come," he says.

Mr. Ianuzzi's music has moved from his dream to his solace to his therapy. "The minute I start playing music, I forget everything else," he says. "I'll never stop playing music. Never, never ... I want to die on my drum stool. That's the way I want to go."

Brushes with fame

As far as rock 'n' roll goes, bass player Vito Ameruoso, 53, hangs on tight to this sentiment: "Don't stop 'til you're dead. Chase the dream!"

The Port Charlotte resident, who looks as Italian as his name, grew up playing in a band with his three brothers. They called themselves Ameruoso, which he has tattooed on his left wrist, same side as his heart.

"I say this lightly because we became friends later on, but we could have been Jon Bon Jovi's band."

— Vito Ameruoso,
TAT2

When Ozzy Osbourne lost Randy Rhoads to a plane crash, he wanted one of Mr. Ameruoso's brothers to play for him. When David Lee Roth left Van Halen, Eddie Van Halen wanted the same Ameruoso brother to play for him. So did David Lee Roth.

"He said no, he couldn't do it, we had hit records happening," Mr. Ameruoso remembers. "If he was to leave us, we would not have had what we had going on. We had two hit records on the Top 20 Billboard."

Mr. Ameruoso has been ever so close to fame. He worked with Bob Williams, family to Hank; Jay Black of Jay & the Americans; and Billy Joel. He toured with Joan Jett. He and his brothers sold out The Rainbow Room in New York City and The Whiskey on Hollywood's Sunset Strip. They racked up a gold and a platinum record.

"I say this lightly because we became friends later on, but we could have been Jon Bon Jovi's band," says Mr. Ameruoso, reminiscing on the day he and his brothers auditioned to be featured on a compilation album. Up-and-coming Bon Jovi went to the same tryout. He was a solo guy, hiring musicians. "Run-away" made the album. Ameruoso did not.

Thinking of all the days it just didn't work out for him, thinking of all the days he got so close, Mr. Ameruoso says, "You go to bed. If you're disappointed, you leave it to chance. The next day you wake up. You're ready to chase your life. The train's leaving, there's no waiting. Hook your arm on and let's go, because today's a new chance, a different chance to chase the same dream."

When his band broke up, his family broke up. Mr. Ameruoso moved down to Port Charlotte and did not play music for eight years.

"I was so disheartened," he says. "People have their fall from fame. You've heard it in songs, you've heard about it: What goes up must come down. If you come down and you come down gracefully, you can live with that. We didn't come down gracefully."

So Mr. Ameruoso decided to get back up. Mr. Ameruoso now makes up one half of the duo TAT2. His partner Geoff Schmith plays guitar. Both men sing. Last March, they auditioned for "The Voice," singing a Bon Jovi number.

"When we hit the chorus, the whole place was echoing. 'Whoa, livin' on a prayer,' singing with us," he says. The crowd loved it, but TAT2's rendition didn't work for the NBC powers that be that day. The ballad does, however, bring applause and tips when they perform on the waterfront of Fort Myers Beach.

The two deliver the classic Bon Jovi tune in a more acoustic way, holding out the notes and bending their backs as they play their guitars with emotion. Substitute romantic love with the ageless love of rock 'n' roll, and again the lyrics take on new meaning: "Whoa, we're halfway there/Whoa, livin' on a prayer." ■

TOBACCO

From page 1

there are sticks that look like toothpicks and strips that look like gum or breath strips or candy but contain nicotine.

"They mask the harsh taste of tobacco," said Andrea Sparano, who coordinates Students Working Against Tobacco for the Collier County Health Department.

Folks venturing online to www.tobaccofreeflorida.com can find this headline: "Death Never Tasted So Sweet."

Under it is an illustration of a skull that looks a bit like something from "Pirates of the Caribbean." But Captain Jack Sparrow can't rescue somebody with cancer.

Tobacco prevention advocates

throughout Southwest Florida and beyond are spreading the word about tobacco-flavored products.

The Lee County Commission recently passed a resolution encouraging retailers "to voluntarily restrict the sale and marketing of candy-flavored tobacco. ..."

This follows on the heels of other such resolutions in Collier County, Everglades City, Marco Island, Bonita Springs and Fort Myers Beach and up the west coast of Florida to the little town of Safety Harbor in Pinellas County and many others.

These resolutions, though, are just that.

"They don't have any teeth," Ms. Sparano said.

The resolutions are not ordinances or laws, so the products remain on shelves in many convenience stores and gas stations.

"They're in any convenience store," Ms. Peacock said.

They may be invisible to adults but many kids know about them and have at least experimented with the products.

They may not be old enough to buy them but underage youngsters can find ways to buy cigarettes or alcohol the way their grandparents and great-grandparents may have first experimented with a beer or a cigarette. It's the same now as it was in 1963 or in 1913: Kids often find ways.

"They get it from social sources," Ms. Peacock said.

By that, Ms. Peacock means older friends and family members. Ms. Peacock said in Charlotte County, 86 percent of under-age users get the tobacco from a "social source."

Then, they may be on their way to a lifetime of tobacco use.

"It's known to be a starter product," Ms. Sparano said.

The Florida Youth Tobacco Survey was conducted in 2010 and updated each of the past two years found use of the products trending down. In 2010, 17.7 percent of respondents admitted trying flavored tobacco products. That was down to 13.9 percent in 2012. In 2010, 8.5 percent said they were currently using the stuff and by 2012 that percentage was down to 6.4.

The use may be more widespread, though, than the state study indicated. One study estimated 23 percent of 17-year-olds used candy-flavored tobacco products.

Melissa Peacock, Dr. Mary Bonnette, Andrea Sparano and others will continue trying to get the message out about candy-flavored tobacco products.

Even if many adults don't know they exist. ■

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Registration to cover the cost of supplies is \$14 per person, \$12 for AARP members. Reservations are essential and can be made by calling the number with each session. Here's what's coming up:

■ **Tuesday and Wednesday, July 9:** Noon to 3 p.m. at South County Regional Library, 21100 Three Oaks Parkway in Estero; 498-5820.

■ **Tuesday, July 16:** 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Christus Victor Lutheran Church, 15600 N. Tamiami Trail, Naples; 269-6050.



■ **Monday, July 29:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, 15600 Tamiami Trail; (866) 686-4364. ■

Local writers to discuss news, novels, nonfiction

Marco Island residents and authors Don Farmer and Tom Williams, both former journalists, are on tap to share stories about their forays into writing at the next IberiaBank "In the Round" presentation Thursday, July 11, at the bank's Naples headquarters, 3838 Tamiami Trail N. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.



Farmer



Williams

laboration with fellow TV journalist Chris Curle. Mr. Williams, a former feature writer, recently released "Surrounded by Thunder," a non-fiction historical narrative about the golden age of the American

space program. His first book, "Lost and Found," was published in 2008.

Mr. Farmer wrote the recently released murder mystery "Deadly News" in col-

laboration with fellow TV journalist Chris Curle. Mr. Williams, a former feature writer, recently released "Surrounded by Thunder," a non-fiction historical narrative about the golden age of the American space program. His first book, "Lost and Found," was published in 2008. Attendance at "In the Round" presentations is free, but seating is limited and reservations are required. Call 403-5123. ■

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD
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Sieging cheaters

As many as 50 exam monitors were forced to take cover at a high school in Zhongxiang, China, in June, fending off outraged students (and some parents) who hurled insults and stones at them after the monitors blocked cheating schemes on the all-important national “gaokao” exams. (It was “siege warfare,” and eventually “hundreds” of police responded, according to a dispatch in *The Daily Telegraph* of London.) Metal detectors had found secret transmit-

ters and contraband cellphones used by groups beaming in exam answers from outside. Independent proctors had been assigned because of longstanding suspicions that the schools’ own proctors routinely enabled cheating (with results such as the 99 identical papers submitted in one subject on the previous year’s exam). Said one student (in the mob of about 2,000), noting how widespread cheating is nationally, “There is no fairness if you do not let us cheat.” ■

Things people believe

■ Sheriffs and government deed-recorders in several states have reported annoying attempts recently by “Moorish American nationals” to confiscate temporarily vacant houses (often mansions), moving in without inhibition, changing the locks, and partying joyously — based on made-up documents full of gobbledygook and stilted legalese granting them sovereignty beyond the reach of law-enforcement. There is a venerable Moorish Temple Science of America, but these trespassers in Florida, Maryland, Tennessee, and other states are from fanciful offshoots that demand reparations (usually in gold) for Christopher-Columbus-era Europeans having stolen “their” land. A North Carolina police investigator told *The Washington Post* in

March that “every state” is experiencing the “Moorish American” invasion.

■ Britain’s Anomalous Mind Management Abductee Contactee Helpline is the nation’s “weirdest” support group, wrote the *Daily Mirror* in June, providing a range of services to victims of kidnapping by extraterrestrials and other haunting incidents to about 1,500 people a year, according to co-founder Miles Johnston. AMMACH uses an ordinary wall-stud detector to locate bodily implants and employs magnetic field meters and mineral lamps to identify “signatures” left on a skin’s atoms by visits to another dimensional reality, Mr. Johnston explained. “We are under the threat of termination as a species if we do not get this sorted out.” ■

Cliches comes to life

Among the character witnesses in May at the New York City sex-trafficking trial of alleged pimp Vincent George Jr., 33, and his father were three of the younger man’s ladies, who praised him unconditionally to the jury as a good father to the children they bore for him and as the person responsible for helping them kick their drug habits. Heather Keith, 28, and Danielle Geissler,

31, referred to each other as Vincent Jr.’s “wife-in-law.” Ms. Geissler admitted that George (“Daddy”) slapped her around a bit, explaining that they both “slapped each other around sometimes but never over work or staying in the (prostitution) life.” (Three weeks later, the Georges were acquitted of sex trafficking, although convicted of money-laundering.) ■

Oops!

Tim Blackburn, 50, fell off a ladder in Stockton-on-Tees, England, in 2007, and shattered his arm so badly that doctors had to remove four inches of bone and attach a metal scaffold around his arm that took six years to heal completely (and

then only because of help from a cutting-edge ultrasound procedure). In May 2013, one day after he got a clean bill of health, Mr. Blackburn tripped over his dog and tumbled down the stairs in his home, and his arm “snapped like a twig,” he said. ■

Bright ideas

■ Technology companies are making great strides in odor-detection robots, valuable in identifying subtle scents ranging from contaminants in beer brewing to cancerous tumors in the body. And then there is CrazyLabo in Fukuoka, Japan, which is marketing two personal-hygiene robots, available for special occasions such as parties, according to a May BBC News report. One detector, shaped as a woman’s kissable head, tests breath odor and responds (e.g., “smells like citrus”; “there’s an emergency tak-

ing place”). The other, resembling a dog, checks a person’s feet and can either cuddle up to the subject (no odor) or appear to pass out.

■ The local council in Brunete, Spain, near Madrid, has seen a radical drop in unscooped dog droppings after employing volunteers to find the names of derelict dogs. They then matched the dog with the town’s dog registrations to obtain the owners’ addresses, then mailed them packages containing their dogs’ business (terming it “lost property”). ■

Perspective

Elementary school teacher Carie Charlesworth was fired recently by Holy Trinity School near San Diego, Calif. — with the only reason given that her ex-husband has threatened to kill her. After a January weekend in which Ms. Charlesworth was forced to call police three times because of the threats, the husband had shown up the next day in Holy Trinity’s parking lot to see her, provoking officials to immediately put

the school in lockdown. In a termination letter, officials noted that Ms. Charlesworth’s students are constantly at risk from the ex-husband, that her restraining order against him is obviously not a deterrent, and that they thus “cannot allow” her to continue her career at the school, according to a report by San Diego’s KNSD-TV. (Battered-women support groups, of course, were horrified at the school’s decision.) ■

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Each year, 35 million people want to quit smoking. Almost half attempt to quit on their own but fail without the benefit of some kind of nicotine replacement program.

A free class for smokers who want to kick the habit is set for 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 25, at Hazelden, the non-profit addiction treatment center at 950 Sixth Ave. N. Class facilitator is behavioral health coach Eliseo Rangel, a state-certified tobacco treatment specialist.

To sign up or for more information, call Theresa Feller at Hazelden, 659-2367, or e-mail tfeller@hazelden.org. ■

Need for blood donors remains

Donations of blood slow to a trickle during the summer months in Southwest Florida, but the need for blood of all types does not. Donors are urged to take the time to donate at the Community Blood Center or its bloodmobile.



The center is on the first floor of the NCH Medical Plaza Building at 311 Ninth St. N., next to the NCH parking garage. Complimentary valet parking is offered for all blood donors. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday.

In Bonita Springs, the CBC bloodmobile makes a regular visit to the parking lot at Sunshine Plaza on the second Monday of the month. Look for it next from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 8.

Here are some additional stops for the bloodmobile coming up:

■ **Friday-Saturday, July 5-6:** 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Sembler Plaza, corner of Airport Road and Naples Boulevard (donors get a complimentary movie pass).

■ **Monday, July 8:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sunshine Plaza, Bonita Springs.

■ **Thursday, July 11:** 3-5 p.m. at the Waldorf Astoria, Naples.

■ **Friday, July 12:** 7-11 a.m. at Riviera Golf Estates near the recreation center.

■ **Friday, July 12:** 1-3 p.m. at the Naples Municipal Airport.

■ **Sunday, July 14:** 8 a.m. to noon at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church.

Donors can safely give blood every 56 days. The minimum age to give blood is 16 (parental consent required). Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds, should eat and be well hydrated prior to giving blood and must present photo ID.

For more information, call 624-4120 or visit www.givebloodcbc.org. ■

Book outlines a lively program for spiritual detox and renewal

BY PHIL JASON

Florida Weekly Book Critic

"Dancing in Rhythm with the Universe," by Barbara Miller. Barbara & Company. 186 pages. \$14.95 trade paperback.



Miller

Most self-help books offer ideas that aren't really new. The value of a motivational guide has to do with presentation. Organization, accessibility and authority can lead to a successful presentation of familiar concepts. The author's voice and the ways in which the author engages the reader are also determining factors.

On all these issues, Barbara Miller's "10 Steps to Choreographing Your Best Life" is strikingly effective. She'll make her primary readers — women who seek encouragement and the tools to empowerment — actually pay attention so that her advice, although familiar enough, can now sink in.

Ms. Miller, who has lived and worked in Naples for many years, is concerned with women who have lost the keys to self-esteem, who have repeated unsuccessful patterns in their relationships and reached, inevitably, stasis and despair. Tempted to interpret their predicament as caused by outer circumstances and other people, they have to learn how to take responsibility for their lives and their happiness.

The author carefully leads them back into themselves to convince them they have always had — and neglected — the tools to live the lives of their dreams. The missing ingredient has been gaining control of the knowledge, skills and tools, and then developing them further.

Ms. Miller does not allow her reader simply to accept blame for her unhappiness. Blame is not really the issue, and wallowing in it means looking backward. However, the past cannot be changed. Meaningful, strategic commitments in the present, confidently

put into action, can create a successful future. Mantras help. Thoughts and language make a difference on the road to action, accomplishment and well being.

Through the book's 10 chapters, the author develops the dance metaphor by breaking her counsel into bite-sized portions. The chapters are not truly steps (well, perhaps they are dance steps) in that the order is not essential. Each chapter reinforces the key ingredients for bringing effective, positive change into one's life. In addition, each chapter supplies new insights and centers of focus. Different readers will find the clues, incentives and motivating impulses that they need in different chapters. Some will be helped

jargon and communicates her powerful commitment to her mission. She not only preaches the therapeutic power of laughter, but also injects her wise and necessarily sober counsel with bursts of humor and wit.

Ms. Miller's authority comes from acts of intimacy, revelations about her own troubles earlier in her life, her struggles to unlock her own powers, and her eventual successes. She also provides many informal case studies of women locked in paralyzing, demoralizing behavioral cycles and shares the ways in which they were able to change the dynamics of their lives.

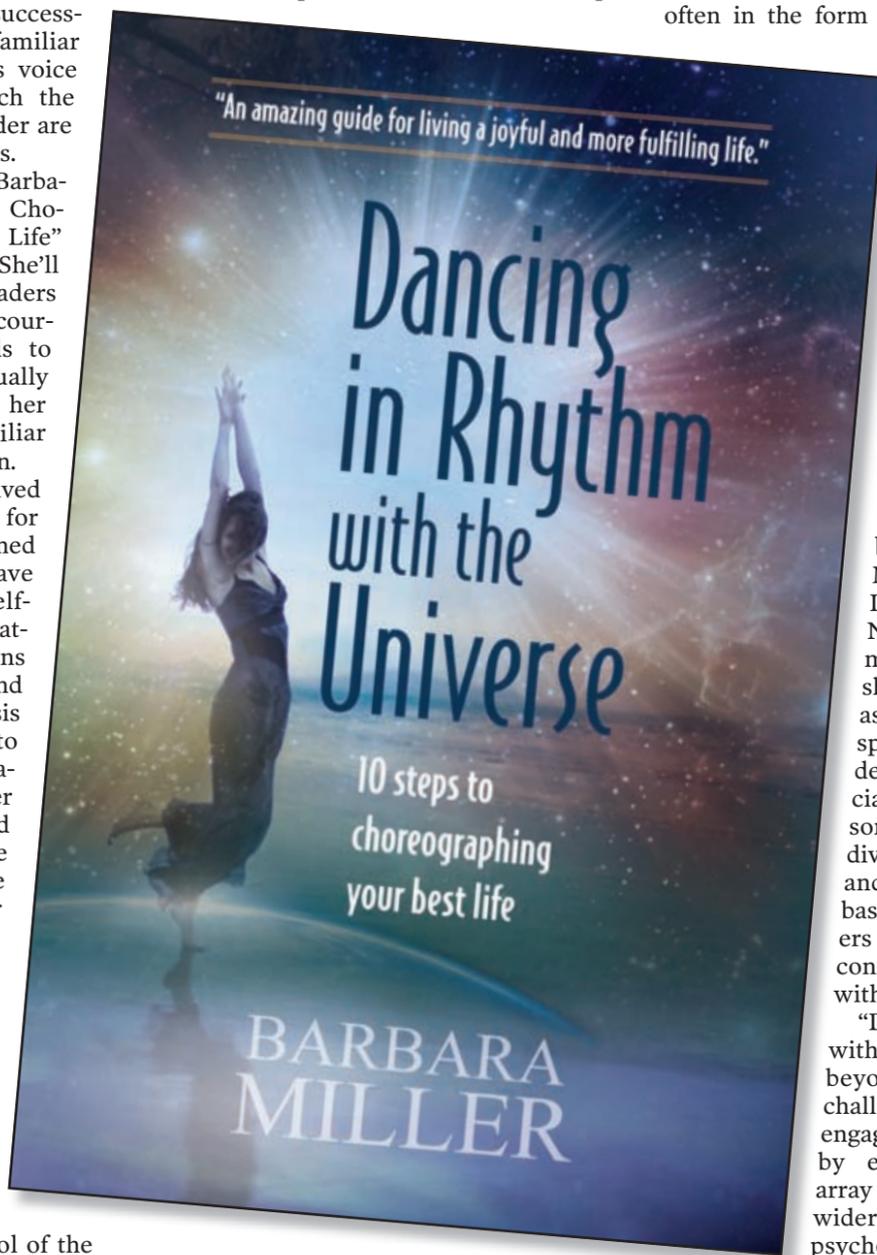
"Dancing in Rhythm with the Universe" is filled with useful checklists, often in the form of questions. Some are scary: "What does your future look like if you continue life as usual?" "Are you still trying to control everything and everybody?"

The author seeds the motivational landscape with quotations from other empowerment thinkers and also includes a list of suggested reading.

This new book builds upon Ms. Miller's earlier "You Lost Your Marriage Not Your Life." In marketing that title, she presented herself as "a writer, public speaker and independent medical esthetician" and said her personal journey through divorce, financial loss and despair was the basis for helping others "let go of all inner conflict and replace it with peace and joy."

"Dancing in Rhythm with the Universe" goes beyond the traumatic challenges of divorce to engage a wider audience by exploring a wider array of situations and a wider range of tools for psychological and spiritual renewal. ■

— Phil Jason, Ph.D., United States Naval Academy professor emeritus of English, is a poet, critic and freelance writer with 20 books to his credit, including several studies of war literature and a creative writing text.



most by the "Dance of Words" chapter, while others will relate more to the "Dance of Health" or the "Dance of Solitude."

The composite effect is not so much a matter of progression but of accumulation.

Engaging with Ms. Miller's persona is a delight. She speaks clearly, avoids



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CLUB NOTES

■ Chess players of all ages and levels of ability are welcome to join the new **Chess Club at the Moorings**, meeting from 9 a.m. to noon every Saturday at Moorings Park. Each morning will begin with a brief discussion by various experts about some aspect of the game.

Participation is free. Bring your own chess set or use one provided by the Moorings. Moorings Park is on the east side of Goodlette-Frank Road just south of Pine Ridge Road. Stop at the entrance gate to receive directions to the Chess Club meeting.

The new club is organized by Moorings Park resident Wade Keller, who learned to play chess as a high school student in the 1960s and returned to the game about five years ago. Since then he has competed in numerous tournaments and, in 2010, won the Florida State Championship in the under 1400 ranks. For more information, call Mr. Keller at 389-2525.

■ The **Jewish Genealogy Shared Interest Group** meets at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 9, at the Jewish Federation of Collier County, 2500 Vanderbilt Beach Road. All are welcome. Members share information about how to get started and/or continue exploring the world of Jewish genealogy. Attendance is free, but RSVPs are appreciated and can be made by e-mailing genresearch13@yahoo.com.

■ The **Genealogical Society of Collier County** holds its summer ice cream social at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 9, at Moorings Presbyterian Church. The evening will include a screening of the PBS

documentary "Forgotten Ellis Island," the story of the hospital on Ellis Island.

Guests are always welcome. There will be no meeting in August. For more information, call 593-4550 or visit www.thegscc.org.

■ **The Ohio State Alumni Club** of Naples holds its annual "student send-off" social for local students who attend OSU from 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 18, at Gatsby's Pizza, 4450 Bonita Beach Road in Bonita Springs. RSVP by calling 404-9399 or e-mailing ohfliova@gmail.com.

■ **The Naples Newcomers** helps those who are new to the area make new friendships centered around various social activities. Members meet to share a variety of interests and activities, including couples and singles groups, bridge, mahjongg, crafts, gourmet cooking, coffees, movies, card games and book discussions. Membership is for women who have been permanent residents of Naples for no more than five years.

Luncheon meetings are on the second Thursday of each month at Naples area country clubs. An orientation coffee for prospective members takes place on the first Thursday of each month. For more information, call 298-4083 or visit www.naplesnewcomers.com.

■ **Toastmasters International** teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of meeting locations. Guests are always welcome. Local Toastmasters chapters, meeting times and locations include:

Bonita Toastmasters Club: 7 p.m. every second and fourth Wednesday at the Bonita Springs Fire Station, 27701 Bonita Grande Drive. For more information, call Scott Vail at 777-3642.

Collier Communicate Club: 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at Moorings Professional Building, 2335 Tamiami Trail N., Suite 208. Call Robert Rizzo at (407) 493-8584.

Marco Island Toastmasters: 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Centennial Bank, 645 Elcam Circle, Marco Island. E-mail Chris Pritchard at colliertoastmasters@gmail.com.

Naples Sunrise Bay Toastmasters Club: 7:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday in Moss Hall at Moorings Presbyterian Church, 791 Harbour Drive. Call Steve McCann at 777-8851.

