

# NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY<sup>®</sup>

IN THE KNOW. IN THE NOW.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 3, 2014

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## Talkin' turkey

Kids say the darndest things about Thanksgiving

BY LINDSEY NESMITH

lnesmith@floridaweekly.com

As a child, I never thought very much about Thanksgiving besides the fact that my mother was out of commission for our needs, subsumed by the anxiety of creating a feast beyond reproach for a bunch of people who had never actually prepared such a feast themselves. Most of this was self-imposed pressure — I know for a fact my father and grandfather would happily eat a roasted football as long as the family were gathered around the table — but it also resulted in some truly magnificent meals and more than one family recipe.

Having had the pleasure of preparing the feast a couple of times myself, I understand now how my mother must have felt to have large numbers of family descend and a whole lot to accomplish in a few hours.

Children have a tendency to lurk around the periphery that day, only to surface all of a sudden when the dinner bell rings. As we learned from St. Elizabeth Seton's youngest students, this results in some very funny ideas about how Thanksgiving dinner gets on the table at Thanksgiving.

### Mrs. Lopez's Pre-K Four students

#### ■ Evan Kulicki

**FW:** What's your favorite food on Thanksgiving?

**Evan:** Eggs.

SEE TALKIN' TURKEY, A18 ►



## ... and in some other alternatives to the mall

BY FLORIDA WEEKLY STAFF

WE ACTUALLY ENJOY BRAVING THE busy traffic and mall crowds to shop local as we work our way down our holiday lists, but knowing that not everyone feels the same, we set out to investigate this season's gifting options for at-home shoppers. Once we started looking online and on TV, it didn't take long for our effort to take a slightly irreverent turn (we are, after all, journalists).

Herewith, the best — and some of the worst — gift ideas from your favorite *Florida Weekly* editors and writers, offered in the helpful spirit of making your at-home holiday shopping a breeze.

Ho! Ho! Ho!

SEE ON TV, A8 ►



### Bah humbug

As the holidays bear down, three Scrooges open up to *Florida Weekly*. **C1** ►



### Society

Humane Society Naples' 16th annual Tea & Fashion Show, and more to-dos around town. **C32** ►



### Doctor's orders?

Medical tourism combines procedures, pleasure. **B1** ►



### Anything grows

C-Scapes columnist Cheryl Turner on the delights of sharing the bounty of her garden. **A6** ►

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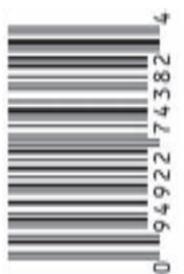


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## COMMENTARY

## A short completely unbiased history of immigration

roger WILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com



So President Barack Hussein Obama wants to let about five million illegal immigrants remain in the country and work without threat of deportation.

That's cool. Here's why: Because I am not a hypocrite (not today. Tomorrow offers a whole new set of possibilities).

You have to be a hypocrite of the first order to deny that only two kinds of citizens really exist in the United States: Indians, and everybody else. And everybody else is illegal, if legality has anything at all to do with justice and right.

That means you multi-generation Florida "natives." You're about as native as a snowstorm in Brazil and about as legal as heroin.

That means me and my 11th generation grandfather, Roger Williams. He arrived here in 1634 and got chased out of Massachusetts at gunpoint on a winter's night, because A) he insisted the government should not tell people how to practice their religion, and B) he also insisted the illegal immigrants should keep their treaties with the Indians.

Puritan or not, grandpappy was nothing but a friggin' liberal — an illegal liberal at that, the first in the New World. The damn liberals have been whining and flower-waving ever since. I know I try to flower-wave every day, sometimes twice a day, just to make him proud.

So now, 380 years later, about 313 mil-

lion of our 316 million citizens are no more justifiably legal than the latest Mexican immigrant who just tiptoed across the Texas border last night.

To argue that we have a greater right to be here because manifest destiny ordained us as natives and owners is like arguing that a Swiss banker has the greater right to own a famous painting because he bought it with francs from a Nazi, who stole it from a Jewish family.

I say, horsepucky.

But back to last week and those illegal immigrants. Texas Gov. Rick Perry was probably getting his beauty rest when it happened — when some starving, beat-up little brown scrapper looking to steal a good job picking tomatoes or citrus or washing dirty dishes or sheets slipped through the wire.

Such an immigration phenomenon defines American society, historically. You've heard it before but it's true: The Irish. The Italians. The Russians and Eastern Europeans. All treated horrifically by "natives" when they arrived. The French, the Spanish, the Germans, the Scandinavians, the Poles, the Cubans and other Caribbean Islanders. The Africans, for God's sake. The Chinese, the Koreans, the Vietnamese and Cambodians and Thais. The Japanese.

By the way, the most highly decorated American combat unit in World War II, the U.S. Army's 442 Regimental Combat Team with eight presidential unit citations and 26 Medals of Honor, was composed almost entirely of Japanese-Americans whose parents, immigrants in large part, were unceremoniously dumped into internment camps during the war.

We sure know how to show our immi-

grants a good time, don't we?

Those families had come to the United States to work. Now, it's the poor Mexicans and the Central and South Americans, among others.

Why are many of the best people I know either immigrants or the children of immigrants? I know people who actually walked here from Guatemala. Walked. What do you suppose it adds to the country when people willing to scabble so hard to get here and just work — at anything — make it on foot?

Immigrants, historically, mean power and energy in this society.

Courage and love of their children are what they bring. And yes, sometimes meanness and misery. So what?

While we fine-tune our broken immigration policies — while we ignore or don't ignore the words on the Statue of Liberty — they're coming anyway.

And our characters will be defined by how we treat them. Always. In every generation.

No one knows this better, or argues this more eloquently, than Dr. Robert Hilliard, a professor emeritus from Emerson College in Boston and the author of many books.

Dr. Hilliard, the son of a Russian immigrant father and a French immigrant mother, is also a twice-wounded combat veteran and survivor of the bloody Battle of the Bulge, in World War II.

Here's what he said about the American character a couple of months ago on Sanibel Island, when he was invited to speak there at a veterans event, "Spirit of '45."

"If you, like me (were in Europe at war's end), you saw tens of thousands of displaced persons freed from concentration camps

and slave labor factories wandering in the American and British zones of Germany and Austria, seeking food and shelter. The Army and the military government were not prepared for the refugees... and thousands continued to die for lack of food, shelter, clothing and medicines. I documented this in my book, 'Surviving the Americans,' and it was documented by Nobel Prize-winning concentration camp survivor Elie Wiesel in his book, 'Night,' and in the Academy Award-winning documentary film, 'The Long Way Home.'

"While the Army and Military Government did virtually nothing for these people, they survived because individual GIs literally gave them the food out of their mess kits and the shirts off their backs. American compassionate servicemen and women saved thousands of lives of survivors through their individual caring.

"We did it a number of ways, including stealing food from our mess halls to bring to the starving survivors. The cooks were selling our food on the black market anyway and we put it to better use. We would brow-beat German burgermeisters mayors — into getting us food to take to the (refugee) camps. The German civilians were getting more rations from the occupation forces than their surviving victims.

"Was what we did illegal? Probably. But sometimes it is more important to be illegal than to insist on legality that results in the suffering — and even death — of innocent people. Especially children."

In the end, American immigration policy has always and only been about three things: our compassion or lack thereof, our children, and our future. ■



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# OPINION

## Why Jonathan Gruber deserves our thanks



**richLOWRY**

Special to Florida Weekly

The epic search of the Greek philosopher Diogenes for an honest man is finally over. His name is Jonathan Gruber, an MIT economist once known as an intellectual architect of Obamacare, although his status is being rapidly downgraded by the law's supporters with every one of his uncomfortably frank utterances about President Barack Obama's signature initiative.

Video surfaced of Gruber saying at a panel discussion at the University of Pennsylvania last year that the law was written in a deceptive, nontransparent way to exploit "the stupidity of the American voter." Gruber swiftly went on MSNBC to explain that his comments should be discounted because he was speaking "off the cuff." Then two other videos surfaced of him saying much the same thing at different venues.

Gruber has done us all a favor by affording us an unvarnished look into the progressive mind, which values com-

plexity over simplicity, favors indirect taxes and impositions on the American public so their costs can be hidden, and has a dim view of the average American.

Complexity is a staple of liberal policymaking. It is a product of its scale and reach, but also of the imperative to hide the ball. Taxing and spending and redistributive schemes tend to be unpopular, so clever ways have to be found to deny that they are happening. This is what Gruber was getting at. One reason Obamacare was so convoluted is that its supporters didn't want to straightforwardly admit how much the law was raising taxes and leveraging the young and healthy to subsidize everyone else.

Gruber crowed about the exertions undertaken to make an unpopular tax on expensive health-insurance plans, the so-called Cadillac tax, more palatable. It was levied on employers instead of employees. No one realized, Gruber explained, that the tax would be functionally the same even if not directly imposed on workers. This wasn't a one-off deception. This kind of sleight of hand is crucial to the progressive project, which always involves imposing taxes, regulations and mandates at one remove from the average person so he or she won't realize that the costs are passed down regardless.

The debate between conservatives and liberals on health-care policy and much else comes down to how much average Americans can be trusted to make decisions on their own without the guiding, correcting hand of government. An assumption that Americans are incompetent is woven into the left's worldview. It is reluctant to entrust individuals with free choice for fear they will exercise it poorly and irresponsibly.

So Gruber deserves to be listened to, even if he ultimately got it wrong. The public is smarter than he and other Obamacare supporters give it credit for. It has never believed the magical, deliberately deceptive promises about Obamacare, or supported the law that continues to be a drag on the Democratic Party.

Rather than congratulating themselves on their cleverness, the law's architects might better reflect on how, even with crushing majorities in the House and the Senate, they had to lie and obfuscate to get Obamacare passed. That is damning commentary, not on the American public, but their misbegotten handiwork. ■

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

## Keystone, climate change and the cold



**amy GOODMAN**

Special to Florida Weekly

It was a dramatic scene in the Senate this last week. As Sen. Elizabeth Warren, presiding, announced the defeat of the Keystone XL pipeline, a Crow Creek Sioux man from South Dakota sang out in the Senate gallery. A massive people's climate movement against extracting some of the dirtiest oil on the planet had prevailed ... at least for now.

It was a Democrat, Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu, representing oil interests, who tried to push the pipeline through. She hoped its passage would help her in the Dec. 6 runoff election against her challenger, Congressman Bill Cassidy, who sponsored a similar bill in the House. The Republicans have promised to reintroduce the bill when they take control of the Senate in January.

The coalition against the Keystone XL is broad-based. It includes environmentalists, indigenous activists, farmers and ranchers, concerned about both climate change and protecting their land. They are worried about an oil spill into the Ogallala Aquifer, one of the largest aquifers in the world, which extends from South Dakota to Texas and provides water for millions of people. The name of one partner organization signals how unique this coalition is: the Cowboy and Indian Alliance. Out in the sandhills and great plains of the West, residents who in the 19th century were more likely than not to be adversaries have joined together to confront TransCanada Corp.'s aggressive plan to force its pipeline through their land.

"The fight has just started," Cyril Scott told me. He is the president of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota. "We have to gear up and be ready and start our own campaign to make sure we secure enough support to stop this black snake that's going to harm not only Indian country, but the United States of America."

The Keystone XL pipeline's primary function will be to move oil from the tar sands region of Alberta to port facilities on the South Texas coast, for shipping to overseas customers. It will enable expanded extraction of the tar sands, a form of oil that is much more environmentally destructive than other types. Climate scientist James Hansen, former director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, wrote in *The New York Times*, "If Canada proceeds, and we do nothing, it will be game over for the climate." Hansen is one of more than 1,200 people who were arrested in front of the White House, protesting Keystone XL.

In years past, President Barack Obama claimed that if the Keystone XL pipeline were not approved, then TransCanada would build a pipeline that avoids the U.S. entirely, sending the oil through Canada, to either its east or west coast.

Naomi Klein says that argument doesn't wash anymore. She is a climate activist and author of a new movement bible, "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate." The day before the Senate vote, she told me, "The tar sands are really surrounded by opposition. Everywhere they try to build a new pipeline or expand an existing pipeline, they're facing fierce direct action as well as legal challenges by indigenous people and by other interests. So, the idea that if you don't build Keystone, they'll get it out anyway, is absurd."

TransCanada is clearly worried about the movement. Leaked documents obtained by Greenpeace reveal that TransCanada has hired Edelman, the world's largest public-relations firm, to wage a campaign against groups that are trying to block their pipeline projects. The documents reveal that Edelman has already created an "astroturf" group, a fake civic organization that promotes a pro-pipeline agenda, and proposes that 40 Edelman PR professionals will work to harass and confound the protest groups.

President Obama signaled before the Senate vote that he has grown skeptical of the Keystone XL, and its proponents' claims that it will create jobs and lower domestic gasoline prices: "Understand what this project is: It is providing the ability of Canada to pump their oil, send it through our land down to the Gulf, where it will be sold everywhere else."

Meanwhile, another president, Cyril Scott of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, said in a statement: "We will close our reservation borders to Keystone XL. Authorizing Keystone XL is an act of war against our people."

With record-breaking cold gripping the nation this week, and a year's worth of snow dumping on Buffalo, N.Y., in a single day, we have to ask: What will it take to listen to the science, and to aggressively address the global threat of catastrophic climate change? ■

— Denis Moynihan contributed research to this column.

— Amy Goodman is the host of "Democracy Now!," a TV/radio news hour airing on more than 1,200 stations in North America. She is the co-author of "The Silenced Majority," a *New York Times* best-seller.

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# C-SCAPES

## Anything grows



For about a year now, I have had an acrimonious relationship with my grocery budget.

Like an errant teenager, the more I try to understand and accommodate it, the more ungrateful and unruly it becomes.

I've also grown increasingly concerned about the quality of my food. There are just too many cases of weird illnesses, upset stomachs and strange tastes (like that piece of bread I bit into recently that had a distinct metallic flavor to it).

I've tried to go organic, but if I thought my grocery bill was a lot before, look out.

Then it occurred to me: I live in this great natural paradise where almost anything grows. Already, I have a portion of my backyard dedicated to a little tomato patch and herb garden, so why not expand to other veggies and fruits?

I wouldn't even have to use more of my backyard. So many of the things I enjoy, I can grow in pots on my lanai. Herbs, avocado, even those little bananas, so sweet and yummy.

I conferred with my husband, who is an arborist, and then had a longer-than-usual visit with the experts at Driftwood Garden Center. I spent a little more money than I had intended, but I want-

ed to ensure the return on investment would be fabulous and delicious.

When I pulled into the driveway after my outing, there, hanging on my front door was a bag of grapefruit left there by a good friend.

If you've ever had citrus freshly picked from the tree, you know the flavor is out of this world. You'll never again order "fresh-squeezed" grapefruit or orange juice in a restaurant because it can't even come close to the real deal.

Anyway, this friend's harvest far exceeds its capacity to be consumed — like 10 times the capacity.

Same with my "mango" friend, my "Meyer lemon" friend, my "Key lime" friend and my "avocado" friend, all of whom face the same ridiculously excessive yield that I do with my little tomato patch.

And then there are the two friends with orange trees. One has a Valencia that produces in spring; the other has a Hamlin that produces in the fall. Between the two of them, I can have truly fresh-squeeze orange juice almost every day of the year. Mmm.

This all got me to thinking: If we could form a sort of consortium to coordinate what was being grown and harvested by whom and when, we could have a good chunk of our mutual grocery bills covered and at the same time we could enjoy produce that we knew was fresh, delicious and safe.

But it would have to be a loose consortium, I told myself. It would have to remain fun so. It couldn't morph into a business with pick-up schedules, shared



expenses, ledgers and who-knows-what else.

I started by making calls to my fruit and vegetable friends, and it seems like we might just be able to get this thing going. We'll all have our own little Victory Gardens ala World War II — only our victory will be over the grocery bill.

Already there's talk about our sharing recipes and canning (tangerine marmalade, lemonade base, Italian red sauce, flash-frozen orange juice and on and on) together. We might even have monthly dinners to sample the goods.

But I'm getting way ahead of myself.

The important thing is to keep the goal in mind, to grow and share our yield with one another.

We know that in the end, it might not work, but we all agree that we must try to do something to cut our grocery bills

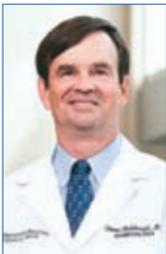
and improve the quality of our food while doing something good for the environment.

Oh, and have a little fun in the process.

(In the course of my research for this column, I discovered Collier Family Farms, an excellent source for fresh, organic veggies and citrus. Another excellent resource is Food and Thought, a retail organic grocery, bakery, florist and juice bar as well as a purveyor of herbal supplements, beauty products and sustainable clothing. It also happens to be one my all-time favorite restaurants.) ■

— When she's not tending to her tomato patch and herb garden, Cheryl Turner is busy working with her many real estate clients.

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# ON TV

From page 1



## Joe! Joe! Joe!

We have so many questions about this, and they all boil down to: Why? Why does someone want to smell like coffee? Why does someone want her loved one to think she smells like coffee? Why doesn't she just make coffee? Why did someone think this was a good idea? Is this what the Industrial Revolution has wrought?

Whatever this item produces in bafflement it lacks in flair. Coffee-scented perfume would have been so much more practical, stylish (maybe) and executable, and yet we have a stinky, mud-brown T-shirt that is destined to be combined with washed-out yoga pants and Netflix-streaming of "Gilmore Girls." Wardrobe fail.

— \$28; [skymall.com](http://skymall.com)

## Reach for the ...

Quite possibly, the worst Christmas gift ever. Just the name alone made us wonder, "Is this really what I think it is?" Yes, lo and behold, the Long Reach Comfort Wipe is a toilet aid for those who, for whatever reason, cannot wipe themselves properly. This product not only manages to broach the subject of dirty hineys, but even worse, invokes images of the struggle in the bathroom that those who need it must have.



We can think of only one place it might be appropriate for this to show up: your next White Elephant or Dirty Santa party.

— \$9.95; [AsSeenonTv.com](http://AsSeenonTv.com)



## Bring home 'The Baconator'

The handy, made-in-the-U.S.A. Makin' Bacon microwave bacon rack is a kitchen darling that crisps bacon with no mess in the micro. Utilizing its clothesline approach, simply hang strips of bacon over the heat-tolerant plastic poles and drape with paper towel. Give it a minute a strip, and voilà! Perfectly crisp bacon, released of up to 35 percent of its fat.

We confess to being insiders. Two *Florida Weekly* editors affectionately nicknamed this The Baconator long before a fast-food chain claimed the title for a burger. Doesn't matter. We'll just struggle into our big girl pants and waddle on.

— \$12.99; [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)



## But it's not a floor wax

The tiny, low-tech Wallet Ninja contains 18 little "life hacks" in one simple package. It serves as a hex wrench, can opener, bottle opener, inch ruler, centimeter ruler, letter opener, box opener, phone stand, peeler and as a Phillips, flat or eyeglass screwdriver. You can also slide a credit card into it and make a cell phone stand. Counterintuitively, however, the Wallet Ninja cannot be thrown like a Chinese star. Still, it will likely come in more handy than a pair of nunchucks at your next weekend barbecue.

— \$9.99; [walletninja.com](http://walletninja.com)



## Shake 'em off

These cat-ear headbands are a replica of the pair Taylor Swift wore in her "22" music video. Remember? Know what we're talking about? Of course you don't. Buy these for your daughter or niece who's 10-14 years old. When she opens the package, exclaim, "They're a replica of the pair Taylor wore in her music video '22,' and they go great with any outfit!" Follow our advice and you might be able to make an otherwise elusive connection with the special young person in your life. Isn't that just what you've always wanted?

— \$19.99; [store.taylorswift.com](http://store.taylorswift.com)



## Pucker up

Fulllips, for "an older baby boomer grandmother who just wants to look a little bit better," is a suction device that latches onto the lips to create a fuller pout. First of all, we're frightened at the amount of suction necessary to keep this look going for a few hours. And second of all, the woman starring in the ad more closely resembles a Real Housewife of New Jersey than Joni Mitchell. How is that fair?

— \$19.99-\$48.99; [skymall.com](http://skymall.com)

## No monkey business

Consider nature's most cleverly designed fruit: the banana. It's a fully ingestible, highly nutritious food source that comes ready-wrapped in a resilient, biodegradable skin. How can we improve upon that design? Plastic, of course. The Banana Bunker prophylactic shields

your bananas from bruising or from oozing their pulp onto your belongings. From one of the photos displayed on the manufacturer's website, it also appears that the bunker makes your bananas suitable for displaying with your fine crystal. The bunker also works for transporting plantains, small cucumbers and loose hot dogs.

— \$6.99 or five for \$29.99; [bananabunker.com](http://bananabunker.com)



## Atta boy!

Do you love a narcissist? How about someone totally devoid of self-worth? Give him this box of applause or laughter and indulge his most prominent neuroses. Good as a psychological boost for the well-adjusted, bad for those who have misconceptions about their value to the human race.

— \$24.95; [skymall.com](http://skymall.com)



## Sweat it out

It sounds so much like Santa Claus, Sauna Pants practically embodies the season of giving. And certainly, it's a great gift for the season of eating.

Just turn the dial and Sauna Pants heats those hard-hit holiday areas you might not be able to work following a season of festive breakfasts, brunches, lunches, snacks, cocktail hours, dinners, desserts and nightcaps. Slip into these thermal dandies and usher the jolly old elf out of the stomach, waist, butt and hips. In just 50 Sauna Pants minutes, you could be releasing toxic fluids faster than Lake Okeechobee after a runoff. As an added benefit, Sauna Pants' heat helps ease tight muscles and sore joints.

— \$39.95; [AsSeenOnTv.com](http://AsSeenOnTv.com)

## Cool dreams

Let's face it, Florida provides plenty of hot, sultry nights — but not the kind you'd dream about. We're talking about heat-induced insomnia from night sweats, sunburn, insect bites and hot flashes. Headaches, fevers, muscle aches and sore feet.

Someone in the know invented Chillow, the pillow-cooling pad that circulates water to absorb and douse the heat when you douse the lights.



It's water-cooled memory foam goodness with soft, medical-grade hypoallergenic material. Best of all, it's totally unplugged: no electricity or batteries.

— \$12.99 for two; [chillow.com](http://chillow.com)



## Stash it sexy

One of our favorite features of amateur inventors is the ability to make humanity's key innovations look like sliced bread all over again. Here's the GirlyGoGarter, the un-purse that requires women to expose themselves in order to access their essential items. Surprisingly, many of the reviewers state they found the garter much more useful than their bra. We suspect many of these women find themselves toe-up at the Redneck Yacht Club more often than the rest of us, so we'll pass on the GirlyGoGarter and stick with a handbag, clutch, wallet, ID case or pocket.

— \$36.99; [skymall.com](http://skymall.com)



## Sweet dreams

Great for long trips where the only cure for your jangled holiday nerves is to nestle your head between Santa's ample soft cheeks. The "plump yet firm" legs are said to offer great neck support. Let your fellow travelers know what an enthusiastic holiday-lover you are by letting loose with the sounds of yuletide flatulence. A button on one of the feet triggers fart sounds and wisecracks from Santa, including: "Smells like Christmas!" and "Oh, Rudolph, what did you eat?!"