Naples Toastmasters Club: 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday at Naples General Aviation Center, 200 Aviation Drive N. Call Steve Jallad at 776-5398.

Toast of the Coast Toastmasters Club: Noon on the second and fourth Friday at Stantec (previously Wilson Miller), 3200 Bailey Lane, Naples. Call Gwen Greenglass at 431-0931.

Naples Advanced Toastmasters: 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday at the North Collier Government Center, 2335 Orange Blossom Drive. Call Linda Valentine at (954) 780-6683. This club has prerequisites for membership.

Toastmaster Academy: 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday at the North Collier Government Center, 2335 Orange Blossom Drive. Call R. Sunde at 594-3828.

For more about the organization, visit www.toastmasters.org. ■

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Young scholar knows: It's not what's behind in life, but what lies ahead

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Life hasn't been easy for Jesus Velazco, a recent graduate of Immokalee High School. When he first came to this country from his native Mexico, he struggled to learn the English language, so school was difficult. His parents fought to make ends meet working minimum wage jobs. Jesus watched as they worked paycheck to paycheck, exhausted at the end of a long day trying to balance work and family, only to get up and do it all over again the next morning. He knew that he wanted better for himself and his family and he was determined to make it happen.

With hard work, dedication and a strong desire to succeed, Jesus is well on his way to making a change. As one of The Immokalee Foundation's Take Stock in Children students, he serves as a tremendous role model for others who might be in a similar situation.

Jesus believes that it's not what you've been through in your past, but what you become in your future that matters. And his future is certainly bright.

In addition to the TSIC scholarship he earns as a result of completing the program, he has received numerous accolades, including the Winged Foot Scholar Athlete Scholarship, Lipman Scholarship, Albert Lee Wright Jr. Memorial Scholarship, Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award, Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship, Joan Judd Grant, Naples Woman's Club Scholarship, Florida Bright Futures, Orange Bowl Citrus



Jesus Velazco, left, with Patricia Rizo, manager of programs for The Immokalee Foundation.

COURTESY PHOTO

Scholarship Athlete Award and the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship. Each year, the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, selects only 1,000 students to receive a good-through-graduation scholarship to use at any college or university of their choice.

Jesus' real focus began in the fourth

grade. That's when he started earning good grades and playing soccer. It's also when he met his coach and mentor, Manny Touron, a former principal at Lake Trafford Elementary, Immokalee Middle School and Immokalee High School and a TIF mentor.

Mr. Touron is not surprised by the honors Jesus has accumulated. "From the moment I met Jesus, I knew he had something," he says. "There was always a sense of maturity and great leadership qualities. He was always the first person at practice and the last to leave. The kids looked up to him for direction. I knew big things were coming for him."

Mr. Touron adds, "In my lifetime as an educator, one kid that will always stand out is Jesus. I will never find another student like him. He is an exceptional young man with a drive and perseverance unlike anyone I've ever met. Anything he has, he's earned."

As a freshman, Jesus entered Take Stock in Children, a scholarship and mentoring program that provides students with the opportunity to attend four years of college, tuition free, if they earn good grades, exhibit good behavior and meet weekly with a mentor.

"The Immokalee Foundation has been great, because at the time I entered the program, I had no idea about college — if I was going or how to apply," Jesus says. "TIF gave me so many opportunities,

but most of all, it gave me confidence. I knew at the end of my path I had something waiting for me at the end of my senior year. Even if it were just one penny, I would gladly take it with a smile on my face."

He also expresses gratitude for those who have helped him along his path: John Henry, TIF board member; J. Richard "Dick" Monroe, former chairman and CEO of Time Warner Inc.; Noemi Perez, TIF TSIC student advocate; and Mr. Touron, to name a few. "I truly appreciate their help and guidance," he says. "They taught me to never give up. I look at all these people that have invested so much of their time in me and they believe in me. That motivates me to succeed. Any time I get knocked down, I tell myself I can't fail and I just get back up and move forward. I don't want to let them down."

He also credits TIF's career workshops, the ACT Summer Academy and college tours for helping him set a path for his own future and unique summer camp experiences in 2010 and 2011 that helped him build character and develop leadership skills, thanks to proceeds from the Charity Classic Celebration Fund A Dream auction — all experiences he would not have had if not for TIF.

"TIF believed in me from the beginning, and that makes all the difference," the young scholar says. "If you have someone that believes in you, you can do

SEE SCHOLAR, A17 ►

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SCHOLAR

From page 16

anything. You can create your own trail.”

Before heading off to college, Jesus has chosen to attend a year at Salisbury School, an all-boys, private college-preparatory boarding school in Salisbury, Conn., so that he can enhance his academic portfolio, make new connections and experience different things. After that, he plans to major in Latin American and Caribbean studies at Georgetown University, Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., or even Yale. For him, the sky is the limit.

About the foundation

The Immokalee Foundation has a range of programs that focus on building pathways to success through college and post-secondary training, mentoring and tutoring, and opportunities for broadening experiences, life skills development and economic independence. To learn more about TIF, the Charity Classic Celebration, volunteering as a mentor or for additional information, call 430-9122 or visit www.immokaleefoundation.org. ■

Moorings Park Foundation awards 55 scholarships

The Moorings Park Foundation, Inc. recently awarded 55 scholarships totaling \$162,500 to Moorings Park employees and their dependents. Over the years, the foundation has awarded a total of \$1,170,433 to 701 students in the form of scholarships.

With the motto of “Give them wings to help their dreams take flight,” the mission of the Moorings Park Foundation is to enhance the quality of life of Moorings Park residents and employees. Scholarship applicants come from various backgrounds, all with the common goal of achieving success through higher education or vocational training. Many Moorings Park employees juggle working full-time and taking care of their families, and still manage to take classes and complete coursework at night and on weekends.

This year’s recipients are: Lilian Aguilar, Molly Alderuccio, Yeni

Alonso, Romina Beqiraj, Jessica Brinkert, Lindsey Calderwood, Volha (Olga) Chernik, Shirlynn Althea Chu, Erika Cruz, Emma Davidsen, Katherine Davidsen, Kayla Douglass, Stevenlyn Dufort, Linda Elisca, Raechel Ellis, Richard Ellis,



Giesele Fischbach, Filipe Franca, Medens Gerbier, Christina Go, Hillary Guest, Gentjana Konica, Itzel Lemus, Bianca Marc, Caylin McClellan, Heidi Medina, Jean Merone, Tiffany Merucci, Ronald Merzier Jr., Tessa Millikan, Olivia Moline, Marina Moussa, Erika Muschong, Susan Ngondo, Johanne Nordilus, Rochelle Parchment, Janis Pinedo,

Stacy Prado, Sergio Ramirez, Esteban Rua, Ruth Saint Clair, Ginette Saint Fleur, Vanessa Salazar, Alston Sealey, Jill Sesso, Brett Swanson, Smithy Telusnord, Marie Thomas, Kostandina Toslluku, Emanuel Valdez, Christopher Villarraga, Patrick Villarraga, Alexandru Visan, Brittany Weppner and Luis Yale.

Many of these students are enrolled locally, taking advantage of the curriculums offered at Hodges University, Florida Gulf Coast University and Edison State College. The majority of the remaining students have also chosen to stay within the state of Florida, opting to earn their degrees at the University of South Florida, Florida State University and University of Central Florida. This year’s recipients include three students going on to earn advanced degrees online through out-of-state universities. Many scholarship recipients have chosen majors in nursing,

Sign up now to ‘Shoot for the Stars’

Registration is open for “Shoot for the Stars,” a free basketball clinic for ages 8-17. Former Philadelphia 76ers star Wali Jones will lead the daylong program that is sponsored by the children’s mental wellness program of the Mental Health Association of Southwest Florida. Lessons emphasize academics,

problem solving, self-esteem and teamwork along with basketball skills.

A 10-year veteran of the NBA, Mr. Jones was drafted by Detroit in the third round 1964 draft. He won a championship ring alongside Wilt Chamberlain on the vaunted 1967 Philadelphia 76ers team, which was voted into the Hall of

Fame as the best team in the NBA’s first 25 years. Upon retiring, he served as a scout for Philadelphia for seven years.

The 62-year-old Jones remains active on the court, participating in senior celebrity tournaments and on the USA Senior Dream Team, which he led to a gold medal at the 1996 Master’s Interna-

tional Senior Games.

“Shoot for the Stars” takes place Saturday, Aug. 3, at the Golden Gate Community Center. For registration or information about sponsorship opportunities, call the Mental Health Association of Southwest Florida at 261-5405 or visit www.mhaswfl.org. ■

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PET TALES

Saying goodbye

Choosing to end an animal's suffering is a final act of love

BY DR. MARTY BECKER & GINA SPADAFORI
Universal Uclick

It's the question every pet lover dreads, the one for which there's often no easy answer: "When is the right time to say goodbye?"

Choosing to end a pet's life is the hardest decision we make when it comes to our pets, and we can tell you from decades of experience that it's a decision that never gets any easier. Your veterinarian will offer you advice and support, and friends and family can offer you sympathy, but no one can make the decision for you. When you live with an elderly or terminally ill pet, you look in your pet's eyes every morning and wonder if you're doing what's best.

Everyone makes the decision a little differently. Some pet lovers do not wait until their pet's discomfort becomes chronic, untreatable pain, and they choose euthanasia much sooner than others would. Some owners use an animal's appetite as the guide — when an old or ill animal cannot be tempted into eating, they reason, he has lost most interest in life. And some owners wait until there's no doubt the time is at hand — and later wonder if they delayed a bit too long.

There's no absolute rule, and every method for deciding is right for some pets and some owners at some times. You do the best you can, and then you try to put the decision behind you and deal with the grief.

The incredible advances in veterinary medicine in the past couple of decades have



The timing of euthanasia should always be made with the best interests of the pet first and foremost.

made the decisions even more difficult for many people. Not too long ago, the best you could do for a seriously ill pet was to make her comfortable until that wasn't possible anymore. Nowadays, nearly every advantage of human medicine — from chemotherapy to pacemakers to advanced pain relief — is available to our pets.

But the addition of high-level care shouldn't change much when it comes to easing suffering: If you can have a realistic expectation that a course of treatment will improve your pet's life — rather than simply prolong it — then those options should be considered. But you must also ask yourself: Am I doing right by my pet, or am I just holding on because I can't bear to say

goodbye?

If it's the latter, you know what decision you have to make.

Many people are surprised at the powerful emotions that erupt after a pet's death, and they can be embarrassed by their grief. Often, we don't realize we're grieving not only for the pet we loved, but also for the special time the animal represented and the ties to other people in our lives. The death of a

cat who was a gift as a kitten from a friend who has died, for example, may trigger bittersweet memories of the other love lost.

Taking care of yourself is important when dealing with pet loss. Some people — the "It's just a pet" crowd — won't understand the loss and may shrug off grief over a pet's death as foolish. I find that the company of other animal lovers is very important. Seek them out to share your feelings, and don't be shy about getting professional help to get you through a difficult time.

Choosing to end a pet's suffering is a final act of love and nothing less. Knowing that your decisions are guided by that love is what helps us all through the sad and lonely time of losing a cherished animal companion. ■

Pets of the Week



>>**Karma** is a 4-month-old pit bull terrier mix. She loves being out in the yard with her kennelmates and would make a great addition to any family. Her adoption fee is \$75.



>>**Shadow** is an 8-year-old American Eskimo mix. He's well behaved and is always ready for an outing on his leash. His adoption fee is \$75.



>>**Callula** is a 9-month-old domestic shorthair who enjoys cuddling in a lap and soaking up affection and sweet talk. Her adoption fee is \$55.



>>**Oakley** is a 6-year-old domestic shorthair who loves to give affection as much as take it. His adoption fee is \$55.

To adopt or foster a pet

Dogs and cats adopted from **Humane Society Naples** come with vaccinations, sterilization surgery, ID microchip and 30 days of health insurance. Visit the animals ready for adoption at the main shelter at 370 Airport-Pulling Road N. (11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday), or at the satellite adoption center at Coastland Center during mall hours. Call 643-1555 or visit HSNaples.org for more information. Dog photos courtesy of Kimberly Joy Photography; cat photos courtesy of Rattigan Photography Group.

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THE DIVA DIARIES

A Keys getaway is just dandy for reeling in the fun



Melinda Isley, Stephanie Davis and Lori Wilson with their respective catches.

Suddenly, I've become a Florida Keys diva and, trust me, I'm not complaining one bit. A couple of weeks ago, my husband had a work conference at the lovely Cheeka Lodge in Islamorada, so while he busied himself with classes and meetings and such, I kept myself entertained by bicycling the island, swimming, cocktailing and shopping.

A few days after we returned home, my good friend Melinda, who's been renting a condo in Key West for the month, invited me and our friend Lori down for a girls' getaway. So before I had an opportunity to unpack from the upper Keys, I was happily boarding the Key West Express for the lower Keys.

My first time on the big (and super fast) boat was dandy — although I must say that the first two hours are better than the last two hours of the trip, by which time the initial excitement has worn off and you're just ready to get there (margaritas help, though).

From the boat, we headed straight for Duval Street, and while it had been eight years since I'd been to the Conch Republic, I'm here to tell you it has not changed one single bit. But that's the delight of the southernmost point: It's dependable. You know you'll walk around with a frozen rumrun-

ner, even though doing so is "against the law." You expect to see joke-telling musical acts on stage at Sloppy Joe's, and you also suspect you *will* buy a T-shirt there with a picture of Ernest Hemingway on it. As usual, you'll consider riding the Conch Train, but when you actually see it go by with tourists on it, you'll decide absolutely not to. And you'll certainly go to Mallory Square for sunset to see if the whacky old Frenchman with the hoop-jumping cats is still there (and yes, he will be).

I had some new Key West experiences, too. Muddled cocktails at the tiny, sleek, deco Orchid Bar at the Orchid Key Inn (on Duval, just south of Truman) were fabulous. I'd never been to Blue Heaven, and now I see why everyone adores the little Bahama

Village eatery and its courtyard filled with chickens.

But, I *really* stepped out of my sparkly comfort zone when we went offshore fishing.

In her 9-to-5 life, Melinda runs her own public relations company, but in *real* life, she's a skilled fisherwoman who can reel in a mahi-mahi with one hand while writing a press release on her iPhone with the other hand. And that's only a slight exaggeration. She and her husband are in Key West for a month to fish — and even win tournaments with their friends Craig and Dawn (like they did at the Key West Gator Club Dolphin Derby a couple of weeks ago).

So Melinda (armed with sunscreen), Lori (in her sporty fishing shirt) and *moi*

(with Dramamine, Bonine, Xanax, Tums and Pepto Bismol) set out for a day way, way, way out on the water (I may or may not have seen Cuba on the GPS) with our strapping young guide, Key West native Capt. Jason Johnson, of Triple J Charters.

What I learned from Jason about fishing is this: You do not look for fish. You look for birds that are eating fish, because birds are smarter than we are. But it can't be just any bird. Capt. Jason will not follow a pelican, for instance, because he says they're dumb, and I believe him. Luckily, we found lots of well-educated birds that led us to LOTS of very big fish, which we hauled in with gusto.

Incidentally, the day before I left for the trip, Melinda had texted that I should bring something grimy to wear fishing that I "wouldn't mind getting fish blood on." I thought that was a funny joke. Guess what? That was no joke.

There is a thing called a "fishing gaff" that is used when your fish is big and heavy. I'm just going to let you Google that. All I can say is that I'm really glad I didn't wear anything I would ever care to wear again.

In the end, I lost count of how many mahi-mahi and snapper we scored. I'm tickled to report that I didn't get seasick (even when I bit the live bait for luck), and that I only yelped a few times upon witnessing fish flopping around on the boat floor. In fact, I might even say that as far as fishing goes, I'm hooked. ■

— *Ciao for now, my lovelies! Stay tuned for another divalicious diary entry next week.*



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BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE

WEEK OF JULY 4-10, 2013

A GUIDE TO THE LOCAL BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE INDUSTRIES



Above: A screen shot from the Kickstarter campaign for the Hurricane board game.

Right: Stan Strickland shows off the game he is trying to fund on the Internet.



INSIDE



Summer outings

The CBIA at Olde Cypress, and the Bonita chamber at Vi at Bentley Village. **B6-7** ▶

KICK

BY EVAN WILLIAMS

ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

STARTED

Crowd funding supports local projects, often personal ones

CREATORS OF THINGS, MEET THE GENERAL public. The public has money and it's willing to pledge it toward projects it believes in.

That's the theory behind Kickstarter, a New York City-based company that has introduced thousands of creative and entrepreneurial endeavors to "backers"

on its website, www.kickstarter.com. The caveat: The project creator has to meet his fundraising goal in a limited time period of his choice or he gets nothing. Southwest Florida residents have used the Internet crowd-funding venue, "the Google of its kind," as one user described it, with mixed success.

Since the company started in April 2009, roughly 43,000 individual campaigns nationwide have met their goals — 44 percent — a total value of \$665 million. The projects span a broad spectrum, everything from tech gadgets to dance routines. The company

retains a 5 percent fee of the funds collected and the creators retain full ownership of their ideas and products.

Local Kickstarter campaigns now under way include Fort Myers recording artist and Florida Gulf Coast University student Matt Mramer, 20, who is looking to raise money to finish recording a rap album.

In Naples, 27-year-old Paul Roncal, a biology major who graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, is finishing his design of a desktop saltwater aquarium.

SEE KICKSTART, B5 ▶



The Fool knows

Who is "America's First Family of Fireworks"? **B4** ▶



The Kickstarter fundraising web page for local recording artist Matt Mramer.



House Hunting

A four-bedroom home in a Mediterra enclave for \$1.299 million. **B8** ▶



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MONEY & INVESTING

Finding and caring for safe assets



Most investors do not think about the safety of their portfolio assets when the equity/bond markets are stable or rising. Often becoming committed to gaining “just a little more” return, they ignore the task of keeping what they have. The *safety of their investments* should be the core objective.

Emotions can suddenly shift from contentment to fear, however, when portfolios suffer because of volatility or falling markets.

Why such an emphasis on safe assets? They are “a cornerstone of modern financial systems. They provide a reliable store of value, serve as collateral in financial transactions, fulfill prudential requirements and serve as a pricing benchmark.” (“Global Safe Assets,” June 2012, XI BIS conference, Gourinchas and Jeanne.) According to the IMF’s “Global Financial Stability Report,” a supply of safe assets is needed for global financial stability.

Decades ago, the world was awash with safe U.S. assets: the U.S. dollar (once strong and rising); U.S. government bonds (once absolutely safe as credit was strong and yields were falling); and the U.S. equity market (once valued at much lower P/E multiples).

As the world’s economies and wealth grew, the corresponding increased demand for safe assets led international investors outside the picture-perfect box of U.S. dollar, Treasuries

and the S&P and into a Pandora’s investment box filled with credit-challenged sovereign debt issues and busted collateralized mortgage pools that were merely a slicing, dicing, packaging and labeling of higher-risk assets made to look safe. This resulted in a large decrease in the availability of safe assets from 2007-2013. The shrinkage is about to get worse: The IMF forecasts safe assets will decrease some \$9 trillion by 2016, or 16 percent of current supply. This will force investors into less safe assets. (2012 IMF report, “The Quest for Lasting Stability.”)

It’s helpful to take a look at how some “safe” assets have behaved. The “very safe” asset class of U.S. government bonds, which have been in a bull market, has started to tumble. Gold, perceived as a safer alternative to a falling dollar, is down more than 33 percent. What should be of huge concern to international bond investors is that TWO important linkages (if this happens, then that happens) are now broken. Declines in the S&P and in gold/silver are usually met with rises in Treasury prices. That bond prices are NOT rising suggests the multi-decade bond bull market is over.

After four years of steady gains and zero interest rates, the investment herd labeled equity markets as safe —until they stumbled, then tumbled. True, equities can head higher, but we all know they crash periodically.

Is there any safety in the yuan, Euro, yen or British pound? No wonder the U.S. dollar hangs tough.

Investors are now re-thinking what assets in their portfolio are safe assets.

Part of the typical investor’s problem is that he or she is committed to an outdated

investment mentality of “buy and hold” and “long only” holdings (i.e., they do not “sell short” betting on a fall in value). This traditional approach works well in a stable and rosy world (or a non-rosy world, which is super manipulated by the central bankers). But “buy and hold”/“long only” doesn’t work well in all environments — especially in bad economic environments on which bankers are losing their grip. It might well be that the world’s investment markets have entered a period of much greater volatility.

How so? The Fed might taper its Treasury and mortgage purchases. Famed bond manager Bill Gross argues (in an investor letter titled “Wounded Heart”) that there can be no Fed exit in an economy that fails to grow above a 2.5 percent annualized rate in any 12-month period within the past five years. The differing “taper or not-to-taper” views have roiled the bond market.

Possibly, real safety lies in inclusion of managed futures into a portfolio. Twelve years ago, managed futures were not considered to be an investment asset class. The managed futures class is now more than \$325 billion in size. Clearly, it must have done something right, as someone is buying it.

Managed futures is added to equity/bond portfolios to handle crisis risk as it is the only asset class that made money in the 2008 crisis and its worst performance in 30 years was less than a 5 percent loss. How can this have happened? How does it escape crashes and bear markets?

Managed futures *intensely* manages futures positions through extensive portfolio and individual position risk management rules, something rarely found in traditional portfolio

management. It is indifferent to going long or short; it looks for a strong trend, up or down; it remains invested within constraints of exit rules and tight protective stops. Individual positions (crude, copper, lean hogs, gold, corn, soybeans, sugar, Treasuries, etc.) are not correlated with equities and are often limited to 1 to 2 percent of the overall portfolio’s size. And, most pleasantly, it typically moves to a nearly perfect inverse correlation with equities during times of equity crisis.

Therefore, in the absence of safe assets in which to hide, the solution for creating safety might well be through inclusion of an asset class that handles the very risks that traditional portfolios simply cannot address.

Whether you make another 1 to 2 percent in a traditional portfolio might not be the critical issue.

What you need to worry about is how to keep what you have when the next crisis occurs. ■

— Jeannette Showalter, CFA, is a commodities broker with Worldwide Futures Systems, 571-8896. For mid-week commentaries, write to showalter@wwfsc.com.

— Trading futures and options on futures and Forex transactions involve substantial risk of loss and may not be suitable for all investors. You should carefully consider whether trading is suitable for you in light of your circumstances, knowledge and financial resources. You may lose all or more of your initial investment. Opinions, market data and recommendations are subject to change at any time.

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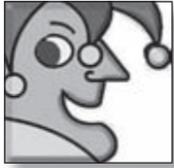
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Indexing Is Hard to Beat

For all that professional money managers get paid, they routinely fall short of the performance you could get from a simple index fund. Recent numbers from S&P Dow Jones Indices put the massive failure of Wall Street managers into perspective.

Over the five years ending in December 2012, fully 75 percent of large-cap stock mutual funds fell short of the returns of the S&P 500. That's a big black eye for the pros. Some might argue, though, that it's hard to get an edge with large-cap companies. After all, analysts routinely scour the financial reports of most big U.S. companies, and it's unlikely that any one manager will have insight that somehow escapes others.

Conversely, small- and mid-cap stocks tend not to be followed as much by Wall Street analysts. You might therefore assume that active fund managers should be better able to capitalize on undiscovered opportunities in the small- and mid-cap space. Yet the numbers are even more dire for smaller stocks. Ninety per-

cent of mid-cap stock funds trailed the popular S&P MidCap 400 Index, while the S&P SmallCap 600 Index did better than 83 percent of all small-cap funds.

As bad as those numbers are, what's even worse is that many investors fall short of even the average returns their funds produce. That's because fund investors often jump in after a fund has generated a strong performance, and then get out at the worst possible time — during or after a down period for the fund.

It takes discipline to stay the course during bad times. If you don't have that discipline, it's easier just to stick with an index fund and ride the ups and downs of the overall market. With actively managed funds charging more in fees, it's not surprising that most of them fail to match the returns of their index counterparts.

As humbling as it may be to accept being average, using index funds for your core portfolio can still leave you far better off than trying to buck the odds and beat the market. ■

My Smartest Investment

Fell Into the Gap

Decades ago, my investment club's methods of seeking out undervalued and out-of-favor stocks led me buy shares of Gap Inc. I did very, very well with it, primarily because of two factors: (1) I didn't sell it just because it was a winner, and (2) I benefited from the power of compounded growth over long periods. I recommend holding at least a portion of your winners as long-term investments.

— M.R., Port Townsend, Wash.

The Fool Responds: While shares of Gap have experienced downturns and stagnant years, they have rewarded patient investors well, averaging annual gains of 18 percent over the past 25 years, 12 percent over the past 20 years and 11 percent over the past decade. It has been paying a dividend for decades, too.

This is true of many solid, growing companies. You don't have to find and invest in obscure companies to succeed. Those interested in forming or joining an investment club should visit betterinvesting.org, or read "Investment Clubs for Dummies" by Douglas Gerlach and Angele McQuade (available new or used at Amazon.com and Half.com). ■



Do you have an embarrassing lesson learned the hard way? Boil it down to 100 words (or less) and send it to The Motley Fool c/o

My Dumbest Investment. Got one that worked? Submit to My Smartest Investment. If we print yours, you'll win a Fool's cap!

Last week's trivia answer

I trace my history back to 1879 and the FW. Woolworth company, which later became the Venator Group before taking on my name, as I was a successful subsidiary. Today I'm a top global athletic footwear and apparel retailer, with more than 3,300 stores in 23 countries. My brands include Eastbay, CCS, Footaction, Champs Sports, SIX:02 and The Locker Room — along with several that include my name. My stock has averaged 13 percent growth annually over the past decade but only 3 percent over the past 20 years. My market value recently topped \$5 billion. Who am I? (Answer: Foot Locker)



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

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Ask the Fool

Investing Is Not a Game

Q I'm new to the game of investing and have been lucky with some penny stocks. Which low-priced stocks do you recommend?

— B.T., Lexington, Ky.

A Don't think of investing as a game. It can be fun and exciting, but it's also serious business. It's your hard-earned money, and your retirement, that you're "playing" with.

If you haven't lost money in penny stocks, you're actually quite fortunate. They're notoriously volatile and risky, and have cost many people many dollars.

Some naive investors wrongly assume that since they're not rich, they should focus on stocks with low prices. Yes, \$1,000 will buy you 500 shares of a \$2 stock. But it stands a good chance of becoming a \$1 stock.

Instead, you could just buy 15 shares of a \$65 stock or 5 shares of a \$200 stock. Learn more at fool.com/investing.

Q What's the short-term tax hit for stocks? If I bought shares of stock at \$10 and now they're at \$25, what capital gains tax rate would I face when selling?

— H.S., Escondido, Calif.

A The short-term capital gains tax rate applies to stocks held for a year or less and is the same as your ordinary income tax rate, which can be as high as 39.6 percent.

If you're in the 25 percent bracket and your gain is \$5,000, you'd face a \$1,250 tax hit.

Note, though, that the long-term rate, for stocks held at least a year and a day, is just 15 percent right now for most investors. On a \$5,000 gain, that would come to just \$750.

So if you've held your shares for almost a year, it might be worth it to hang on a little more. Learn more at fool.com/taxes.

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

Name That Company

Tracing my history back to 1850 through five generations of family ownership, I'm "America's First Family of Fireworks." Based in New York, I've produced the big shows at seven consecutive U.S. presidential inaugurations and a bunch of Olympic Games. I've also commemorated the centennials of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Statue of Liberty, among many other events. In 1979, my owners became the first American family to win the gold medal for the United States at the prestigious annual Monte Carlo Interna-



tional Fireworks Competition. I developed the stringless shell, making fireworks safer by eliminating burning fallout. 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

Portfolio-Driving Stocks

In 2013's first quarter, Detroit's Big Three accomplished something that hadn't been done in 20 years: All three gained market share. Ford (NYSE: F) and General Motors (NYSE: GM) are promising stocks to consider right now.

Ford's CEO Alan Mulally's "One Ford" vision is paying off big-time. The company is producing more profit than GM, off lower revenue, because it's running so efficiently.

The good news for GM is that its potential isn't as tapped as Ford's right now. It expects to improve operations and significantly boost profits and margins by mid-decade.

Both companies are leaner and are having success with new models. Consid-

er that Ford can't make enough Fusions or Escapes to keep its inventories as high as it would like.

GM is a little behind Ford in releasing new vehicles because it needed to shore up its financials first. It's planning to refresh, replace or redesign almost 90 percent of its vehicles by 2016. GM also has a leg up on Ford when it comes to its luxury Cadillac line, which enjoys higher profit margins than standard cars.

Ford and GM investors are happy with improving profits, operations, market share and vehicles, and the second quarter is shaping up to be just as profitable as the first. (The Motley Fool owns shares of Ford and its newsletters have recommended it.) ■

BUSINESS MEETINGS

■ Young Professionals of the **Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce** have a Wake Up networking event from 7:45-9 a.m. Tuesday, July 9, at Toast, 24600 S. Tamiami Trail. Attendance is free; food will be for sale. RSVP by calling 992-2943 or visiting www.bonitachamber.com.

■ **Wake Up Naples** for members and guests of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce takes place from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 10, at the Hilton Naples. Guest speaker will be Dwight Brock, Collier County clerk of courts. Call 262-6376 or go to www.napleschamber.org/events.

■ The **East Naples Merchants Association** meets for Business After Business at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 11, at Physi-

cians Regional-Collier Boulevard. For more information, call 435-9410 or 643-3600 or visit www.eastnaplesmerchantsassoc.com.

■ **HR Collier** members meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 17, at Wyndemere Country Club. Guest speaker Carol McDaniel, senior vice president at Kenetix and president-elect of HR Florida, will present "Hire More Ugly People: Removing Bias from the Interview Process." Cost is \$25 for members, \$30 for guests. Reservations must be made at www.hrcollier.org by July 12.

■ The **Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce** holds its next Business After Five event from 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, at the Old Marco Pub & Restaurant, 1105

Bald Eagle Drive on Marco. \$5 for members, \$10 for others (cash bar). Call 394-7549, e-mail kate@marcoislandchamber.org or visit www.marcoislandchamber.org.

■ The **Building Owners and Managers Association-Southwest Florida** chapter meets at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 18, at The Club at The Strand. Guest speaker Carolina Valera, principal planner in the Collier County Growth Management Department, will present an update on changes to county codes and site design and architectural requirements. Cost is \$30 for members, \$35 for others. Register at www.bomaswfl.com.

■ **Business After Five** for members and guests of the Greater Naples Chamber

of Commerce takes place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 18, at Whole Foods in Mercato. \$8 for members, \$25 for others. RSVP by calling 262-6376 or visiting www.napleschamber.org/events.

■ A **Job Search Support Group** meets from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce. Contact Karen Klukiewicz at kluk77@comcast.net or visit www.napleschamber.org.

■ Consultants from the **Small Business Development Center at Florida Gulf Coast University** are available at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, 2390 Tamiami Trail N., every Thursday. To make an appointment for a free session, call Suzanne Specht at 745-3704. ■

KICKSTART

From page 1

“One of the biggest hurdles Kickstarter allows you to overcome is finding a source of capital,” Mr. Roncal said. “That’s the beauty of it.”



RONCAL

In North Port, graphic designer and artist Shawn Nelson, 26, hopes to raise enough to purchase a laser engraver so he can start a jewelry business.

In Estero, Stan “The Weatherman” Strickland, 59, has created a timely board game: “Hurricane — The Game of Preparedness.” It features a specially designed app that sends realistic breaking weather alerts to players, as if a weatherman were broadcasting from the center of a storm.

“I want it to be considered an educational awareness game, but I also want it to be considered a lot of fun,” he said.

How it works

Kickstarter provides support to creators, offering instructions and advice for how to run a successful campaign.

Mr. Nelson, the jewelry designer, said Kickstarter sent him an e-mail suggesting he focus his campaign on his jewelry rather than the laser engraver he is planning to use much of the money for. The engraver is crucial to his productivity, though, so he writes about it on his Kickstarter page.

“It’s my first step to starting a business,” he said of his venture called T.E.A.M. Jewelry.

Since he began making jewelry (often with detailed sports emblems) for

his girlfriend, he started filling other requests for friends. But it takes him a day or more to produce a piece, hand carving and painting it.

Backers, pledges, gifts

After the Kickstarter staff approves a project, creators sell their project on the site in writing and with a short video. As an incentive, project creators pick “gifts” to give backers, depending on how much they pledge.

The gifts cannot be money or gift certificates, since project creators are not paying people back for their financial support. For backers, the satisfaction is in helping bring to fruition endeavors they believe in — and of course, getting the gifts.

Pledges range from only a few dollars to thousands. The gifts usually become more personal and even lavish for the highest pledges, things like meeting the director and star of a movie for dinner, having a part in it or getting a script autographed by the entire cast of a production. The gifts are as diverse as the projects themselves.

“You gather a crowd, you know, your backers, and you just take the journey with them, which is a pretty cool feeling,” said Mr. Roncal, the aquarium designer.

At first concerned that accepting such financial help on Kickstarter might seem like a “copout,” rap artist Mr. Mramer (who goes by the stage name M3X2) changed his mind after seeing how it worked.

“I hate the notion of a handout,” he said. “I don’t want anyone to look at me and think that’s the way that it went.”

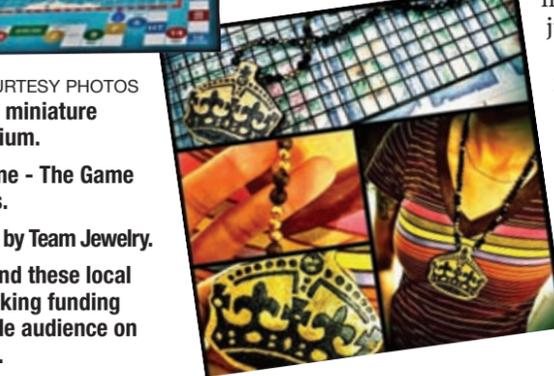


COURTESY PHOTOS
Top: PJ Reefs, a miniature saltwater aquarium.

Above: Hurricane - The Game of Preparedness.

Right: A necklace by Team Jewelry.

The people behind these local projects are seeking funding from a worldwide audience on Kickstarter.com.



lag in the middle. When the clock runs out, creators get the money if they’ve met the goal. By making it all or nothing, it protects the creator and the backers from being obligated to take part in an underfunded project.

Making a pledge

One of the most persistent criticisms local creators have of Kickstarter is that in order to pledge money, backers have to sign up through Amazon’s payment system. It’s not as simple as just clicking on the pledge button.

“They don’t want to go to that much trouble; they just want to buy the game,” said Mr. Strickland of his hurricane preparedness game.

Many have successfully raised thousands of dollars while others struggled to get the word out or didn’t connect with their audience. Either way, the campaign can be an exhilarating ride for creators and backers alike, Mr. Roncal said.

Backers can follow his progress, ask him direct questions through the site, and take the ride to making the goal along with him. On the site, visitors can hear his single “Champagne Shower” on iTunes. With the busy season ending and business slowing at the restaurant where he works as a server, he’s running out of money and hopes Kickstarter will fill the gap to finish his album.

At some point before a Kickstarter campaign goes live, creators set a goal for how much they need to raise and the amount of time they have to raise it. Many people choose around a month. Mr. Mramer decided on 33 days, but says now he would rather have set it at only a few weeks, because with the shorter time period there’s more urgency for people to pledge and not a

He’s enthusiastic about the site, and for good reason. At press time, Mr. Roncal had smashed his goal of \$7,000. He had 109 backers who in total pledged \$17,609 for him to start the business building small-scale saltwater aquariums, PJ Reefs — and he still had 17 days before his time ran out. His lowest pledges of \$1 receive “backer-only updates that document this project.” His \$300 level backers receive a “deluxe” aquarium kit including the lamp, jar and ecosystem.

“I think that connection with the person that’s actually helping you — there’s a feeling, a sense that you’re buying something, but at the same time you’re helping someone — and there’s this personal connection with all these backers you have,” he said. ■

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Olde Cypress welcomes the Collier Building Industry Association



Amanda Arnold,
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Amy Wilson

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House Hunting:

29071 Amarone Court in Mediterra

This beautifully finished and professionally decorated four-bedroom plus den home is located in a private 12-home community. Visitors are immediately impressed as they enter the foyer opening to the formal living room with a seamless glass picture window overlooking the pool, spa and lake view. A large kitchen with center island, top-grade stainless appliances and breakfast bar opens to the family room and creates a relaxing environment for entertaining. The pool and spa on the lanai have an

outdoor kitchen with granite counters and stainless refrigerator. Decorated to the finest detail, this home is fully furnished and is an excellent value.

The Mediterra club offers several membership options to fit various needs and lifestyles. This property is listed at \$1,299,900 by Thomas Ostrander of Engel & Völkers Olde Naples. To arrange a private showing or for more information, call (860) 304-1037, e-mail htom@snet.net or visit www.evusa.com. ■



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Foreign homebuyers continue to see U.S. as a smart investment

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

International home sales in the U.S. declined in the past year, but are at their second highest level in recent years and are more than 6 percent of total existing-home sales in value. According to the National Association of Realtors "2013 Profile of International Home Buying Activity," interest in U.S. properties continues to grow, signaling that America continues to be regarded by international buyers as a great place to own property.



finding a house difficult. However, none of these factors appear to be permanent."

The survey, which asked Realtors to report their international business activity within the U.S. for the 12 months ending March 2013, showed that total international sales were \$68.2 billion, down approximately \$14 billion from the previous year. The decline is attributed to a number of temporary factors, including economic slowdowns in a number of major foreign economies, tighter U.S. credit standards and unfavorable exchange rates.

Throughout a five-year time frame, more than 70 percent of Realtors reported a constant or increasing level in the number of international clients contacting them; 27 percent reported having worked with international clients this year.

"Foreign buyers are experiencing hurdles not only abroad, but also here in the U.S. when it comes to purchasing property," according to Gary Thomas, NAR president and broker-owner of Evergreen Realty in Villa Park, Calif. "Difficult economic conditions, particularly in Europe, have impacted foreign buyers, but several factors in the U.S. have also affected their purchasing power here. Tight credit standards have made financing challenging for immigrants, and low housing inventories have made

Although Realtors reported buyers from 68 countries, five countries account for the bulk of purchases: Canada (23 percent), China (12 percent), Mexico (8 percent), India (5 percent) and the United Kingdom (5 percent).

Canadian buyers were reported to purchase properties with a median price of \$183,000, with the majority purchased in Florida, Arizona and California. Chinese buyers tended to purchase property in the upper price ranges with a median price of \$425,000 and typically in California. Sixty-two percent of Mexican buyers purchased property in California and Texas, with a median price of \$156,250. ■

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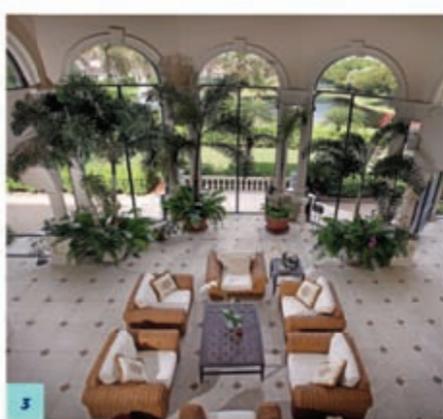
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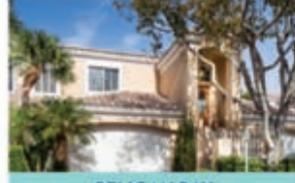
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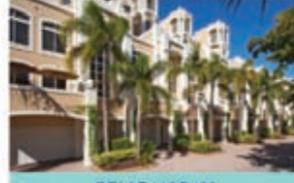
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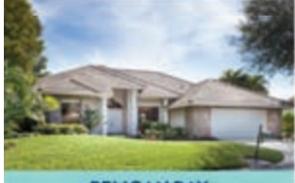
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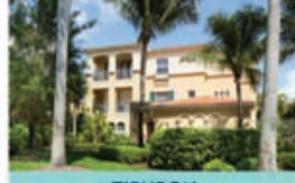
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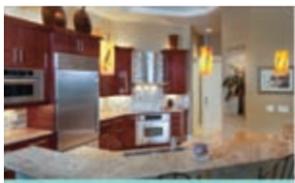
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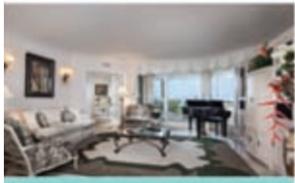
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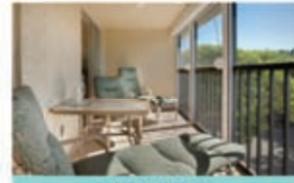
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Barbi Lowe/Trish Lowe Soars 239.216.1973
premier.sir.com/id/211014834 \$6,000,000



BAY COLONY

Remington #501
Carol Gilman 239.404.3253
premier.sir.com/id/213004054 \$3,995,000



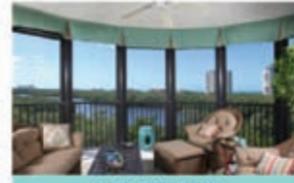
BAY COLONY

Brighton #303
Carol Gilman 239.404.3253
premier.sir.com/id/212039654 \$2,495,000



BAY COLONY

Trieste #405
Carol Gilman 239.404.3253
premier.sir.com/id/213005175 \$1,895,000



BAY COLONY

Marquesa #502
Carol Gilman 239.404.3253
premier.sir.com/id/213001603 \$1,195,000



BAY COLONY

Mansion La Palma #302
Dorcas Briscoe 239.860.6985
premier.sir.com/id/213000820 \$995,000



GREY OAKS

1433 Nighthawk Pointe
Melissa Williams 239.248.7238
premier.sir.com/id/213005908 \$6,995,000



GREY OAKS

1394 Great Egret Trail
Sam Heitman 239.537.2018
premier.sir.com/id/213002315 \$5,895,000



GREY OAKS

1449 Nighthawk Pointe
Sam Heitman 239.537.2018
premier.sir.com/id/212038355 \$5,250,000



GREY OAKS

1486 Anhinga Pointe
Dan Guenther 239.357.8121
premier.sir.com/id/213012321 \$4,295,000



GREY OAKS

2708 Buckthorn Way
Carol Gilman 239.404.3253
premier.sir.com/id/213011148 \$2,995,000



GREY OAKS

1227 Gordon River Trail
Dan Guenther 239.357.8121
premier.sir.com/id/210024945 \$1,500,000



GREY OAKS

1231 Gordon River Trail
Melissa Williams 239.261.3148
premier.sir.com/id/210024984 \$1,500,000



GREY OAKS

2817 Capistrano Way
Mary Catherine White 239.287.2818
premier.sir.com/id/209040691 \$1,499,000



GREY OAKS

1222 Gordon River Trail
Melissa Williams 239.248.7238
premier.sir.com/id/213010466 \$1,150,000



GREY OAKS

2618 Trillium Way
Rick Marquardt 239.289.4158
premier.sir.com/id/213005940 \$675,000



GREY OAKS

Terra Verde #2452
Carolyn Weinand 239.269.5678
premier.sir.com/id/213005046 \$625,000



NAPLES CAY

The Seasons #1903
Carol Gilman 239.404.3253
premier.sir.com/id/211516035 \$5,995,000



ISLES OF CAPRI

160 Tahiti Circle
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 239.642.1133
premier.sir.com/id/213010388 \$5,800,000



PINE RIDGE

195 West Street
Beth McNichols 239.821.3304
premier.sir.com/id/212029722 \$2,595,000



SEAGATE

5115 Starfish Avenue
Cheryl Turner 239.250.3311
premier.sir.com/id/213016246 \$2,100,000



LIVINGSTON WOODS

6381 Sandalwood Lane
Pat Callis 239.250.0562
premier.sir.com/id/213002571 \$899,000



WYNDEMERE

126 Edgemere Way South
Kathryn Hurvitz 239.290.0228
premier.sir.com/id/213015658 \$799,000



PINE RIDGE

122 Mahogany Drive
Patrick O'Connor 239.295.9411
premier.sir.com/id/213015798 \$595,000



WYNDEMERE

910 Wyndemere Way
Gary L./Jeff/Becky Jaarda 239.248.7474
premier.sir.com/id/212035106 \$529,000



NAPLES LAKES COUNTRY CLUB

Lake Arrowhead #104
Susan R. Payne 239.777.7209
premier.sir.com/id/213019469 \$299,000



WILDERNESS

Wilderness Country Club II #216
Fahada Saad 239.595.8500
premier.sir.com/id/213016650 \$155,000



ISLES OF CAPRI

Tarpon Village Apartments #B-8
Cynthia Corogin 239.393.6747
premier.sir.com/id/212022116 \$150,000



EAGLE CREEK

Stonegate #202
ML Meade 239.293.4851
premier.sir.com/id/213012350 \$149,000



WYNDEMERE

Courtside Commons #202
Kathryn Hurvitz 239.290.0228
premier.sir.com/id/213015911 \$127,500



VANDERBILT BEACH

239 Channel Drive
Cheryl Turner 239.250.3311
premier.sir.com/id/ARTH-HOS2413IHE \$2,395,000



VANDERBILT BEACH

The Bellagio Grand #501
Lisa Tashjian 259.259.7024
premiersir.com/id/213002617 \$1,525,000



VANDERBILT BEACH

Regatta II #403
Jennifer/Dave Urness 259.273.7731
premiersir.com/id/213016356 \$888,885



VANDERBILT BEACH

Vanderbilt Gulfside #104
Pat Callis 259.250.0562
premiersir.com/id/213005063 \$799,000



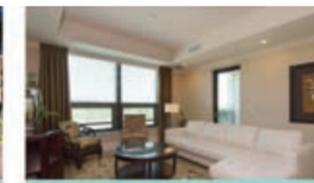
MERCATO

The Strada #7517
Susan Gardner 259.438.2846
premiersir.com/id/213013080 \$1,265,000



MERCATO

The Strada #5314
Mary Kavanagh 259.594.9400
premiersir.com/id/213007064 \$599,000



MERCATO

The Strada #7405
Susan Gardner 259.438.2846
premiersir.com/id/213008847 \$549,000



MARCO ISLAND

1670 Copeland Drive
Paul Strong 259.404.3280
premiersir.com/id/21300702953 \$700,000



MARCO ISLAND

495 Thorpe Court
ML Meade 259.293.4851
premiersir.com/id/212022596 \$2,999,000



MARCO ISLAND

580 Barfield Drive South
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 259.642.1133
premiersir.com/id/213016569 \$2,250,000



MARCO ISLAND

Dunnfoire #301
Michelle L. Thomas 259.860.7176
premiersir.com/id/213008096 \$1,495,000