— \$16.99; [stupid.com](http://stupid.com)

## The eye has it

Looking to win friends and influence people? Strap this giant lenticular eye to your body and watch friends flock to your side as it winks at passersby. It kind of reminds us of Winifred Sanderson's spell book in the Halloween classic "Hocus Pocus." Most of us would prefer to keep images of disembodied eyes in our minds and movies, but we all prob-



ably know a goofy little Goth girl who would love it.  
— \$39; [skymall.com](http://skymall.com)

**We all scream**

Cheapskate gourmands unite with this low-tech ice cream maker. Toss your ingredients into the two compartments — don't forget the rock salt — and let your kids go crazy with it in the backyard. It's a lazy treat and a science lesson in one cost-effective swoop. You can keep your shiny and expensive contraption, Williams-Sonoma, we've finally found a good use for our kids' relentless energy.  
— \$34.95; [hammacherschlemmer.com](http://hammacherschlemmer.com)



**Bop 'til you drop**

There was a time when fat belly-to-belly slaps were something shirtless grown men did to celebrate things like home runs or scoring a safety. (It was as gross as it sounds.) Also, there were days hence when children wrestled and tackled one another without cause or concern for their own safety and without the benefits of padding or protection. To remedy both these scenarios, scientists developed inflatable body bumpers that promise to deliver "more fun than a pillow fight!" These provide all the thrills of high-impact human contact without all that pesky (and dangerous) human contact.  
— *Sumo Bumper Boppers*: \$14.97;

[walmart.com](http://walmart.com)  
— *Adult Body Boppers*: \$45;  
[orientaltrading.com](http://orientaltrading.com)

**Eat your vegetables**

Created for humanity's anti-carb population, the Veggetti turns veggies into spaghetti. "Zucchini and squash are healthier than traditional pasta," Veggetti officials reveal, explaining that the dieter's go-to gadget "cuts thin spaghetti- or thick fettuccini-sized zucchini and squash noodles in seconds."

Wow, really? Grateful for the nutritional heads-up, we learned Veggetti's secret: "12 ultra-sharp stainless steel blades that effortlessly slice through vegetables for endless pasta strips."

Though "endless" might be a slight exaggeration, Veggetti works on whole foods such as zucchini and squash (and carrots and potatoes for those less carb-phobic). It's dishwasher safe and reusable.



able. It's also manually operated, so it doesn't require pesky batteries, the bane of holiday gift giving.

— \$14.95; [AsSeenOnTv.com](http://AsSeenOnTv.com)



**Just add spices**

How could we not love the Spicy Shelf? It promises to turn "a mess of spices" into "an organized masterpiece." And who doesn't want to turn a mess into a masterpiece?

Spicy Shelf's beautiful, organized storage — with front-row visibility — expands and contracts to fit narrow and wide cabinets, up to 32.75 inches. Put two side by side in an extra-wide cabinet or stack them to conserve space.

Think outside the UPS delivery box and use Spicy Shelf for medicines, supplements, nail polish, cosmetics and even crafts.

But wait, there's more! The Spicy Shelf requires no tools for installation. And just when you thought it couldn't get any better, Spicy Shelf is offered as a buy-one-get-one package.

— \$19.95; [AsSeenOnTv.com](http://AsSeenOnTv.com)

*The Florida Weekly secret shoppers: Lisette Arias, Kathy Grey, Lindsey Nesmith, Osvaldo Padilla, Cindy Pierce and Betty Wells*



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# NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD  
DISTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

## Weird patriotism

November is tax-publicizing season in Finland, where, starkly unlike America, the government releases all individuals' tax records to help build public support for the country's vast welfare state. Thus, reported Foreign Policy magazine, Finnish society gets a "yearly dose of schadenfreude" ... "opening the door for a media frenzy of

gossip, boasting and fingerpointing" about "fair share" and who's more worthy. A few, however, proudly pay high Finnish taxes as a "badge of patriotism," rejecting common tax shelters. "We've received a lot of help from society," said one homegrown (and wealthy) entrepreneur, "and now it is our turn to pay back."

## Offended! (tiptoeing in America)

■ Steve Soifer, CEO of an international support group for people with "shy bladders," excoriated DirecTV in November for its series of commercials featuring Rob Lowe, whose "awkward" character in one ad stands at a urinal and says, "Fact: I can't go with other people in the room." Soifer says the ad ridicules a serious problem — and compared it to "making fun" of a man missing an arm or leg.

■ Lt. Col. Sherwood Baker was turned away from Adams High School in Rochester, Mich., in September by a guard who said a school official sent word that Baker was

not allowed in to discuss his daughter's class schedule until he changed to civilian clothes — because "a student" might be offended by his military uniform. (The Rochester school superintendent later apologized.) The British Embassy in Washington, D.C., apologized twice in August, first a tongue-in-cheek "apology" for England's War of 1812 attack on the White House and then for making that "apology" in the first place — because of a backlash on Twitter from Americans complaining the jokey "apology" was "offensive."

## Bright ideas

■ David Van Vleet asked for certain supposedly public records in Tacoma, Wash., and was forced into federal court when the city turned him down. Van Vleet wanted data from the city licenses of strip club employees (dancers' stage and real names, date of birth, etc.) so that he could pray for them individually, by name, to make his appeals more effective. (In October, Judge Ronald Leighton denied Van Vleet a temporary restraining order against the city.)

■ The Washington, D.C., restaurant Sec-

ond State recently added an accessory to its bar menu — "hand-cut rock," i.e., "artisanal" ice, for \$1 extra (but free in premium drinks). The local supplier Favourite Ice assures that its frozen water contains no calcium to cloud it and, with a heavy-duty band-saw blade, "hand-cuts" 200-to-300-pound blocks into the cubes that ultimately wind up in the glass. A Favourite Ice founder said his frozen water resists drink-weakening longer than ordinary cubes do.

## Ewww — gross!

Daniela Liverani, 24, of Edinburgh, Scotland, and British singer Katie Melua recently survived inadvertent, grotesque ordeals hosting, respectively, a 3-inch leech and a spider. The leech had found its way into Liverani's nose during an Asian backpacking trip and had poked part-way out several times (though Liverani had assumed it was a nosebleed clot and "sniffed (it) back up"). When she finally saw a doctor in Octo-

ber, she said, the leech played peek-a-boo for a half-hour until the doctor grabbed it with tweezers. Melua's tiny spider apparently lived in her ear for a week, creating a constant "rustling" noise until her doctor vacuumed it out. She guessed that it came in through old earbud headphones on an airline flight. (Her spokesperson said the singer had no hard feelings and had released the spider into her garden.)

## Chutzpah

■ The law finally caught up, partially, to squatter Darrell Beatty in September, as he was charged with grand larceny for forging a deed to a home owned by Jennifer Merin, 70, in Laurelton, N.Y. However, he bailed out of jail on Oct. 22 and immediately returned to the house. In fact, Beatty's two sons had remained "at home" even while Beatty was locked up. The home has been in Merin's family since 1930. "Mind-boggling," she said.

■ The Gothamist news site reported in October that bicyclist John Roemer, who was rear-ended by a driver in Brooklyn in

May (and whose intensive-care bill was paid by the driver's insurance company), is now being sued by the driver in small claims court for \$2,000 damage to her car.

■ In November, a civil court in Lindau, Germany, ordered Rory Gray to pay Dr. Daniel Ubani for calling Ubani "an animal" (for having injected Gray's father with 10 times a drug's safe dose in 2008, which led to his death). The court found the epithet unwarranted and ordered Gray to help pay Ubani's legal expenses.

## Well, of course

■ The owner of the world's largest corn maze (63 acres), at Cool Patch Pumpkins in Dixon, Calif., told Sacramento's KOVR-TV in October that "several" times this season, visitors have called 911 to come get them out of the maze. Said owner Matt Cooley, "When it's dark, all you see is corn." (Also, two months earlier, an emergency crew in Braintree, England, was forced to use special equipment to find and rescue an elderly woman who had fallen while inside the 10-acre Blake House Craft Centre maze.)

■ In a \$460,000 police-brutality settlement with the city of Birmingham, Ala.,

in October, plaintiff Anthony Warren will receive \$1,000, with the rest going to his lawyers. (The un-angelic Anthony is serving 20 years for running over an officer during a high-speed car chase in 2008; he took a beating once officers caught him.)

■ Condemned California inmate Steven Homick, 74, finally took his last breath on Nov. 5 — more than 29 years after committing the two murders that put him on death row. However, Homick died of natural causes (the 65th condemned California man to go that way in the last 35 years). ■

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## Conservancy plans luncheon with a focus on water

Clean water is essential to all life, the basis of the Southwest Florida community and the foundation of its economy. The Conservancy of Southwest Florida hosts the inaugural Water Works luncheon, an afternoon to benefit Southwest Florida's most valuable natural resource, Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the Naples Yacht Club.



MOHER

The recent passage of Amendment 1 demonstrates that the vast majority of Floridians support the protection of the Sunshine State's rivers, lakes, springs, coastal waters and natural areas for future generations, says Conservancy President and CEO Rob Moher.

The Water Works luncheon will bring together like-minded citizens to learn more about the Conservancy's work and how they can become more involved in protection of our water quality, fisheries and estuaries, so that together we can protect our quality of life for generations to come, Mr. Moher adds.

Starting at 11 a.m., the event will include a three-course meal and a

meet and greet and keynote presentation by National Geographic's Joel Bourne, an award-winning journalist who has covered environmental issues impacting water nationally and internationally for the past 20 years.

The presenting sponsor is The Naples Trust Company; supporting sponsors are Naples Yacht Club, Hurley Travel Experts, CRS Technology Consultants, PNC Bank and the *Naples Daily News*. Tickets are \$200. Registration can be completed by calling 403-4200 or by visiting [conservancy.org/waterworksevent](http://conservancy.org/waterworksevent). Deadline for reservations is Dec. 22.



Conservancy of Southwest Florida began 50 years ago when community leaders came together to defeat a proposed "Road to Nowhere" and spearheaded the acquisition and protection of Rookery

Bay. The organization focuses on the critical environmental issues of the Southwest Florida region — Glades, Hendry, Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties — with a mission to protect its water, land and wildlife.

Conservancy of Southwest Florida and its Nature Center are at 1495 Smith Preserve Way, south of The Naples Zoo off Goodlette-Frank Road. For more information, call 262-0304 or visit [conservancy.org](http://conservancy.org). ■

## PAWS Assistance Dogs volunteers available for speaking engagements

PAWS Assistance Dogs is booking speaking engagements and demonstrations for the 2015 season. The nonprofit organization promotes independence and enhanced quality of life for veterans and children with special needs through life-changing partnerships with skilled assistance dogs.

Each PAWS service dog in training performs community service throughout its two-plus years of training and contributes to various therapy dog programs in children's education and literacy. Other programs provide compassionate canine care for children and women at risk. Local community partners include the David Lawrence Center, Collier County Library, Collier County Sheriff's Office, senior centers, childcare facilities and schools.

PAWS Assistance Dogs are always placed at no cost to those they serve. PAWS handlers contribute hundreds of hours and serve thousands of individuals each year. The program receives no government funding and is totally dependent on the support of organizations, companies and individuals to provide the financial means and public awareness needed to accomplish its mission.

Through the PAWS speakers bureau, staff and volunteers are available to educate the local community. Canine assisted therapy programs and speakers can be booked for schools, clubs, businesses and other organizations. Tours and demonstrations at the PAWS academy can also be arranged.

For more information, call 775-1660 or email [info@pawsassistancedogs.com](mailto:info@pawsassistancedogs.com). ■

## Master Gardeners share their expertise

Collier County Master Gardeners conduct a tour and discuss what grows well in Southwest Florida from 9-10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at UF-IFAS extension service headquarters, 14700 Immokalee Road. The next tour is Dec. 2.

The center has a native plant garden, a Master Gardener color garden, a suc-

culent garden, a vegetable/recycle garden, a garden of the senses, a butterfly garden, and a hydroponic and aquaponics demonstration greenhouse. The Tuesday sessions also include a lesson in backyard composting.

Attendance is free. For more information, call 252-4800 or email [iway@ufl.edu](mailto:iway@ufl.edu). ■

## Help out at the museum in your free time

The Friends of the Collier County Museum are looking for cheerful volunteers to help with sales in the gift shop at the main museum in the Collier County Govern-

ment Complex at 3331 Tamiami Trail E. Shifts are available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Training is provided. For more information, call 450-4549. ■



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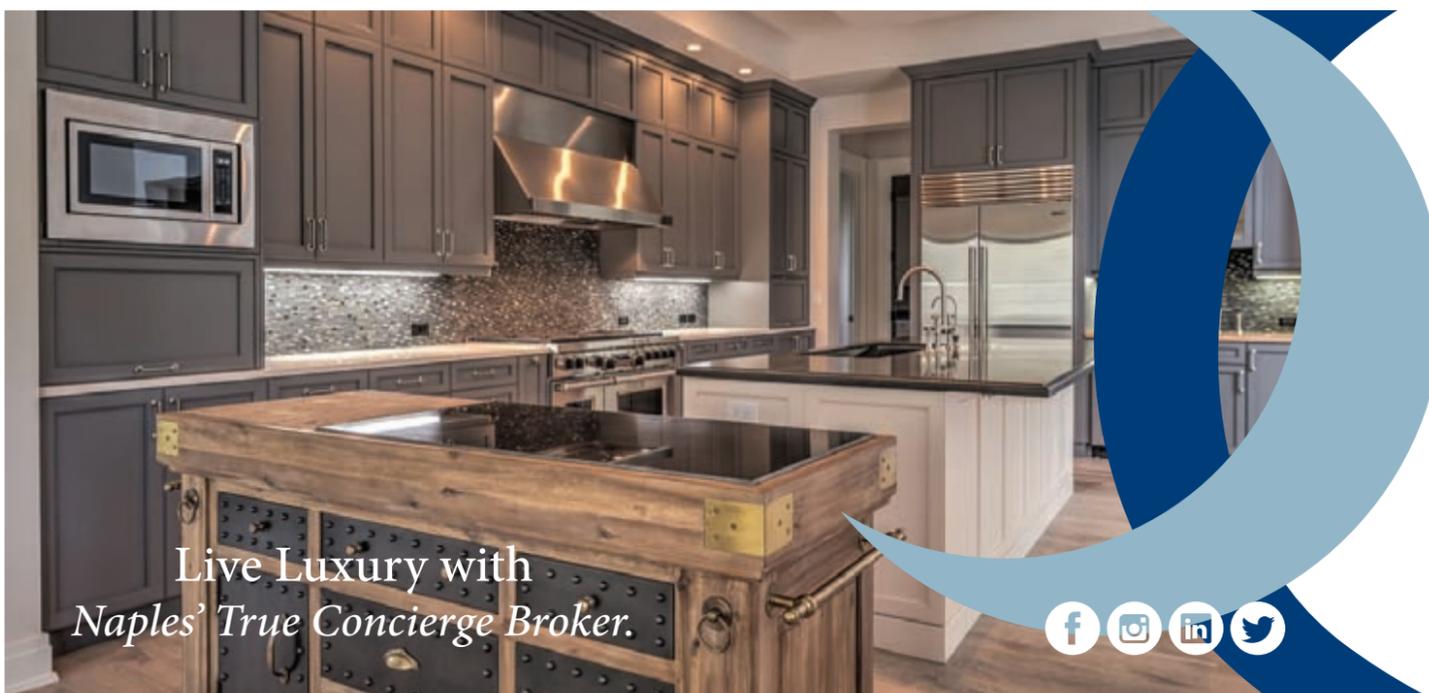
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# Don't let a clogged disposal mess up your Thanksgiving

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Preventing plumbing problems in the kitchen during the Thanksgiving holiday is easy as pie, *if you* know the do's and don'ts of your drains and garbage disposals.

Year in and year out, Turkey Day brings a spike in emergency calls to plumbers. In fact, the day after Thanksgiving is the busiest day of the year for plumbers, seeing a nearly 50 percent spike in emergency visits, according to a press release from the national headquarters of Mr. Rooter Plumbing, which has 300 franchises around the country.

That said, while counting your blessings

this Thanksgiving, be thankful for these Top 5 Turkey Day Tips, compliments of Mr. Rooter Plumbing:

- Don't put turkey bones or skin, or potato and onion peels down the garbage disposal.
- Throw leftovers in the trash or compost pile.
- Feed waste gradually to prevent overloading the garbage disposal.
- Don't pour grease down the drain, as it will harden on your pipes. Wipe out pots and pans before washing them in the sink.
- And finally, don't operate the dishwasher if you suspect a problem. It discharges into the disposal. ■

# Learn about travel plans with FGCU

The Renaissance Academy of Florida Gulf Coast University holds an open house for travelers who want to learn about the 2015 season of excursions abroad from 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at the Naples Center of FGCU, 1010 Fifth Ave. S.

Refreshments will be served and guests will hear details of itineraries to Ireland (May 3-15), Eastern Europe (July 28-Aug. 13), Iceland (Sept. 5-15) and Morocco (Sept. 12-25).

Since 2002, the Renaissance Academy

has sponsored more than 30 excursions abroad to destinations such as Peru, Tuscany, Campania, Sicily, Cuba, Turkey, Spain, Portugal, Croatia, China, France, Guatemala and Brazil. Participants experience the customs, cuisine, language and history of each destination with fellow explorers who share a love of travel and a sense of adventure.

Admission to the open house is free, but registration is required. Call 425-3270 or email [renaissance@fgcu.edu](mailto:renaissance@fgcu.edu). ■



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# CCSO has tips for holiday shoppers

Stay alert — in stores and online

As the holiday shopping season shifts into full gear, the Collier County Sheriff's Office steps up its efforts to keep everyone in the community safe.

Deputies will be patrolling retail parking lots when shoppers hit the stores for Black Friday specials starting Thanksgiving Day and on Friday, Nov. 28. Throughout the holiday season, they will patrol on foot, in cars and on horseback. They'll also use the agency's Skywatch Sentinel to help keep a close eye on shopping center parking lots.

Deputies have been out reminding store managers to adjust parking lot lighting if they're planning to offer extended hours of nighttime shopping.

CCSO also reminds everyone to follow these holiday shopping tips:

Shop during daylight hours when possible. If shopping at night, don't go

alone. Park in a well-lit area.

- Leave your expensive jewelry at home.

- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible. They are prime targets in crowded areas. Keep your money and credit cards in a front pocket.

- Avoid carrying large amounts of money.

- Stay alert to your surroundings.

- When you are done shopping, locate your keys and have them in your hand before you leave the store or mall.

- Don't leave shopping bags, wallets or purses in an unattended vehicle.

## Online shopping

With the added convenience of shopping online, you need to know how to protect your bank account and identity. Here are some tips to help keep your

personal information safe:

- Use companies you know.

- When making purchases online, make sure the website you are using is secured with "https://www..." in the URL, and make certain the padlock symbol is on the bottom of your browser.

- Read the company's privacy statement carefully. Will it sell your personal information to other companies?

- Trust your instincts. If something doesn't seem right, then it probably isn't.

- Limit the amount of personal information you give out.

- Print all online receipts.

- Consider obtaining a credit card that you use only when shopping online to easily keep track of all your purchases.

- If possible, call in your order.

- Notify the issuer if your credit card is lost or stolen. ■



The Collier County Sheriff's Office invites the community to "Stuff The Cuffs" to help the Harry Chapin Food Bank feed the hungry in Southwest Florida. Through Wednesday, Dec. 3, canned and non-perishable donations can be placed this receptacle at the CCSO administration building, 3319 U.S. 41 E. The food bank serves more than 30,000 individuals each month.

# AAA, Anheuser Busch offer 'Tow to Go' service to drivers over the holiday weekend

## SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

One in five consumers say they have never used a designated driver while away from home and drinking, according to a recent AAA Consumer Pulse survey. AAA and Bud Light urge motorists to plan ahead for the holiday weekend if they will be out drinking. This means choosing a designated driver, staying where you are celebrating, using

a cab or finding another form of sober transportation. "It's unsettling that we still have a significant number of people that have never used a designated driver when they are drinking away from home," Gerry Gutowski of AAA says. "With so many travelers this holiday weekend, it's more important than ever to plan ahead and celebrate safely."

Whether you are a AAA member or

not, you can call for a "Tow to Go" ride anytime through Saturday night, Nov. 29. AAA will safely transport you and your vehicle home or somewhere safe within 10 miles.

The service is offered by AAA in partnership with Anheuser-Busch. The brewer provides funding for the service and also works with bars and restaurants to educate servers on the importance of

not over-serving their customers.

Meant to be used as a last resort, Tow to Go is offered based on availability of AAA drivers and tow trucks during times of high call volume.

Since its inception in 1998, Tow to Go has safely removed more than 23,000 impaired drivers from the roads.

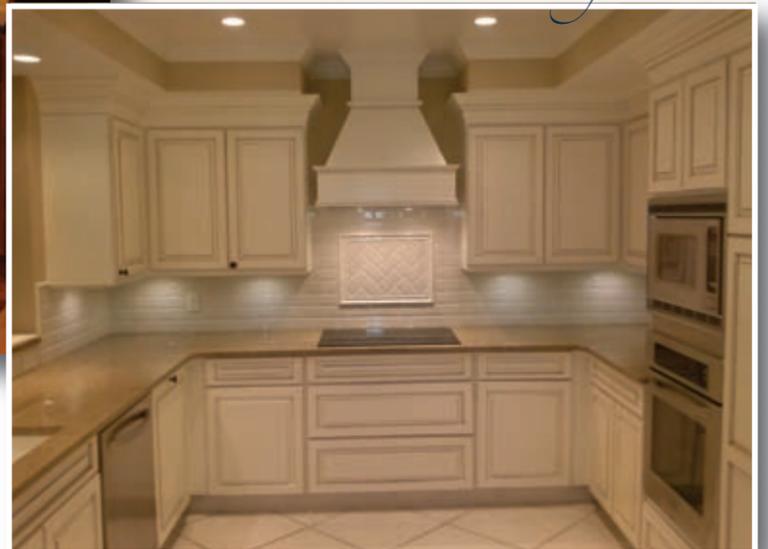
The number to call in Florida is (855) 286-9246. ■



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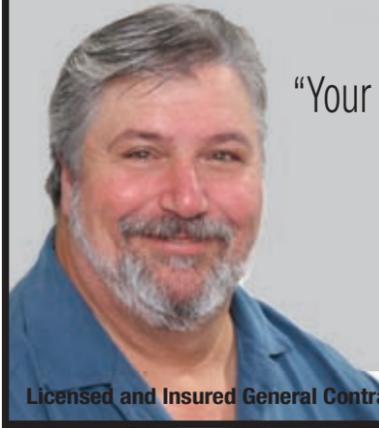
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## Free HIV testing, results in 20 minutes, offered on World AIDS Day

Planned Parenthood of Collier County knows that knowledge saves lives, and World AIDS Day on Monday, Dec. 1, is the perfect time to act on that notion. Free and confidential rapid HIV testing will be available from noon to 3:30 p.m. that day at the Naples and Immokalee clinics. No appointment is necessary.

All it takes is a simple finger prick, and results are available in as little as 20 minutes. Those who get tested that afternoon can pass the time by receiving a free MAC makeup application.

In the United States, more than 1.1 million people are living with HIV, and almost one in six don't know it. That means they're not getting the benefit of treatment that can extend their lives, and they risk unknowingly passing the virus on to others. Testing on World AIDS Day can change that.

Because one in four new HIV infections in this country occurs among adolescents and youth ages 13-24, Planned Parenthood of Collier County also urges mothers, fathers, grandparents and other concerned adults to encourage the young people in their lives to take this important

step. Counselors will be on hand at both locations if needed when the results are delivered.

In 2012, Planned Parenthood nationwide administered 700,000 HIV tests, a reflection of its mission called "The World We Want," which envisions a world with zero new HIV infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero discrimination against those who are HIV-positive or living with AIDS.

Planned Parenthood of Collier County is an affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. One in five women has turned to Planned Parenthood at some point in her life for health care and confidential information and advice about sexual and reproductive health.

More than 17,000 women, men and teens visit Planned Parenthood centers in Naples and Immokalee each year. In Naples the office is at 1425 Creech Road; the Immokalee address is 419 N. First St. For more information, call 262-0301 or visit [plannedparenthood.org/collier-county](http://plannedparenthood.org/collier-county). ■



## Local Planned Parenthood welcomes national board member to 'Voices of Choice'

A member of Planned Parenthood Federation of America's national board comes to Naples to help put the health needs of the South in the spotlight.