MARCO ISLAND

357 Morning Glory Lane
Cathy Rogers 259.821.7926
premiersir.com/id/212032910 \$1,150,000



MARCO ISLAND

815 Caribbean Court
Helga Wetzold 259.821.6905
premiersir.com/id/213004935 \$1,095,000



MARCO ISLAND

1820 Travida Terrace
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 259.642.1133
premiersir.com/id/212030439 \$999,000



MARCO ISLAND

701 Kendall Drive South
Brock/Julie Wilson 259.821.9545
premiersir.com/id/212024168 \$799,000



MARCO ISLAND

1901 Kirk Terrace
Brock/Julie Wilson 259.821.9545
premiersir.com/id/213005335 \$795,000



MARCO ISLAND

Duchess #306
Cynthia Corogin 259.393.6747
premiersir.com/id/212032885 \$785,000



MARCO ISLAND

110 Channel Court
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 259.642.1133
premiersir.com/id/213005696 \$779,000



MARCO ISLAND

1401 Belvedere Avenue
Darlene Roddy 259.404.0685
premiersir.com/id/212038125 \$749,000



MARCO ISLAND

Sandpiper #1403
Cynthia Corogin 259.393.6747
premiersir.com/id/212022090 \$720,000



MARCO ISLAND

720 Barfield Drive South
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 259.642.1133
premiersir.com/id/212019668 \$698,500



MARCO ISLAND

1131 Vernon Place
Brock/Julie Wilson 259.821.9545
premiersir.com/id/213005779 \$695,000



MARCO ISLAND

396 Bald Eagle Drive
Brock/Julie Wilson 259.821.9545
premiersir.com/id/213014239 \$649,000



MARCO ISLAND

South Seas Tower IV #704
Cynthia Corogin 259.393.6747
premiersir.com/id/212022129 \$545,000



MARCO ISLAND

Royal Seafarer #702
Angelica Andrews 259.595.7653
premiersir.com/id/212024231 \$529,900



MARCO ISLAND

641 Spinnaker Drive
Cynthia Corogin 259.393.6747
premiersir.com/id/213005416 \$439,000



MARCO ISLAND

601 Somerset Court
Brock/Julie Wilson 259.821.9545
premiersir.com/id/213005749 \$425,000



MARCO ISLAND

524 Barfield Drive North
Angelica Andrews 259.595.7653
premiersir.com/id/212022708 \$375,000



MARCO ISLAND

Seabreeze #R-2
Brock/Julie Wilson 259.821.9545
premiersir.com/id/212024413 \$119,500



MARCO ISLAND

Aquarius Apartments #O-8
Michelle L. Thomas 259.860.7176
premiersir.com/id/212025648 \$114,900



FIDDLER'S CREEK

3852 Isla Del Sol Way
ML Meade 259.293.4851
premiersir.com/id/211511963 \$1,995,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

3812 Mahogany Bend Drive
Michelle L. Thomas 259.860.7176
premiersir.com/id/212035872 \$899,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

7742 Mulberry Lane
Michelle L. Thomas 259.860.7176
premiersir.com/id/213011959 \$749,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

7676 Mulberry Court
Michelle L. Thomas 259.860.7176
premiersir.com/id/213011795 \$699,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

9048 Cherry Oaks Trail
Michelle L. Thomas 259.860.7176
premiersir.com/id/212033141 \$649,900



FIDDLER'S CREEK

8936 Cherry Oaks Trail
Michelle L. Thomas 259.860.7176
premiersir.com/id/213008448 \$625,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

8544 Mallards Way
Michelle L. Thomas 259.860.7176
premiersir.com/id/212039410 \$485,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

Cascada #202
Lura Jones 259.370.5340
premiersir.com/id/212011508 \$479,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

Varenna #204
Michael/Maureen Joyce 259.285.6275
premiersir.com/id/212038566 \$429,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

Montreux #104
Michelle L. Thomas 259.860.7176
premiersir.com/id/212036517 \$395,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

Cherry Oaks #101
Michelle L. Thomas 259.860.7176
premiersir.com/id/213011763 \$384,900



FIDDLER'S CREEK

Varenna #203
Michelle L. Thomas 259.860.7176
premiersir.com/id/213005823 \$349,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

Laguna #102
Lura Jones 259.370.5340
premiersir.com/id/213007495 \$309,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

Deer Crossing #203
Lura Jones 259.370.5340
premiersir.com/id/213010064 \$242,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

Deer Crossing #202
Lura Jones 259.370.5340
premiersir.com/id/213012329 \$194,000



CAPTIVA

1121 Schefflera Court
Denise Chambre 259.247.2868
premiersir.com/id/211522273 \$4,499,000



CAPTIVA

11541 Wightman Lane
Kim Herres 259.233.0252
premiersir.com/id/213002377 \$1,585,000



FORT MYERS

791 Cape View Drive
Denise Chambre 259.247.2868
premiersir.com/id/212015004 \$799,000



FORT MYERS

15900 Glenisle Way
Denise Chambre 259.247.2868
premiersir.com/id/212019855 \$669,500



FORT MYERS

404 Keenan Avenue
Denise Chambre 259.247.2868
premiersir.com/id/212033851 \$499,000



SANIBEL

1246 Sand Castle Road
Jean Baer 259.691.9249
premiersir.com/id/212003055 \$399,000



CAPE CORAL

415 Cape Coral West
Stephanie Bissett 259.292.3707
premiersir.com/id/213011555 \$319,000



FORT MYERS BEACH

Sanibel View Villas #2309
Denise Chambre 259.247.2868
premiersir.com/id/213005373 \$211,499



SANIBEL

Tennisplace #D31
Kim Herres 259.233.0252
premiersir.com/id/211523062 \$179,000



CAPE CORAL

2018 24th Terrace NW
Stephanie Bissett 259.292.3707
premiersir.com/id/213020095 \$109,900



PORT ROYAL



Port Royal

- 2 Bedrooms +Den, 2 Baths
- Offered At Lot Value w/1956 Cottage Included As-Is
- Views Of Galleon Bay, Direct Gulf Access
- Port Royal Club Eligibility
- \$3,900,000 MLS 213008712
- Lauren & Mike Taranto 239.572.3078

MARCO ISLAND



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4:00

766 Barfield Dr. S

- 5 Bedrooms, 4.5-Baths, Over 4,800 S.F. Under Air
- Situated on Prestigious Roberts Bay
- Expansive Outdoor Area w/Heated Pool & More
- 107 Feet of Gorgeous Water Frontage
- \$2,995,000 MLS 212030384
- Carolyn Rzaca 239.877.1066

PARK SHORE



Entertainers Delight on the Water

- 3 Bedrooms, 3.5-Baths
- 140' on the Water & Wide Bay Views
- Fabulous Backyard w/Pool and Tiki Bar
- Boat Dock Accommodates a 30' Boat
- \$2,800,000 MLS 212021154
- Steve Suddeth & Jennifer Nicolai 239.784.0693

TALIS PARK



Tuscan Villa

- 3 Bedroom +Den, 4 Baths
- Former Model, Courtyard
- Pool/Spa With Blue Glass Tile
- Views of 10th Hole
- \$1,895,000 MLS 213016834
- Steve Suddeth & Jennifer Nicolai 239.784.0693

VILLAGES OF MONTEREY
NEW PRICE



Custom Courtyard Home

- 5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths, Courtyard Style Home
- Guest House, Over 4,200 sq. ft. Total Living Area
- Private Lush Tropical Pool, Four Car Garage
- South Western Lake View, Tons Of Storage
- \$899,000 MLS 213000770
- Jeremy O'Guinn 239.919-2582

VANDERBILT BEACH
NEW PRICE



Amazing Water & City Views

- Completely Updated Throughout
- Wonderful Bamboo Hardwood Floors
- Covered Parking Spot
- Best Unit Available In Vanderbilt Gulch! Views, Views, Views!
- \$850,000 MLS 213016531
- Doug Haughey 239.961.1561

WILDCAT RUN
NEW PRICE



Estero

- Peaceful Golf Course, Water View! Ideal Location
- Arthur Rutenberg - Amelia IV Plan
- 3 Beds/3 Baths / Study / Bonus Room & 3 Car Garage
- Sunsets Enjoyed Across Spacious Lanai
- \$669,000 MLS 213012156
- Jamie Lienhardt 239.565.4268

THE QUARRY
NEW LISTING



The Quarry

- 3 Bedroom +Den, 3 Baths
- Open Floor Plan, Large Great Room
- Tropical Lanai Overlooks Preserve & Golf Course
- Gated Community, Boating & Golf
- \$625,000 MLS 213019310
- Kristin Cavella-Whorrall 239.821.6330

BONITA BEACH



The Egret

- 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath
- Spectacular Views of Gulf of Mexico
- Open Floor Plan, Offered Turnkey
- 7th Floor Residence
- \$499,000 MLS 212037496
- Denise Stilwell 239.273.0990

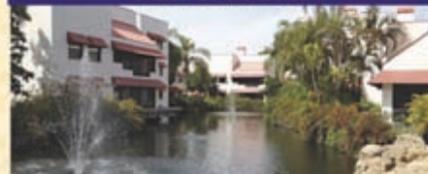
MEDITERRA



Custom Designed Coach Home

- 3 Bedroom +Den, 3 Baths
- Beautifully Maintained, Upgraded Finishes
- Bose Sound System
- Lake Views
- \$499,000 MLS 213017251
- Martinovich & Nulf 239.398-3929

PELICAN BAY



Pelican Bay

- 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath, ALL Very Spacious
- 25' Ceiling, Peaceful Water Views
- 2,000 S.F. Of Living Space & Furnished
- Walk To Private Beach, The Phil & Waterside
- \$470,000 MLS 212036583
- Marya Doonan 239.450.4000

PELICAN BAY



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4:00

6830 San Marino Dr #709

- 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Condo
- Glass Enclosed Lanai w/Golf Course View
- Walk To Beach, Near Shopping & Restaurants
- Community Pool, Tennis & Fitness
- \$458,000 MLS 213012159
- Kathleen Mahoney 239.404.0677

WEST BAY CLUB



West Bay Club

- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 2040 Sq. Ft. Under Air
- 2nd Floor Coach Home, Tile Throughout
- Championship Pete Dye Signature Course
- Dry Dock Boat Storage For Residents
- \$284,900 MLS 213009301
- Pam Olsen 239.464.6873

SPANISH WELLS



Las Maderas

- 2 Bedroom + Office, New A/C 2013
- Villa - 2 Car Garage
- Long Lake Views
- Turnkey Furnished
- \$240,000 MLS 213005549
- Darlene Rice 239.325.3537

SAN CARLOS PARK
NEW LISTING



South Fort Myers

- Huge 2 Story Heated Pool Home
- Huge Lot 160' x 120'
- 4 Bdr + Den, 2 Bath & Over 2800 s/f
- Gorgeous Kitchen, New Carpet & Metal Roof
- \$239,000 MLS 213019365
- Cory Lauer 239.465.9290

BONITA BAY



Oakwood Villas

- 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, 2 Car Garage
- Delightful Bright, Airy Villa w/ Glassed in Lanai
- Many Upgrades Including Roof, AC & Kitchen
- Community Tennis Court, Pool & Spa
- \$239,000 MLS 213012204
- Connie Lummis, The Lummis Team 239.289.3543

TWIN EAGLES



Twin Eagles

- 1st Floor, 2 Bedroom +Den Carriage Home w/Attached Garage
- Lake & Golf Course Views, Brand New State Of The Art Fitness Center
- Stainless Steel Appliances, Corian Countertops
- Beautifully Decorated!!
- \$222,900 MLS 213013425
- Debbie Dekevich 239.877.4194

WIGGINS LAKES & PRESERVES



Naples

- Top Floor w/ Vaulted Ceilings
- Lake Views & One Car Garage
- West of U.S. 41
- Nicely Updated
- \$219,900 MLS 213007382
- Cory Lauer 239.465.9290

HERITAGE BAY



Heritage Bay

- 2 Bedroom +Den, 2 Baths, Corner Unit
- Picturesque Lake & Golf Course Views
- Rarely Used & Never Rented
- Wonderful Amenities
- \$219,000 MLS 213016281
- Roger Stening 239.770.4707

NAPLES PARK



Naples Park

- 3 Bedrooms +Den, 2 Baths
- Close To Shopping, Fine Dining & Entertainment
- Paved Outdoor Deck, Fenced Yard
- Room For Pool, No HOA's
- \$214,900 MLS 212028942
- Liz Appling 239.272.7201



Come out of your shell *and into one of ours.*

QUAIL CREEK



- Quail Creek**
- 4 Bedroom +Den, 7.5 Baths
 - Views of Lake & Golf Course
 - Tropical Gardens, Outside Entertainment Area
 - 2 Arthur Hills Championship Golf Courses
 - \$1,499,000 MLS 212033934
 - Lauren & Mike Taranto 239.572.3078

PELICAN BAY



- Pelican Bay**
- 3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths
 - 3-Story Villa, High End Finishes
 - Tropical Garden & Private Pool
 - Wonderful Amenities
 - \$1,000,000 MLS 213000158
 - Martinovich & Nulf 239.398-3929

THE STRAND



- Naples**
- Beautiful 5 Bedroom + Den, 5 Bath Home on Oversized Lot
 - 3 Car Garage Attached, 2 Car Detached w/ Private Entry
 - Nearly 6000sf of Indoor/Outdoor Area w/ Private Pool & Spa
 - Completely Private Upstairs Guest Suite
 - \$999,500 MLS 213017103
 - Sandy Kass, The Fagan Team 239.292.4044

THE MONACO BEACH CLUB



- 4401 Gulf Shore Blvd N #B103**
- OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4:00
- Large Open 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath w/ Direct Walkout To Beach
 - Rarely Available Beach Front Condo
 - Only One Of Its Type Available
 - Landscaped Privacy Area With Outdoor Lanai & Cabana
 - \$949,000 MLS 213001018
 - Kurt Petersen 239.777.0408

LIVINGSTON WOODS



- Livingston Woods**
- 6 + Bedrooms, 4 Baths
 - Custom Built, Wood Beamed Ceilings
 - Updated Kitchen, Wood Burning Fireplace
 - Guest House w/1 Car Attached Garage
 - \$550,000 MLS 213005730
 - The Fischer Group 239.777.7500

MEDITERRA



- Mediterra**
- 3 Bedroom +Den, 3 Baths
 - Custom Features & Finishes, Crown Molding
 - Large Screened Lanai, Western Exposure
 - Private Resident's Beach Club Available
 - \$545,000 MLS 213005756
 - Martinovich & Nulf 239.398-3929

AVELLINO ISLES



- Vineyards**
- Beautifully Upgraded Michelangelo Model
 - Upgraded Gourmet Kitchen
 - Lake View with Fountains
 - Columns and Archways
 - \$537,000 MLS 212024564
 - Kurt Petersen 239.777.0408

CASA BONITA II



- Bonita Beach**
- Direct Beachfront
 - 6th Floor, 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
 - Turnkey Furnished
 - Gorgeous Gulf Views!
 - \$535,000 MLS 213012001
 - Denise Stilwell 239.273.0990

BONITA BAY



- Oversized Corner Lot**
- 2 Bedroom +Den, 2.5 Baths
 - Custom Designed Glass Entry Doors
 - Outstanding Floor Plan, Immaculately Maintained
 - Short Walk To Community Pool
 - \$449,500 MLS 213014640
 - Martinovich & Nulf 239.564.1266

VANDERBILT BEACH



- Vanderbilt Landings**
- Beautifully Updated, 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
 - Sunset Views From Screened Lanai
 - Boat Docks Available For Purchase or Lease
 - Across From Vanderbilt Beach
 - \$410,000 MLS 213014932
 - Annette Villano 239.248.6798

VANDERBILT COUNTRY CLUB



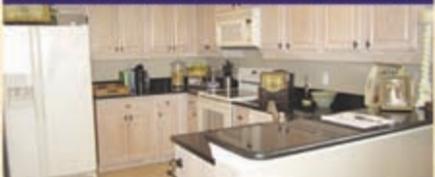
- Assessment Fully Paid**
- 2 Bedroom +Den, 2 Bath, Beautiful Built-In Cabinets
 - Extended Lanai w/Complete Privacy
 - Hurricane Shutters
 - 2 Yr. A/C & New Hot Water Heater
 - \$398,500 MLS 213009162
 - Barbara Irons 239.821.2510

CENTRAL NAPLES



- Central Naples**
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Family Room
 - Pool Home Located In Heart Of Naples
 - Large Homesite w/Maintained Lawn & Bright Southern Exposure
 - Updated & Expanded Home Is Move-In Ready
 - \$375,000 MLS 213007002
 - Heather Wightman 239.450.1891

SHADOW WOOD AT THE BROOKS



- Palmetto Ridge**
- End Unit, Corner, 2 Bedrooms + Den, 2 Full Baths
 - South Facing Lanai, Golf & Lake View
 - Granite Kitchen, Pantry, Custom Cabinetry
 - New HVAC in 2009, 2 Car Garage, Beach Club Available
 - \$235,000 MLS 213001079
 - Greg Lewis, The Lewis Team 239.287.1158

WYNDEMERE



- Wyndemere**
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bath, Attached Villa
 - Open Floor Plan, Cathedral Ceilings
 - New Kitchen, Lots of Natural Light
 - Gated Golf Course Neighborhood
 - \$229,000 MLS 213000152
 - Lauren & Mike Taranto 239.572.3078

COPPERLEAF AT THE BROOKS



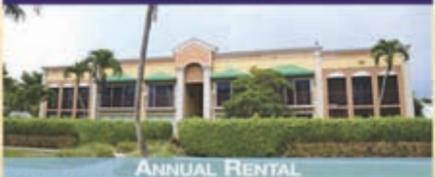
- Copperleaf At The Brooks**
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
 - Turnkey Furnished
 - Bundled Golf Included
 - Granite Kitchen, 1st Floor Unit
 - \$224,500 MLS 213006067
 - Bette Pitzer 239.560.2627

COPPERLEAF AT THE BROOKS



- Sago Pointe**
- First Floor 2 Bedroom + Den Carriage Home
 - Immaculate Condition Turnkey Furnished
 - Beautiful Golf Course View
 - Bundled Golf Course Community w/ Lovely Clubhouse
 - \$223,900 MLS 213016836
 - Corye Reiter, The Lummis Team 239.273.3722

PARADISO



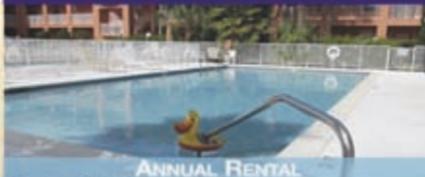
- ANNUAL RENTAL**
- Olde Naples**
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
 - 2nd Floor Spacious Condo
 - Large Patio With Garden Views
 - 2 Blocks To The Beach
 - \$2,900 / Month MLS 213019246
 - Marjorie Workinger 239.325.3516

PELICAN BAY



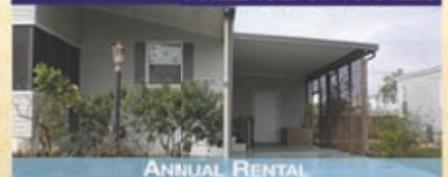
- ANNUAL RENTAL**
- Pebble Creek at Pelican Bay**
- 2 Bedrooms +Den, 2 Baths
 - Bright & Cheery 2nd Floor Unit
 - Wonderful Amenities
 - Walk To Beach Shuttle
 - \$2,200 / Month MLS 212025981
 - Jeff Windland 239.285.1198

VANDERBILT BEACH



- ANNUAL RENTAL**
- Vanderbilt Beach**
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
 - Spacious & Bright, First Floor
 - Updated Unit
 - Large Pool
 - \$1,500 / Month MLS 213019678
 - Debbie Hunt 239.398.5529

WINDJAMMER VILLAGE OF NAPLES



- ANNUAL RENTAL**
- Windjammer Village of Naples**
- 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
 - 55+ Community, Amazing Amenities
 - Completely Re-Done, New Appliances
 - Great Atmosphere, Friendly People
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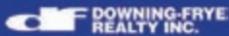
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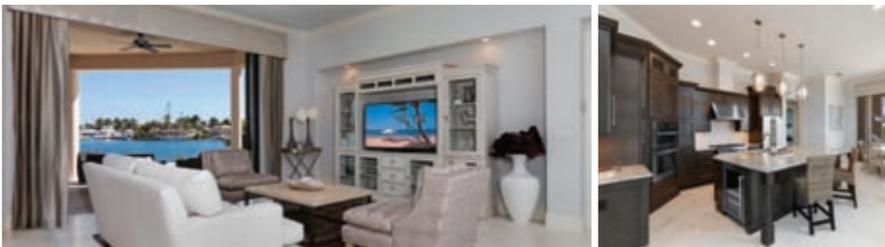
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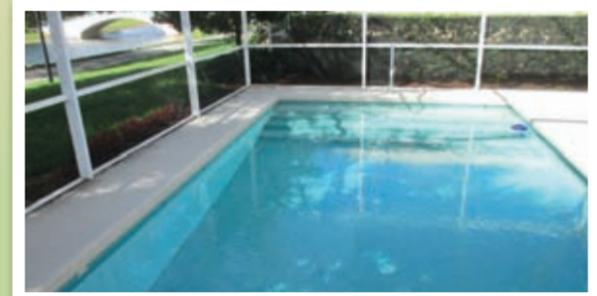
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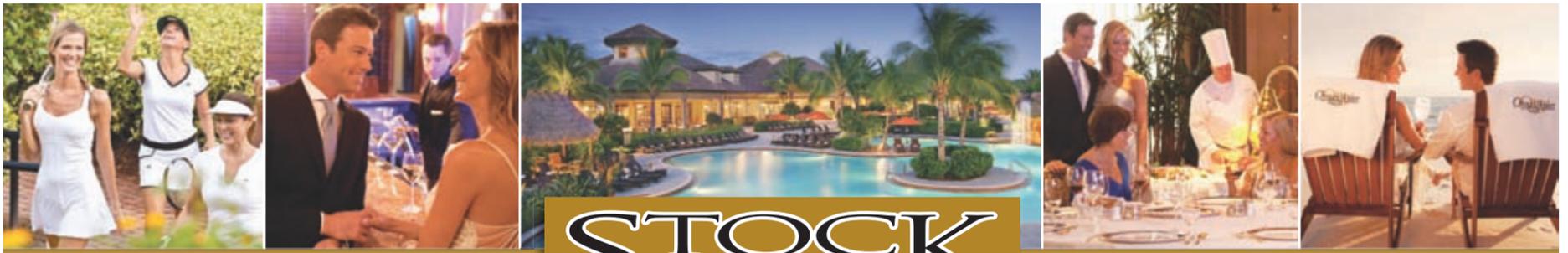
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Bonita Springs, Shadow Wood \$754,900 3/2.5
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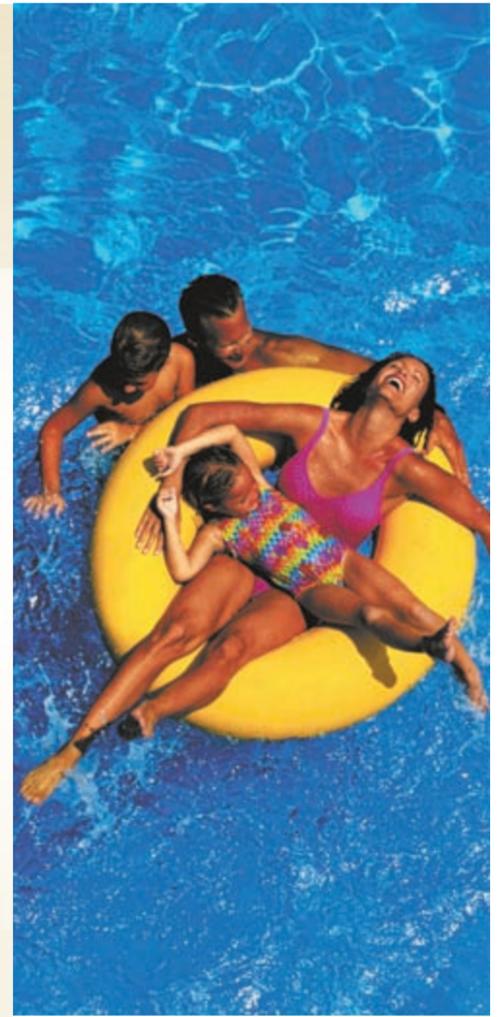
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A SAMPLING OF OUR NEW LISTINGS

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2013



Park Shore, 4101 Gulf Shore Blvd N, #17S - Highly desirable Regent unit features world class finishes & exquisite detailing throughout its 8,256 SF of living space. Gorgeous panoramic view overlooks beach. 4+Den/6+2half (C9434) Bill Earls, P.A., 777-6622, Larry Lappin, 571-8247 **\$6,250,000**



Pelican Bay, 7575 Pelican Bay Blvd #801 - RARELY available & highly desirable end unit offering 3,460 SF of luxurious living space. Fabulous SW exposure with sweeping Gulf views. 2 car garage, private elevator. 3+Den/3.5 (C9368) Scott J. Lepore, 250-2800, Danni Sadler, 248-0678 **\$3,395,000**



Moorings, 760 Starboard Dr - Unparalleled quality & workmanship in this magnificent home! Fabulous curb appeal with privacy & tranquility. Southern exposure, resort-style lap pool. Summer kitchen. 5+Den/4+2half (H7449) Mindy Young, 248-0258, Joanne Rathbun **\$2,850,000**



Bonita Bay, 3380 Creekview Dr - Better than new! Totally remodeled spacious home with open floor plan, hi-end appliances, huge storage, outdoor kitchen and exceptional golf view! 4+Den/3.5 (H7354) Sharon Grabau, 910-4040 **\$1,895,000**



Colliers Reserve, 12339 Colliers Reserve Dr - Magnificently maintained home. Over 4,000 SF with easy to accommodate friends & family floor plan. Additional guest home features 1BR den/1BA with kitchenette. 3 car garage. 4+Den/4.5 (H7447) Shannon Lefevre, 595-6223, Chad Phipps, 293-7401 **\$1,495,000**



Old Naples, 625 5th Ave S, #PH 02 - Stunning Penthouse located right on 5th Ave S in the heart of downtown! Light & bright expansive floor plan, coded elevator, extra storage & garage parking space. 3/2.5 (C9385) Robyn Pfister Griffin, 404-8222 **\$1,495,000**



Palmira Golf And Country Club, 28511 Talori Ter - Harbourside built home offers 4112 sq. ft. Lanai looks East over infinity edge pool with outdoor kitchen areas to lake & golf course. 3 car garage, 3 A/C zones & more. 4+Den/4.5 (H7441) Jim Flack, 877-2334 **\$1,495,000**



Cape Harbour, 5858 Harbour Preserve Cir - Cape Coral's most exclusive waterfront community, this brand new construction stunning Estate Home offers every luxury you could ask for. 4+Den/4.5 (H7357) Aaron Wolf, 821-6962 **\$1,395,000**



Shadow Wood, 23084 Shady Knoll Dr - Beautifully upgraded 3,584 SF single-family home; 3+Den with 3.5 Baths. Spacious screened lanai and pool with SW view overlooks canal/preserve area. 3+Den/3.5 (H7348) Nate Treadwell, 849-5706, Douglas Treadwell, 919-2002 **\$1,350,000**



Park Shore, 250 Park Shore Dr #801 - Stunning, unique 180' views south over Venetian Bay & to Gulf from totally renovated 8th top floor end unit with impact glass & 2 parking plus private beach access. 3/2 (C9357) Nan Dietrich, 564-2906 **\$1,300,000**



Park Shore, 4401 Gulf Shore Blvd N, #502 - Perfection! Quality throughout, beautifully-renovated, furnished, 2,848 SF A/C, sunny NW exposure, Gulf views, granite, marble, 2 garages, electric shutters. WOW! 3/3 (C9334) Susan Wall, P.A., 285-5033 **\$1,295,000**



Pelican Bay, 802 Pineside Ln - Completely remodeled in & out. Newer roof, kitchen, baths, floors. New SS appliances include double ovens. Oversized lanai with summer kitchen, pool & waterfall, built-ins & more. 3+Den/3 (H7372) The Candito Group, 290-5236 **\$1,195,000**



Pelican Landing, 25051 Goldcrest Dr - Golf course views through 10 ft. tall sliders with 14 ft. ceilings and oversized South-facing pool. Custom home with Royal Palms and fruit trees. 3-car garage. 4+Den/4.5 (H6335) Richard Schwandt, 287-9177 **\$1,120,000**



Old Naples, 675 7th Ave N - Remodeled home includes granite counter tops, new cabinets, lots of closet space, 2 car garage, original Terrazo floors throughout, screened lanai, large yard. 3/2 (H7444) Bruce Miller, 206-0868 **\$1,100,000**



Royal Harbor, 2195 Tarpon Rd - Charming waterfront home, minutes to some of Naples finest beaches, elegant shopping, fine restaurants & more! Open living area perfect for entertaining, pool. 3+Den/3.5 (H7393) Gigi Ricciardi, 601-4934 **\$995,000**



Stonebridge, 1931 Springberry Cir - Spacious pool home on 2nd green & cul-de-sac. Open floor plan with cherry kitchen cabinets, tile/diagonal, sound & alarm sys, crown molding. www.1931SpringberryCir.com. 3+Den/3 (H7384) Jim Scartz, 877-9726 **\$965,000**



Bonita Bay, 26241 Isle Way - Exquisite in its design, paved pool deck with southern exposure, custom cabinetry in kitchen and built-in shelving throughout. Not yet in MLS. 3/2.5 (V1792) Amy Velyvis, 287-3932, Cathy Wynne, 565-1823 **\$899,000**



Marco Island, 740 Collier Blvd N, #401 - Penthouse-level, turnkey furnished condo with phenomenal views of Smokehouse Bay & The Esplanade Marina. Expansive deck. T-dock available for separate purchase. 3/2.5 (C9316) Linda C. Loomis, P.A., 451-0769 **\$889,000**



Moorings, 3483 Gulf Shore Blvd N, #505 - Just 36 Charming West Indies Island-style condos nestled beachside. This JEWEL offers direct GULF views & impressive custom updates/finishes throughout. 2/2 (C9395) Jill Rogers, 450-6856 **\$845,000**



Pelican Marsh, 9142 Troon Lakes Dr - Cozy, former Summerlin villa model home in sought after community. Fireplace, wet bar, surround sound & lots of crown molding in living rm. "Move-in" condition. 3+Den/2.5 (H7445) Jill Pyszkowski, 659-6333 **\$580,000**



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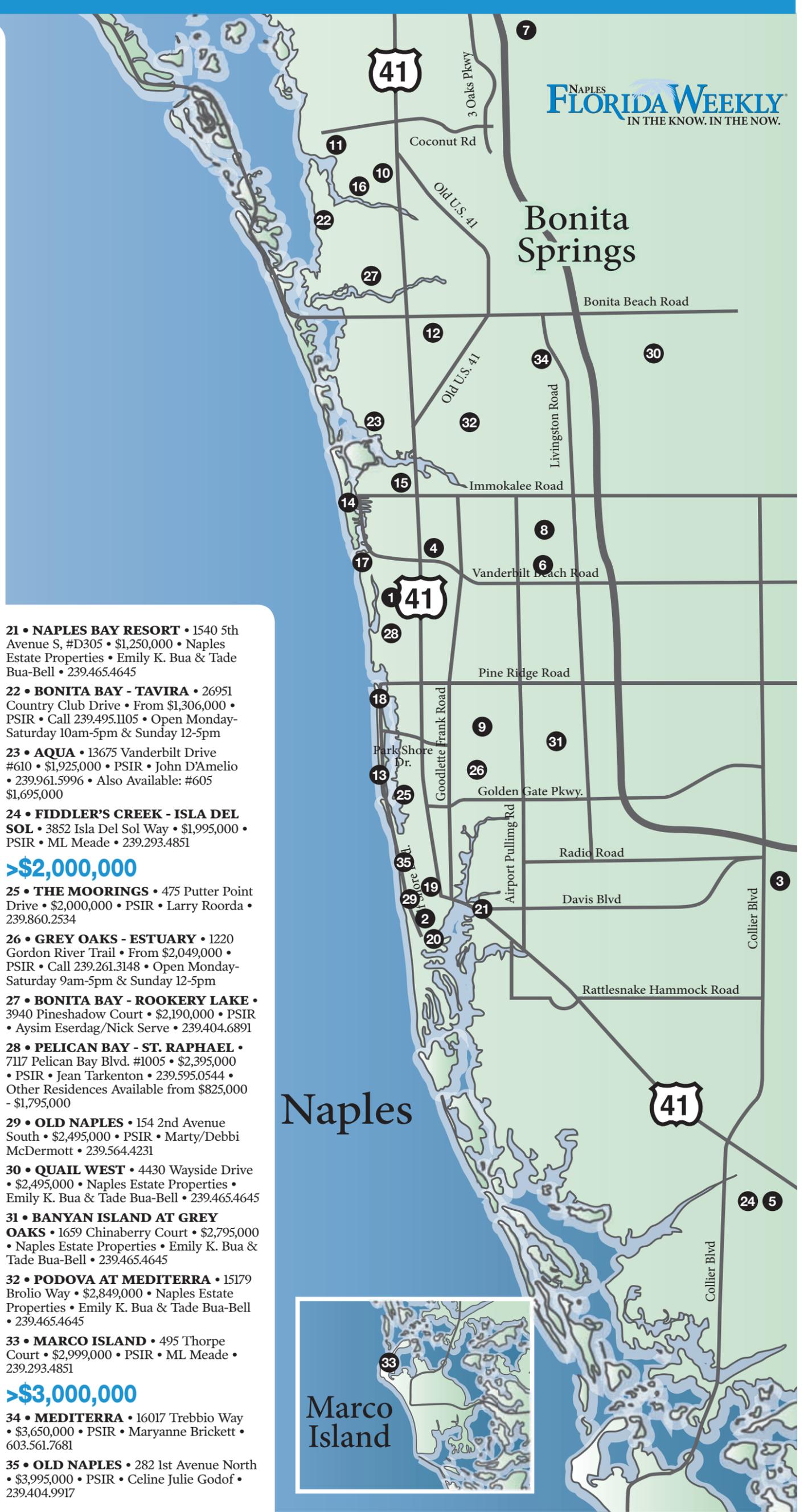
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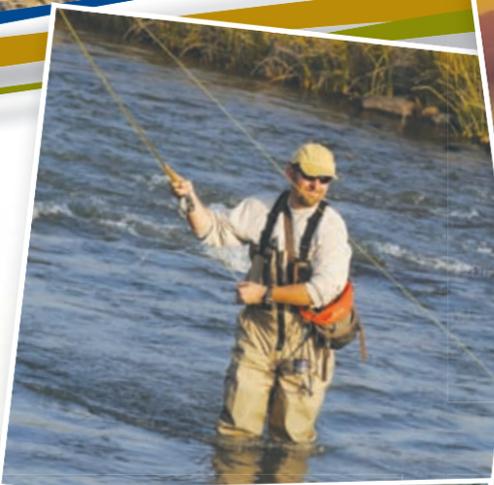
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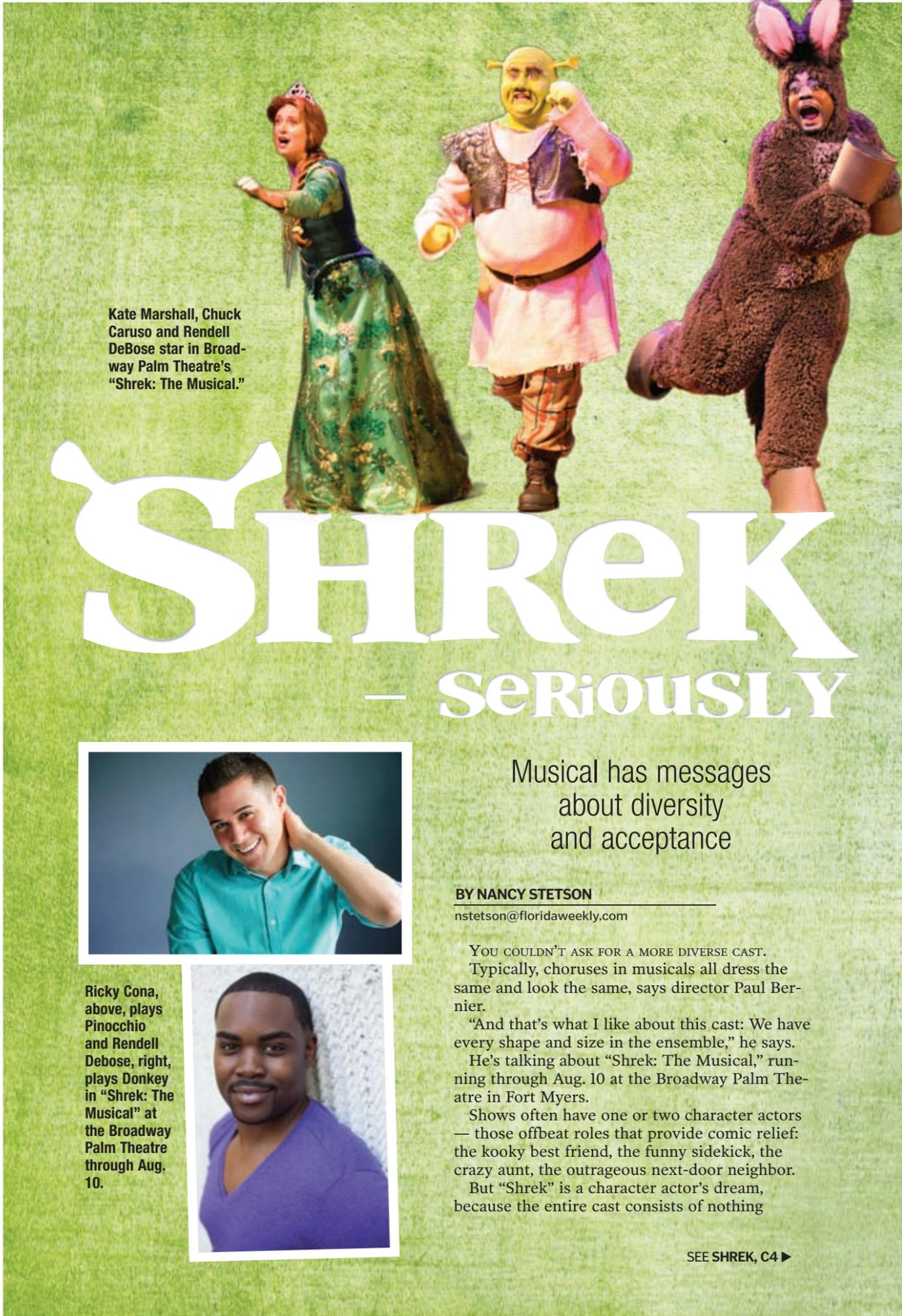
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF JULY 4-10, 2013

A GUIDE TO THE LOCAL ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE



Kate Marshall, Chuck Caruso and Rendell DeBose star in Broadway Palm Theatre's "Shrek: The Musical."

SHREK

— SERIOUSLY



Ricky Cona, above, plays Pinocchio and Rendell Debose, right, plays Donkey in "Shrek: The Musical" at the Broadway Palm Theatre through Aug. 10.



Musical has messages about diversity and acceptance

BY NANCY STETSON
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR A MORE DIVERSE CAST. Typically, choruses in musicals all dress the same and look the same, says director Paul Bernier. "And that's what I like about this cast: We have every shape and size in the ensemble," he says. He's talking about "Shrek: The Musical," running through Aug. 10 at the Broadway Palm Theatre in Fort Myers. Shows often have one or two character actors — those offbeat roles that provide comic relief: the kooky best friend, the funny sidekick, the crazy aunt, the outrageous next-door neighbor. But "Shrek" is a character actor's dream, because the entire cast consists of nothing

SEE SHREK, C4 ►

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INSIDE



It's big, it's epic ...
It's "Les Misérables," undeniably popular and now playing at the Sudgen. C8 ►



Shmoo-zing

The collectible sensation that started in a "L'il Abner" comic strip. C14 ►



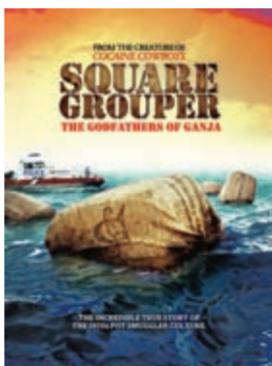
The Counter is tops

Diners choose their specs for custom-built burgers. C23 ►

Film depicts Everglades City's drug-smuggling days

Sleepy Everglades City plays a strong supporting role in "Square Grouper: The Godfathers of Ganja," the 2011 documentary that takes its name from the nickname given to bales of marijuana thrown overboard or out of airplanes in South Florida in the 1970s and '80s.

Dave Johnson, retired Collier County deputy sheriff, remembers the times well and



will discuss the film at a screening beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 9, at the Marco Island Historical Museum. Admission is \$3 for MIHS members, \$5 for others.

Mr. Johnson grew up on Marco and served the Collier County Sheriff's Office for 35 years, retiring with the rank of captain in 2009. During

the days of square grouper, he patrolled Marco Island, East Naples and Everglades City.

In sharp contrast to the brazenly violent "Cocaine Cowboys" of the 1980s, marijuana smugglers were cooler, calmer and typically nonviolent. "Square Grouper" paints a vivid portrait of the culture and its major players: the smuggling, Miami-based Black Tuna Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion

SEE SQUARE GROUPE, C5 ►

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SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

The surprising prescription for a happy life



In her latest collection of essays, "Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake," author Anna Quindlen relays the story of a man who went to see a doctor for help with his depression. The physician took out a prescription pad, jotted down a note and passed the paper to the man.

"Get a dog," it said.
I laughed when I read this. I'm not a dog person. I can't imagine shackling myself to the daily schedule of walks and feedings, the weekly baths and monthly trips to the groomer, the yearly shots and check-ups, all the weighty obligations that come with owning a dog. I look at my neighbors with their yappy canines and think, *That can't be the prescription for a happy life.*

But I'll admit that some dogs might be worth it. There is a dog here where I'm spending the summer, Homer, who has more depth and intelligence than many men I've dated. Two days ago I think he saved my life.

Homer and I were hiking up a mountain path just off the main road. The day was clear and warm and the leaves on the chestnut trees overhead sent up a soft murmur. Where the path crossed an old dirt road, I quickened my step. Rusty

pick-up trucks lined the drive and the track ran down to a creaky farmhouse. It was the kind of place that would have mean dogs under the porch.

I followed at a fast pace as Homer ran ahead, up the rocky trail and into the woods. Suddenly a ferocious barking came from my left. I turned and a big dog, deep-chested and square-jawed, pounded up the road toward me. He never slowed, never stopped, but ran at a terrifying tilt. I called out from some instinctual place, a cry that I didn't know I would make until it issued from my mouth.

"Homer," I screamed.
He bounded down the mountain trail and flew across the dirt road. I froze as he threw himself on the bigger dog. The two rolled in the dirt. I ran as fast as I could across the road and up the incline of the path.

I stopped to look back and the two dogs had squared off. The bigger dog lunged and Homer leapt back. He turned and followed me up the trail. The big dog started to chase after us, but someone down the road called his name. He hesitated, and Homer and I sprinted up the path. I looked over my shoulder twice, but the dog had dis-

appeared.
We ran until our legs burned and our lungs ached. We didn't pause until we were home. Then we collapsed

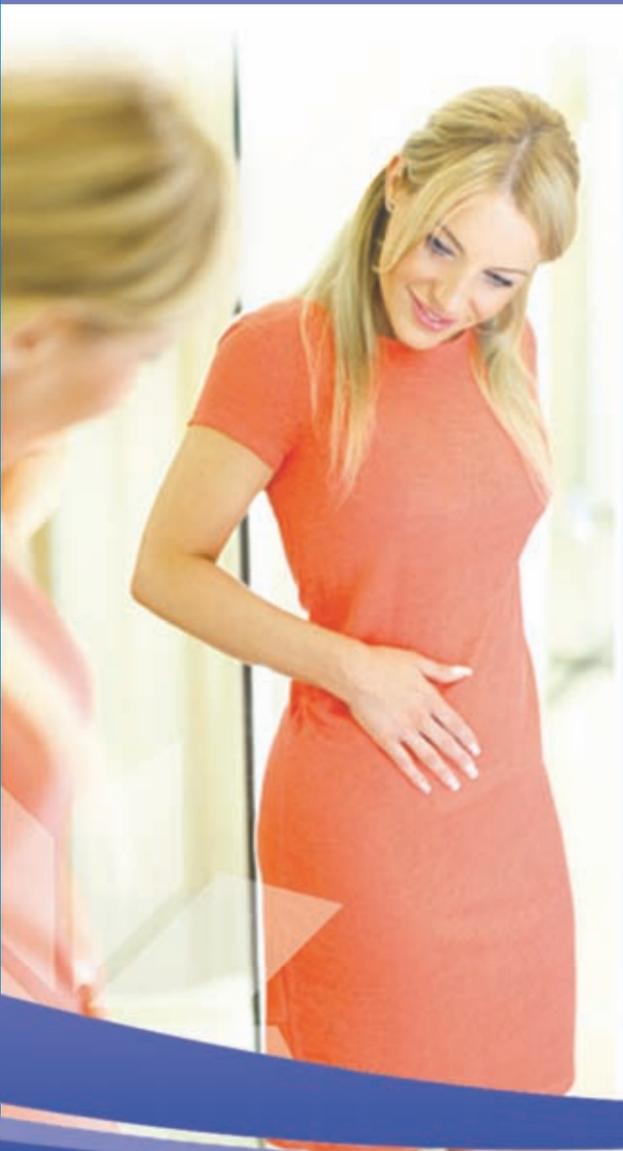
on the stone terrace beside each other, and I

shook as I realized Homer had saved me from serious harm. My heart swelled in my chest.

Sigmund Freud famously said that the keys to a happy life are love and work. But our problem comes from where to find that love — our families are complicated, our romances complex. But dogs with their deep, easy and loyal love might just be the solution we need. ■



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COURTESY PHOTOS

The cast of "Shrek: The Musical"

SHREK

From page 1

but roles for character actors.

"Acting-wise, this is a stronger cast than, (say), '42nd Street,' where the singers and dancers don't get to say that much," Mr. Bernier says. "This show has a lot of individual characters you get to know. It's an ensemble."

The only ingénue is Fiona, and even she has some great comedic lines, he adds.