Cathy Hampton is leading an effort to help low-income women escape the cycle of poverty and achieve greater access to reproductive health care. She is the

featured speaker at Planned Parenthood of Collier County's "Voices of Choice" luncheon that begins at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, at the Naples Sailing Club.

Ms. Hampton will speak on "Meeting Health Care Needs in the South," which includes seven of the 10 states with the nation's highest teen pregnancy rates. In addition, the South has the highest rates of gonorrhea and is home to more people living with HIV and dying of AIDS-related complications than the other three geographic regions of the United States.

A graduate of Spelman College and Harvard Law School, Ms. Hampton is chief legal officer for the city of Atlanta, where she leads an 83-member law department. She provides legal advice to the mayor and city council and is responsible for all civil legal matters for the city and its 7,000 employees, as well as the world's busiest airport, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International. Prior to working with the city of Atlanta, she practiced corporate securities and international finance law with Shearman & Sterling and then marketing and corporate law with the National Basketball Association.

The "Voices of Choice" luncheon takes place at the Naples Sailing Club, 896 River Point Drive. Tickets are \$50, with \$20 being tax-deductible and \$5 benefitting the Bonnie K. Yarrington Endowment Fund, which honors its namesake who was an advocate for reproductive health in Collier County.

For reservations or more information, call 262-8923. ■



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# TALKIN' TURKEY

From page 1

**FW:** What kind of dessert do you have on Thanksgiving?

**Evan:** Ice cream and fruit pops.

**FW:** What do you do while your mom's making dinner?

**Evan:** I play games.



EVAN

■ **Keegan McLaughlin**

**FW:** Do you have turkey on Thanksgiving?

**Keegan:** We sometimes do. We make chicken.

**FW:** What else do you make?

**Keegan:** Um, rice and beans.



KEEGAN

**FW:** What do you have for dessert?

**Keegan:** I think we have chocolate milk.

■ **Jorge Caminas**

**FW:** What happens at your house on Thanksgiving?

**Jorge:** Santa will come and he will give me Olaf back.

**FW:** Does Santa come to your house on Thanksgiving?

**Jorge:** Yeah.



JORGE

**FW:** What does he do on Thanksgiving? Does he eat turkey with you?

**Jorge:** Yes, because I practice and he's nice.

**FW:** So what do you eat on Thanksgiving with Santa?

**Jorge:** Chicken finger fries.

**FW:** Who makes your chicken finger fries?

**Jorge:** Santa.

**FW:** You seem to love Santa a lot. Does he love you, too?

**Jorge:** Mm-hm.

**FW:** Does the rest of your family eat turkey?

**Jorge:** Yes.

**FW:** Who makes the turkey?

**Jorge:** Santa.

**FW:** What about pumpkin pie? Who makes that?

**Jorge:** Santa makes it. They all cook with Santa.

■ **Tomas Sandoval**

**FW:** What do you like to eat on Thanksgiving?

**Tomas:** Chocolate.

**FW:** Who makes your chocolate?

**Tomas:** We get it at the store.

**FW:** Does anybody eat turkey?

**Tomas:** No.



TOMAS

**FW:** Does anybody cook?

**Tomas:** Mom.

**FW:** What does she cook?

**Tomas:** Everything.

**FW:** Everything? What's the first thing?

**Tomas:** Pancakes.

**FW:** What's the second thing?

**Tomas:** A sandwich.

**FW:** What's the third thing?

**Tomas:** Beans and rice.

**Mrs. Crowley's Kindergartners**

■ **Emma Trombley**

**FW:** What happens on your family's Thanksgiving?

**Emma:** First people come over to my house and the ones I really like, they come over with my cousin Dalia. Momma, she puts the turkey on the table and we all talk. When all the kids are done we play while the grown ups talk.



EMMA

**FW:** How does your mom cook the turkey?

**Emma:** She uses fried chicken. Maybe she buys it at the store and brings it to the kitchen. Then she puts on the crumple stuff that you put on the ham — like ham stuff.

**FW:** What's the ham stuff?

**Emma:** I don't know what it's called.

**FW:** What does she put in the stuffing?

**Emma:** She puts Oreo stuff on top of it. I don't know what she puts inside the turkey.

**FW:** What do you have for dessert on Thanksgiving?

**Emma:** I think like chicken pie or something.

**FW:** Chicken pie?

**Emma:** One time I had chicken pie and one time I had apple pie. I have apple pie sometimes, but most times I have chicken pie. I have all different kinds of pie.

■ **Brendan Walsh**

**FW:** What's Thanksgiving like at your house?

**Brendan:** It's cool.

**FW:** How's it cool?

**Brendan:** Because it's cool. If you want to know what people set it up, it's my mom and dad and my sister. Before the people come to our house, they are getting ready. Then my mom makes dinner because she's the best cook. Actually my dad is. He taught my mom how to cook.



BRENDAN

**FW:** How do they cook they turkey?

**Brendan:** They put it in the oven, but first they put cinnamon on it and sometimes they put bologna wraps on it.

**FW:** What do you have for dessert?

**Brendan:** Sometimes we have chocolate. It's a chocolate hot fudge brownie.

**FW:** Who cleans up?

**Brendan:** We all clean up together, but my poppa doesn't help because he's 53 years old.



■ **Maximus Gonzalez**

**FW:** What's Thanksgiving like in your family?

**Maximus:** I don't do Thanksgiving. All I do is just eat a turkey.

**FW:** That's all you do? How do you get the turkey?

**Maximus:** I just put icing, chocolate fudge and tacos on it. And I put salad and chicken.



MAXIMUS

**FW:** This all goes in your turkey?

**Maximus:** Yes.

**Mrs. Gurley's First Grade Class**

■ **Nikki Reinert**

**FW:** What is Thanksgiving?

**Nikki:** Thanksgiving is a holiday where we celebrate thanks.

**FW:** What do you eat on Thanksgiving?

**Nikki:** Turkey. My grandma makes it.

**FW:** How do you think she does that?

**Nikki:** Well, I think it happens because she just takes the turkey and puts it in the oven



NIKKI

**FW:** Who comes to your Thanksgiving?

**Nikki:** I have my cousin Rachel from Gloriana, my mom, my dad, my grandma, my sister, my brother and that's it.

**FW:** Do you have dessert?

**Nikki:** We make pocket pies. We take this dough and we roll it out. Then we take these little cutters and cut the dough. Then you squish it together and it makes a pocket pie, but first you have to put a cherry inside.

**FW:** Is cherry the only kind of pocket pie you make?

**Nikki:** We do different fruits like cherries and raspberries and blueberries.

■ **Angelya Burberry**

**FW:** How does your family do Thanksgiving?

**Angelya:** One Thanksgiving, Grandpa and Ron and Russ came over and they caught a turkey.

**FW:** Hold on. They caught a turkey? Where did they catch a turkey?

**Angelya:** Um, from my farm in the back. They brought it out in the front where we drive out and they slaughtered it. Then the night before Thanksgiving my grandpa said to take the turkey and put it in the sink and try to pluck out all the feathers.



ANGELYA

**FW:** What did you eat with your turkey?

**Angelya:** Mashed potatoes with gravy. We put butter, I think, in the tur-

key. I think we also had asparagus and couscous.

**FW:** Who cooked the turkey?

**Angelya:** Well, my mommy didn't really cook it. My grandma cooked it, and you know how it's kind of hard to carve it?

**FW:** Yeah.

**Angelya:** Uncle James carved the turkey because my mommy's not really good at carving the turkey. Last time it was Thanksgiving, my mom had to kind of hack in there. There were like a thousand pieces because she didn't carve the turkey right.

**FW:** Is that when people decided she wasn't allowed to carve anymore?

**Angelya:** Yeah.

■ **Ryan Toole**

**FW:** What do you eat on Thanksgiving?

**Ryan:** Last year I didn't even have turkey. I had salmon instead.

**FW:** Salmon instead? Why did you have salmon instead?

**Ryan:** Because it's better.



RYAN

**FW:** Where did your dad get it?

**Ryan:** He caught it.

**FW:** He did? There's no salmon in Florida.

**Ryan:** Yeah, there is.

**FW:** Did he go somewhere else to catch it?

**Ryan:** I think he went to Maine.

**FW:** Are you having turkey this year?

**Ryan:** Yes.

**FW:** Where are you getting your turkey?

**Ryan:** We got it from Costco.

**FW:** Who's going to cook it?

**Ryan:** Probably my dad on the Green Egg.

**FW:** What's a Green Egg?

**Ryan:** It's this cool grill. It's shaped like an egg and it's green.

**FW:** Who comes over to your house?

**Ryan:** Mostly my friends and Kelsey and Kiley, Tommy, Jim and Daisy Mae.

**FW:** What about dessert?

**Ryan:** We like to have something like an ice cream sandwich.

**FW:** Does anyone eat pie?

**Ryan:** Yeah. My Mimi brings it over sometimes. She makes Key lime pie or blueberry pie or both.

**FW:** What's your favorite thing about Thanksgiving?

**Ryan:** All the fun we have. ■



# GET OUT FOR A GOOD CAUSE

■ The Gulf Coast Runners second annual **Turkey Trot 5K** sets out from Cambier Park at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 27. Free parking and a bike corral managed by Naples Cyclery for anyone who pedals to the race. Naples Cyclery is committing \$1 for every Turkey Trot participant to help purchase bicycles for St. Matthews House; Moe's Southwest Grill will donate 1 pound of rice/beans to SMH for each participant.

Registration is \$30 until Nov. 26 and \$40 on race day. There will be a free 1-mile run for ages 7-14 and a free 100-yard dash for ages 6 and younger. Sign up at [gcrunners.org](http://gcrunners.org).

■ The Naples Pathways Coalition hosts the 10th annual **Iron Joe Turkey Ride** the morning of Sunday, Nov. 30, and the ninth annual Naples Bike Brunch on Sunday morning, Jan. 25, at Lowdermilk Park. County Commissioner Georgia Hiller will speak about pending legislation regarding cyclists. Call 777-7718 or visit [naplespathways.org](http://naplespathways.org) or [cyclingacrossamerica.com](http://cyclingacrossamerica.com) for more information.

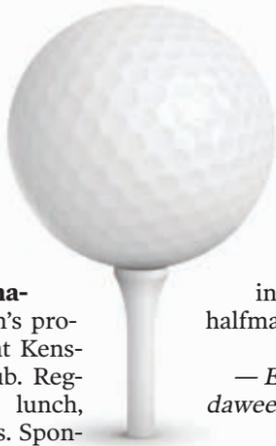
■ The Greater Naples YMCA holds the 27th annual **YMCA/Dan Conley Memorial Golf Tournament** to benefit Y children's programs Wednesday, Dec. 3, at Kensington Golf & Country Club. Registration for \$150 includes lunch, dinner and two drink tickets. Spon-

sorship opportunities are available. Call 597-3148 or visit [greaterNaplesYMCA.org](http://greaterNaplesYMCA.org) for more information.

■ The second annual **Scramble for Sarah** golf tournament takes place Sunday, Dec. 14, at Tiburon Golf Club at The Ritz-Carlton. Sarah Hardwig is an 11-year-old local girl who suffered from an eye disorder that left her blind. With assistance from The Foundation of Retinal Research and Lighthouse of Collier, she has been able to grow and develop as well as her sighted friends. Registration for \$150 includes lunch, shotgun start at 12:30 p.m., raffles, prizes and more. Proceeds will benefit Lighthouse of Collier, Center for Blindness and Vision Loss and The Foundation for Retinal Research. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, email Greg Hardwig at [greg.harwig@gmail.com](mailto:greg.harwig@gmail.com) or visit [2014scrambleforesarah.kintera.org](http://2014scrambleforesarah.kintera.org).

■ The **Marco Island Half Marathon and 5K** run-walk sets out at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, March 15, from the Shops of Marco. All ages are welcome. Registration proceeds benefit Marco Island community organizations. For more information, visit [marcoisland-halfmarathon.com](http://marcoisland-halfmarathon.com). ■

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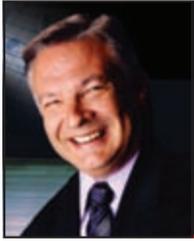
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# CLUB NOTES

■ The **Zonta Club of Naples** holds its monthly meeting at noon Tuesday, Dec. 2, at Brio Italian Grill in Waterside Shops. Cost is \$17. RSVP and make your menu choice by calling Jean Sloan at 572-4343. For more information, visit [zontanaples.org](http://zontanaples.org).

■ The **Naples Press Club** holds its annual holiday lunch for members and spouses/significant others from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Hilton Naples. "Musical Mind-reader" Keith Raygor will provide the entertainment.



RAYGOR

Cost is \$25 for members, \$28 for others. Reservations and menu choice (traditional turkey dinner or a gluten-free or vegetarian meal) are required by 5 p.m. Dec. 1 by emailing [rspv@naplespressclub.org](mailto:rspv@naplespressclub.org).

■ The **Naples Christian Women's Connection** holds its next luncheon at

11:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at Quail Creek Country Club. Guest speaker Nada Decker will discuss "The WOW Factor," and soprano Robin Noel will entertain. Cost is \$23. For reservations, call 592-0229. For more information about the organization, visit [cwcf.net](http://cwcf.net).

■ Those who write simply enjoy listening to and reading poetry are invited to meet at The Norris Center from 4-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Dec. 9 and Jan. 13, and Mondays, Feb. 9 and March 9. After the formal meeting, those who are interested can continue the evening with dinner at a Fifth Avenue restaurant. For more information, call (440) 554-1144 or email [formulawriting@hotmail.com](mailto:formulawriting@hotmail.com)

■ Patron tickets for the 2015 **Naples Garden Club House & Garden Tour** are on sale at [naplesgardenclub.org](http://naplesgardenclub.org). The purchase of one patron ticket for \$175 allows for the purchase of up to five general admission tickets at the same time for \$100 each.

The tour, which always sells out and has a waiting list, takes place Saturday, Feb. 7, with participants departing on

coach buses from Naples Botanical Garden. Patrons and their guests receive first choice of bus departure times, and patrons receive preferred parking at the Garden.

Non-patron tickets for \$100 go on sale Dec. 1. For more information, visit the website above.

■ The **Collier County Men's Republican Club** (women welcome) meets for buffet breakfast and a program from 7:45-9 a.m. on the first Friday of every month at Pelican Marsh Golf Club. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for others. The next meeting is Dec. 5. Guest speaker will be Erika Donalds, newly elected member of the Collier County School Board. RSVP by emailing [patriotart@centurylink.net](mailto:patriotart@centurylink.net). For more information, visit [collierrepublicanmensclub.com](http://collierrepublicanmensclub.com).

■ The **Genealogical Society of Collier County** holds its next meeting at Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Moorings Presbyterian Church. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. A brief meeting begins at 7 p.m. and is followed by "Remember the Ladies," a one-woman show by actress and writer

Janina Birtolo about Abigail Adams, wife of America's second president and mother of the sixth. The play recounts Mrs. Adams' experience as a true partner to her husband as well as a patriot who was deeply involved in the politics of her time and extremely outspoken about her opinions.



BIRTOLO

Light refreshments will be available after the program. Attendance is free, and guests are always welcome. No reservations are necessary. For more information, visit [thegscc.org](http://thegscc.org).

■ The **Southwest Florida chapter of the Kiwi Club**, a social and charitable organization of present and former flight attendants of American Airlines, TWA and other airlines acquired by or merged with American Airlines, holds its holiday party Thursday evening, Dec. 11, at Naples Lake Country Club. The local chapter supports Pace Center for Girls-Collier at Immokalee and the Collier County Hunger & Home-



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less Coalition. Regular meetings take place on the fourth Saturday of the month, starting in January. New members are always welcome. For more information, call (781) 962-5311.

■ The **Naples Civitan Club** meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at Perkins on Pine Ridge Road. Nery Kircher is president. The next meeting is Dec. 10.

The newly chartered Marco Island Civitan Club meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at Mario's Restaurant at 845 Bald Eagle Drive. The next meeting is Dec. 9.

The international service club focuses on assisting people with developmental disabilities and finding the cause, cure and better treatments of brain disorders including autism, Alzheimer's disease and Down syndrome. For more information about the local clubs, call 774-2623 or email [naplescivitan@aol.com](mailto:naplescivitan@aol.com).

■ The **Experimental Aircraft Association** Chapter 1067, Naples, has elected the following officers and directors for 2015: Ted Brousseau, president; Jim Quigley and Brian Beauvais, vice presidents; Bob House, treasurer; Craig Mock, secretary; and Chuck Ahearn and Kirk Munroe, directors.

The local chapter is one of approximately 1,700 chapters worldwide. Members are pilots, student pilots, plane builders and aviation enthusiasts. The EAA Young Eagles program introduces youth ages 7-18 to aviation.

Beginning in January, meetings take place at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month in the pilots' lounge at Naples Municipal Airport. The next meeting is Jan. 7. The club also holds a pancake breakfasts from 8-11 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month, also starting in January. For

more information, visit [eal1067.com](http://eal1067.com).

■ **Pearls of Naples** invites women who are interested in socializing at restaurants, movies, art fairs, theaters and more to explore membership in the club. Members are required to attend at least five business luncheons, held monthly on the third Thursday at various clubhouses and venues in Naples. For more information, visit [pearlsofnaples.org](http://pearlsofnaples.org) and click on "How to Join" or email [3rd\\_vice\\_president@pearlsofnaples.org](mailto:3rd_vice_president@pearlsofnaples.org).

■ Members of the **Marco Island Shell Club** meet from 9-11:30 a.m. every Tuesday at the United Church of Marco to craft shell art that will be sold during the club's annual sale in March. Proceeds from the sale benefit scholarships for marine science students at FGCU. The church is at 320 N. Barfield Drive. Newcomers are always welcome at crafting sessions. For more information, call 963-4694.

■ Ohio State University fans are welcome to join the **Naples Buckeyes** for OSU football at the following locations in Naples on every game day: Bokamper's Sports Bar and Grille, Stevie Tomato's Sports Page, Harold's Place at the Gulf-coast Inn and Gatsby's Pizza. The Nov. 29 game against Michigan starts at noon. The Naples Buckeyes are also planning a holiday cruise aboard the Naples Princess on Saturday, Dec. 13. For more information, visit [naplesbuckeyes.com](http://naplesbuckeyes.com).

■ Members of the **Naples IOWA Club** invite University of Iowa Hawkeyes fans to join them at Weekend Willie's to watch the season's football games. The Friday, Nov. 28, game against Nebraska starts at noon. For more information about the club, call Michael Eovino at 431-8845 or email [naples-iowaclub@gmail.com](mailto:naples-iowaclub@gmail.com).

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■ **Naples Ship Modelers** is an informal group dedicated to the hobby of building wooden ship models. Members meet at 9:30 a.m. on the first and third Saturdays of every month at the Landmark Naples community in North Naples. The next meetings are Dec. 6 and 20. Members share their knowledge and building techniques and welcome new members. For more information, call Dick Ritchie at 594-0868 or email dcritchie@comcast.net.

■ **Pilot Club of Naples/Naples Pilot Foundation** meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Perkin's, 3585 Pine Ridge Road in Naples. The next meeting is Dec. 11. Pilot International focuses its charitable and educational efforts on brain-related disorders and disabilities, including traumatic brain injuries, dementia and autism. Guests and new members are always welcome at meetings. Reservations are not required. Attendees order from the menu and pay for their meals. For more information, call Sue Lester 289-8268.

■ The **Naples chapter of PFLAG, Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays**, a support, education and advocacy group for families with gay or transgender members, meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting is Dec. 18. Call 963-4670 for location.

■ The **Naples Italian American Foundation** has a full schedule of programs, dinners and other activities at its newly renovated and expanded headquarters at 7035 Airport-Pulling Road

(corner of Orange Blossom Road). Here's some of what's on the regular schedule:

**10 a.m. every weekday:** Bocce on the lawn.

**11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Friday:** Mah johgg (free for NIAF members, \$3 for others).

**12:30 p.m. Tuesday: Intermediate bridge** (free for members, \$3 for others).

**7-8 p.m. Thursday:** Ballroom dance lessons (\$10 per person).

For more information, call 597-5210.

■ **Naples Newcomers Club** welcomes women who have moved to the area within the past five years. In addition to a monthly luncheon, members get together to explore Naples and to enjoy a variety of interests, from books to bridge and mah-jongg to gourmet cooking and conversations over coffee. A coffee for prospective new members takes place on the first Thursday of each month. For more information, call 298-4083 or visit naplesnewcomers.com.

■ **Coastal Chess clubs in Naples and Marco Island** welcome players of all levels for casual games and occasional tournaments. Marco meetings are from 9 a.m. to noon every Monday at the Lutheran Church, 525 N. Collier. Naples meetings are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday in the clubhouse at Moorings Park, off Goodlette-Frank Road just south of Pine Ridge Road. For more information, call Wade Keller at 389-2525, email wk@kellerpublishing.com or visit chess7.net.

■ **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 Pamela Houze at (214) 355-6069.

**Collier Communique Club:** 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday at the North Collier Government Center, 2335 Orange Blossom Drive. Call Robert Rizzo at (407) 493-8584.

**Marco Island Toastmasters:** 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Centennial Bank, 645 Elkcarm 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 Dorian Ray at 260-4709 or email dorianray11@gmail.com.

**Toast of the Coast Toastmasters Club:** Noon on the second and fourth Friday at the American Cancer Society, 5020 Tamiami Trail N. Call Marianne Oehser at 434-9900.

**Naples Advanced Toastmasters:** 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday at the North Collier Government Center, 2335 Orange Blossom Drive. Email Christine Cargnoni at ccc@financeinlife.com. This club has prerequisites for membership. ■

— Email club news to Cindy Pierce at cpierce@floridaweekly.com.

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# ALUMNI NEWS

■ The **Harvard Club of Naples** welcomes all residents of Collier County and southern Lee County who have a connection with Harvard University.

On Friday, Dec. 5, the club hosts Congressman Curt Clawson starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Country Club of Naples, 185 Burning Tree Drive. And on Tuesday morning, Dec. 9, a group will go on a "Birding 101" outing with Arthur Sissman to Eagle Lakes Community Park. For information about club membership and the season's full schedule of events, call 793-7887 or go to [harvardclubofnaples.org](http://harvardclubofnaples.org).

■ The **Greater Naples Branch of AAUW** holds its monthly meeting Saturday, Dec. 6, at Hodges University. A reception and networking begin at 9:30 a.m., and the meeting begins at 10 a.m. Guest speaker Tasheekia Perry, founder of Crowning Daughters for Success, will discuss ways to make a difference in the lives of adolescent girls. All are welcome, and reservations are not necessary. For more information, visit [aauwgnb.org](http://aauwgnb.org).

■ **Boston College** alumni, family and friends hold their third annual Christmas cocktail party from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, in a private room at Brio restaurant in Waterside shops. Admission is \$10, and there will be heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Reservations can be made by calling Diane Van Parys at 431-5224 or emailing [bcswfloridaalumni@gmail.com](mailto:bcswfloridaalumni@gmail.com).

■ The **Cornell Alumni Association of Southwest Florida** hosts its first luncheon of the season Thursday, Dec. 11, at Wyndemere Country Club. Guest speaker Nancy Battistella, co-owner of

Six Mile Creek Vineyard in Ithaca, N.Y., will discuss the family business that was established in 1987. Ms. Battistella and her husband, Roger, are residents of Naples. For reservations or more information, call Jon Peter Vollmer at 250-9414 or email [jon.vollmer@sothebysrealty.com](mailto:jon.vollmer@sothebysrealty.com).

■ The **Alpha Chi Omega Alumni Chapter of Southwest Florida** holds its holiday luncheon Saturday, Dec. 13, at Imperial County Club in Naples. Entertainment will be by The Lydia Singers. For reservations or more information, call 594-9401 or email [deltapidelta.axo@gmail.com](mailto:deltapidelta.axo@gmail.com).

■ **Kappa Kappa Gamma** alumnae host a "Home for the Holidays" luncheon for all Kappa collegians starting at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, at the Naples Yacht Club. Call 598-3620 to make a reservation.

■ The next meeting of the **Greater Naples Alumnae Panhellenic** begins at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at Brambles Tea Room. Cost is \$30. Reservations are requested by Dec. 15 and can be made by calling Lynda Ewen at 498-4769.

■ The **Naples Buckeyes**, alumni and friends of The Ohio State University, are planning a gathering aboard the Double Sunshine for the Naples Christmas Boat Parade on Saturday, Dec. 13; a Buckeye Valentine Party on Thursday, Feb. 12; and the annual Buckeyes in Paradise gala on Saturday, March 21. For details and more information about the club, visit [naples-buckeyes.com](http://naples-buckeyes.com). ■

— Email alumni news to [cpierce@floridaweekly.com](mailto:cpierce@floridaweekly.com).

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# HEALTHY LIVING

## NCH cardiac care continues to earn accolades



Third-party validation for NCH cardiac care excellence is plentiful. We have been recognized by the Society of Thoracic Surgery as being in the top 10 percent based on performance for bypass surgery, bypass surgery with aortic valve replacement and aortic valve replacement. The statistician who evaluated us said he had never experienced a hospital with this “trifecta.” Drs. Dennis Stapleton and Robert Pascotto, along with our re- and post-op teams and support staff, are to be congratulated.

Additionally, Dr. David Stone’s leadership and diligence along with lead technologist O’Ryan Atkinson and the entire support staff, nuclear cardiologists, nurse practitioners and physician assistants brought our nuclear cardiology to the highest level with the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission.

Continuing this recent run of accomplishments, Consumer Choice, the national research corporation that identifies the top hospitals health care consumers have chosen based on multiple quality and image rating, has also recently recognized NCH.

All these validations are important, but the real proof of a hospital is how our teams save lives. The following excerpt is from a letter Dr. Molly Chandiramani of Bonita Springs wrote to the Naples Daily News after her husband was an emergency cardiac patient:

*I want to commend NCH Healthcare System hospitals, North Naples and Downtown, for saving my husband’s life. I have never seen such professionalism between the nurses, doctors and staff ... We are so blessed to live in an area where the craft, professionalism and protocol performed at NCH hospitals saves lives.”*

Finally, Becker’s Hospital Review recently included me in its list of Top 100 physician leaders based on health care leadership experience, accolades and commitment to promoting quality care. I am privileged and honored to be among them. But they honored me for one simple reason: our team of 4,000 caregivers, who together make each other better. ■

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

## Visiting senior loved ones this holiday season? Take the time to look, see and talk

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Are there dents in the car? Is the house not as clean as it used to be? Is unopened mail piling up?

These are just some of the red flags families should look for as they visit their aging loved ones this holiday season, as they could be signs that assistance is needed.

Experts say families should follow the 40-70 Rule: By the time adult children are 40 and/or their parents are age 70, they should have talked about important issues that could impact their future.

Experts encourage families of seniors to use holiday visits as a time to assess how things are going with their aging loved ones and decide whether any issues, such as finances, living arrangements or driving, need to be addressed.

Although the prospect of addressing sensitive topics can often be intimidat-

ing, it’s critical for these conversations to happen before a crisis occurs, says Jeff Huber, president and chief operating officer of Home Instead Senior Care. The holidays, when families often are together, are the perfect time to have the discussion and begin putting together a plan to ensure successful aging, he adds.

Recent research by Home Instead shows that 70 percent of family conversations about aging issues don’t occur until they are prompted by a health crisis or other emergency. This can increase the likelihood of family disputes.

Having conversations early and often — about issues including living arrangements, finances, dating, end-of-life decisions and driving — can save families years of heartache, tension and even legal battles.

But many families are either uncomfortable with the topics or they just

don’t know where to start. That’s why this holiday season, Home Instead promotes the 40-70 Rule, which includes an action plan for successful aging and other resources to help ease these conversations between adult children and their parents. The complete program is available at 4070ruletalk.com.

One of the greatest gifts you can give an aging loved one is to honor their wishes for how they want to live, he says. And in order to do that, you need to know what those wishes are, what the obstacles might be and how to best handle them.

Nebraska-based Home Instead Senior Care has more than 900 franchises providing Alzheimer’s and dementia support, respite care and companionship to seniors in their homes across the country, including four in Southwest Florida (Naples, Fort Myers, Cape Coral and Punta Gorda). ■



It is important that family members ensure their senior loved ones understand their medications and how and when to take them



Conversations about driving — and deciding when a senior should turn over the keys — can be stressful.



Following the 40-70 Rule can ease the tension so often associated with conversations about aging. Visit 4070ruletalk.com for details.

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## Shining a light on mental illness

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Collier County holds its annual Hope Shines luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at a private club in Naples. Guest speaker Kevin Hines will share the story about how he discovered brighter days after a suicide attempt.

In 2000, when he was 19 years old, Mr. Hines jumped off San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, a fall of 746 feet. Today, he is one of just 33 people who have lived to talk



about it — and he is the only one doing so. He is the author of "Cracked ... Not Broken: Surviving & Thriving After a Suicide Attempt."

Hope also will shine at the luncheon when NAMI of Collier County honors people who have gone above and beyond to support its mission.

Tickets are \$200. For reservations or more information, call 260-7300, email Jacquelyn@namicollier.org or visit namicollier.org/luncheon. ■

## Symposium about women and addiction

Hazelden at Naples, part of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, hosts "Grit & Grace: A Professional Symposium on Women and Addiction" from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs. Five guest speakers are on the program, including Brenda Iliff,



executive director of Hazelden at Naples, and Dr. Harry Haroutunian, physician director of residential treatment at the Betty Ford Center.

Registration is \$245. Continuing education credits are available for professionals. Sign up by calling 659-2340 or visiting hazelden.org. ■

## Bonita Y has Pedaling for Parkinson's

The Bonita Springs YMCA offers its Pedaling for Parkinson's program in hopes of advancing the understanding of how physical activity impacts the motor symptoms association with Parkinson disease. The program is based on research performed by Dr. Jay Alberts of The Cleveland Clinic that demonstrated

up to a 35 percent reduction in Parkinson symptoms through stationary cycling.

Pedaling for Parkinson's sessions take place from 12:30-2 p.m. every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. The first eight sessions are free. For more information, call Marla Ramsey at 221-7560 or email mramsey@bonitaqspringsYMCA.org. ■

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# PET TALES

## What's your cat IQ?

Test your knowledge of feline facts with our fun quiz.

- Domestic cats spend what percentage of their lives sleeping?
  - 37 percent
  - 45 percent
  - 70 percent
  - 56 percent
- Which of the following is the only big cat capable of purring?
  - Leopard
  - Cheetah
  - Cougar
  - Jaguar
- True or false? A cat's taste buds do not have receptors for sweet flavors.
- Which of the following treatments can help cats suffering from idiopathic cystitis (a bladder infection)?
  - Providing interactive toys and tall cat trees
  - Keeping the litter box very clean
  - Reducing stress
  - All of the above
- True or false? The ability to respond to catnip is genetic.
- What are the names of the two cats who pull the chariot of the Norse goddess Freya?
  - Loki and Thor
  - Bygul and Trjegul
  - Huginn and Muninn
  - Geru and Freki
- Cats have been associated with people for how long?
  - 10,000 years
  - 5,000 years
  - 7,500 years
  - 2,000 years

- What term is used to refer to cats with extra toes?
  - Multidigital
  - Phalanges
  - Polydactyl
  - Metatarsals
- When you hear that familiar hacking sound in the middle of the night, your cat is getting ready to bring up what?
  - A dead mouse
  - Bile
  - A trichobezoar
  - A bolus

### Answers:

- (c) Domestic cats spend approximately 70 percent of their lives sleeping, which works out to 16 to 18 hours a day. Now, if we could only get them to sleep the same hours we do, we might all get some good rest.
- (b) Cheetahs are the only big cats capable of purring. We think of cats purring when they are content, but they also purr when they are injured, giving birth and even dying. Interestingly, the sound frequencies of the purr may promote healing.
- True. Cats don't have a sweet tooth. As far as we know, they are the only mammals that lack the receptors for sweetness. That's just one of the ways in which they are unique.
- (d) We don't know why cats develop idiopathic cystitis — the word "idiopathic" means "unknown" — but enriching a cat's environment by providing places to climb and interesting toys,

and reducing stress by keeping to a regular schedule and keeping the litter box scrupulously clean are some of the things that can help to decrease the incidence of the problem.

5. True. Approximately two-thirds of cats have a special receptor that allows them to respond to nepetalactone, the active ingredient in catnip. Kittens don't develop a response to catnip until they are 3 to 6 months old.

6. (b) Freya's cats are nameless in mythology, but fantasy author Diana L. Paxson named them Bygul (bee-gold) and Trjegul (tree-gold) in honor of Freya's associations with honey and amber. Legend has it that today's Norwegian "forest cats" descend from Freya's gigantic cats, which were said to be so huge that not even Thor could lift them.

7. (a) It has long been thought that cats were domesticated as recently as 4,000 to 5,000 years ago, but new archaeological evidence suggests they have been our companions for closer to 10,000 years. They had a commensal, or mutually beneficial, relationship with people — living near them, but not with them.

8. (c) Cats with extra toes are referred to as polydactyl. The word comes from the Greek polydaktylos, poly meaning "many" and daktylos meaning "toe." Perhaps the most well-known polydactyl cats are found at the Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum in Key West, Florida.

9. (c) Trichobezoar is the scientific term for, yes, a hairball. ■

### Pets of the Week

>> **Ellie Evergreen** is a sweet, spayed, 1-year-old Labrador retriever/shiba inu mix who will be very happy to have a forever home for the holidays.



>> **Tallulah** is a 3-month-old, spayed Labrador mix who's ready to learn and be loved.



>> **Tinsel Tina** is an 18-month-old, spayed female tabico with lovely coloring and a personality to match.



>> **Mighty Moose** is a handsome, neutered, 2-year-old domestic shorthair/van mix who's extremely loving and playful. And who could resist those beautiful green eyes?



### To adopt or foster a pet

This week's adoptable pets are from **Brooke's Legacy Animal Rescue**, an all-volunteer, foster home rescue organization. For more information, call 434-7480, email Admin@BrookesLegacyAnimalRescue.org or visit brookeslegacyanimalrescue.com.



## Addiction, Recovery, and Wellness for Women

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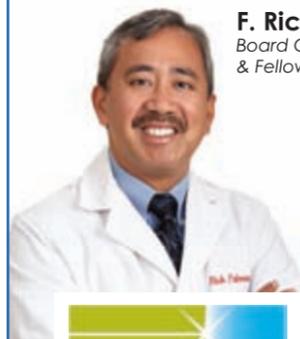


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# THE DIVA DIARIES

## Giving thanks where thanks are due



As this diva heads into a holiday season filled with sparkly soirees, carb-laden cookies, last-minute shopping in the fiery pits of Hades (aka: malls) and driving in such insane holiday traffic that it feels like you're living in the last few pages of the Book of Revelations, I want to pause and give thanks for the things that make this mad rush toward Christmas a bit easier:

■ This weekend — A weekend filled with cold turkey sandwiches on white bread with copious amounts of mayonnaise. Also better cold: sticky, hearty stuffing eaten with a spoon out of a bowl while curled on the couch watching "White Christmas," and of course, pumpkin pie — LOTS of pumpkin pie. It's a weekend full of gluttony, rest and pajamas, all to fortify us for the hectic and harried weeks ahead.

■ Spanx — Because, well, see above.

■ Taxis — I would say public transportation, but we're Southwest Florida, not New York, and unfortunately we can't just hop on a subway and make our way home after one too many egg-nogs at the office holiday to-do. Alas, 'tis the season for tipling, but orange is not the color you want to wear and the pokey is not where you want to be (I hope never to see it first hand, but I'm assuming the drunk tank at the jail is decidedly unfes-

tive). If you can spend \$12 for a cocktail, you can spend \$20 for a taxi home. Thank you, cab drivers.

■ The option to hide — I'm thankful that Facebook allows me to hide certain people. And by certain people, I mean the ones who will be filling my newsfeed with photos of baked turkeys in the next couple of days. You guys, we all know what a cooked bird looks like, and I don't want to hurt any feelings here, but they all look alike. Pictures of green bean casserole are also boring. Thank-giving food, as a rule, just isn't very photogenic. That said, I *do* enjoy seeing your toddlers in little pilgrim outfits and other pictures of friends and family gathered together. Fill up my newsfeed with those.

■ Those who wait — I'm very thankful for people who have the restraint and good taste to wait until *after* Thanksgiving to decorate their homes and yards like the Griswolds in "Christmas Vacation" (Bethany: "Is your house on fire, Clark?" Clark: "No, Aunt Bethany, those are the Christmas lights."). Seriously, you have until one week after New Year's Eve to enjoy the tinsel, garland, lights and tacky Christmas sweaters. Keep calm and enjoy your Thanksgiving without smothering it in Christmas.

■ Ross Dress for Less — As I am each and every year, I am perennially grateful for Ross for always being there for me in a pinch. When I have a holiday party to attend in two hours and my closet is jam-packed with ugly clothes/ill fitting clothes/clothes I despise, then I can zippety-doo-da over to Ross for



the perfect frock for under \$20. Confession: I've actually been on the road to events, already dressed up, and stopped into Ross on a whim for a quick change — because, why not?

■ My car iPhone charger — Thank heaven for it. When your day is filled with flitting to and fro and you don't get home before you're expected at an evening event, your iPhone gets exhausted. With all the talking, texting, Facebooking, picture-taking and navigating, my poor phone is in the red by noon.

■ Siri — On that note, I am so very grateful for dear Siri and her helpful guidance when I'm trying to find house parties in the dark. If it weren't for Siri's pleasant voice directing me, I might pull my hair out while circling around gated communities where all the homes look

inexplicably exactly like all the others.

■ The morning after Rx — Vitamin B, aspirin, ginger ale and Netflix must be thanked, as hangovers are bound to happen this holiday season. These favorite things have gotten me through many a December Sunday.

■ A new year — Finally, I'm thankful that 2014 is nearly over. It wasn't a bad year or anything — in fact, there were plenty of fine times — but I always enjoy the prospect of a fresh, clean slate, and I've got a really good feeling about 2015. Meanwhile, let's all brace ourselves for the holiday madness and the storm of carbohydrates. Cheers! ■

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

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“People who travel to another city, region or state to receive medical, dental and surgical care while at the same time receiving equal to or greater care than they would have in their own home city, and are traveling for medical care because of affordability, better access to care or higher level of quality of care.”

— How the Medical Tourism Association defines “medical tourism”



## Medical tourism

*Seeking treatment in paradise? Southwest Florida may be the place*

BY ATHENA PONUSHIS  
aponushis@floridaweekly.com

State legislators and strategic thinkers are spending millions to attract medical tourists to Florida — visitors who come for a procedure and stay for some leisure. Experts estimate medical tourism to be a \$60 billion industry. The state is poised to cash in — swim every day for physical therapy, enjoy the sunshine for your

mindset. Florida looks poised to profit. If the state can draw people here for their medical procedures, the economic impact could be significant.

State lawmakers have allocated \$5 million to Visit Florida, the state’s official tourism marketing organization, to stimulate medical tourism. Visit Florida has since established a \$2.5 million grant program for the cause. The program consists of two sorts of grants: One for medical tourism desti-

nation promotion, spreading awareness of medical products and services in the state, and the second for medical meetings and training promotion, strengthening Florida as an ideal host for medical conferences and the like.

Each awarded grant must be matched by private dollars. The balance of funds from the Legislature will go toward

SEE TOURISM, B3 ►

### INSIDE



#### The Champions Challenge

An evening with Champions For Learning, and more Networking photos. **B6-8** ►



#### The Fool Knows

What is a ‘highly capitalized’ company, and do military personnel get special tax breaks? **B4** ►



#### A Port Royal rarity

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# MONEY & INVESTING

## Money can't buy happiness, except when it can

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Certain neighborhoods of south Florida's east and west coasts are noted for their extreme levels of opulent living. Most people looking at the mansions and rare cars — if they have opportunity to get close to the mansions and cars — immediately think, "If only I had that home... If only I drove that car."

The reaction is not true for everyone, but it is true for the majority, according to researchers who study the relationship between happiness and money. They have found that while people value acquiring things, purchases and acquisitions will bring momentary happiness. However, after a while, consumers adapt to their purchase and end up taking them for granted.

"Happy Money: The Science of Happier Spending" by Elizabeth Dunn and Michael Norton is a worthy read for those pondering why they are not happy, why they have so much stuff and yet they want more stuff in bigger and better forms, why their happiness fades after a long-planned, highly valued purchase? "Happy Money" found that, unfortunately, people rapidly adapt to their acquisitions and the happiness factor fades.

"One ongoing U.S. study has tracked how much money adults over age 50 spend on just about everything from

refrigerators to rent to alcohol to art. When researchers link these spending choices to happiness, only one category matters. And it was not a refrigerator or alcohol. It is what researchers label as 'leisure': trips, movies, sporting events, gym memberships, and the like. People who spent more on leisure report significantly higher satisfaction with their lives."

So why do people not spend more money on leisure and experiences? "...Professor Howell, associate professor of psychology at San Francisco State University... found that people think material purchases offer better value for the money because experiences are fleeting, and material goods last longer," according to "Can Money Buy You Happiness?" in the Nov. 10 issue of *The Wall Street Journal*. "So, although they'll occasionally splurge on a big vacation or concert tickets, when they're in a more money-conscious mode, they stick to material goods."

The WSJ article reported that what is seemingly a rational decision to buy something that will last a long time versus making an expenditure for an experience of limited duration turns out to be a psychologically less desirable as people quickly adapt to their things but the remembrance of the experience endures and give the gift that doesn't; stop giving: happiness.



■ Buy experiences, since experiences can last forever.

■ Make what you buy into a "treat"... not simply done unless you actively count your blessings and/or limit your access to things for periods of time.

■ Buy time by using money to outsource those required tasks that you dread or are hugely time consuming or low in value.

■ Invest in others as, per the WSJ article, Professor Dunn found that students, when given money to freely spend on themselves or others, those who gave money to others were happier than those who spent all the money on themselves.

And so here we are at Thanksgiving time. It's a time to be grateful for all that we have. A time to voice and affirm all the wonderful experiences in our lives — all the stuff that we already have.

On a personal note, I am always amazed that sometimes my mind has strong tendency to go to what is not accomplished, what I strive to achieve or acquire, to what is not going right. It takes a very strong will to reorder my thinking to be about all the positive, the good and all the blessings. Take opportunity this Thanksgiving to ponder what experiences you can buy, what investment you can make in others, what drudgery can be lifted in your life, and how you can stop taking for granted all that you already possess. ■

Studies do find that earning more money makes people happier, but earning a lot more yields not a pro rata increase in happiness. "Happy Money" reports that in a study, U.S. individuals felt that an increase in income from \$25,000 to \$55,000 would double their happiness. There was an increase in happiness of a mere 9 percent despite a more than 100 percent increase in income. More interesting is that earning \$75,000 seems to be the happiness cap. Those who earned more than \$75,000 found the rise in income "had no impact at all on their day-to-day feelings of happiness."

Ms. Dunn and Mr. Norton make several simple happiness suggestions in their book.



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# MEDICAL

From page 1

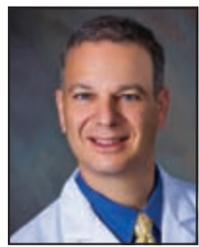
marketing, research, website development and partnerships with entities like the Florida Department of Health or Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

"We plan to apply for some of that grant money from Visit Florida," Pamela Johnson, deputy director of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau says. "Our goal is to attract more groups, more medical meetings, more medical conferences, these sorts of things, to Lee County."



JOHNSON

Dr. Dror Paley has a global reputation as a limb lengthening and deformity correction surgeon.



PALEY

Practicing in West Palm Beach, through the Paley Advanced Limb Lengthening Institute at St. Mary's Medical Center, he draws patients from more than 75 different countries. Patients come to him because they want the best. Doctors in

Manhattan and Baltimore do what he does, but he did it first. He attracts doctors from around the world to learn from him. He's living what state legislators and tourism strategists would like to see in their crystal ball of the future for medical tourism in Florida.

The Medical Tourism Association defines medical tourism as, "People who travel to another city, region or state to receive medical, dental and surgical care while at the same time receiving equal to or greater care than they would have in their own home city, and are traveling for medical care because of affordability, better access to care or higher level of quality of care."

Dr. Paley defines medical tourism differently. He thinks of all his Florida patients as local patients. Even though he has patients traveling from Tampa or Miami seeking his care, he does not count them in his medical tourism figures. With that in mind — medical tourism constituting of only out-of-state or out-of-country patients — medical tourism makes up 90 percent of his practice, Dr. Paley says.

To be more specific, out of the 750 surgeries Dr. Paley performed last year, 250 surgeries were on patients from out of the country, making a third of his

"(Patients) have to rent, whether they're renting a room at a hotel or renting a condo, they're renting, so they're feeding the local economy as temporary residents here and they're paying sales tax, they're buying gas, they're buying entertainment, they're buying food, they're buying goods and boy, do they buy goods, they're shopping in our malls."

— **Dr. Dror Paley**, Paley Advanced Limb Lengthening Institute at St. Mary's Medical Center, West Palm Beach

practice international.

Dr. Paley says American patients tend to stay two weeks for treatment then travel back-and-forth for follow-up care, but international patients stay longer. Say a Saudi Arabian boy is being treated for a congenital malformation or birth defect; he and his family will stay for four months while his limb is lengthened, stay four months more while his bone and soft tissue heal, then stay an additional four months for physical therapy, pushing their stay up to a year, sometimes two.

"Do the math of every patient that stays here," Dr. Paley says. "They don't own property here, so they have to rent, whether they're renting a room at a hotel or renting a condo, they're renting, so they're feeding the local economy as temporary residents here and they're paying sales tax, they're buying gas, they're buying entertainment, they're buying food, they're buying goods and boy, do they buy goods, they're shopping in our malls, they're flying in and out of our airports ... so the city and the county, it's a huge windfall for them, every one of these patients."

"The math of economic impact of this one little practice, one surgeon ... is so large, it's larger than most medium-sized companies."

Beyond attracting patients, Dr. Paley attracts doctors. Every year he figures he brings 100 or more surgeons to the area for some type of course or fellowship training. A course he held in November welcomed a surgeon from Israel, another from Korea, one from China, two from Italy, one from the United Kingdom and a bunch of Americans.

Lee County's Visitor and Convention Bureau has approached Lee Memorial Health System about a joint initiative. She says they are still trying to get a handle on the numbers but feel hip and knee replacements are big draws for

medical tourists.

Dr. Paley sees Florida as the perfect choice for his practice and the perfect location for medical tourism to grow. He suggests other doctors take note. He practiced in Baltimore for 22 years before moving to Florida. He says his medical tourism business has tripled since moving here. He says Baltimore as a city attracts a lot of medical tourism because of Johns Hopkins Hospital, but the cold and snow are miserable.

"I did not land here by accident. I targeted coming here. I selected this destination," Dr. Paley says. "Twenty-two years in one place, why did I move here? Because I felt this was a much better venue for this type of practice, and the more I've been here, I realize what a good decision I made."

A presence of his caliber benefits potential Florida patients, because instead of having to fly to Baltimore to see a specialist, they can drive down the street.