One of the reasons he felt drawn to the show and feels so comfortable directing it is because he's a character actor himself. Broadway Palm audiences will know Mr. Bernier from previous shows there: He played the taxman in "Love, Sex and the IRS" and Uncle Max in "The Sound of Music." He was also in "Sugar Babies" and "42nd Street." In 1990, he played gangster Moonface Martin in the national tour of "Anything Goes."

His experience with side-kick and character roles — but "never the ingénue," he jokes — makes his role as director of "Shrek: The Musical" much easier, he says.

He describes the show as not only appealing to the eye, but one that makes adults and kids alike laugh. "Some of the humor will go over the kids' heads," he says.

Although some might think of it as just a big children's show, it's really "a full-blown musical," he adds, complete with beautiful ballads, memorable tunes "and a very large dragon."

He fell in love with the show when he saw it at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers. "My first reaction was, 'I want to direct the show,'" he says.

The musical, of course, is based on the 2001 DreamWorks animated "Shrek" movie, which was based on the children's book by William Steig. It's about a smelly, green ogre who lives in a swamp and has no friends. Over the course of the story, he falls in love with a beautiful princess named Fiona and develops a friendship with Donkey (who he initially sees as an annoyance).

All about individuality

"Everybody has their own specific individuality," says Rendell DeBose, who plays Donkey. "It's an amazing thing to see. That's the whole point



Kate Marshall, Chuck Caruso and Rendell DeBose form an unlikely alliance in "Shrek: The Musical."

of the show: It's all about acceptance for who you are ... Don't judge a book by its cover. You never know what is inside that book."

This is a musical that not only includes a talking donkey and the aforementioned dragon, but also a gingerbread man, Mama Bear and Pinocchio, among other fairytale characters.

Mr. DeBose says he was a huge fan of the movie. When he heard that Prather Entertainment Group was going to produce the musical, he knew he wanted to audition for Donkey.

"That's the iconic role," he says. "I'm an African-American actor ... in the musical world, (we're) so used to playing slaves or servants or drug dealers."

(He previously played the slave Jim in a Prather Entertainment Group production of "Big River," based on Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.")

"This role is so different," he says. "I get to play myself. I come to work and play."

He's also a huge fan of Eddie Murphy, who provided the voice of Donkey in

the movie version.

"He was a big influence in my life," he says about the actor. "I try to channel Eddie Murphy (in my role), but not all of it. I know I'm doing different things too."

Ricky Cona, who plays Pinocchio, is a big fan of John Tartaglia, who played Pinocchio in the original Broadway production of "Shrek: The Musical."

"I got to see clips from the Broadway production," Mr. Cona says. "I've always envied (Mr. Tartaglia's) work as a puppeteer and a stage actor. When I saw some of his performance, I was inspired to have a shot at it. It's such a fun role, and a great character."

In the song "Freak Flag," the other characters inspire Pinocchio, who then has an epiphany that, "We have magical powers, we are stronger and we're capable of bigger things," Mr. Cona says. His character even proclaims: "I'm wood, I'm good, get used to it!"

The musical has parallels to what's going on in society today, he adds.

"People are different, whether it's sexuality, or a way of life, or ethnicity,

or how they look," he says. "I think it's a very powerful message — a message that everyone needs to learn and see and appreciate."

It's especially timely, he says, with the recent Supreme Court ruling that struck down the Defense of Marriage Act, giving gay married couples the same rights as heterosexual couples.

"The biggest message of 'Shrek' is being OK with yourself, loving yourself," Mr. DeBose says. "As soon as you can accept yourself, you can bring other people into your life and accept them as well." ■

in the know

"Shrek: The Musical"

>> **When:** Through Aug. 10

>> **Where:** Broadway Palm Theatre, Fort Myers

>> **Cost:** Buffet and show, \$47-\$55 for adults, \$18 for ages 18 and younger; show only \$35 for adults, \$17 for children

>> **Info:** 278-4422 or www.broadwaypalm.com



SQUARE GROUPEE

From page 1

Church in Jamaica, and Everglades City, the fishing village that was perfectly situated to serve as the go-between. The DEA's highly publicized raids in 1983 and 1984 led to the arrest of almost 80 percent of the city's adult male population.



CORBEN

Produced by Rakontur & Magnet Releasing and directed by Billy Corben, "Square Grouper: The Godfathers of Ganja" was an official selection of these 2011 film festivals: SXSW, Full Frame Film Festival, Philadelphia Cinefest, Florida Film Festival and Newport Beach Film Festival. It was also featured at the 2011 Denver



MAGNET RELEASING / COURTESY PHOTOS

Top and above: Scenes from "Square Grouper" show a 1983 drug bust in Everglades City.

High Times Medical Cannabis Convention. Running time is 100 minutes. ■



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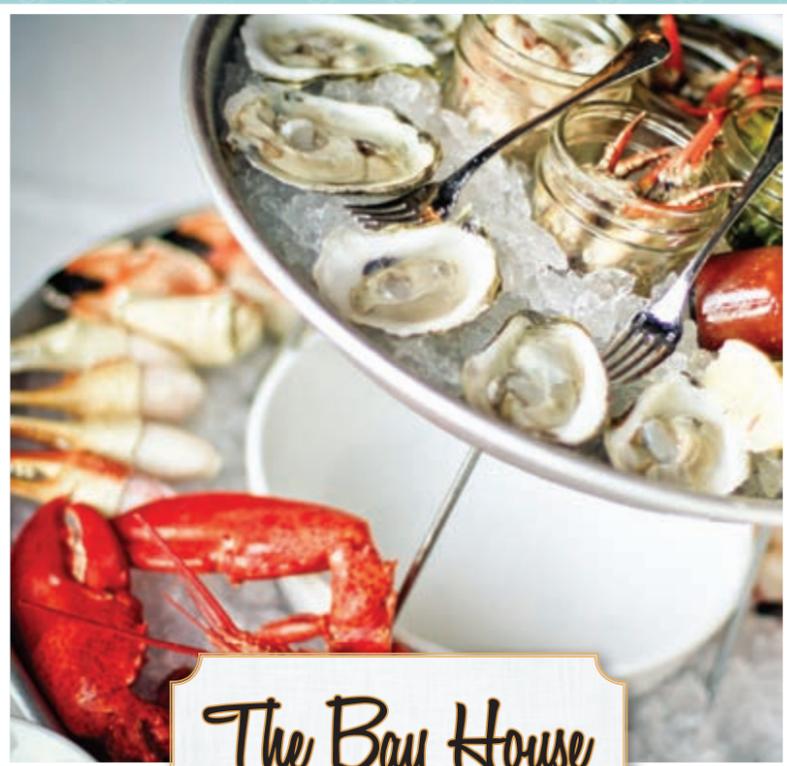


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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Theater

■ **Les Miz** – By The Naples Players through July 28 at the Sugden Community Theatre. 263-7990 or www.naples-players.org. See review on page C8.

■ **Shrek: The Musical** – Through Aug. 10 at the Broadway Palm Theatre, Fort Myers. 278-4422 or www.broadwaypalm.com. See story on page C1.

■ **Funny Money** – Through Aug. 10 at the Off Broadway Palm Theatre, Fort Myers. 278-4422 or www.broadwaypalm.com.

■ **Bob: A Life in Five Acts** – Through July 20 at Laboratory Theater, Fort Myers. 218-0481 or www.laboratorytheaterflorida.com.

Thursday, July 4

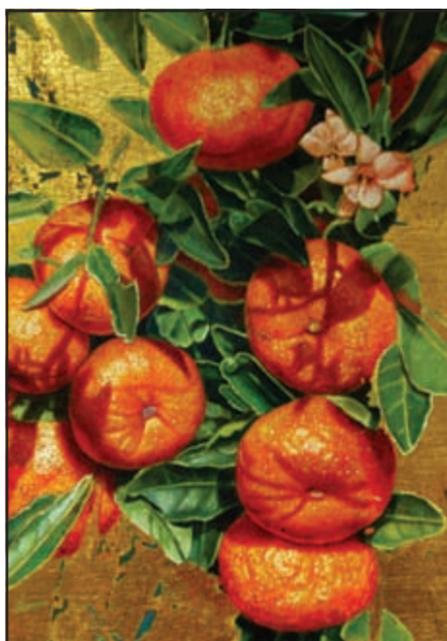
■ **Red, White & Blue** – Naples Botanical Garden celebrates Independence Day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. with \$4 admission for guests wearing red, white, and blue. 643-7275 or www.naplesgarden.org.

■ **Patriotic Tunes** – The Village on Venetian Bay celebrates Independence Day from 4-7 p.m. with entertainment by the Suncoast Brass Quintet and the Blue Wave Duo. www.venetianvillage.com.

■ **Indie-pendence Fest** – Mercato presents indie rock by Andrew Stamps and The Freestyles from 6-9 p.m. The fun also includes lawn games and face painting. www.mercatoshops.com.

■ **Jamming with Jebry** – Jebry's Jazz Jam takes place from 6-9 p.m. at New York Pizza and Pasta House. 11140 Tamiami Trail N. 594-3500.

■ **More Music** – The Wholetones take the stage at 10 p.m. at IIWII Beach Bar & Grille. 13510 Tamiami Trail N. 596-5731.



Harmon-Meek Gallery presents "Orange You Glad It's Summer," an exhibit of works by American modern and contemporary masters, July 8-12. Included in the exhibit are, clockwise from top: "Tangerine," by Fran Hardy, 2001; "Alanna's Pinwheel," by Robert Vickrey, 2012; "The Deep," by Philip Morsberger, 2007; and "On the Island," by Darrel Austin, 1956. The gallery is at 599 Ninth St. N. Hours are noon-5 p.m. Monday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday 261-2637 or www.harmonmeek.com.

Friday, July 5

■ **Stand-Up Guy** – Dan Soder takes the stage tonight through July 7 at the Off the Hook Comedy Club, Marco Island. 389-6901 or www.offthehookcomedy.com.

■ **Craft Beer Tours** – Tour Naples Beach Brewery from 4-8 p.m. today and 3-7 p.m. June 29. \$15 gets the guided tour and samples of six beers. 4110 Enterprise Ave. 304-8795. www.naplesbeachbrewery.com.

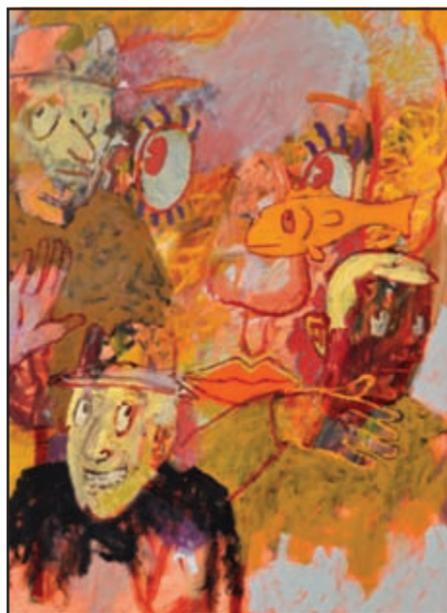
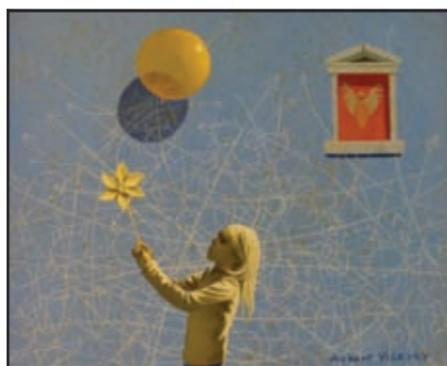
■ **Rock Out** – Konnie & Kirk perform from 6-9 p.m. by the pool at Jack's River Bar. 475 North Road. 213-1441 or www.floridamarinaclubs.com.

■ **Piano Music** – Lynn Carol tickles the ivories from 6-9 p.m. today and July 7 in the lounge at Capers Kitchen & Bar. 2460 Vanderbilt Beach Road. 431-7438.

■ **Salute to Vets** – Paul Todd and Paul Todd Jr. perform a musical salute to the troops at 7 p.m. tonight and July 6 at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers. \$35. 481-4849 or www.bbmanna.com.

Saturday, July 6

■ **Farmers Market** – The Third Street South Farmers Market takes place from 7:30-11:30 a.m. in the parking lot behind Tommy Bahama. www.thirdstreetsouth.com.



■ **Brain Teasers** – Join the Renaissance Academy at FGCU at The Brooks in Bonita Springs for "Short Circuit Your Brain," a challenging and entertaining short class in training your eye to pick out the not-so-obvious, from 1:30-3 p.m. at the Commons Club at the Brooks. \$25. Register at 434-4737.

■ **Live Tunes** – Kerry West plays from 7-10 p.m. at Café Luna. 467 Fifth Ave. S. 213-2212 or www.cafelunanaples.com.

Tuesday, July 9

■ **Kids Flick** – The Regal Hollywood Stadium 20 presents a screening of "Coraline" (PG) for \$1 at 10 a.m. as part of its Summer Movie Express series. 6006 Hollywood Blvd. 597-4252 or www.regmovies.com.

■ **The Sting** – The Film Society of the Naples International Film Festival hosts a screening and discussion of "The Sting" (PG, 1973) at Silverspot Cinema at Mercato. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments and the film begins at 7 p.m. \$25 includes movie ticket, beverage and snack. www.silverspotcinema.com.

■ **More Movies** – Catch a free screening of "ParaNorman" beginning at 8:30 p.m. under the stars at Gulf Coast Town Center. Bring blankets or chairs for seating. 267-0783 or www.gulfcoasttowncenter.com.

Wednesday, July 10

■ **Pick Your Seat** – Headquarters Library presents a free screening of the film "Company" (USA, 2011) at 2 p.m. 2385 Orange Blossom Dr. 593-3511 or www.collierlibrary.org.

■ **Photography Presentation** – Journeyman Photography Gallery hosts "Cuba: Street Level Photographs" from 6-8 p.m. \$10. Reservations required. 2220 J&C Blvd. 260-5771 or www.journeymangallery.org.

Coming up

■ **Book Discussion** – Headquarters Regional Library hosts a discussion of "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak, at 2 p.m. July 11. Free. Registration required. 2385 Orange Blossom Drive. 593-0177 or www.colliergov.net/library.

■ **Film Series** – Naples Regional Library hosts a free screening of the film "Company" (USA, 2011) at 2 p.m. July 11. Free. Registration required. 650 Central Ave. 263-7768 or www.colliergov.net/library.

■ **Bowling for Rhinos** – The Naples chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers holds "Bowling for Rhinos" from 7-10 p.m. July 11 at The Naples Zoo. \$35 per person, with \$20 benefitting programs for endangered rhinos and their habitat. E-mail aazk@napleszoo.org by July 8 for reservations.

■ **Stage2 Improv** – By The Naples Players at the Tobye Studio July 11-13, 18-20 and 25-27. 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.

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WHAT TO DO

■ **Opening Reception** – The Marco Island Historical Museum holds a wine-and-cheese reception for the opening of “Shorebirds of Southwest Florida and Birds of Prey” from 5-7 p.m. July 11. Free. 642-1440 or www.themihs.com.

■ **Art Opening** – The Samaniego Art Gallery hosts an opening reception for an exhibit of contemporary art by five international artists working in various media at 6 p.m. July 12. 2220 J&C Blvd. 431-7040 or Arturo@samaniego.comcastbiz.net.

■ **Cooking School** – Get cooking when Sea Salt hosts “How to Shop and Create a Menu” beginning at 11:30 a.m. July 13. \$65 includes lunch and two glasses of wine. Reservations required. 434-7258 or www.seasaltnaples.com.

■ **Art, Music & More** – Mercato celebrates the first anniversary of its Saturday Nights Alive series from 6-9 p.m. July 13 with musicians, street performers and local artists Cesar Aguilera, Veron Ennis, Bonny Hawley, Betty Newman, Emily Mihalik, Tim Parker, Joel Shapses and Dan Venditti. www.mercatoshops.com.

■ **Movie on the Lawn** – Mercato hosts a free screening of “True Grit” (PG-13) starring Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon and Josh Brolin beginning at sunset July 16. 254-1080 or www.mercatoshops.com.

■ **Book Talk** – Naples Regional Library hosts a discussion of “The Awakening” by Kate Chopin at 2 p.m. July 17. Free. Registration required. 593-3511 or www.collierlibrary.org.

■ **History Lecture** – Collier County Museum presents “Florida’s Final Frontier: The History of Transportation to Collier County” at 2 p.m. July 17. Free. 252-8476 or www.colliermuseums.com.

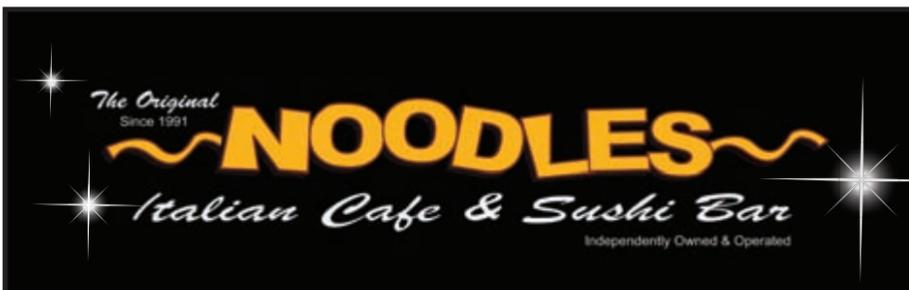
■ **Interior Trends** – Miromar Design Center presents “Fast Forward: A Future View of Interior Trends” with guest speaker Greg Dunlop at 10:30 a.m. July 18. Free. Reservations required by July 12. 390-5111 or www.miromardesigncenter.com.

■ **Cooking Tapas** – The Good Life of Naples holds a cooking class featuring Spanish tapas from 6-8 p.m. July 18. \$55. 2355 Vanderbilt Beach Road. Reservations required. 514-4663 or www.goodlifefenaples.com.

■ **Summer Sippin’** – Tony’s Off Third Wine & Pastry Shop hosts a tasting of more than 25 wines selected by wine director Sukie Honeycutt from 5:30-7 p.m. July 19. \$20 per person, with \$10 coupon toward purchase of featured wines. 262-7999 or www.tonysoffthird.com.

■ **Another Tasting** – Decanted Wine & Beer hosts a locals appreciation wine tasting from 2-4 p.m. July 20. Free to all locals, \$5 per person for out-of-town friends and family. 1410 Pine Ridge Road. 434-1814 or www.decantedwines.com. ■

— *Submit calendar listings and high-resolution photos to events@floridaweekly.com. E-mail text, jpegs or Word documents are accepted. No pdfs or photos of fliers. The deadline for calendar submissions is noon Sunday.*



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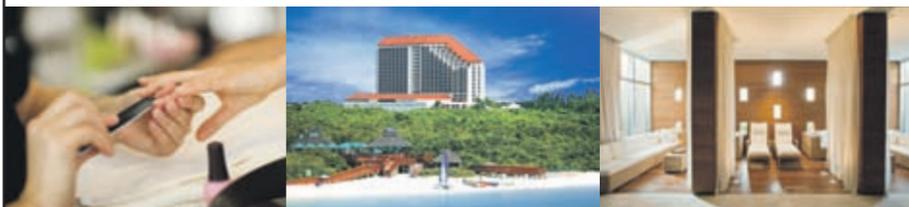
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ARTS COMMENTARY

It's big, it's epic, it's undeniably popular. It's 'Les Miz'

nancySTETSON

nstetson@floridaweekly.com



Based on Victor Hugo's 1862 novel of the same name, the musical "Les Misérables" attempts to reduce more than 1,400 pages of plot, dialogue and social commentary to three hours of song.

Like a shameless northern relative who thinks Florida looks like a great place to visit in the winter, the musical has been here often. The 25th anniversary national production has come through town twice in the past year and a half — first to Artis—Naples (when it was the Philharmonic Center for the Arts) and then to the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers. The students at Fort Myers High School did it this spring, and The Naples Players nabbed the rights for their big summer production, which runs through July 29 at the Sugden Community Theatre (the KidzAct teens will put on their own production at the Sugden Aug. 2-4).

"Les Miz" is a challenging musical for any community company to tackle, but The Naples Players once again prove they're more than equal to the task.

The show has a cast of zillions, and director Dallas Dunnagan and music director Charles Fornara found talented singers for all the roles, even the minor ones. (This is also the first time the troupe has understudies for the major roles; the show is so demanding for singers that the directors wanted to be prepared should someone be unable to perform.)

The story, which takes place over 17 years in multiple locations in 19th century France, is so complicated, a lengthy synopsis runs in the program book.

In a nutshell: Peasant Jean Valjean is arrested for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his sister's dying child. After 19 years of hard labor, he's released on parole, only to discover that no one wants to hire an ex-con, or even rent him a room. After breaking parole, running away and changing his name, he promises a dying woman named Fantine that he will take care of her daughter. But throughout Valjean's life, the rigid Inspector Javert attempts to track him down to send him back to prison.

This is all set against the backdrop of a group of students who set up a barricade and revolt against the govern-



The Naples Players during a rehearsal for "Les Misérables."

ment's shabby treatment of the poor.

It is the story of a man, and of the masses.

It's a tale of good and evil, of struggle, of personal sacrifice, grace and redemption.

Tenor Dave Gipson, a seasoned stagehand with The Naples Players, makes his Sugden stage debut as Valjean. He does a credible job throughout, but I especially liked his performance of "Bring Him Home" in Act II.

Michael Freshko, who played Freddy in "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," plays Javert. He was directed to sing his lyrics in a very rigid, measured way, to reflect his unbending, uncompassionate nature, but I found myself wanting to glimpse the person behind the badge.

Laura Needle, as Fantine, received wild applause opening night for her performance of "I Dreamed a Dream."

And Kellie Cullinan charmed as the young woman Cosette. (Three girls — Kylie Campbell, Sophia-Bella Carrasquillo and Preslie True — alternate playing the child Cosette and the child Eponine. Unfortunately, the program does not specify who is playing which roles on which nights.)

Bryan Ernst has a small but impressive role as the Bishop of Digne. Personifying grace and forgiveness, he stands out in sharp contrast to Javert's harsh judgment and his commitment to the law.

Mark Vanagas and Mary Anne McAvoy McKerrow provide much-needed

comic relief as the scheming, unscrupulous innkeepers, M. and Mme. Thénardier (he even steals gold out of the teeth of the dead.) Their rousing "Master of the House" brings much-needed lightness and frivolity to this deadly serious musical.

Mr. Vanagas always knows how to disappear inside his characters, and his Thénardier is so despicable you can't help but be amused by him. And though Ms. McKerrow is the skinniest Madame Thénardier I've seen, she matches her stage husband's comedic punch perfectly.

With some playing multiple minor characters, the ensemble singing is especially powerful, and when a group of 15 or more performers start singing together, it's electrifying.

Mr. Fornara directs an orchestra of 14 that's so fabulous, I wish they could perform at all musicals.

However, the production seems to have two volumes: loud and louder. At times I felt like that man in the ads for Maxell cassette tapes; the sound was so loud, I'm sure my hair must have been blown straight back from the force of it. I wish there had been more peaks and valleys, musically, rather than a constant bombardment of loudness. The singers are miked and, for the most part, could be heard above the orchestra.

The costumes — some rented, some courtesy of The Naples Players's costume designer, Dot Auchmoody — are top notch. Scenic designer Matt Flynn

adeptly handles the show's numerous settings, particularly the watercolor-and-black-marker drawings projected on the rear of the stage. And the set of the barricade — a wall of doors, tables, chairs, crates, bannister railings — is so impressive, it received applause on opening night.