Dr. Alan Weiss, president and chief executive officer of NCH Healthcare System, expands on this point, saying, "Medical tourism is

twofold — people coming to Florida for their care and people going outside the state, going elsewhere for their care."

A member of the medical tourism task force for Visit Florida, Dr. Weiss sees the state spending money as elevating the state's quality of care and elevating the state's image as a medical tourism destination.

"Right now, one of eight of our inpatients are coming from outside our area," Dr. Weiss says of NCH. Credit may go to the health system's collaboration with the Mayo Clinic. As a member of the Mayo Clinic Network, NCH doctors can

seek consult from the world-renowned center. Again, local patients reap the benefit of quality care without travel. The affiliation may also be responsible for attracting out-of-county patients to Collier as medical tourists.

"Medical professionals think they have something special. We all do," Dr.



STAMPAR

Weiss says. "Mayo in Jacksonville and Moffitt in Tampa — talk about medical destination sites — Wow." He thinks it may take medical tourism a while to catch on in the rest of Florida, but advises the state to be persistent and not make such an

investment a one-shot deal.

Dr. Michael Stampar, proprietor of Spago Day Spa, Salon and Medi-Spa in Punta Gorda and former director of the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, says a woman from New York or Chicago could come to Florida, have a full facelift, stay a week and go back for less money than she would have spent at home.

Speaking over the phone, he shares how his first two clients of the day were medical tourists, a woman from Georgia who picks up her girlfriend in Tampa. They drive down every six to 12 months. Dr. Stampar says the women "cheated" on him but learned their lesson. Now they drive down as medical tourists because they don't trust anyone else with their faces.

Dr. Stampar says he also has snowbirds who wait to come down and have him work on them, again a matter of trust. Other patients hear about him by word-of-mouth and fly down specifically for surgery. If they have an eyelid procedure, they stay four or five days. If they have something done to their face, seven or eight days.

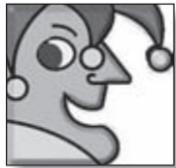
Dr. Stampar has earned an international reputation for developing the technique used in the nonsurgical skin tightening procedure called Pelleve'. Physicians come to participate in one-on-one training alongside him. Patients schedule appointments and fly in just for the day.

Thinking beyond cosmetic treatments, Dr. Stampar says, "Considering the volume of orthopedic and vascular procedures performed here, a lot of patients up north could really benefit from the doctors in Southwest Florida, particularly those in the senior age group."

The ways he sees it, the marketing avenue that will drive medical tourism to Florida will be the same avenue that has forever driven tourism to Florida — come on down, do what you need to do, recover and relax in a cabana by the beach. ■

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## Fool's School

### Are Stocks or Funds Right for You?

The investing universe offers us many options. Over long periods, stocks often perform best, but should you invest in individual stocks, or stock mutual funds? The questions below can help you decide.

- Are you able to study a company? Do you know the difference between net and gross profit margins? Do you enjoy poring through balance sheets and income statements, or assessing returns on assets? If not, you might be better off with mutual funds than stocks.
- Do you take time to study many companies, seeking the most promising ones? Once you buy their stocks, will you keep up with them regularly, reading their quarterly and annual reports and ideally following them in the news, too? If not, mutual funds should look more attractive than stocks.
- Are you good at deciding which stocks are the most compelling buys right now, and at taking action to buy them? Will you know when it's time to sell, and actually follow through by selling? Many of us put off such decisions or have trouble making them. In that

case, mutual funds, where professionals make these decisions and take action, can be best.

- Do you want a chance of doubling your money in a single year? If so, a well-chosen stock has a better chance of doing that than a fund — but it's still not likely. The annual growth rates of companies tend to be in the single digits or teens. The stock market has returned an average of around 10 percent annually over long periods, and few mutual funds top that. But you can earn the market average with a simple, inexpensive, broad-market index fund. They tend to beat most managed funds. You can do both, too, perhaps parking most of your money in mutual funds, but investing some in a few carefully selected individual stocks.

With all funds, seek low fees and avoid sales loads. With managed funds, find managers whose philosophies, styles and track records appeal to you. Learn more at [fool.com/mutualfunds/mutualfunds.htm](http://fool.com/mutualfunds/mutualfunds.htm) and [morningstar.com](http://morningstar.com). ■

## My Dumbest Investment

### Out of Options

Years ago, I bought stock in two companies that I expected would perform well over a long period. I decided to sell covered call options on my shares, aiming to profit before they advanced. But they unexpectedly advanced quickly, and whoever bought my calls made a killing off my near-term miscalculation. I learned to avoid the options game, even the selling of contracts (where the odds are in your favor).

— N.G., San Diego

**The Fool Responds:** Options are risky if you don't understand them, because you can lose your entire investment in them. (Remember that a "call" option is a contract that represents the right to buy a stock at a set price by a set date, while a "put" option is a contract that represents the right to sell a stock at a set price by a set date.)

Most options do expire unexercised, benefiting only the investor who sold them. Selling calls on shares you already own is a less risky move, but as happened with you, if the stock surges before the option expires, you must surrender your shares and forfeit any further gain in them. ■



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 began in 1975 as a full-service restaurant in Dallas. Today, I'm one of the world's top casual-dining restaurant companies, with more than 1,600 owned, operated or franchised locations. Most of my eateries bear the Chili's Grill & Bar name, while a few are Maggiano's Little Italy. For a number of years, I owned the Romano's Macaroni Grill and On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina chains. I employ more than 100,000 people in 30-plus countries and welcome more than a million diners each day. I went public in 1983, and my ticker symbol is a suggestion. Who am I? (Answer: Brinker International) ■



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

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## Ask the Fool

### Highly Capitalized

Q What's a "highly capitalized" company?

— H.P., Greensburg, Pennsylvania

A It's asset-heavy, loaded with cash and other assets, some of which could be converted into cash. Cash is good, but if it's just sitting around unused, that's not ideal. In fact, if a company has nothing better to do with the money, it might as well pay some out to shareholders as a dividend, or buy back (and essentially retire) some shares.

It can be good for financial companies to be highly capitalized. When a bank, for example, is undercapitalized, it's in danger of insolvency if it can't meet withdrawal demands or other financial obligations.

\*\*\*

Q Are there any special tax breaks for military personnel?

— E.S., West Salem, Wisconsin

A Yes. They include the exclusion from gross income of combat pay and some other allowances and payments, the ability to use combat pay as earned income for the Earned Income Tax Credit, the deductibility of certain travel expenses for reservists, the deductibility of certain moving expenses for active-duty personnel moving to a new permanent station, the ability of families of fallen soldiers to take advantage of tax-favored accounts, and tax forgiveness for those who die in active service in a combat zone or from an injury received in a combat zone.

Those serving in a combat zone and certain others can also have their tax deadlines automatically extended. IRS Publication 3, "Armed Forces' Tax Guide," will tell you more.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 offers more protections, such as some protections from eviction, the delay of civil court actions, and reduced interest rates on mortgage loans and credit card debt.

Learn more at [defense.gov](http://defense.gov), [irs.gov](http://irs.gov), [defense.gov/specials/relief\\_act\\_revision](http://defense.gov/specials/relief_act_revision) and [fool.com/taxes](http://fool.com/taxes). ■

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

## Name That Company

Founded in 1986 and based in St. Louis, I'm North America's largest pharmacy benefit management company, managing 1.4 billion prescriptions — about one out of every three in the U.S. I serve tens of millions of patients, through employers, health plans, unions and government health programs. My services include network-pharmacy claims processing, home delivery, specialty benefit management, benefit-design consultation, drug-utilization review, formulary management,



and medical and drug data analysis services. I have more than 30,000 employees and I rake in more than \$100 billion annually. In 2012, I bought my biggest rival, Medco Health Solutions, for \$29 billion. 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

### A Ticket to Ride

Online travel giant Priceline Group (Nasdaq: PCLN) is firing on all cylinders, and Wall Street analysts have a broadly bullish opinion about its prospects — and unlike many such companies, its stock is attractively priced.

The company has increased sales at an impressive rate of 29.2 percent annually over the last five years. It benefits from a leadership position in international markets, which are often growing faster than the U.S.

Priceline operates mostly under the agency business model, allowing hotels and other service providers to list their own offers, paying the company a commission for every transaction. The company spreads its fixed costs over a rapidly growing revenue base as it expands over time, and this

business model produces big fat net profit margins above 25 percent.

Priceline's fans like its strong Booking.com hotel booking business (featuring more than 525,000 hotels in 205 countries), its purchase of online restaurant reservation platform OpenTable, and the fact that it's growing its market share globally.

With a forward-looking P/E ratio near 19 and an expected growth rate of 25 percent, Priceline's stock is a promising buy. (Don't let the recent price tag of roughly \$1,100 per share scare you — you can always buy just one share.) Wall Street analysts recently had a median price target of \$1,350 for the stock. (The Motley Fool has recommended and owns shares of Priceline.) ■

# BUSINESS MEETINGS

■ **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](mailto:kluk77@comcast.net) or visit [napleschamber.org](http://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.

■ **The Leadership Collier Foundation Alumni Association** holds its holiday party from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at Vineyards Country Club. Cost is \$40 for members and guests and

includes hors d'oeuvres and live entertainment; there will be a cash bar. Sign up at [napleschamber.org/events](http://napleschamber.org/events).

■ **Young Professionals of the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce** hold their holiday party from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Holiday Inn Airport/Town Center in Fort Myers. Guests are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy for donation to the Dr. Ella Piper Center for Social Services. Call 992-2943 or visit [bonitaspringschamber.com](http://bonitaspringschamber.com).

■ **The Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce** holds its annual holiday gala Sunday evening, Dec. 7, at Bistro Soliel. Call 394-7549 or visit [marcoislandchamber.org](http://marcoislandchamber.org).

■ **The Above Board Chamber** meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, at the Hilton Naples. \$25 for members, \$30 for others in advance; \$28 and \$33 at the door. Registration required at [aboveboardchamber.com](http://aboveboardchamber.com).

■ **The Collier Building Industry Association** holds its annual installation and awards banquet from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at Olde Cypress Country Club. Tickets are \$50. Email [nancy@cbia.net](mailto:nancy@cbia.net) to RSVP.

■ **The Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce** holds its next Business After Five networking event from 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, at the Marco Beach Hilton Resort. \$10 admission, with all proceeds benefitting Christmas Island Style. Call 394-7549 or visit [marcoislandchamber.org](http://marcoislandchamber.org).

[marcoislandchamber.org](http://marcoislandchamber.org).

■ **The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce** invites members to its annual holiday party from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, at the Hilton Naples. Guests are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy for donation to a deserving Collier County family. Reservations are preferred by Dec. 12 and can be made at [napleschamber.org/events](http://napleschamber.org/events).

■ Save the date for the **Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce** annual meeting set for Wednesday morning, April 15, at the Hilton Naples. Visit [napleschamber.org/events](http://napleschamber.org/events) for more information. ■

— Email business meeting announcements to [cpierce@floridaweekly.com](mailto:cpierce@floridaweekly.com).

## Got an idea for franchising

With entrepreneurs and small businesses among the few U.S. growth sectors today, many are considering franchising. According to the International Franchising Association, franchising is a \$1.3 trillion industry, with more than 8.5 million workers employed at nearly 750,000 franchises in the United States.

To help Florida entrepreneurs franchise their businesses, Francorp Inc. presents a free seminar, "Franchise Your Business," at 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at the Bonita Bay Club in Bonita Springs.

Bonita Springs resident Don Boroian, CEO and founder of Francorp, will outline the steps entrepreneurs need to take to begin the franchise process. Mr.

Boroian draws from almost 40 years of experience as a business consultant and advisor to franchisors. Ace Hardware, Auntie Anne's Pretzels, Buffalo Wild Wings, John Deere, KFC, LensCrafters, McDonald's, Terminix, Popeye's Fried Chicken, Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches, Discovery Zone and Budget Rent-a-Car are among the many franchise businesses he has worked with.

The seminar is designed for people with concepts for a franchise business or with an existing business they are ready to expand.

Limited seating is available and reservations are required. Call (800) 372-6244. ■

## High school students can apply for summer leadership program

The Leadership Collier Foundation, an affiliate of The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, is accepting applications for the Class of 2015 Youth Leadership Collier program.

The mission of Youth Leadership Collier is to develop ethical leaders committed to community involvement. The program empowers students to become effective leaders, showcases Collier County and encourages participants to consider coming back to their community to begin their careers and families.

The weeklong summer program begins with a weekend of team-building

activities. Participants interact in daily sessions designed to give them first-hand experience in different aspects of the community. Topics for the Class of 2015 will include local government, healthcare, business and the arts.

The 2015 program will take place from Saturday, June 13, through Friday, June 19. Tuition is \$500. The deadline for applications is Feb. 4.

Applications can also be found on at [napleschamber.org](http://napleschamber.org). For more information, contact Amanda Beights, vice president of Leadership Collier Foundation, by calling 403-2903 or emailing [Amanda@napleschamber.org](mailto:Amanda@napleschamber.org). ■



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# NETWORKING

## Champions For Learning hosts the 2014 Champions Challenge at the Naples Grande



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Alan Horton, Gary Personette and Laurre Personette



Bill Barker, Jason Kurek and Susan McManus



Denise Smelser and Greg Pasanen



Yolanda Flores, Darchelle Excellent, Litz Galicia, Angel Plaisance and Asiel Enriquez



Joann Cassio, Jari Novotny, Kathy Connelly and Rebecca Gonzalez

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# NETWORKING

## Dr. Ben Carson at First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs



Dr. Saurabh Patel, Sonia Patel and Dr. Harmindar Gil



Alexia Ramirez and Guadalupe Estala



Rev. Dr. Douglas Pratt welcomes the capacity crowd.



Nat Holloway, Joy Holloway and Maddy Holloway



Harlan Stueven and Kathleen Stueven



Dick Stober and Thea Stover



Rich Mills, Nancy Mills and Rev. Dr. Douglas Pratt



Dr. Ben Carson, Candy Carson and Tyler Myers



Dr. Ben Carson, Candy Carson and Cynthia Sterrett

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BERNADETTE LA PAGLIA / FLORIDA WEEKLY

# NETWORKING

## FGCU hosts Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals



Holly Kamionka and Kayla Collier



Jeff Beal, Jessica Paulmann, Altony Lee and Michelle Leydig



Nicholas Monard, Kurt Traulsen and Joel Johnson



Jessica Gillern, Megan Marquardt, Brianna Wagner and Claire Gorman



Joel Johnson, Steve Bray and David Vixama

COURTESY PHOTOS

## Identity theft forum hosts by the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce



Don Hunter and Nancy Kerns



Linda Black, Effie Nortman and Ellen Seigel



Mike Reagen and Chief Tom Weschler



Dave Trecker, Linda Penniman and Jack Nortman



Sheriff Kevin Rambosk and Murray Hendel



Aisha Lewis, Lydia Galton and Theresa Ronnebaum

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COURTESY RENDERINGS

# This New House

Port Royal mansion has luxury amenities,  
 the right address and the benefit of being new

BY ARTIS HENDERSON

Florida Weekly Correspondent

If you have \$20 million to spend on a home in Collier County, chances are good that you're looking in the Port Royal neighborhood. The luxury waterfront development first constructed in the 1940s has nearly 500 homes, most in the multi-million dollar range. Vacant lots are hard to come by and so is new construction, but the developer KDIC is offering just that: a brand new home scheduled to be finished in January.

It sits on a 3/4-acre lot at 1650 Galleon Drive and comes with an asking price of \$19,900,000.

Just who exactly might buy a home like this? Kevin Aizenshtat of Gulf Coast International Properties is representing the Galleon Drive home and says Port Royal buyers are often "captains



SEE NEW HOUSE, B16 ►

## Condo market is best place for affordable homes

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

As buyers seek an opportunity to own a home in Naples, condominiums continue to be an affordable option.

In the 12 months ending in October, condominium median closed prices increased only 9 percent, from \$198,000 to \$215,000, which is below the overall median closed price of \$265,000. In comparison, single-family homes experienced a 21 percent increase in the median closed price, from \$280,000 to \$340,000, in the same time period. The numbers are from the newest report released by the Naples Area Board of Realtors, which tracks home listings and sales within Collier County

(excluding Marco Island).

Most of the sales activity in the Naples condominium market is in the \$0-\$300,000 category, with 3,483 closed sales recorded in the 12 months ending October 2014. The single-family home market had 1,986 closed sales recorded in the same category during the same period.

"In October 2013 the difference between the median closed price of condos and single-family homes was \$82,000, compared to October 2014 when the difference was \$125,000," says Phil Wood, president and CEO of John R. Wood Properties.

Mr. Wood's comparison shows median closed prices for condominiums did

not increase as fast as median closed prices for single-family homes. Yet inventory for both types of homes in the \$0-\$300,000 category continued to deplete in October 2014, with a 22 percent decrease in single-family homes and 27 percent decrease in condominiums compared to October 2013.

The NABOR report also indicates cash sales remained strong, growing to 67 percent of overall home sale transactions in October. Kathy Zorn, broker/owner of Florida Home Realty, attributes this in part to the tightening of mortgage requirements.

"Nationally, the cash sales rate is at about 33 percent," Ms. Zorn says. "Cash

SEE NABOR, B17 ►

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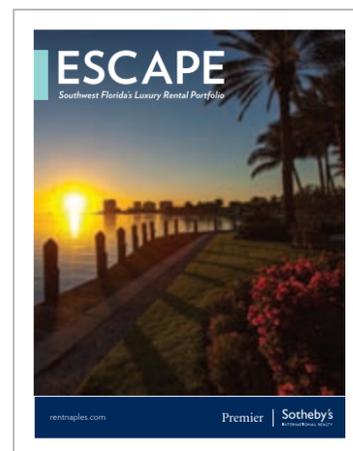
**Mercato | The Strada**  
 2BR/2BA 3rd floor condominium elegantly furnished with great amenities.  
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**Villages of Monterey**  
 3BR/3BA + den, large home with pool/spa. Pets welcome.  
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**Park Shore | Monaco Beach Club**  
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# London Bay Homes begins construction of Capriano model in Lucarno at Mediterra

**SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY**

London Bay Homes has started construction on a new Capriano model, a luxury single-family villa in the Lucarno neighborhood in Mediterra. The first Capriano model, which sold soon after its completion earlier this year, won a 2014 Aurora Award for interior design.

The four-bedroom, four-bath model will be designed by Romanza Interior Design's Jennifer Stevens, who created the interiors for the Aurora winner (which sold for more than \$2,100,000). The home is on target for completion in February.

The new Capriano will have a library, wine room and a home office next to the kitchen. The model is being built with the optional second floor consisting of a guest suite, full bath, morning kitchen/wet bar, bonus room (shown as a media center) and a sundeck. Square footage under air totals 4,402; the outdoor living area will have a pool, a spa and summer kitchen.

The popular open floor plan appeals to homebuyers who enjoy entertaining inside and out, with the great room offering seating and dining areas that flow into the adjoining kitchen and out sliding glass doors to a large outdoor living area.

The kitchen offers a freestanding breakfast bar island, a walk-in pantry and built-in desk for a home office.

The Capriano's master suite features a large bedroom, combined walk-in closet, and hallway doors opening to the pool courtyard. Its bathroom offers his-and-her vanities, a water closet, separate shower, and a garden tub nestled into a bay window.

London Bay Homes is the exclusive builder in Lucarno, a neighborhood of 71 maintenance-free villas with cobblestone streets, lakes and garden. The more than 60 percent sold neighbor-

SEE CAPRIANO, B14 ▶



These photos are of the first Capriano model in Lucarno in Mediterra. The home won a 2014 Aurora Award for interior design by Jennifer Stevens of Romanza Interior Design.

COURTESY PHOTOS

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**SPANISH WELLS**



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**WILDCAT RUN**



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**CARVELLA**

- Two Bedrooms + Den
- Granite Countertops & Tile Backsplash
- \$449,000 MLS 214048578
- Mike Fagan, The Fagan Team 239.340.5455

**SPRING RUN AT THE BROOKS**



**NEW LISTING**

**BONITA SPRINGS**

- Rare "Cypress" 2BR, 2BA + Den
- Corner Lot + Large Private Pool/Lanai
- \$439,000 MLS 214063260
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**SPANISH WELLS**



**BONITA SPRINGS**

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**NAPLES****CONNORS VANDERBILT BEACH**

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**SHADOW WOOD AT THE BROOKS****BANYAN COVE**

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- Al Diago 239.333.2375

**LIGHTHOUSE BAY****NEW LISTING****THE BROOKS BONITA SPRINGS**

- 1st Floor End/Corner Unit, 2BR + Den, 2BA
- Many Resort Style Amenities
- **\$189,900** MLS 214063639
- Larry Bell 239.919.4404

# CAPRIANO

From page 10

hood features homes accented with tile, stone entry walls and authentic Old World architectural finishes. Landscape maintenance and lawn care are provided through the homeowners association.

Floor plans with two to five bedroom are available, ranging in size from 2,900 to more than 4,000 square feet of interior living space. Numerous options allow buyers to customize their home by extending lanais and garages, adding bed-

rooms, dens, studies and wine rooms, and selecting indoor and outdoor fireplaces, summer kitchens, loggias and porticos.

All London Bay Homes are built using the latest information, products and technology available in building science, including the BEP Blue Barrier moisture barrier system that protects against mold issues and structural damage from moisture intrusion.

Home and homesite packages in Lucarno are priced from the \$900,000s to more than \$7 million.

## About Mediterra

On 1,700 acres in North Naples, Mediterra includes the member-owned

Club at Mediterra with two world-class Fazio-designed courses and the private 10,000-square-foot Beach Club on the Gulf of Mexico. The development has numerous neighborhood parks, 8 miles of walking and jogging trails and a fitness complex with tennis and bocce courts, a pool and spa services.

On the links, Mediterra is in the first year of a two-year, \$6.1 million project to replace the irrigation system, bunkers, cart paths and turf on its South Course. The Golf Learning Center offers indoor and outdoor hitting stations, video equipment with launch monitor, a 2.5-acre short game practice complex with three greens and a staff of certified PGA

professionals. Membership opportunities at Mediterra are limited to just 225 members per 18 holes.

All of the community's amenities are membership-owned.

Mediterra's master plan includes more than 1,000 acres dedicated to open space with golf, parks and nature preserves.

Since December 2009, London Bay Homes and affiliates have managed all new home sales and marketing for the luxury community. Resale properties are listed through Mediterra Realty. For more information, call 949-8989, visit Mediterra.com or stop at the sales center off Livingston Road, 2 miles north of Immokalee Road and west of I-75. ■

## Off-season sales strong for Florida Lifestyle Homes

### SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Florida Lifestyle Homes has found that the company draws buyers year-round. Totalling \$14 million, the builder's off-season sales this year indicate a new trend, according to company sales associate Lonnie King.

"Traditionally, real estate professionals expect new home buyers to flock to Florida during the winter months," Mr. King says. "But we are finding that the discriminating luxury home buyer is using the slower summer months — when traffic is less frantic — to choose their design and select the amenities they want to incorporate into a custom home."

He adds that summer 2014 were evenly distributed between customers for second homes and those buying a primary residence. Many who are still working envision that their new home will eventually become their primary residence.

The communities buyers have chosen have also varied.

"We have buyers at Quail West Golf & Country Club in Naples, and we have buyers who have chosen sites in West Bay Club in Estero," he says. "But not all of our buyers are selecting golf course communities. We have a number of buyers who are finally building their dream home on sites that they already owned."

One new phenomena that is evident in the luxury market is the buyer who is downsizing but at the same time, moving up in the quality and elegance of their home.

"Buyers might want a smaller, more manageable space, but they also want the intricate architectural details, quality finishes and luxurious amenities that are included in our grand estate homes."