If you love "Les Miz," you will most likely love this production. The Players do it justice, and the singing is outstanding. If you're not a big fan of the musical, though, you might find it a little too melodramatic for your taste. It can be very overwrought, like an opera. Many people die in this story, and no fewer than five characters sing — and sing and sing — before they finally expire. And then, near the end, the dead come back to sing some more.

While the musical moves swiftly from scene to scene with its new orchestrations, it somehow also seems to take a long time.

But fans of "Les Miz" will love every second. ■

VANDY MAJOR / FLORIDA WEEKLY

in the know

"Les Misérables"

- >> **Who:** The Naples Players
- >> **When:** Through July 28
- >> **Where:** The Sugden Community Theatre, Naples
- >> **Tickets:** \$35 for adults, \$10 for ages 18 and younger
- >> **Info:** 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org



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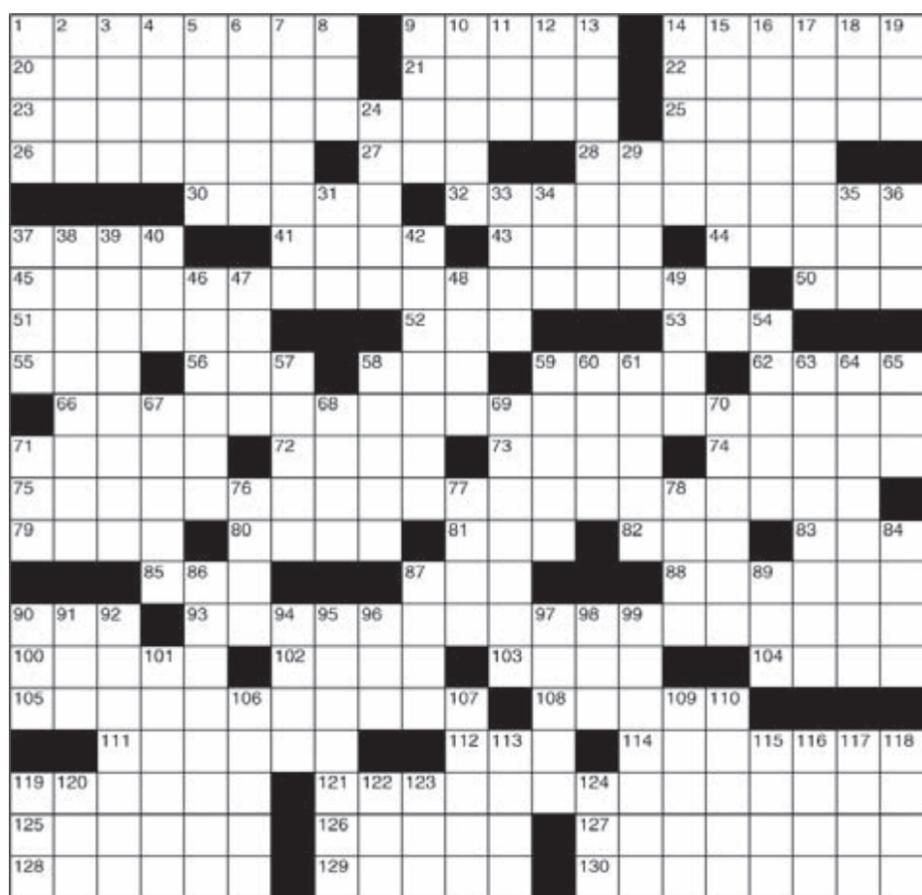
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PUZZLES

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- ACROSS**
- 1 "Ditto"
 - 9 Pop out from the cockpit
 - 14 Capital of Eritrea
 - 20 Flowed out
 - 21 Bull using its horns, e.g.
 - 22 "The — Cometh"
 - 23 "Bus Stop" star, in Annapolis?
 - 25 Offer freely
 - 26 Null and void
 - 27 "Life — cabaret ..."
 - 28 Blue Light Special stores
 - 30 Lots and lots
 - 32 Question of incredulity, in Topeka?
 - 37 Sing like Ella Fitzgerald
 - 41 Eyelid hair
 - 43 Next in line to reign
 - 44 Opt (to)
 - 45 Successful investors pay them, in Austin?
 - 50 Tooth driller's deg.
 - 51 Herb of the Tijuana Brass
 - 52 Scooby- — (toon dog)
 - 53 "Just a —"
 - 55 Chairman with a "Little Red Book"
 - 56 See 40-Down
 - 58 Zig's mate
 - 59 Josh
 - 62 Slip — (blunder)
 - 66 Adage fostering pity parties, in Jefferson City?
 - 71 Color shade
 - 72 Ping- —
 - 73 "... as — say ..."
 - 74 Financial adviser Suze
 - 75 Influential Darwin work, in Salem?
 - 79 Polite reply to a lady
 - 80 Hobo's attire
 - 81 Golfer Ernie
 - 82 Relative of a reindeer
 - 83 Ending for 115-Down in a cereal name
 - 85 Billfold bill
 - 87 Narc's org.
 - 88 Persevere in
 - 90 Java cup
 - 93 Parasite-infested critter, in Montpelier?
 - 100 Bar fixture
 - 102 2,055, to Nero
 - 103 Brontë's "Jane —"
 - 104 "Do — others as ..."
 - 105 Gulf War leader, in Atlanta?
 - 108 Country rocker Steve
 - 111 700-mile African river
 - 112 Bit of land in a river
 - 114 Disco activity
 - 119 Most favorable conditions
 - 121 "Not as simple as all that!," in Salt Lake City?
 - 125 Corrupt
 - 126 "— lift?"
 - 127 Tooth next to a canine
 - 128 "— Pointe Blank" (1997 film)
 - 129 Italian city on the Adige
 - 130 South-of-the-border citizen
- DOWN**
- 1 18-wheeler
 - 2 "... I met — with seven wives"
 - 3 Sportscaster — Albert
 - 4 Irish New Age star
 - 5 Foyers, e.g.
 - 6 Web vending
 - 7 Crime writer Ruth
 - 8 Roush of baseball
 - 9 Id regulators
 - 10 Book after Obadiah
 - 11 Drop the ball
 - 12 Corp. biggie
 - 13 Big fan of Captain Kirk and his crew
 - 14 "Michael Collins" co-star Quinn
 - 15 "Cape Fear" director
 - 16 Intellectual
 - 17 Accrued
 - 18 Hamelin pest
 - 19 Meth-ending
 - 24 — spot (shave imperfectly)
 - 29 Chico or Harpo
 - 31 Comedian
 - 33 Very, very
 - 34 Just painted
 - 35 A-E fill
 - 36 Sci-fi beings
 - 37 Swindle
 - 38 Soothing pink lotion
 - 39 Designates
 - 40 With 56-Across, marketing links
 - 42 State bordering Veracruz
 - 46 Melancholy
 - 47 2, for helium: Abbr.
 - 48 NASA scrub
 - 49 Regarding
 - 54 Resort near Naples
 - 57 Bygone Toyota
 - 58 insults wittily
 - 59 Foxworthy and Bridges
 - 60 Job bid figs.
 - 61 Extent
 - 63 Discovered
 - 64 Tilting
 - 65 Ob- — (delivery Dr.)
 - 67 Jerky sort
 - 68 Film director
 - 69 Infringe upon
 - 70 Scoffing sort
 - 71 Tot's amuser
 - 76 Hersher's of the diamond
 - 77 Former Nair competitor
 - 78 Screen siren
 - 84 Prefix for "quintillionth"
 - 86 Pro gridiron match-ups
 - 87 Segments: Abbr.
 - 89 Kiwi relative
 - 90 Chinese food additive
 - 91 Sport- —
 - 92 Extend as far as
 - 94 Hi-tech "zine
 - 95 Atmospheric music genre
 - 96 —-ray Disc
 - 97 Turn a blind —
 - 98 Big gun gp.
 - 99 Lush green vegetation
 - 101 Planet paths
 - 106 Laughable
 - 107 "The Father of the Symphony"
 - 109 Kind of paint
 - 110 As a friend, to Francois
 - 113 "— first you don't ..."
 - 115 Alternative to vanilla: Abbr.
 - 116 Jamaica, por ejemplo
 - 117 Flatbread of India
 - 118 Greek pita sandwich
 - 119 Part of WHO: Abbr.
 - 120 "— favor, señor!"
 - 122 — Lingus
 - 123 Visit with
 - 124 Engine stat

SEE ANSWERS, C9

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HOROSCOPES

■ **CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Congratulations on getting that project up and running. But as exciting as it is, don't let it carry you away. Make sure you set aside time to spend with family and friends.

■ **LEO (July 23 to August 22)** Be sure you're part of the discussion involving your suggestions. Your presence ensures that you can defend your work, if necessary. It also helps gain your colleagues' support.

■ **VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** A misunderstanding needs to be dealt with, or it can grow and cause more problems later on. Be the bigger person and take the first step to clear the air.

■ **LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** Set some strict guidelines for yourself so your heavier-than-usual work schedule doesn't overwhelm the time you need to spend relaxing with loved ones.

■ **SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** You might feel a little uncomfortable being among people you hardly know. But remember that today's strangers can become tomorrow's valuable contacts.

■ **SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** Reward yourself for all that you've accomplished despite some annoying situations that got in your way. Enjoy a well-earned getaway with someone special.

■ **CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** Realizing that someone

else is taking credit for what you did is bound to get anyone's goat, but especially yours. Be patient. The truth soon comes out.

■ **AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** Forget about opposites attracting. What you need is to find someone who thinks like you and will support your ideas, even if others say they're too radical.

■ **PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** Workplace problems can affect your financial plans. Be prudent and avoid running up bills or making commitments until things begin to ease up by the 26th.

■ **ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** Your persistence pays off as the information you demanded starts to come through. The pace is slow at first, but it begins to speed up as the week draws to a close.

■ **TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** An unwelcome bit of news jolts the Bovine, who would prefer that things proceed smoothly. But it's at most a momentary setback. A Leo brings more welcome tidings.

■ **GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** You need to pay close attention to the details before making a commitment. Don't accept anything that seems questionable, unless you get an answer that can be backed up.

■ **BORN THIS WEEK:** Your intuition helps you communicate easily with people and understand their needs. ■

By Linda Thistle

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

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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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'White House Down'

danHUDAK
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★ ★ ★

Is it worth \$10? Yes

German-born director Roland Emmerich can't stop destroying 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. First he incinerated the White House in "Independence Day" (1996), then he washed it away in a tsunami in "2012" (2009). Now he returns to the president's place with "White House Down," a visual feast for the eyes that's a 'roid-raging mash-up of "Die Hard" and "Air Force One."

This is an action movie for action junkies, a mindless fantasy excursion that tears apart of one of the safest places in the world — and does so with gusto. Former soldier and current Capitol Police Officer John Cale (Channing Tatum) wants to leave his job protecting the Speaker of the House (Richard Jenkins) so he can join the Secret Service and impress his daughter Emily (Joey King), who hates him. Unfortunately, his Secret Service interview is with a former flame (Maggie Gyllenhaal) who can't look past how grossly unqualified he is for the position.

Rejected, John and Emily take a tour of the White House. While smarty-pants Emily banter with the tour guide (Nicolas Wright), the White House is attacked by terrorists, leaving her and 61 hostages at the mercy of Emil Stenz (Jason Clarke) and his mercenary crew. John, however, is able to escape with President James Sawyer (Jamie Foxx), after the head of the Secret Service detail (James Woods) fails to fulfill his duty.

Sure, the premise is laughable and the White House falls far too easily, but if you're not willing to play along with James Vanderbilt's script, odds are you wouldn't have bought a ticket in the first place. What is relevant about the script is that it's neither insultingly dumb nor overly contrived, two virtues that are essential to keeping the audience engaged when machine guns aren't firing (which is rare). The fact that the story holds together also forgives the cheesy dialog (for example: Sawyer, who's wearing basketball sneakers, saying, "Let go of my Air Jordans!" to the bad guy clutching his feet).

As for the action, it's stupendous. The visual effects are weak in the opening shot with the helicopters, but they're otherwise fine. And the fight scenes are nicely choreographed and shot with clarity.

The highlights come with the mere ambition of certain sequences, particularly in the irony that although most of the story is set indoors, Mr. Emmerich still sledgehammers in a car chase on the South Lawn that ends inside a swimming pool. If nothing else, the director tries to give us as much bang for our buck as possible.

Performances in action movies are often an afterthought, and that's the case here for the most part — with the exception of Mr. Foxx. As an Oscar winner ("Ray") with the presence to do any-



thing he wants on the big screen, he's appropriately reserved and uncharismatic as the leader of the free world.

Mr. Foxx's Sawyer is not a fighter — that's Tatum's job — and nor is he doing an Obama impersonation, as many may presume. At a time when the tendency is to never be outshined, kudos to Mr. Foxx for taking a step back and delivery a fine, fittingly restrained performance.

Those who saw Gerard Butler and Aaron Eckhart in "Olympus Has Fallen" earlier this year will enjoy a lighter, less vulgar and less violent version of the same type of content here, and with more stars to boot. Although tighter pacing would have allowed the story to move along more quickly, "White House Down" is tense and enjoyable, delivering on its promises. ■

in the know

>> **The character John Cale** (Channing Tatum) gets an idea when he spots a painting of the White House on fire. The painting, by Tom Freeman, depicts British troops burning the White House in August 1814.

CAPSULES

The Bling Ring ★★ ★

(Emma Watson, Israel Broussard, Katie Chang) Based on real events, a group of entitled teenagers rob the homes of B-list celebrities in this intriguing look at teen culture from director Sofia Coppola ("Lost in Translation"). Although the film works because most of it is an insightful look at how (some) modern teenagers view the world, Ms. Coppola misses a few opportunities to be truly daring. Rated R.

Monsters University ★★ ★ 1/2

(Voices of Billy Crystal, John Goodman, Steve Buscemi) Pixar's latest takes us back in time to Mike (Mr. Crystal) and Sully (Mr. Goodman) during their college days, when Mike wants to be a scarer and Sully refuses to study. There are amusing moments and the kids will get a kick out of it, but the plot is by-the-book in terms of college-based stories. Rated G. ■

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Opera at the movies

Summer encores from the Met continue

The Metropolitan Opera's "Live in HD" summer encore presentation takes place on Wednesday evenings at movie theaters across the country. Participating cinemas in Southwest Florida are the Hollywood Stadium 20 in Naples, Coconut Point Stadium 16 in Estero, Bell Tower 20 in Fort Myers and Town Center Stadium 16 in Port Charlotte.

Tickets are \$12.50. Screenings begin at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.themet.org.

Here's what's coming:

■ **July 10: "Armida"**

This mythical story of a sorceress who enthralls men in her island prison has inspired operatic settings by a multitude of composers, including Gluck, Haydn, and Dvorák. Renée Fleming stars in the title role of Rossini's version, opposite no fewer than five tenors. The original "Live in HD" transmission is from May 1, 2010; running time is 3 hours, 5 minutes.

■ **July 17: "La Traviata"**

Natalie Dessay stars as Verdi's most beloved heroine in Willy Decker's stunning production, first seen at the Met in 2010. Matthew Polenzani is her lover, Alfredo, and Dmitri Hvorostovsky sings his stern father, Germont. Met Principal Conductor Fabio Luisi is on the podium. The original "Live in HD" transmission is from April 14, 2012; running time is 2 hours, 28 minutes. ■



KEN HOWARD / THE METROPOLITAN OPERA
Soprano Renée Fleming in the title role of Rossini's "Armida," coming to area cinemas in HD on July 10. This photo was taken during rehearsal on April 7, 2010, at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.



MARTY SOHL / THE METROPOLITAN OPERA
Natalie Dessay as Violetta in Verdi's "La Traviata," coming to area cinemas in HD on July 17. This photo was taken March 30, 2012, at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

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CALLS TO ARTISTS

■ **Upcycle! Art Fest** - The inaugural Upcycle! Art Fest, taking place April 26-27 on Sanibel Island, is calling for entries from all artists who work with repurposed material. Those who apply by Oct. 30 will receive a \$50 refund on their registration when the show is over. For more information, visit www.UpcycleArtFest.org.

■ **Sixth annual Show of Shows** - The Naples Art Association is accepting artwork registrations for its sixth annual Non-Juried All Artist Members Show of Shows Exhibition, which will be on view in The von Liebig Art Center Sept. 9-Nov. 9. Registration deadline is 3 p.m. Aug. 14. Visit www.naplesart.org.

■ **Naples Art Association Festivals** - Here's the lineup for the coming season of art festivals presented by the Naples Art Association. For registration details, call 262-6517 or visit www.naplesart.org:

Downtown Naples New Year's Art Fair: Jan. 4-5 along Fifth Avenue South. Deadline to apply is Oct. 2.

Naples National Art Festival: Feb. 22-23 at Eighth Street South and Cambier Park. Deadline to apply is Nov. 6.

Mercato Fine Arts Festival: March 1-2 at Mercato. Deadline to apply is Nov. 13.

Downtown Naples Festival of the Arts: March 22-23 along Fifth Avenue South. Deadline to apply is Nov. 20.

■ **Friends of Rookery Bay and the United Arts Council eighth annual Juried Painting Exhibition** - Following Rookery Bay's environmental mission, work with a central theme of landscape is preferred but not required. This exhibit is open to artists in Collier and Lee counties, both full-

time and seasonal. This year's juror is Geoff Hamel, painting and drawing instructor at Florida Gulf Coast University. Exhibit hangs Nov. 19-Jan. 30 at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center. Deadline for receipt of electronic entries is Oct. 11.

For entry rules and more information, e-mail abrowne@uaccollier.com.

■ **Naples-based Boulderbrook productions** invites artists to apply online for 11 festivals taking place in the 2013-14 season throughout Collier, Lee, Charlotte and Sarasota counties as well as in Panama City Beach and Pompano Beach.

Festival organizer Richard Sullivan seeks fine artists working in all media, including painting, photography, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, glass, fiber and metal. Here's the schedule:

Oct. 26-27: Naples Downtown Fall Art-Fest

Nov. 9-10: Pier Park Masters Art Festival, Panama City Beach

Nov. 15-16: Seminole Casino Immokalee Craft & Music Festival

Nov. 29-30: Sanibel Masters Art Festival

Dec. 7-8: Pompano Beach Masters Art Festival

Jan. 18-19: Naples Masters Art Festival, The Shoppes at Vanderbilt

Feb. 1-2: Sarasota Masters Art Festival

Feb. 15-16: Olé Art & Jazz Festival at Lely Resort, Naples

March 15-16: Peace River National Art Festival

March 22-23: Boca Grande Art & Wine Festival

April 19-20: Balloons Over Paradise Festival, Seminole Casino Immokalee

Apply at www.boulderbrook.net or call 293-9448 for more information. ■



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KOVEL: ANTIQUES

Shmoon sought by fans of obscure comic character



terryKOVEL

news@floridaweekly.com

was no need to work, society changed. Grocery and meat stores closed, and the owners organized squads to kill the Shmoon until they were thought to be extinct. But they managed to come back in later comic strips. And collectors search for them today.

Remember the Shmoo? It started one of the biggest assortment of collectibles in the 20th century. The animal was first seen in a "L'il Abner" comic strip in August 1946, and it became a sensation. Al Capp, the artist, had invented an animal that laid eggs and glass bottles of milk, tasted like whatever you liked to eat and purposely died when someone seemed hungry. Its button eyes made terrific suspender buttons, and its skin could be used for leather or lumber. They gave rides, played with children and were so amusing people stopped watching television. They multiplied quickly so there was always a good supply, and they needed no food, just air. A Shmoo was shaped like a large upside-down comma with feet, but had no ears, arms or noses. The Shmoo became a collecting sensation in the 1940s and '50s. There were dolls, toys, planters, sheet music, wallpaper, clothing, books, jewelry, clocks, salt-and-pepper sets, banks and even air fresheners and earmuffs. All are collected today. But while they were lovable and wanted only to bring happiness, Shmoon (the plural of Shmoo) brought misery to the comic-strip people of Dogpatch. Because there

Q: Grand Rapids Desk Co. made our mahogany roll-top desk. It is 46 inches tall, 40 inches wide and 28 inches deep. We were told when we bought it that it had been used at the old Angus Hotel in St. Paul, Minn. What can you tell me about the desk and its value?

A: The Grand Rapids Desk Co. was in business in Grand Rapids, Mich., from 1893 to 1898. The company moved to Muskegon, Mich., in 1898 following a fire at the Grand Rapids factory, but it kept the same corporate name. If the company mark on your desk reads "Muskegon," the desk was made after 1898. Grand Rapids Desk Co. manufactured desks and other office furniture in mahogany and oak. Many were sold to hotels in the Midwest. From 1911 to 1971, the Angus Hotel occupied a Victorian apartment building built in 1887 at the corner of Selby and Western avenues just west of downtown St. Paul. The fact that your desk may have been used at the hotel probably does not increase its value, except to a St. Paul collector. But high-quality antique roll-top desks like those made by the Grand Rapids Desk Co. are valuable. One auctioned for

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Q: I have an old wooden crank-type wall telephone handed down in our family. The nameplate on it says: "B-R Electric & Telephone Mfg. Company, Manufacturers of the Celebrated K-C Telephone, Kansas City, Mo., Portland, Oregon." Please tell me something about this company.

A: B-R Electric Co. and Kansas City Telephone Manufacturing Co. merged in 1903 to form B-R Electric & Telephone Manufacturing Co. B-R continued to market the phones using the Kansas City (K-C) brand name. A phone like yours with the same nameplate recently auctioned for \$85. Of course, price depends on condition as well as age and manufacturer.

Q: My antique flow-blue platter belonged to my great-grandmother. She brought it to America from Germany in the 1860s. The oriental pattern includes two houses and other buildings, two figures and two large birds flying above the treetops. The printed mark on the underside of the eight-sided platter is a phoenix bird above the words "Chusan" and "J. Clementson." The word "Clementson" also is impressed. Please tell me history and value.



This Shmoo has helped mankind as a "household deodorizer." It sold for \$183 in a Hake's auction in York, Pa., in 2012. It is only 5½ inches tall and has its original foil label.

A: Your platter was made in England by Joseph Clementson and possibly dates from as early as the 1840s. Clementson operated his pottery at the Phoenix Works in Shelton, Hanley, in the famous Staffordshire District from about 1839 to 1864, but the phoenix bird mark was introduced in the 1840s. Several English manufacturers of flow-blue china (patterns with deliberately smudged blue designs) made oriental patterns named "Chusan," but the designs are not identical. Your platter, if in excellent condition, would sell for \$150 to \$200.

Tip: Some vintage and antique dishes have overglaze decorations that will eventually wear off. All gold trim is overglaze and could even wipe off a plate hot from the dishwasher. ■

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

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Famous Hand

BY STEVE BECKER

This deal occurred in the semi-final of the 2000 women's world championship in the match between Denmark and the United States. The Americans won the match handily and then lost to the Netherlands in the final by the narrowest margin in world championship history — half an International Match Point.

The deal illustrates the basic principle that when a partnership has determined during the bidding that it holds the majority of the high cards, and the opponents wind up playing at a high-level contract, a trump lead is frequently very effective.

The bidding shown took place when the U.S. pair of Jill Meyers and Randi Montin were East-West, respectively. North's four-notrump bid was the "unusual notrump," promising length in the minors. After South stated her preference for clubs, Meyers doubled, ending the auction.

Montin then led a trump, with devastating effect. Trine Bilde, South, won with the ten and led a diamond to the king and East's ace. East returned a trump, taken in dummy, and Bilde tried to cash the diamond queen, ruffed by East. Regardless of how declarer proceeded, she could score only six trump tricks and the ace of spades — down four for a loss of 800 points.

At the other table, the bidding was exactly the same, except that East conservatively declined not to double five clubs. West then led the king of spades

East dealer.
 Neither side vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Dble			

Opening lead — four of clubs.

rather than a trump.

Renee Mancuso, South, took the spade ace and led a diamond to the king and ace. East cashed a heart and returned a spade, ruffed in dummy. Declarer then embarked on a complete crossruff, scoring eight trumps, the spade ace and the diamond queen (which East unaccountably failed to ruff) to finish down one, -50. The net gain of 750 points gave the U.S. a 13-IMP pickup on the deal. ■

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THIS WEEK ON WGCU-TV



A Capitol Fourth, July 4

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 8 p.m.
A Capitol Fourth

Tom Bergeron ("Dancing With the Stars") hosts America's national Independence Day celebration live from the U.S. Capitol. Join an all-star cast for this musical and fireworks extravaganza.

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 10:30 p.m.
Dunk City: We Are FGCU

Fort Myers sky-rocketed into the national spotlight as the FGCU Eagles men's basketball team made a historic run to the Sweet Sixteen. The impact it has had and will continue to have on the university and the community is told through players, coaches, fans and media.

SATURDAY, JULY 6, 9:30 p.m.
Keeping Up Appearances

Hyacinth Bucket is a character with few, if any, saving graces. Long-suffering husband Richard gets the brunt of it.

SUNDAY, JULY 7
8 p.m., Secrets of Althorp: The Spencers —Althorp House has hosted some of

the kingdom's most distinguished guests, and its rooms have witnessed scenes of great celebration, the first earl's secret wedding to his sweetheart and most recently, the marriage of the current earl, who takes viewers on a personal tour.

9 p.m., Masterpiece Mystery Endeavour, Season I: Girl

DC Morse and DI Thursday investigate burgled gas meters, the sudden death of a young secretarial student and a string of post office robberies. Could Morse's future on the force be in jeopardy?

MONDAY, JULY 8, 8 p.m.
Antiques Roadshow
Vintage Rochester

From 1998 when items appraised included a painting by Frank Zappa, a van Munster violin and a Minton vase. One of these items increased more than five times in value.

TUESDAY, JULY 9, 8 p.m.
Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery

Follow the voyage from St. Louis to the Pacific. Hear the story of the entire corps — not just the two famous captains, but also the French-Canadian boatmen, Clark's African-American slave and the Shoshone woman, Sacagawea.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 9 p.m.
Secrets of the Dead
Ultimate Tut

Blending 3D graphics and forensic investigation, the program takes a 21st-century approach to history, following new research and insights into why Tutankhamen's tomb was the only one to remain intact and the enigma around how he died. ■

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SAVE THE DATE

■ The **Naples Zoo** holds its **2013 Children's Gala: "Carnivale of the Animals"** for kids and their grown-ups from 5:30-8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Zoo. The evening will include "wild" games and prizes, a family-friendly silent auction, dinner and a presentation by world-renowned storyteller Jim Weiss.



Tickets are \$85 for children, \$65 for adults. Those who purchase tickets by Sept. 1 qualify for a chance to win a teddy bear breakfast for the family. Call 262-5409, ext 144. Ask about sponsorships and special tables that include an intimate fairy tale story time with Mr. Weiss and other benefits.

■ **Humane Society Naples** holds its **Strut Your Mutt** costume parade and contest for best-dressed pets (and owners) on Saturday, Oct. 19, at Germain BMW. Admission is free; registration for the costume contest (Most Original, Scariest, Celebrity Lookalike, Cutest and Best Group/two or more pets) is \$10.

The society's **15th annual Tea & Fashion Show** is set for Thursday, Dec. 5, at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort. This year's theme is "Passport to Paris." Co-chairs are Philip Douglas and Doug Olsen.

Visit www.humanesocietynaples.com for information about tickets and sponsorship opportunities as the dates draw closer.

■ Naples residents Sen. Garrett and Diana Richter have taken the helm for the **2013 NCH Hospital Ball** set for Saturday, Oct. 26, at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort. The annual gala has generated more than \$5 million for projects that vary from the NCH Heart Institute to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Tickets are \$500 per person, and a variety of sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, call Miriam Ross at the NCH Healthcare System Foundation at 624-2015 or e-mail foundation@nchmd.org.

■ The **fifth annual Naples International Film Festival** is set for Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 7-10. The red carpet opening night gala and screening take place Nov. 7 at Artis—Naples, while features, documentaries and film shorts of all genres will be screened at Silverspot Cinema at Mercato Nov. 8-10. Check www.naples-filmfest.com for details as the date draws near, or call 775-3456.

■ **Literacy Volunteers of Collier County** stages the annual **Dancing with the Stars for Literacy** beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8, at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. Notable Neapolitans partner with professional dancers from the Naples Academy of Performing Arts to dance two-minute routines before a panel of judges. Performers also compete for a prize awarded to the dancer who raises the most money for LVCC.

Tickets are \$175 per person. Advertising sponsorships, table sponsors and a silent auction produce additional funds for LVCC. For more information, call 262-4448 or visit www.collierliteracy.org.

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SAVE THE DATE

■ The inaugural **American Girl Fashion Show** to benefit the **Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida** comes to the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club on Sunday, Nov. 10, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Each show will include brunch/lunch and a marketplace as well as local child models wearing historical and contemporary fashions from American Girl. NBC-2 anchor Kellie Burns will tell the history of American Girl.

Sponsorship opportunities are available now. Call Wendy Tooley at 822-5154.

■ **Naples Botanical Garden** celebrates the **10th annual Hats in the Garden, "Elegance in Bloom,"** on Thursday, Nov. 14, at the Garden. Co-chairs are Karen Scott and Vicky Smith; Connie Vandenberg is the 2013 Hats in the Garden ambassador. Styled by Marissa Collections, the red-carpet runway show will showcase fashions by Oscar de la Renta, Valentino, Zac Posen, Alberta Ferretti, Lanvin, Marchesa, Monique Lhuillier, Naeem Khan and Giambattista Valli. Northern Trust is the presenting sponsor.

The patron party will take place Monday, Nov. 11, at the home of Jenny and Kermit Sutton.

Individual tickets are \$500 per person (limited availability). Several levels of sponsorship are available.

The Garden holds its **2014 Garden Party** and opening night celebration of "Nature Connects: LEGO Sculpture Exhibit" on Thursday evening, Feb. 13. Garden Party co-chairs are Mary Ann Bindley and Geren Fauth. The exhibit, which will be in place for three months, consists of 27 larger-than-life sculptures built with LEGO bricks by New York artist Sean Kenney.

For information about tickets and sponsorships for either of the above events, contact Meghan Gorman at 325-1929 or mgor-

man@naplesgarden.org.

■ The **David Lawrence Center and Foundation** holds its signature destination-themed gala on Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. Co-chairs Caryn Hacker-Buechel and Amanda Jaron and their committees already are hard at work, and new volunteers are always welcome. For information about joining a gala committee, call 304-3505.

The center is Collier County's only comprehensive, not-for-profit mental health and substance abuse treatment facility serving children, adults and families. For information about programs and services, call 455-8500 or visit www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org.

■ **"Celebrate the Journey,"** the **2014 Naples Winter Wine Festival**, is set for Friday-Sunday, Jan. 24-26 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. Co-chairs are Linda Malone, Anne Welsh McNulty and Adria Starkey.

NWWF tickets are \$8,500 per couple and \$20,000 for reserved seating at the same vintner dinner for two couples. For more information, call (888) 837-4919 or visit www.NaplesWineFestival.com.

■ The **2014 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest** takes place Friday and Saturday, Feb. 21-22, at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club. Northern Trust is the title sponsor for the sixth consecutive year.

The festival begins with chef/vintner dinners in private homes throughout Southwest Florida on Friday and concludes with a grand tasting and auction at Miromar Lakes on Saturday. Last year's event netted \$2 million. The primary beneficiary is The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. For more information, call 278-3900 or visit www.SWFLWineFest.org. ■

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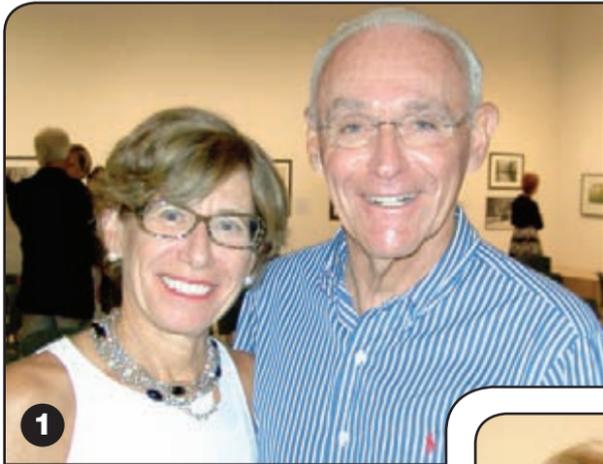
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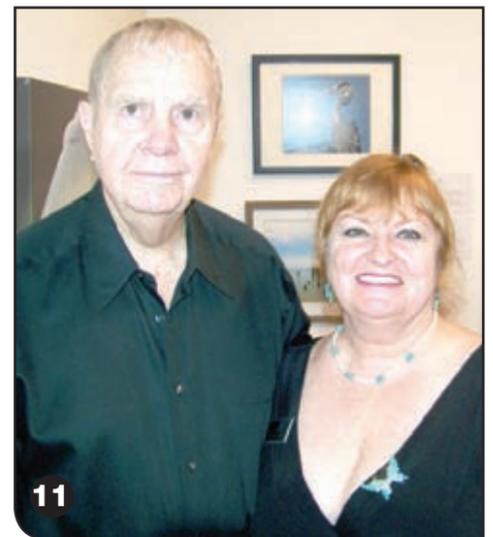
SOCIETY

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3. Claudia Polzin and MJ Scarpelli
4. Brad Heiges and Sue Huff
5. Susan Gibbon, Isabella LeVan and Don Greet
6. Liz Poletti and Natasha Lidow
7. Joyce Everett and Tricia Battaglia
8. Kathleen Menchero and Isabella LeVan
9. Marilyn Varco and Scott Peterson
10. Aimee Schlehe, Jerry Goldberg and Carol Shaw
11. Jim and Rita Albaugh
12. Lori Loper
13. Ron Doiron and Isabella LeVan
14. John Long and Andrea Clark Brown
15. Dorothy Mills

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SOCIETY

Behind the scenes at the Sugden with The Contemporaries



1. Kristin Vaughn, Michael Shue, Mark and Suzanne Klym, Mike Dal Lago
2. Michael Shue and Matt Sutton
3. Monica Biondo and Robin Hamilton
4. Nicole Black, Brian Roland, Veron Ennis, Brandy Magill and Karl Rouwhorst
5. Mike Dal Lago, Randall Denman and Andrew Reiss

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Therese Zahner, Marina Berkovich and Peggy Sealton

Kathy Taylor, Ursula Vogel and Rosie Taylor

Liliana McGuire and Marina Berkovich

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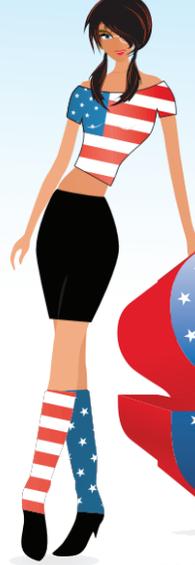
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PAST REPASTS

Here are some capsule summaries of previous restaurant reviews:

► **Alberto's on Fifth, 868 Fifth Ave. S., Naples; 430-1060**

Serving Northern Italian cuisine — not the heavy, marinara-drenched fare that dominates Italian restaurants in Southwest Florida — Alberto's is a breath of fresh air. Chef-owner Alberto Varetto hails from Torino and presided over the kitchen of the venerable Sale e Pepe on Marco Island for more than 10 years. You'll find no mass-produced pasta here. Only freshly made ribbons of pappardelle and taglierini are good enough to be laced with Varetto's ragouts; only hand-folded envelopes of agnolotti, raviolini and tortelloni are worthy of being stuffed with meats, cheeses and herbs. Flavor pairings such as plump sea scallops with lush lobster sauce and sweet onion confit, and salty prosciutto with sweet roasted pears and peppery baby arugula, are well conceived. If the to-die-for taglierini with pesto and copious amounts of jumbo lump crabmeat is a fair indication, the fresh pasta dishes are not to be missed. Portions are reasonably sized so we left feeling fully satisfied but not stuffed. Full bar.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½
Service: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½
Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★
Reviewed April 2012

► **Alpine Restaurant, Galleria Shoppes at Vanderbilt, 2355 Vanderbilt Beach Road; 325-9499**

Step into Alpine Restaurant and be instantly transported to that lovely part of the world filled with snow-capped moun-

tains and comforting food. There's rib-sticking goulash and hearty schnitzel, plus lighter options, charming service and a dining room that seems lifted whole from some cozy Austrian village. Start off with a bowl of goulash, filled with beef, pork and vegetables or, even better, the sauerkraut soup, with strands of sauerkraut, smoked pork, potatoes and mushrooms. The chicken version of Alpine schnitzel (pork is another option) is marinated, grilled then topped off with provolone and a fried egg. Served with bacon-laced farmers potatoes and a medley of green beans, red peppers, peas and water chestnuts, it's a satisfying meal that guarantees leftovers. The knedlo-vepro-zelo, a traditional Czech dish, features pork, dumplings and sauerkraut and is delicious. A fitting finish is the aptly named Triple Yummy crepe, a delicate pancake filled with Nutella, bananas and strawberries. Beer and (basic) wine served.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★
Service: ★ ★ ★ ★
Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★
Reviewed January 2013

► **Big Hickory Seafood Grille, 26107 Hickory Blvd., Bonita Springs; 992-0991**

For years, the restaurant has been known for pairing seafood with unlikely ingredients — grouper and bananas, for example — and thus showcasing the flavors of Florida and the Caribbean in innovative ways. Its location exploits the rustic charm of a marina that dates to 1969 and affords an impressive view of bay waters, mangrove islands and the finned and feathered inhabitants of each. The apple mango grouper is among the restaurant's recent fruit-and-fish combination and it upholds the tasty tradition. The fish was nicely bronzed and

its thick flakes perfectly moist; the sweetness of the apple-mango salsa served on top was nicely contrasted by a tart passion fruit sauce. Some dishes seem overpriced, such as the better-than-average conch fritters at \$14 for a half-dozen, but the generously portioned shrimp and lobster scampi is worth every penny at \$29. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★
Service: ★ ★ ★ ★
Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★
Reviewed June 2012

► **Maguro Sushi & Steak House, 895 Wiggins Pass Road, Naples; 591-0003**

Easily accessible but not so easy to find, Maguro is worth seeking out. Tucked into an outparcel at the corner of U.S. 41 and Wiggins Pass Road (sharing a parking lot with Beall's, Petco and other big-boxers), Maguro offers well-executed sushi and cooked entrees in one dining room and the full teppanyaki show and meal in another, both drenched in cool blue lights. The drink menu is inventive, too. The lychee martini is a standout. As for the food, everything we tasted, from the yellowtail nigiri to the Snow White roll (shrimp tempura and sliced cucumber, seaweed and rice topped with white tuna and unsweetened coconut, finished with spicy mayo and coconut sauce) to the miso soup, vegetable tempura and the shrimp and salmon hibachi combo, was carefully prepared and plated. The coconut bombe — with layers of coconut cake, coconut custard and coconut icing — proved an excellent finale for two. Full bar.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½
Service: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½
Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Reviewed February 2013

► **Michelbob's Champion Ribs, 371 Airport Pulling Road, Naples; 643-7427**

Michelbob's signature spice rub enhances its slow-smoked Danish baby backs, a mustard and paprika blend presented in shakers on every table just in case you want an extra punch of flavor. There are also two bottled sauces to slather on the meaty bones — one tangy with mustard (complex and well balanced) and one smoky-sweet (tasting heavily of Liquid Smoke). All of which is enough to satisfy anyone with a serious hankering for good ribs. The baby backs truly stood out from the rest of the meal. The flesh was tender enough to slip off easily and had those crispy edges that just add a little extra texture to the experience. The barbecued chicken had rubbery skin and lacked much in the way of seasoning. A smoked pork dinner had an ample stack of sliced meat but was somewhat dry. Among the side dishes, the smoky-sweet baked beans studded with chunks of pork were a real standout. Full bar.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½
Service: ★ ★ ★ ★
Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★
Reviewed July 2012

Key to ratings

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

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CUISINE

The Counter culture is one the whole family can embrace



karenFELDMAN
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It's a given that burgers, fries and a soda are the three major food groups embraced by America's kids. It's hard to deny them their staple foods, yet parents feel guilt loading them up with the stuff of fast-food chains, which is notoriously laden with salt and meat for which none of the big chains lays claim to sourcing from animals that are humanely raised free of hormones and antibiotics.

But The Counter does. It offers 100 percent natural Angus beef, from humanely raised cows that are devoid of hormones and antibiotics. This recent arrival at Mercato also uses trans-fat free oils and offers vegan veggie burgers along with a dozen cheeses, 32 topping options, 23 sauces, six buns (including gluten free) and even a salad in lieu of a bun. (The company claims more than 312,000 possible combinations. I'll take its word for that.) Talk about having it your way!

Also available are fries (regular, chili or sweet potato), fried dill pickles, crispy onion strings and, for the health-conscious, side salads and grilled vegetables. Perhaps my favorite innovation here is that milkshakes and malts come kid-friendly or in an adult version, which can include a shot of any alcoholic beverage in the house.

The Counter truly offers something for everyone in a lovely setting that will satisfy kids (who won't have to be shushed constantly) and adults (who long for a break from hard plastic seats and a barrage of movie co-promotions and mascots).

The bright dining room boasts roomy booths, banquettes, high seats at the bar and a spacious outdoor dining space (weather permitting). Walls have framed photos of what appear to be local waters, bicyclists and other soothing outdoor scenes. A bar filled with immaculate and well-placed bottles of beer, wine and distilled beverages takes up most of one wall, while large windows dominate the front and part of one side. The effect is cheerful, and the mix of voices, many of which came from multi-generational groups of diners, was upbeat.

The staff here gets special mention for its graciousness. The manager who seated us asked us if it was our first time there. When we said yes, he spent several minutes explaining the structure of the menu. He was followed almost immediately by Melanie, our effervescent and ultra-sharp



KAREN FELDMAN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Build your own burger such as this one that contains 1/3 pound turkey burger, Gruyere, grilled pineapple, roasted corn and black bean salsa, sauteed onions, cole slaw and ginger soy glaze on a wheat bun.

server who added still more to our Counter culture education.

So, here's how it works: Burgers are a la carte and come in three sizes — 1/3 pound (\$9), 2/3 pound (\$12) and 1 pound (\$15). That's the weight AFTER cooking, not before, as is the norm. Although the prices might sound like a lot for a burger, keep in mind that these are high-quality burgers — angus (if you choose beef) or vegan, bison, turkey or chicken. The price also includes your choice of cheese, up to four toppings (a few premium ones cost another \$1), sauce and bun.

Fries, onion strings and such range from \$2 for a single order of fries to \$6.50 for the Fifty-Fifty, with plenty of sweet potato fries and crispy onion strings for sharing. For kids, two mini burgers with cheese and applesauce or fries are \$6; grilled cheese, ham-and-cheese or PB&J sandwiches are \$4-\$6.

Considering what we were contemplating eating, we reluctantly skipped the adult milkshakes and sampled two of the specialty house drinks: a tasty Margarita Fresca and the Dazzle (Bombay Sapphire gin, pineapple juice, ginger ale, lime and a touch of grenadine). Both were expertly mixed, icy cold and delicious on a hot summer evening. The menu prices them at \$9, but we were charged \$6 each, which I'm supposing was a happy hour price.

The sweet potato fries and crispy onion strings were excellent, properly fried, devoid of grease, with good flavor on their own but made better by the three sauces served with them: ranch, smoky barbecue



For a sweet finish, the oversized brownie comes with ice cream, caramel and chocolate sauce.



The Fifty-Fifty offers customers a chance to taste two crunchy treats by picking from sweet potato fries, regular ones and crispy onion strings.

and a mildly spicy horseradish sauce. This is considered an appetizer, so be careful not to fill up before the main attraction.

Constructing a burger from all those ingredients might prove too taxing — or unnecessary — for some diners. In that case, consider an offering such as the Old School burger (\$9), which suited my dining companion just fine. It's 1/3 pound beef with Tillamook cheddar, lettuce, red onion, pickle, tomato and red relish. Ordered medium well, it came out with just a pink blush and was just what my companion desired. The meat was moist and the toppings were cleverly constructed so as to

remain on the bun when you picked it up.

I ventured into unknown territory, starting with a turkey burger and adding Gruyere, cole slaw, grilled pineapple, roasted corn and black bean salsa, sautéed onions and ginger soy glaze on a wheat bun. Wow! What a great combination and, once again, the items were layered on the bun so that it didn't crumble at first touch. The slaw and sauce came on the side and, because the slaw wasn't creamy, it was easy to add to the mix while I used the sauce as a dip.

I can't imagine really desiring dessert after all that food, but perhaps skipping the fries and onion strings might make it more likely. We gamely tried (and failed) to polish off a large chocolate brownie (\$5), which was served warm with ice cream (\$2), chocolate and caramel sauces and whipped cream. We had a few bites but couldn't make much of a dent. Our server offered to box it up for us to take home. Uh, no thanks. I didn't want to hear it calling to me from the refrigerator at midnight.

The Counter is clearly different from the herd of burger joints that line America's byways. Kids are going to love it — and, better yet, so will the parents. You can count on that. ■

in the know

The Counter Custom Built Burgers

9110 Strada Place, Mercato, Naples; 566-0644

Ratings:
Food: ★★★★★ 1/2
Service: ★★★★★ 1/2
Atmosphere: ★★★★★

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>> **Beverages:** Full bar

>> **Seating:** Booths, banquettes, at the bar and outdoor tables

>> **Specialties of the house:** Burgers and more burgers along with adult beverages

>> **Volume:** Moderate to high

>> **Parking:** Free lot

>> **Website:** www.thecounterburger.com

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



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Mediterra • \$1,299,900
29071 Amarone Ct.

Collier's Reserve • \$1,250,000
1023 Barcarnil Way

The Colony - Florencia • \$859,000
23850 Via Italia Cir. #1702

NEW LISTING
The Quarry - Nickel Ridge • \$699,000
9751 Nickel Ridge Cir.

Sanctuary • \$675,000
23853 Sanctuary Lakes Ct.

NEW LISTING
Wilshire Lakes • \$569,900
8117 Lowbank Dr.

The Brooks - Copperleaf • \$469,000
23531 Copperleaf Blvd.

Imperial Golf Estates • \$419,000
2018 Duke Dr.

NEW LISTING
Golden Gate Estates • \$322,500
3865 18th Ave. NE

NEW LISTING
Imperial Golf Estates • \$249,900
1340 Charleston Square Dr. #104

UNDER CONTRACT
Lely Resort • \$199,000
9113 Michael Cir. #12

Fountains • \$109,900
326 Charlemagne Blvd. #1-204

UNDER CONTRACT
Windsor at Kings Lake • \$99,000
2996 Kings Lake Blvd.

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