COURTESY PHOTO

A number of Florida Lifestyle Homes' off-season buyers adapt features from the company's models, such as the Antigua shown here, for their own homes. The Antigua is next door to the Antilles model that is under construction in Quail West.

Bill Ennen, founder and president of Florida Lifestyle Homes, notes that many off-season buyers have first visited the company's furnished models.

In January, the company will unveil a new model at Quail West Golf & Country Club. The Antilles has four bedrooms and 4½ baths plus a study in a total of 6,787 square feet. Expansive outdoor areas and a three-car garage are included.

"Our clients may see features that appeal to them, such as our outdoor entertaining area, the luxurious master baths or the gourmet kitchen," Mr. Ennen says about visiting a model home. "Going through the custom design process they can tailor those features to their personal needs."

With the growing economy, he adds, he anticipates the off-season will become an even more important part of the real estate industry.

For more information contact Mr. King by calling 561-8022 or emailing Lonnie@flh.com. ■

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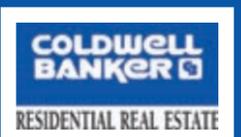


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# NEW HOUSE

From page 9

of industry and pioneers of their trade.” Looking at the development’s more notable owners, we see a collection of entrepreneurs, inventors and business leaders that includes Gov. Rick Scott.

Those not familiar with Port Royal might wonder why a buyer would want property in a development when for the same price he or she might purchase, say, a private island. Some of it has to do with the upscale amenities that the community offers, like tennis courts (nine of them) and a resort-style swimming facility. But a lot of it has to do with the lifestyle. Port Royal property owners are eligible for membership in the community’s exclusive beach club, which offers prime opportunities for socializing with a certain economic set.

Even factoring out the estimable zip code, the Galleon Drive house has some magnificent features: six bedrooms, nine bathrooms, formal living and dining rooms, fireplaces, a wine room, a wet bar, cantilevered balconies, cathedral ceilings, an elaborately designed pool, a separate guest house and a water feature at the front entrance that might inspire jaw dropping.

The house boasts 9,480 square feet of living space and the property comes with 149 feet of waterfront coverage, a full lot and half. The 60-foot dock can accommodate a deepwater yacht, and there’s no-bridge access to the Gulf of Mexico.

Why should it matter that there are no bridges between this property and the Gulf? Because an overpass limits the size of the boat. And if you own a \$20



Not so long ago, the real estate market in Southwest Florida was floundering and the idea of new construction made developers cringe. But Naples has seen steady growth in the last few years,

and now real estate agents are saying there are more buyers than homes on the market.

million piece of waterfront property, chances are good that you have a serious yacht to go with it. Gulf Coast International Properties has already seen interest in the property, and many of the home’s potential buyers are currently owners within Port Royal. They’re looking for new construction — not easy to find in the development — and they’re happy to let someone else handle the hassles that

sometimes come with building a high-end home — things like the permitting process, selecting tile and crown molding and making landscaping decisions. The developer has gone with many of the known names in Naples construction, including the builder BCB Homes, architecture firm Stofft Cooney, landscape architect Ed Westwood of GardenBleu and the interior design company Kahn Design Group.

and now real estate agents are saying there are more buyers than homes on the market.

At this price range, we’re talking about a very small pool of potential owners. But 1650 Galleon Drive has gotten the details right. With these architectural elements, this much water frontage, and — not to be discounted — this address, the house is in a prime position to sell. ■

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 Imagine a private island set in the midst of beaches, bays and sky. Accessible only by water or sea plane and home to over a hundred families. Useppa Island residences pricing starts at \$515,000 and up. Brian McColgan, 239.410.7850 or 941.505.5555

**PALM ISLAND**  
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# NABOR

From page 9

offers in our area put buyers in a stronger position than buyers using conventional financing.”

As for the short sale or foreclosure market, the October report shows only 18 short sale transactions and 73 foreclosed property sales taking place in October 2014.

“Traditional sales accounted for 87 percent of all reported transactions in October 2014, which is an indicator of a strong housing market in the Naples area,” says Carmen Isbely Vasquez, owner/broker of US Prime Realty.

The report provides comparisons of single-family home and condominium sales (via the Southwest Florida MLS), price ranges and geographic segmentation and includes an overall market summary. Among the findings:

■ Overall median closed price increased 13 percent, from \$235,000 in the 12 months ending October 2013 to \$265,000 in the 12 months ending October 2014.

■ Overall pending sales increased 9 percent, from 839 in October 2013 to 911 in October 2014.

■ Pending sales for condominiums in the \$1 million-\$2 million category increased 211 percent, from nine in October 2013 to 28 in October 2014.

■ Overall closed sales decreased 2 percent, from 9,912 in the 12-months ending 2013 to 9,667 in the 12 months ending 2014.

■ Closed sales for single-family homes in the \$2 million and above category increased 31 percent, from 210 in the 12 months ending October 2013 to

275 in the 12 months ending 2014.

■ Median closed price increased 13 percent, from \$235,000 in the 12 months ending October 2013 to \$265,000 in the 12 months ending October 2014.

■ Overall median closed price for homes in the \$1 million-\$2 million and \$2 million and above categories both decreased 3 percent.

■ Overall inventory decreased 10 percent, from 4,376 homes in October 2013 to 3,939 homes in October 2014.

■ Average days on market for October is at 73.

The October reports showed signs our winter residents and visitors returned early this year: Overall pending sales rose 10 percent from September 2014 (829) to October 2014 (911), and inventory increased from 3,702 units available in September 2014 to 3,929 units available in October 2014. The report concludes that pending sales are driving the market into what is anticipated to be a strong fourth quarter.

“We’re seeing the demand for homes in the Naples beach area start to rise again, too,” says Steve Barker, advising broker for Equity Realty. The report shows pending sales for both condominiums and single-family homes rose more than 40 percent in this geographic area for October 2014 compared to October 2013.

Broker analysts agree with incoming NABOR President Mike Hughes, vice president and general manager of Downing-Frye Realty, who likens Naples to an exclusive luxury destination similar to Aspen and Hilton Head, and predicts the area is poised to see more price appreciation, especially in the luxury single-family home market.

View the full report at [naplesarea.com](http://naplesarea.com). ■

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## TALIS PARK

**16653 Toscana Circle #706, Naples**

Very spacious Tuscan-style 4 bedroom+den, 6½ bathroom end unit available. This former model comes fully furnished and lives more like an attached villa than a condo.

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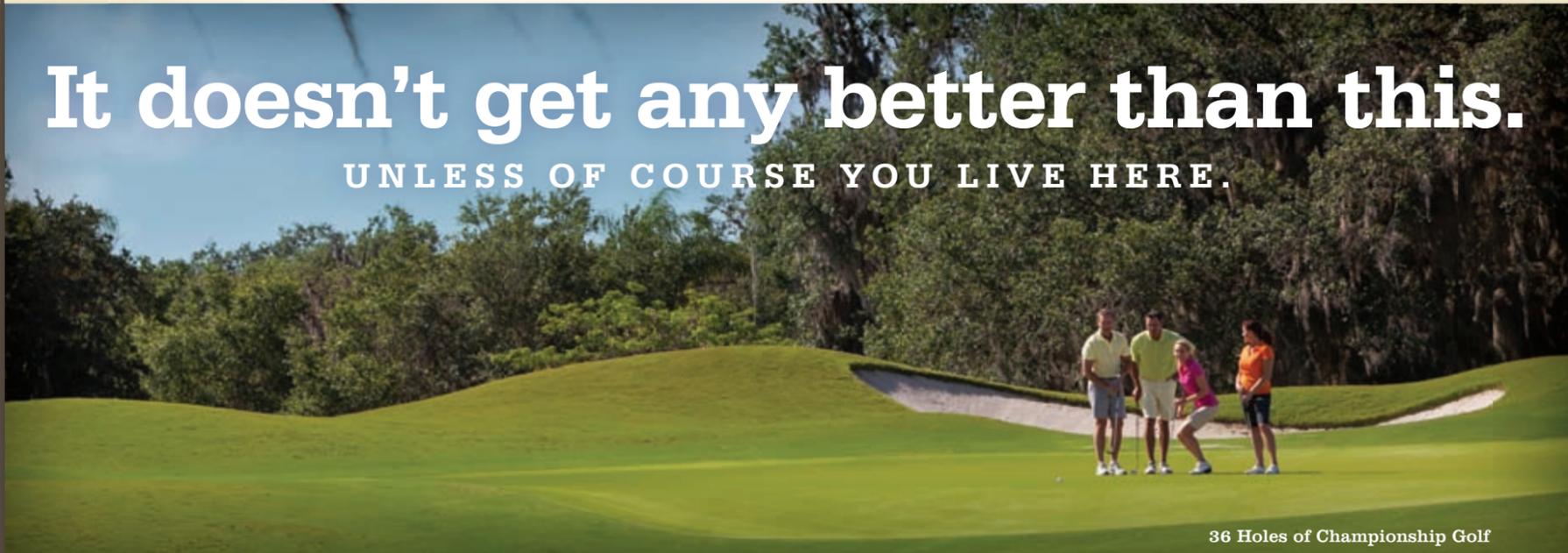
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**KOLTER**

# Welcome to Casa El Nido In Prato at Talis Park

Gracefully situated on a home site overlooking the emerald green Sea Dwarf Paspalum fairway of Talis Park Golf Club's 15th hole, T. Scholten Builder's Casa El Nido model residence epitomizes the relaxed grandeur and In the Park lifestyle of the North Naples community's Prato estate home neighborhood. An enclave of just twenty-four Park Estate Homes offering enhanced privacy and spectacular golf, water, and preserve views, Prato's North facing residences enjoy unfettered golf and orchard views, a combination that provides a captivating landscaped effect. Those facing south offer the tranquility of seemingly endless water and golf course vistas. The view corridor of every Prato site is uninterrupted by another residence. Prato's residences range from 4,500 to over 7,000 square feet on 125' x 175' sites and start at \$2.5 million. The completed, two-story, 6,491 square feet, five-bedroom, six-and-a-half bath Casa El Nido furnished estate model is available for purchase and immediate occupancy and offered at \$3.9 million with furnishings.

In keeping with PDS Architecture of Fort Myers' Spanish architectural style, the exterior of the Casa El Nido features rustic functional shutters with a dark stain, arched mahogany entry doors, dark cypress soffits and fascia, exposed trusses and large corbels. The exterior walls are finished with a sprayed granular stucco. Anderson window and doors are found throughout the home.

The interior of the Casa El Nido is designed to convey a grand, traditional sensibility with beautifully executed architectural ceiling details complimented by the use of selected modern elements, including a stainless steel and glass stairway treatment that plays against dark-toned wood treads. Lighter toned hardwood flooring is used throughout the downstairs. Upon entry to the home, an elegant light-filled parlour with a fireplace and French doors opening to the outside greets visitors and offers a warm, inviting conversation space. A formal dining room includes a large wine room. The spacious gourmet island kitchen is designed to provide an abundance of work space for the most discriminating chef and includes a large pantry. The family room offers another comfortable gathering place that can be opened to the outside.

The south facing Casa El Nido's massive outdoor living area is positioned on the view. The covered lanai features a large sitting area with a fireplace and television, a dining area, an island bar and an outdoor kitchen with a grill, refrigerator and sink. A custom designed pool is finished to convey the look of soothing Caribbean-blue water. The home's residents will enjoy sunsets from a raised fire pit area overlooking Talis Park's Greg Norman-Pete Dye designed golf course and the glittering waters of a lake.



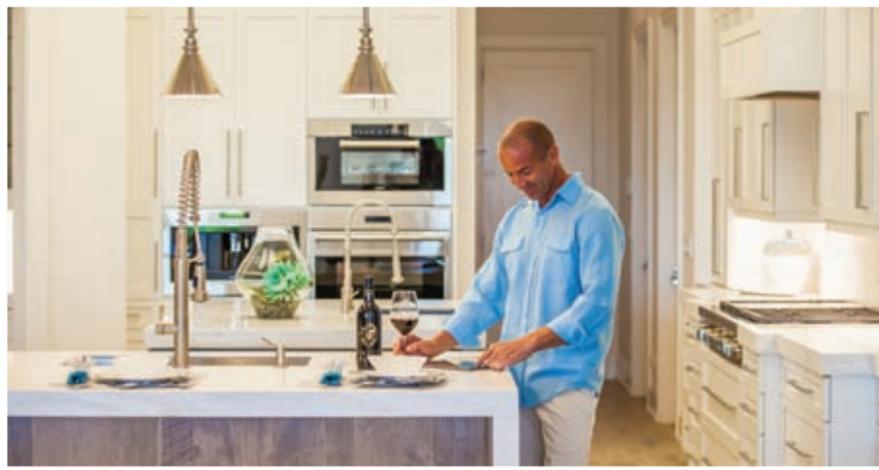
**Casa El Nido Rendering:** The completed, two-story, 6,491 square feet, five-bedroom, six-and-a-half bath Casa El Nido furnished estate model is available for purchase and immediate occupancy in Prato at Talis Park and offered at \$3.9 million with furnishings.

An office just off the master suite provides a private retreat removed from the home's living areas. The master suite includes a master bedroom overlooking Casa El Nido's wondrous views, and a master bath with a double vanity, a free-standing white tub and 24-inch white and grey Calcutta tile.

The home's dramatic upstairs is ideally suited for out-of-town guests and grandchildren and can be accessed either by the stairway or an elevator. A large 17' x 26' play room offers a place to watch television and to entertain younger family members. Two guest suites with walk-in closets include double French doors that open to a spacious covered terrace that flows into a large sun deck. The terrace and sun deck offer spectacular views and can also be accessed through double French doors at the south end of the upstairs' central hallway.

After establishing themselves as one of the Chicago area's preferred builders, Tom and Regina Scholten relocated to Southwest Florida in 1998 and opened T. Scholten Builder in 2001. Since then, the firm has been acknowledged as one of the area's premier builders and has completed custom luxury residences in Naples' most prestigious neighborhoods. To ensure its rigid quality standards and completion deadlines are met, Scholten maintains its own fulltime group of accomplished craftsmen.

"Having our own craftsmen allows us to control our own destiny as far as quality and on-time completion are concerned," said Tom Scholten. "We specialize in crafting luxurious residences for highly discerning clients and the people who work with us share our very high standards. Talis Park shares those standards as well. We are thrilled to be building in Prato and to be working in a community that clearly has a unique sense of vision."



**The Casa El Nido's spacious gourmet island kitchen is designed to provide an abundance of work space for the most discriminating chef and includes a large pantry.**

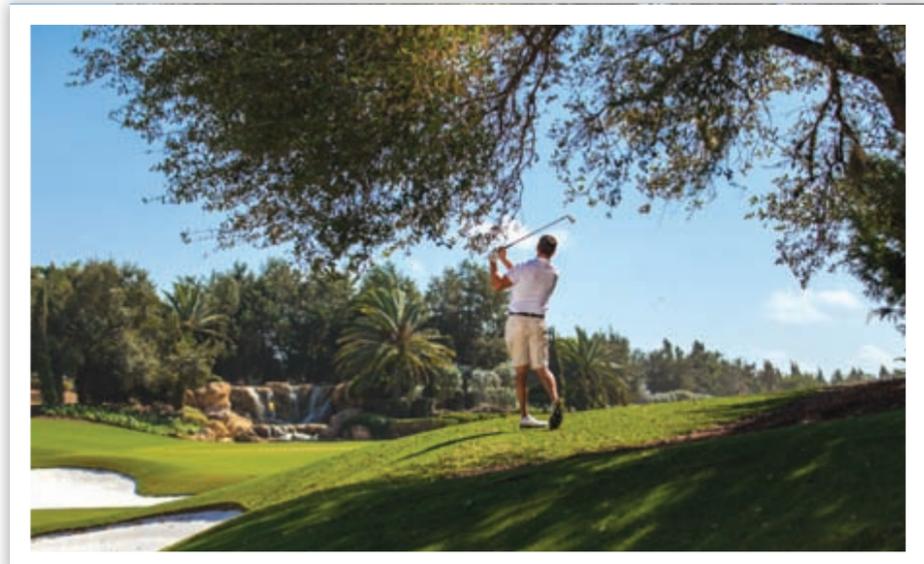
Opportunities to enjoy the Prato estate lifestyle are limited. All developer home sites in Prato have been sold. In addition to Casa El Nido, four builder or investor owned home sites and the Golf Dream House currently under construction also remain available in Prato. Furnished estate models by McGarvey Custom Homes and Gulfshore Homes are planned for two of the sites. Gulfshore is also making a custom estate home and lot package available on one of the remaining home sites in Prato.

Talis Park's residential choices range from penthouse style condominiums priced from the \$700's to estate residences starting at \$2.5 million. Homebuyers have an opportunity to begin enjoying Talis Park's lifestyle in advance of next Season. Completed and soon-to-be-completed furnished models and unfurnished Resident Ready homes are available for purchase in eight distinct neighborhoods. Additional furnished models are poised to begin construction before the end of the year.

Talis Park is located in North Naples on Livingston Road just north of Immokalee Road. Visit Talis Park's Garden House Sales Center at 16980 Livingston Road in North Naples, or visit Talis Park online at [talispark.com](http://talispark.com). ■



**Residences in the Prato estate neighborhood are just minutes from Talis Park's Great Lawn and Vyne House, a New Fashioned clubhouse with dining, fitness, and spa facilities.**



**Talis Park's golf course is one of just two courses in the world designed by Greg Norman and Pete Dye and is consistently ranked in the top 20 courses in Florida.**



**T. Scholten Builder's Casa El Nido model residence epitomizes the relaxed grandeur and In the Park lifestyle of Talis Park's Prato estate home neighborhood.**

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**Audubon Private Estate—Naples.** Largest estate lot in Audubon Country Club. Magnificent 12' mahogany entry doors, 5 bedrooms, 5 full baths, rich wood study, separate guesthouse, 200' lanai and 4-car garage. 6,650 SF and over 14,000 SF total. Originally \$3.8M—**Now \$2,500,000**  
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**Pelican Bay L'Ambiance.** Waterfront top floor with 3 bedroom suites and 3 full baths, natural marble flooring, tumbled marble kitchen, stainless appliances, 2 balconies with grill, garage and surrounded by water and fountains. High-end furnishings are available—**\$875,000**  
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**Pelican Marsh—Gated TERRABELLA.** Spectacular waterfront offering! 4BR/4+BA to include a guesthouse, 2,000-bottle showcase wine cellar, 16' decorative ceilings, 2 laundry rooms, amazing high-end detail and stellar finishes throughout. Elegant furnishings are negotiable—**\$2,495,000**  
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**TIBURON Norman Estates Villa.** Just listed! Enjoy 20' ceilings. Custom upgrades include: stone/bamboo flooring, barrel ceiling, master morning kitchen, outdoor kitchen and lanai surrounded with cascading waterfalls. 3 bedroom suites; separate 1-bedroom cabana with morning kitchen. Over 3,250 SF—**\$1,399,000**  
[www.TraceyYoung.com/214000593](http://www.TraceyYoung.com/214000593)



**Black Bear Ridge.** Motivated seller! Elegant 2006 model home with direct western exposure located in Naples' newest gated boutique community. 4 bedrooms, office, living and family rooms in 3,000 SF. Upgrades galore! Great community clubhouse just steps away. **ANNUAL LEASE INCOME OF \$60,000—\$764,000**  
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**TIBURON Bolero #101.** Prime Bolero location across from the Golf Club! 2 bedrooms plus den, 2-bath cul-de-sac first-floor location. Lives like a villa with lots of privacy. Hunter Douglas Luminette blinds, granite kitchen with light cabinetry and a breakfast bar opens to the living area—**\$438,000**  
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3 bedroom+den/office, 3.5 bath and killer views!  
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**TIBURON Bolero #101—LAKEFRONT:**  
2 bedroom+den with Medallion Golf Membership;  
\$9,000/month

**PELICAN MARSH Ravenna Penthouse #202—LAKEFRONT:** 3 bedroom/3 bath, elevator and 2-car garage; \$5,800/month

**PELICAN BAY Pebble Creek #105:** 3 bedroom/2 bath, garage, walk or tram to private beach club; \$5,800/month

**TIBURON Ventana #306:** 1 bedroom/2 bath with Signature Golf Membership; \$5,000/month



**LEMURIA—Waterfront.** Gorgeous 4 bedroom, 3 bath END UNIT, 2-car garage and 3,000 sq. ft. under air. Top-of-the-line appliances, wine bar with cooler, elegant finishes with FURNISHINGS negotiable. Gated community with fitness center and club room. Walk to Mercato—**\$699,000**  
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**MARBELLA LAKES—Lakefront.** 5BR/4BA open floor plan, Hickory wood flooring, custom kitchen with center island, breakfast area and a big lake view—**\$624,900**  
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## Women's Council of Realtors-Naples on the Gulf annual dessert auction



Sue Martin, Theresa Furman, Lyndsey Davis and Cassandra Santaguids



Emily Ross-Campos, Bob Szanto, Kara Martin and Kelly Brewer



Linda Hoe, Pricilla Kellerhouse and Christine Dike



Mia Gallo, Jonathan Fain and Ginger Harding



Susan Hubley, Christine Citrano and Lynn Bower



Robert Ward, Theresa Ulrich, Andrew Occhipinti and Yolanda Flores



Karen Cohler, Cheryl Poteet, Nace Cohen and Laurie Leppo



Rae Wakelin and Terri Speech



Dottie Babcock, Rob Mease and David Bower



Delphine Coachman and Susan Hubly

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# Florida Weekly's Open Houses

Open Houses are Sunday 1-4, unless otherwise marked

## >\$200,000

**1 • MARCO ISLAND - SOUTH SEAS** • 693 Seaview Court #A-407 • \$299,000 • Premier Sotheby's International Realty • Michelle Thomas • 239.860.7176

## >\$300,000

**2 • OLD NAPLES - VILLAGE GREEN - JASMINE CLUB** • 674 Broad Avenue South • \$320,000 • PSIR • Celine Julie Godof • 239.404.9917

## >\$400,000

**3 • VERONA WALK** • 7303 Carducci Court • \$459,000 • PSIR • Jon Peter Vollmer • 239.250.9414

**4 • STERLING OAKS** • 1330 Old Oak Lane • \$479,000 • PSIR • Diane Solomon • 301.343.5585

**5 • BONITA BAY - WEDGEWOOD** • 26930 Wedgewood Drive #404 • \$489,000 • PSIR • Scott Culbertson • 239.298.9794

## >\$500,000

**6 • BONITA BAY - MONTARA** • 3244 Montara Drive • \$519,000 • PSIR • Roxanne Jeske • 239.450.5210

## >\$600,000

**7 • PELICAN MARSH - IMARRON** • 1985 Timarron Way • \$665,000 • PSIR • Debbie Broulik • 239.297.5152

**8 • VANDERBILT BEACH - VANDERBILT YACHT & RACQUET CLUB** • 11030 Gulf Shore Drive #201 • \$679,000 • PSIR • Jon Peter Vollmer • 239.250.9414

## >\$700,000

**9 • PELICAN LANDING - GOLDCREST** • 24961 Goldcrest Drive • \$749,000 • PSIR • Pam Umscheid • 239.691.3541

**10 • MARCO ISLAND - THE ESPLANADE** • 740 Collier Boulevard North #302 • \$765,000 • PSIR • Cynthia Corogin • 239.963.5561

**11 • OLDE CYPRESS** • 7391 Monteverde Way • \$769,000 • PSIR • Jennifer Urness • 239.273.7731

## >\$800,000

**12 • PELICAN LANDING - HERON POINT** • 3616 Heron Point Court • \$825,000 • PSIR • Stephanie Coburn • 239.825.3470

## >\$900,000

**13 • PELICAN BAY - VILLAS** • 571 Gulf Park Drive • \$925,000 • PSIR • Susie Culp • 239.290.9000

## >\$1,000,000

**14 • ISLES OF CAPRI** • 107 Trinidad Street • \$1,029,000 • PSIR • Lura Jones • 239.370.5340

**15 • WYNDEMERE - GRASMERE** • 817 Wyndemere Way • \$1,100,000 • PSIR • Pat Petrow • 239.571.3765

**16 • THE MOORINGS** • 3003 Crayton Road • \$1,150,000 • PSIR • Joe Garabed • 239.571.5700

**17 • CABREO AT MEDITERRA** • 16811 Cabreo Drive • \$1,150,000 • John R Wood Properties • Emily K. Bua & Tade Bua-Bell • 239.595.0097

**18 • THE BROOKS - SHADOW WOOD - GLEN LAKES** • 10550 Glen Lakes Drive • \$1,575,000 • PSIR • Roxanne Jeske • 239.450.5210

**19 • ISLA MAR AT OLDE NAPLES** • 1010 5th Street S • \$1,775,000 • John R Wood Properties • Emily K. Bua & Tade Bua-Bell • 239.595.0097

**20 • GREY OAKS - ESTUARY** • 1220 Gordon River Trail • From \$1,795,000 • PSIR • Call 239.261.3148 • Open Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm & Sunday 12-5pm

**21 • THE MOORINGS** • 540 Starboard Drive • \$1,950,000 • PSIR • Carolyn Weinnd • 239.269.5678

## >\$2,000,000

**22 • GREY OAKS - ESTUARY** • 1540 Marsh Wren Lane • \$2,495,000 • PSIR • Sam Heitman • 239.537.2018

**23 • AQUALANE SHORES** • 1540 4th Street South • \$2,795,000 • PSIR • Ruth Trettis • 239.571.6760

**24 • OLD NAPLES** • 190 13th Avenue South • \$2,895,000 • PSIR • Dana Marcum • 239.404.2209

## >\$3,000,000

**25 • VANDERBILT BEACH** • 160 Seabreeze Avenue • \$3,750,000 • PSIR • Sarah Theiss • 239.269.0300

**26 • ISLES OF CAPRI** • 8 W Pelican Street • \$3,950,000 • PSIR • Darlene Roddy • 239.404.0685

## >\$4,000,000

**27 • OLD NAPLES** • 382 Gulf Shore Boulevard North • \$4,900,000 • PSIR • Phil Collins • 239.404.6800

## >\$6,000,000

**28 • OLD NAPLES - NAPLES MARINA VILLAS** • 995 9th Avenue South #5 • \$6,250,000 • PSIR • Paul Graffy • 239.273.0403

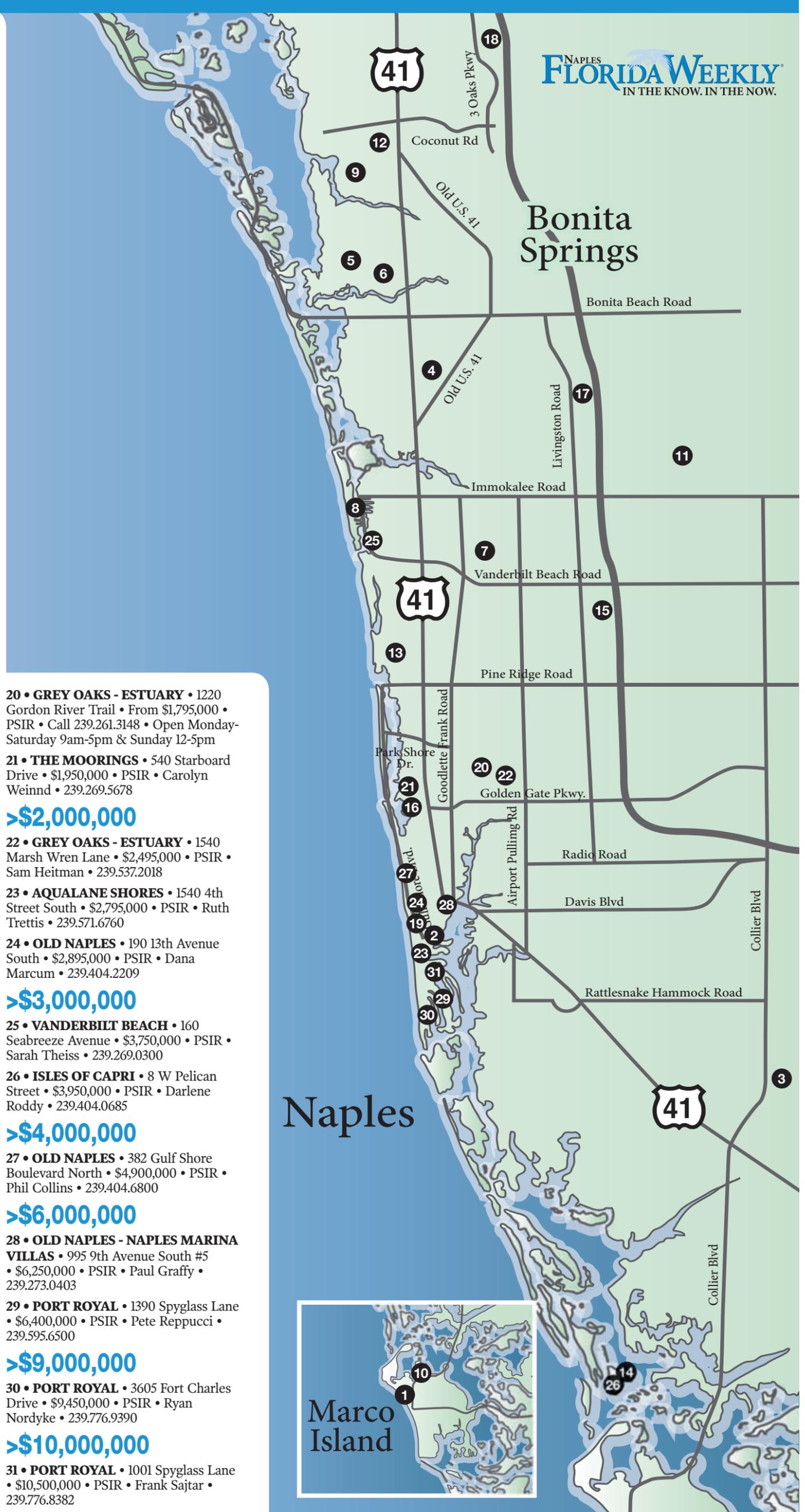
**29 • PORT ROYAL** • 1390 Spyglass Lane • \$6,400,000 • PSIR • Pete Reppucci • 239.595.6500

## >\$9,000,000

**30 • PORT ROYAL** • 3605 Fort Charles Drive • \$9,450,000 • PSIR • Ryan Nordyke • 239.776.9390

## >\$10,000,000

**31 • PORT ROYAL** • 1001 Spyglass Lane • \$10,500,000 • PSIR • Frank Sajtar • 239.776.8382



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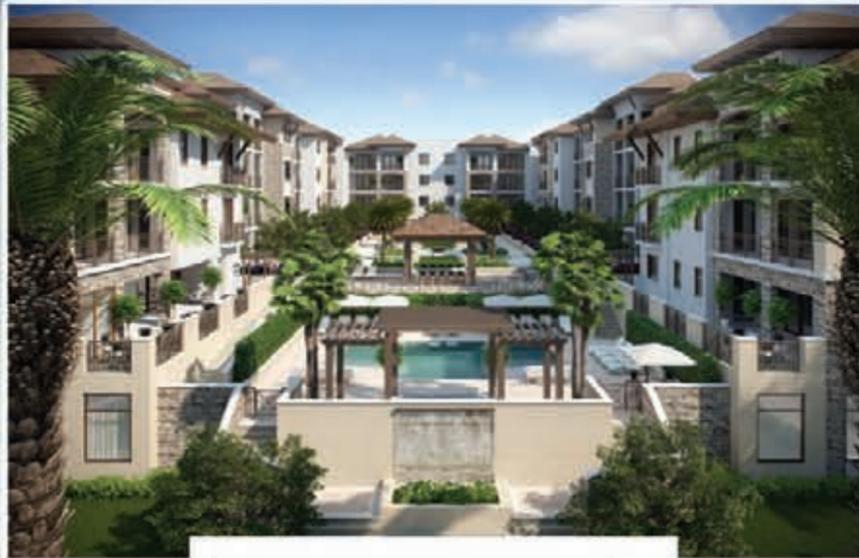
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF NOV. 27-DEC. 3, 2014

A GUIDE TO THE LOCAL ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE

Three local actors. Three local theaters.  
Three totally different performances.

## THE THREE SCROOGEES

**BY NANCY STETSON**  
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

YOU PROBABLY KNOW SOMEONE LIKE Ebenezer Scrooge. Or, if you're brutally honest, you might even catch glimpses of him in yourself. The hateful miser who had a change of heart late in life is so well-known that more than 160 years after his creation, we're still reading "A Christmas Carol" and enjoying its variations. The story has inspired movies, stage shows, radio shows, TV shows, cartoons, operas and graphic novels. Everyone from the Muppets to Barbie to Daffy Duck to Vanessa Williams has played Scrooge. There's even been a zombie version, a Klingon version and a Dr. Who version. Charles Dickens' novella struck such a chord with people that just six weeks after the book's publication, an adaptation hit the stage in London, then New York. Here in Southwest Florida, three venues are presenting

SEE SCROOGE, C4 ►

▲ Robert Summers in "A Christmas Carol: The Musical" playing at the Broadway Palm Theatre.

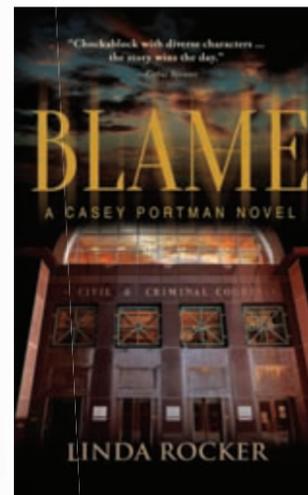
▲ David Yudowitz in "Scrooge TV: A Modern Christmas Carol" at the Laboratory Theater.

▲ Cody Nickell in "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol" playing at the Gulfshore Playhouse at The Norris Center.

VANDY MAJOR / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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**No. 2 in a trilogy**  
Author's experience as judge and litigator adds depth to this legal thriller. **C20 ►**

**Folk art finds**

Antiques experts comment on the collectability of "cigar-store Indians." **C26 ►**



**Cuisine news**

Sweets for the gluten sensitive, a dinner devoted to the duck, deals from Naples Originals and more dining tidbits. **C35-36 ►**

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## Dave Koz's latest features Estefan, Wonder, Mathis and more

**BY ALAN SCULLEY**  
Florida Weekly Correspondent

On paper, Dave Koz's new holiday release, "The 25th of December," would have seemed like one of his more challenging albums to complete. After all, it involved 10 well-known guest vocals (plus a pair of guest instrumentalists), a situation that could have made scheduling recording sessions tricky.

Plus, Mr. Koz was looking for fresh interpretations of holiday songs, performed with the energy and emotion they deserved.

The ambition of the album did not



BRYAN SHEFFIELD / COURTESY PHOTO  
**Dave Koz**

translate into struggles, though. "There have been projects I've done

that are work projects, that take forever to kind of get going or that have snags all along the way," saxophonist Mr. Koz said in an early November phone interview. "This one was just, boom, made a call, (the artist said) yes, make the plan to record, which song? Great, let's do it. Which key? Great, boom, boom, boom, boom. It all just happened, and before we turned around it was done, done in six weeks."

Local audiences will hear several numbers from the album when Dave Koz & Friends perform Monday, Dec. 1, at

SEE KOZ, C22 ►

# SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

## The edge of trouble and the power of yes



Back home in Florida after a long stint overseas, I'm making the rounds of all my old friends. Over a recent dinner, one friend caught me up on the general state of things: Who's in town, who's out of work, whose relationships are falling apart. We found ourselves on the topic of cycles, the way people manage to circle back around to where they started, changing little in the long run, picking up the same bad habits right where they left off.

"That's terrible," I said, shaking my head. Then, "Wait a minute. Do I do that?"

My friend thought it over. "If there's one thing you do," she said, "it's say yes too much."

She was right.

I've long had a habit of saying yes to things when the obvious answer should be no. It's how I get myself into crazy situations, like an accidental date with my therapist or an anti-promiscuity church revival, to name the most recent.

In thinking about it, I realized that many of us are guilty of this, especially women. Humans in general like to please, and women as a gender have taken to pleasing as if it were our job. In fact, we often make it our job: Just

look at the people-pleasing industries staffed by women: marketing, PR, hospitality.

We like making others happy, and there's nothing quite so enjoyable as an acquiescent yes. To say yes is easy, effortless. It slips off the tongue before we can catch it and is soon out in the world, dazzling.

A no, on the other hand, has to be dragged up from the depths of our soul. It takes strength to heave it out.

I've often wondered what's behind my own easy yes. Why can't I say no to things that are obviously bad ideas? I asked another friend this question, and he just laughed.

"Because you like to be at the edge of trouble," he told me.

I stopped walking and put my hands on my hips, glaring after him. "The edge of trouble?"

But it did have a nice ring to it, I'll admit. A touch poetic, like James Dean with more self-control.

Someone once asked me why I spend so much time in rough places — New York, Africa — when I have such thin skin. Why expose myself like that? Here was my answer: Because life is short, and I think we have an obligation to experience it fully. Not just the safe feelings or the good emo-



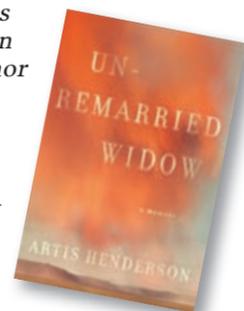
tions, but the difficult moments, too, the loneliness, the awkwardness, the deep sense of not belonging.

It's only by putting ourselves in uncomfortable situations — by saying yes to everything life offers — that we can appreciate the vast range of the human condition. Through that, I believe, we come to have an understanding of the world. And that understanding gives us compassion.

So this is my rallying cry for the not-so-obvious yes. Perhaps if we all said yes more often, even when it seems like the answer should be no, we would come to be better, wiser, more generous people.

Plus, just think of all the funny stories we'd have to tell. ■

— Artis Henderson is the author of "Unremarried Widow" published by Simon and Schuster.



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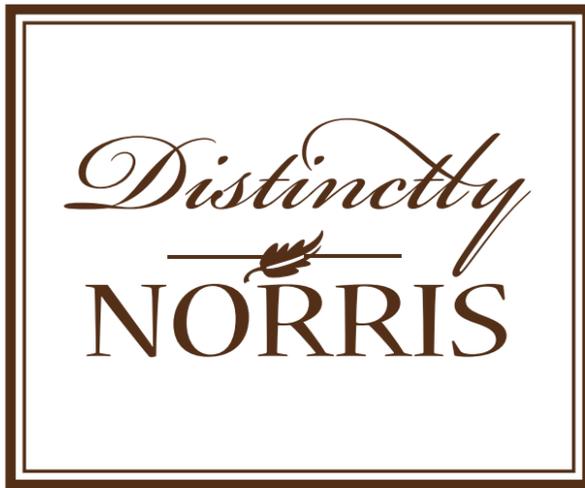
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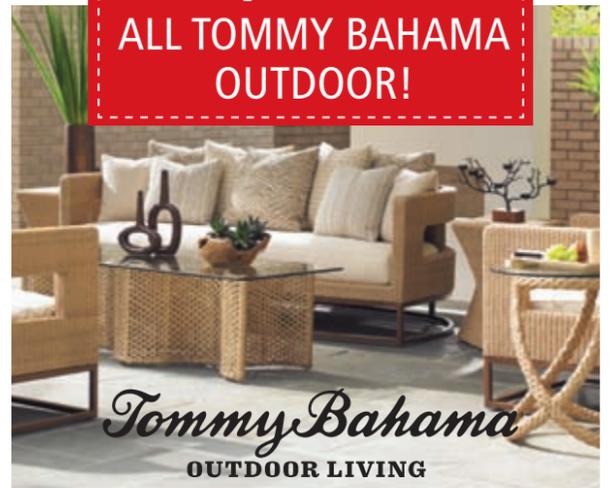


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# SCROOGE

From page 1

their versions of it this holiday season. "A Christmas Carol: A Musical" — playing at the Broadway Palm in Fort Myers through Dec. 27 — sets the traditional tale to music.

"Scrooge TV: A Modern Christmas Carol" — at Laboratory Theater of Florida in Fort Myers Dec. 12-20 — puts the story in current times, with a reality TV psychiatrist.

And "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol" — by Gulfshore Playhouse in Naples Dec. 6-21 — is a one-man show that looks at the classic story from Marley's point of view.

Florida Weekly talked to the actors playing Scrooge (or, in Lab Theater's case, the closest they had to Scrooge) to find out more about this man who undergoes a true repentance and change of heart. Here are edited versions of our conversations.

## CODY NICKELL

■ **Show:** "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol"

■ **Where:** Gulfshore Playhouse at The Norris Center, Naples

■ **When:** Dec. 6-21 (previews Dec. 4-5)

■ **Cost:** \$40-\$49 (\$30 for previews, \$60 for opening night)

■ **Info:** 261-7529 or gulfshoreplayhouse.org

**Have you ever played Scrooge before?** Yes, last year when we first did "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol." Scrooge is not the central character in this version, Marley is. But I really love the Scrooge (playwright) Tom Mula has built. He's quite a bit of fun to play.

**What is the challenge of playing Scrooge?** The challenge — and also the blessing — of playing Scrooge is dropping into that place of hateful disdain he has for the world, and other people's expectations of how he should live in it. In the version we're doing, a new adaptation, he doesn't see anything wrong with how he is in the world, so it really makes the journey pay off. You have to start in a nasty, awful place, so that as you go on that journey of redemption and atonement, there's a really fun payoff.

**Tell us about your production:** "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol" is told from the point of view of Jacob Marley, who dies and finds himself in the afterlife and is going to meet with eternal damnation if he doesn't go back and save Scrooge's soul. His one means of redemption is to go and save Scrooge. And through the saving of Scrooge, Mar-

ley himself is saved, he is redeemed. I play approximately 18 characters, including demons and angels and all the ghosts. There are familiar characters for people who know the story, and some new ones as well.

**Do you have a favorite version of "A Christmas Carol"?** "Scrooged," the Bill Murray movie. I watch it every year. I find the comedy and the pathos in that story really, really wonderful. I'm a big Bill Murray fan, and there are many other great actors in it ... Carol Kane, Buster Poindexter, Karen Allen, Bobcat Goldthwait. It's wonderful.

**Are you a ho-ho-ho or a bah-humbug type of person?** In my life, I am most certainly ho-ho-ho.

**Why has Scrooge become such a classic, iconic figure?** I just like the idea of rebirth, of getting a second chance at redemption, that we have made mistakes or are currently making mistakes, and we can choose to turn over a new leaf and we can be forgiven and live a better life.

I think we identify with Scrooge because we see ourselves in him, but we don't see ourselves fully. He's worse than any of us, so we can tip into his journey without feeling like, "Oh, yeah, that's totally me." But yet we can relate, and go, "Oh, yeah, there are ways I can be more generous or more kind or forgiving or understanding."

## DAVE YUDOWITZ

■ **Show:** "Scrooge TV: A Modern Christmas Carol"

■ **Where:** Laboratory Theater of Florida, Fort Myers

■ **When:** Dec. 12-20

■ **Cost:** \$22 for adults, \$18.50 for seniors, \$12 for students

■ **Info:** 218-0481 or laboratorytheaterflorida.com

**Have you ever played Scrooge before?** Never.

**What is the challenge of the role?** There are a number of characters I play. I try to make them all distinct. The main character...is Scrooge's conscience. I do that with a British accent. I do his father with a Southern accent, and then I do his wife in a normal voice, but I make it a high register. Then I have another role as one of his patients, and I do that with a Brooklyn accent.

**Tell us about your production.** It's a parable, a story about a man who is selfish and greedy. He's supposed to represent Scrooge, and I play his conscience. I keep coming on to him to try to help him find a better path. He's a psy-

chiatrist and has a TV show. That's why it's called 'Scrooge TV.' It's like a Dr. Phil. He helps people and cures them, but he's really a phony. (The play was written by Laura Larusso, who won Lab Theater's 24-Hour Play Contest last year.)

**Do you have a favorite version of "A Christmas Carol"?** I don't care for it. It seems kind of childish to me.

**Are you a ho-ho-ho or a bah-humbug type of person?** I am a true atheist, not an agnostic. So you can gather from that that I'm a bah-humbug type of person. I really live a life that is a lot truer and more honest than so-called religious folk. I try not to hurt people. I do unto others as they do unto me. I try to be nice and kind and helpful. It doesn't mean I wasn't raised to believe in God. I was raised Orthodox Jewish, and I rejected that.

**Why has Scrooge become such a classic, iconic figure?**

Well, the answer is that we have so commercialized this whole Christmas idea. It's supposed to be a one-day affair. It should be a very holy and sanctified kind of day, a day when people worship. (Christmas now) is such a bastardization of what it was meant to be. People have become so inured to the commercialism that they actually believe this lie that you should go out and buy toys all year long. They think they're doing something related to the holiday.

Scrooge gives people an opportunity to take a break from the commercialism and think that they are really doing something that will enhance their soul and their life.

## ROBERT SUMMERS

■ **Show:** "A Christmas Carol: The Musical"

■ **When:** Through Dec. 27

■ **Where:** The Broadway Palm Theatre, Fort Myers

■ **Cost:** \$37-\$60

■ **Info:** 278-4422 or broadwaypalm.com

**Have you ever played Scrooge before?** I'm reprising the role I played last year at the Dutch Apple in Pennsylvania (Broadway Palm's sister theater.)

And I've also played Marley's Ghost and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Be, in a different version.

**What is the challenge of playing Scrooge?** Scrooge, to me, is a very complex character. Everything from his past kind of leads you where and why he is the way he is ... There is good in him somewhere, not just meanness and coldness,

and it just has to be found.

**Tell us about your production.** It's a musical by Alan Menken, who wrote the music for "The Little Mermaid" and things like that for Disney. Other musical versions have made it more of a spectacle. In this one the director, Galloway Stevens, is trying to bring it back to the Dickens ... to make it feel like you are in 1830s London, with the hardness and hardship, the cold winters. Starvation was prevalent. If you read the book, you get that. That's what he's trying to put in here.

Even though there are songs that show the happiness of Scrooge, he also takes it down into the dark where he's facing his demons, and what he could be, and what could happen in the future if he keeps on this path. He's taking it back to the (original) Dickens. I think he succeeded.

**Do you have a favorite version of "A Christmas Carol"?** I love this version I'm in. But I think my favorite all-time favorite is the 1951 British film with Alastair Sim. I consider him the quintessential Ebenezer Scrooge. You feel his pain. You can see the torment in his soul ... And in seeing his past, through the ghosts, you see that he is a good man. It's there, it just has to be pointed out: You are a good man. Go away from the path you're on and get on the path you need to be on.

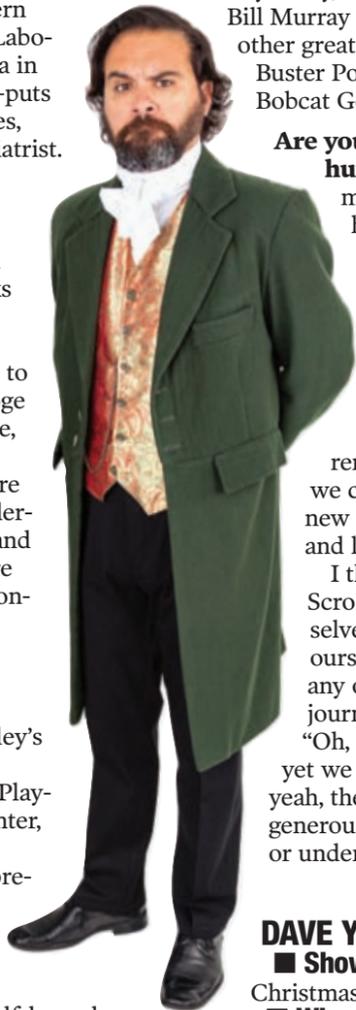
**Are you a ho-ho-ho or a bah-humbug type of person?** I'm actually a ho-ho-ho kind of person. I enjoy Christmas, I enjoy the feeling of love and family the happiness of what can be and what is. It's very satisfying.

A couple seasons ago I played Kris Kringle in "Miracle on 34th Street," which was a lot of fun.

**Why has Scrooge become such an iconic, classic figure?** It's a story of redemption, that no matter how bad someone is, they can be redeemed if they look inside themselves and see themselves for what they were. You look and see the love, the family, the enjoyment of just being together and enjoying your family and people.

You only get to live once, and why live your life shutting everybody out? There is so much love, even in today's world. There is a lot of conflict going on around the world, but there's also a lot of love out there, too. Sometimes you just have to look for it.

Scrooge is iconic (because) he speaks not just to that generation, when Dickens wrote it, but to our generation now. ■



## ... and a Dickens of a night

BY NANCY STETSON  
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

Ten years after Charles Dickens published "A Christmas Carol," that classic tale of a miser who comes to see the error of his ways, he gave his first public reading, acting out the various characters.

Two thousand people attended the almost three-hour performance.

"He was like a pop star," local actor John McKerrow says about Dickens whenever he gave public readings of his

novels, especially "A Christmas Carol."

Mr. McKerrow hopes to create a similar sensation when he reads "A Christmas Carol" as a benefit for the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. The one-time, one-hour performance (he'll read an abridged version of the holiday classic) Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Cape Coral Yacht Club. The evening begins at 5 p.m. and includes a choir and a children's chorus singing Christmas carols as well as a traditional holiday dinner of roast beef and Yorkshire popovers,

starting with a Smoking Bishop alcoholic drink served in a goblet and ending with wine and bread pudding with dark rum sauce. Mr. McKerrow, who audiences may know from his numerous performances with The Naples Players at the Sugden Community Theatre and as the founder and producing artistic director of Shakespeare in Paradise, takes the stage at 7 p.m.

"I'm going to be introduced as Charles Dickens. Then I'm going to jump into the story," portraying Scrooge, Marley, the

in the know

'Christmas With Dickens''

>> **When:** 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4

>> **Where:** Cape Coral Yacht Club

>> **Cost:** \$50 for dinner and performance, with all proceeds to benefit the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra

>> **Info:** 590-0217

ghosts and all of the familiar characters from the favorite tale," he says. ■

HOLIDAY  
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CEREMONY

Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
at 5pm

Musical Performances by Patchouli and  
Naples Philharmonic violinist Jeff Leigh.  
Dance Performances by Dance Arts by  
Maria and Backstage Dance Academy.  
Emceed by ABC-7's Krista Fogelsong.

OTHER HOLIDAY EVENTS:

**Saturday, Dec 6 | 8:30-10am**  
Breakfast with Santa at Bravo

**Saturday, Dec 6 | 6:30-8:30pm**  
Violinist Jeff Leigh

**Sunday, Dec 7 | 2pm**  
Smokin' Jazz Series featuring Catman Doodz

**Wednesday, Dec 10 | 5-7pm**  
Musical performance by Patchouli

**Thursday, Dec 11 | 5-8pm**  
Donate a toy for Toys for Tots for a FREE photo  
with Santa at GiGi's Children's Boutique

**Thursday, Dec 11 | 6pm**  
Performance by Dance City Productions

**Friday, Dec 12 | 5:30pm**  
Jazz dance performance by Etudes de Ballet

**Saturday, Dec 13 | 8-10am**  
Breakfast with Santa at Rusty Bucket

**Saturday, Dec 13 | 10am-3pm**  
Holiday Collector Car Show

**Sunday, Dec 14 | 12-2pm**  
Musical performance by Patchouli

**Monday, Dec 15 | 6:30-8:30pm**  
Classical guitar by Jon Dunn

**Tuesday, Dec 16 | 5pm**  
Performance by Dance Arts by Maria

**Tuesday, Dec 16 | 6pm**  
Movies on the Lawn - A Christmas Story

**Thursday, Dec 18 | 5:45pm**  
Jewish Federation Community  
Chanukah Celebration

**Friday, Dec 19 | 4-7pm**  
Jazz guitar by Mason Williams

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## WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

## THEATER

**The Spitfire Grill** – Through Dec. 6 by The Naples Players at the Sugden Community Theatre. 263-7990 or [naplesplayers.org](http://naplesplayers.org). See review on page C10.

**The Great American Trailer Park Christmas Musical** – Through Dec. 25 at the Off-Broadway Palm Theatre, Fort Myers. 278-4422 or [broadwaypalm.com](http://broadwaypalm.com).

**A Christmas Carol** – Through Dec. 27 at the Broadway Palm Theatre, Fort Myers. 278-4422 or [broadwaypalm.com](http://broadwaypalm.com).

**The Nutcracker** – By Naples Philharmonic and Miami City Ballet Dec. 6-7 at Artis—Naples. 597-1900 or [artisnaples.org](http://artisnaples.org).

**Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol** – By Gulfshore Playhouse Dec. 6-21 at The Norris Center. 866-811-4111 or [gulfshoreplayhouse.org](http://gulfshoreplayhouse.org).

**Swell Party** – By Theatre Conspiracy Nov. 28-29, Dec. 4-5 and Dec. 11-13 at the Alliance for the Arts, Fort Myers. 936-3239 or [theatreconspiracy.org](http://theatreconspiracy.org).

**Nutcracker Goes Pop!** – By Naples Players KidzAct Dec. 12-14 and Dec. 19-20 at the Sugden Community Theatre. 434-7340 or [naplesplayers.org](http://naplesplayers.org).

## THURSDAY 11.27

**Turkey Trot** – Gulfcoast Runners hosts the second annual Turkey Trot 5K setting out at 7:30 a.m. from Cambier Park. \$30 for pre-registration, \$40 the day of the event. 434-9786 or [gcrunner.org](http://gcrunner.org).

**Gobble, Gobble** – Village on Venetian Bay hosts the Gobble Gobble 4-Miler starting at 7:25 a.m., with registration proceeds going to St. Matthew's House. [Gobblegobblefourmiler.com](http://Gobblegobblefourmiler.com).

**Grateful Yoga** – Yoga Loft in Mercato hosts a free flow class at 9 p.m. Stretch and breathe for an hour of gratitude (and to earn your holiday feast). 260-7725 or [yogaloftnaples.com](http://yogaloftnaples.com).

## FRIDAY 11.28

**Black Friday Entertainment** – Waterside Shops presents live music starting at noon. 598-1605 or [watersideshops.com](http://watersideshops.com).

**A Village Christmas** – Enjoy the tree lighting, carolers, snow and Santa at Village on Venetian Bay's "Holiday on the Bay" festivities from 5-8 p.m. 261-6100 or [venetianvillage.com](http://venetianvillage.com)

**Wise Guy** – Comedian Jimmy Keys takes the stage at 7 p.m. at the Marco Island Historical Museum. \$25. 180 S. Heathwood Drive. Purchase tickets at the museum gift shop. 642-1440 or [themih.com](http://themih.com).

**More Laughs** – John Charles plays The Old Naples Comedy Club at 8:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday. \$15. 1100 Sixth Ave. S. 455-2844 or [oldnaplescomedyclub.com](http://oldnaplescomedyclub.com).

## SATURDAY 11.29

**A Slice for Charity** – California Pizza Kitchen at Waterside Shops donates 20 percent of the day's sales to IMAGINE Children's Health Center. Diners must present the flyer from the organization's website to their server to qualify. 263-3908 or [imaginechc.com](http://imaginechc.com).



STEVEN CARAS / COURTESY PHOTO

The Naples Philharmonic and Miami City Ballet present "George Balanchine's The Nutcracker" on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 6-7 at Artis—Naples. 597-1900 or [artisnaples.org](http://artisnaples.org).

**Meet the Gingriches** – Newt and Calista Gingrich sign copies of their new children's book "From Sea to Shining Sea" starting at noon at Barnes & Noble in Waterside Shops. 597-2040 or [bn.com](http://bn.com).

**Art Exhibit** – Gallery on Fifth in Mercato presents "We the People: Everyday Life in Soviet Ukraine and Contemporary Southwest Florida" through Dec. 20. Opening reception is 6-8 p.m. tonight. 220-7503 or [artorg.net](http://artorg.net).

**Santa Island-Style** – Santa arrives at The Shoppes of Marco at 6 p.m. to kick off Christmas Island Style's holiday season events. [Christmasislandstyle.com](http://Christmasislandstyle.com).

**Sea Turtles for Kids** – Conservancy of Southwest Florida research manager and sea turtle expert Jeff Schmid talks to kids about sea turtles, and children's author Sarah Hoagland Hunter reads from her book "Every Turtle Counts" from 10 a.m. to noon at the Conservancy. 1495 Smith Preserve Way. 263-0204 or [conservancy.org](http://conservancy.org).

**Live Music** – Third Street South hosts Generation Gap in the Fleischmann Courtyard, Patchouli in front of Bad Ass Coffee and Wendy Renee in the Camargo Courtyard from 6-9 p.m. Be there at 7:30 p.m. to catch the snow flurries. [thirdstreetsouth.com](http://thirdstreetsouth.com).

## SUNDAY 11.30

**Dogs in the Garden** – Take advantage of Naples Botanical Garden's dog walking hours today from 9-11:30 a.m. Free for Garden members, \$9.95 for others. 643-7275 or [naplesgarden.org](http://naplesgarden.org).

**Dixieland Jazz** – Naples Dixieland Jazz Band plays a free concert starting at 2 p.m. in the bandshell at Cambier Park. [Naplesdixielandjazzband.com](http://Naplesdixielandjazzband.com).

## MONDAY 12.1

**Bingo!** – The Jewish Congregation of Marco Island hosts bingo from 5:30-9 p.m. 991 Winterberry Drive.

**Films for Film Lovers** – Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs presents a screening of "City of God" (Brazil, 2002) at 7 p.m. Two boys growing up in a violent neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro take different paths: One becomes a photographer, the other becomes a drug dealer. \$10. 10150 Bonita Beach Rd. 495-8989 or [artcenterbonita.org](http://artcenterbonita.org).

**Christmas Tunes** – Dave Koz & Friends perform holiday favorites starting at 8 p.m. at Artis—Naples. 597-1900 or [artisnaples.org](http://artisnaples.org). See story on page C1.

**Orchestral Anniversary** – Classic Chamber Concerts' Fifth Avenue Chamber Orchestra opens its 20th season with a performance at 8 p.m. at the Sugden Community Theater. 263-7990 or [classicchamberconcerts.org](http://classicchamberconcerts.org).

## TUESDAY 12.2

**Book Discussion** – Braxton Hinchey leads a discussion of Thomas Picketty's "Capitalism in the 21st Century" and whether it's an economic system that is out of control starting at 9 a.m. at the Naples Center of FGCU. The two-part series continues Dec. 9. 1010 Fifth Ave. S. 434-4737 or [fgcu.edu](http://fgcu.edu).

**Hot Topic** – Headquarters Library hosts a discussion about marijuana legalization and the results of the recent elections at 10 a.m. Moderated by a member of the Center for Critical Thinking in Naples. 2385 Orange Blossom Drive. 593-0334 or [collierlibrary.org](http://collierlibrary.org).

**Lunch & Learn** – Rookery Bay hosts environmental historian Jack Davis with a brief survey of Florida history over lunch beginning at noon. 300 Tower Road. 530-5940 or [rookerybay.org](http://rookerybay.org).

**Historic Holidays** – Christmas at Palm Cottage is open from 1-4 p.m. today and Wednesday and from 1-8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday through Dec. 31. 137 12th Ave. S. 261-8164 or [napleshistoricalsociety.org](http://napleshistoricalsociety.org).

**Holiday in the Park** – The City of Bonita Springs hosts a blizzard at Riverside Park complete with a snow slide, train rides, cookies and cider from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 26740 Pine Ave. 952-2556 or [bonitaspringsrecreation.org](http://bonitaspringsrecreation.org).

**Holiday Choirs** – FGCU's Bower School of music presents a holiday performance of its chamber and university choirs at 7:30 p.m. at Moorings Presbyterian Church. Free. 791 Harbour Drive. 590-7292 or [fgcu.edu](http://fgcu.edu).

**Handel Holiday** – The Naples Philharmonic and the Naples Philharmonic Chorus perform Handel's "Messiah" at 8 p.m. at Artis—Naples. 597-1900 or [artisnaples.com](http://artisnaples.com).

**Tango Tuesdays** – Step up for intermediate and advanced tango class from 8-9 p.m. at Pablo Repun Tango. \$15. 1673 Pine Ridge Road. 738-4184 or [pablrepuntango.com](http://pablrepuntango.com).

**Foreign Film** – The Italian Cultural Society presents a screening of "A Special Day" starring Sophia Loren and Marcelo Mastroianni starting at 6:45 p.m. at The Norris Center. One day in 1939, while her Fascist husband and six children head to the parade to welcome Hitler to Rome, Antoinetta accidentally meets her neighbor Gabriele and a special relationship begins. \$5. 744 Eighth Ave. S. 434-3323 or [italianculturalsociety.com](http://italianculturalsociety.com).

## WEDNESDAY 12.3

**Persistence of Memory** – Hop aboard a coach and take a day trip with the FGCU Renaissance Academy to The Dali Museum in St. Petersburg. Participants will have a docent-led tour through the museum and see the new exhibit "Picasso/Dali, Dali/Picasso." Bus departs at 7:45 a.m. and admission includes lunch at Tangerine Restaurant. \$97 for RA members, \$117 for others. 1010 Fifth Ave. S. 434-4737 or [fgcu.edu](http://fgcu.edu).

**Local History** – The Naples Historical Society leads a walking tour of Old Naples starting at 9:30 a.m. at Historic Palm Cottage. Reservations required. 261-8164 or [napleshistoricalsociety.org](http://napleshistoricalsociety.org).

**Book Talk** – Join a librarian-led discussion of Ken Follet's "Edge of Eternity" at 11 a.m. at the Marco Island Library. 210 S. Heathwood Dr. 394-3272 or [collierlibrary.org](http://collierlibrary.org).

**Holiday Fun** – Mercato hosts a tree lighting ceremony with live entertainment and dance performances at 5 p.m. Emceed by ABC-7's Krista Fogelsong. 254-1080 or [mercatoshops.com](http://mercatoshops.com).

**Art Alive** – The First Wednesday Art Alive opens house evening at more than two dozen galleries throughout the Naples Art District (north of Pine Ridge Road and west of Airport-Pulling Road) takes place from 5-8 p.m. 821-1061.



"Take Flight II" by Richard Rosen is among the works in "Sculpted," a new exhibit opening with a reception from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at The Sweet Art Gallery. Free. 2054 Trade Center Way. 597-2110 or [thesweetartgallery.com](http://thesweetartgallery.com).

# WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

## COMING UP

**Film Classic** - Naples Regional Library hosts a screening of "African Queen" starring Katharine Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4. In Africa during World War II, a gin-swilling riverboat captain is persuaded by a strait-laced missionary to use his boat to attack an enemy warship. Free. 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway. 252-7542 or collierlibrary.org.

**Art and Pizza** - The Center for the Arts Bonita Springs hosts "Alla Prima, Alla Fun!" at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4. Create artwork and enjoy pizza, wine and friends. Painter Patty Kane provides guidance. \$50. 26100 Old 41 Road. 495-8989 or artcenterbonita.org.

**Holiday Concert** - The Bach Ensemble Troubadours perform madrigals and uncommon Christmas selections at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Marco Island Center for the Arts. \$35. 1010 Winterberry Drive. 394-4221 or marcoislandart.org.

**Architecture Lecture** - The American Institute of Architects-Florida Southwest Chapter welcomes Peter Bohlin, who designed the flagship Apple Store on New York City's Fifth Avenue, for "Nature of Circumstance," a lecture Thursday, Dec. 4, at Miromar Design Center. A reception at 6 p.m. will be followed by the program at 7:30 p.m. \$15 for AIA members and their guests, \$20 non-members. 10800 Corkscrew Road. Register at aiaflasw.com.

**Author Lunch** - Chez Boet hosts author Sarah Elle Emm Mereday to discuss her book "Marrying Missy" and her Harmony Run series of young adult novels at noon Thursday, Dec. 4. \$26. 755 12th Ave. S. 643-6147 or chetboetnaples.com.

**Downtown Christmas** - Fifth Avenue hosts its annual Christmas Walk and Tree Lighting at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4. Enjoy local choral groups, dance troupes and other local performers. fifthavenuesouth.com.

**Empty Bowls** - The FGCU Art Department and United Arts Council of Collier County host the 14th annual pottery sale and eighth annual Empty Bowls Soup Lunch from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5, at FGCU. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. For a \$15 donation, participants can select a bowl created by a student in the university's art department and fill it with soup from a local restaurant. Proceeds benefit local food banks. 590-1000 or fgcu.edu.

**Foreign Film** - South Regional Library presents a screening of the Israeli film "The Band's Visit" at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5. A band comprised of members of the Egyptian police force head to Israel to play at the inaugural ceremony of an Arab arts center, only to find themselves in the wrong town. Free. 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway. 252-7542 or collierlibrary.org.

**Light Festival** - The seventh annual Celebration of Lights takes place from 4-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at Ave Maria Town Center. A town parade begins at 6 p.m. Free. 352-3903 or avemaria.com.

**Birthday Bash** - Celebrate Big Cypress National Preserve's 40th anniversary as a nationally recognized preserve at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5 at the Collier County Museum. Live entertainment and prizes. \$75 or \$125. 3331 Tamiami Trail E. 695-4758 or nps.gov.

**Van Gogh Project** - Interpret Van Gogh's "Starry Night" into a winter scene on your own canvas at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at Vino's Picasso. \$36. 2367 Vanderbilt Beach Road. #805. 431-8750 or vinospicasso.com.



■ **The Christmas tree at Mercato** lights up for the first time at 5 p.m. Wednesday. ABC-7's Krista Fogelsong emcees the festivities. — [mercatoshops.com](http://mercatoshops.com)

# 12.3

**11.28**

■ Comedian **Jimmy Keys**, the man of many faces and voices, takes the stage at 7 p.m. Friday at the Marco Island Historical Museum. \$25. 642-1440 or [themih.com](http://themih.com).

**11.29**

■ **Newt and Calista Gingrich** drop by Barnes & Noble at Waterside Shops at noon Saturday to sign copies of their new children's book "From Sea to Shining Sea." 597-2040 or [bn.com](http://bn.com).

**#SEE IT**

■ Artist **Juan Diaz's** "We Are Above It" is among the Florida contemporary works featured alongside paintings from the post-war Soviet Union in an exhibit opening Saturday at the Gallery on Fifth in Mercato. — [artorg.net](http://artorg.net).

**#DRIVE IT**

■ The Renaissance Academy of FGCU hosts a trip to **The Dali Museum** in St. Petersburg on Wednesday to see the new exhibit "Picasso/Dali, Dali/Picasso." 434-4737 or [fgcu.edu](http://fgcu.edu) for registration.

**#BUY 'EM**

■ Tickets are on sale now for Grammy Award-winning singer and bandleader **Harry Connick Jr.'s** Feb. 6 performance at Artis—Naples. — [artsnaples.org](http://artsnaples.org)

# WHAT TO DO



## A Night In Bethlehem

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The American Institute of Architects-Florida Southwest Chapter welcomes Peter Bohlin, who designed the flagship Apple Store on New York City's Fifth Avenue, for "Nature of Circumstance," a lecture Thursday, Dec. 4, at Miromar Design Center. A reception at 6 p.m. will be followed by the program at 7:30 p.m. \$15 for AIA members and their guests, \$20 non-members. 10800 Corkscrew Road. Register at [aiaflasw.com](http://aiaflasw.com).

**Choir Concert** – Ave Maria University Choir performs at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5 at Florida SouthWestern State College-Collier campus. Presented by the Bayshore Center for Performing Arts. \$25 for adults, \$20 for students. 775-2800 or [bayshorecapa.org](http://bayshorecapa.org).

**Craft Sale** – The Marco Island Shell Club hosts an arts and crafts sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Marco Island Winn-Dixie. Proceeds benefit scholarships for FGCU's marine science program. 625 North Collier Boulevard. 963-4694 or [marcoshellclub.com](http://marcoshellclub.com).

**Adventure Day** – Friends of Lovers Key hosts its annual Great Outdoor Adventure Day starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the park's kayak launch. Enjoy music, food, touch tanks and ranger-led excursions. Regular park admission applies. 463-4588 or [friendsofloverskey.org](http://friendsofloverskey.org).

**Snow Day** – Collier County Parks and Recreation hosts Snowfest from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Golden Gate Community Park, complete with toboggan rides, ice skating, carnival rides and festive food. \$2. [colliergov.net](http://colliergov.net).

**Swamp Party** – Celebrate the history and culture of the Everglades starting at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the big Cypress National Preserve Welcome Center in Ochopee. 695-4758 or [nps.org](http://nps.org).

**Kids' Authors** – Friends of the Collier County Museum invite kids to meet local children's authors Joan Curley, Charlotte Davenport, Mindy Kirkley, Peggy Post and Lisa Trebilcock at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Collier County Museum. Santa will stop by at 11 a.m. 3331 Tamiami Trail E. 252-8426 or [colliermuseums.com](http://colliermuseums.com).

**Holiday Ballet** – Miami City Ballet and the Naples Philharmonic bring their annual performance of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" to Artis—Naples at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. 597-1900 or [artis-naples.com](http://artis-naples.com).

**Shopping with Artists** – Dagny's Spirits hosts a shopping open house at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. Guests can purchase silk scarves, custom jewelry, hand-painted glassware and more from local artists. 15205 Collier Blvd. 384-9281 or [dagnysspirits.com](http://dagnysspirits.com).

**Advent Event** – St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Bonita Springs hosts its 14th annual Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. Free. 9801 Bonita Beach Road. 992-4343 or [stmarysbonita.org](http://stmarysbonita.org).

**Classical Jazz** – Pianist Uri Caine heads the Naples Philharmonic Jazz orchestra at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, in the Daniels Pavilion at Artis—Naples. 597-1900 or [artisnaples.org](http://artisnaples.org).

**Children's Opera** – Gulfshore Opera performs "Hansel & Gretel" Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Centers for the Arts of Bonita Springs and Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers. 529-3925 or [gulfshoreopera.org](http://gulfshoreopera.org).

**Concert in the Park** – The Naples Concert Band performs from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, in the bandshell at Cambier Park. Free. [naplesconcertband.org](http://naplesconcertband.org).

**Sing-A-Long** – Naples United Church of Christ presents its 12th annual Sing-a-Long Messiah at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. 5200 Crayton Road. 455-2582 or [voicesofnaples.org](http://voicesofnaples.org).

## A LEGENDARY LUNCH SPECIAL

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## WHERE TO GO



**KidzAct**, the youth program of The Naples Players, presents "The Nutcracker Goes Pop!" Dec. 12-14 and 19-21 at the Sugden Community Theatre. More than 100 local children — including KinderAct kids as the mice, above — perform the modern song-and-dance version of the beloved classic, with this year's performances featuring a variety of new numbers. \$15 for adults, \$10 for ages 2-21, \$5 for ages 5 and younger. 263-7990 or [naplesplayers.org](http://naplesplayers.org).

**Hall & Oates** — The pop duo performs at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, at Artis—Naples. 597-1900 or [artisnaples.org](http://artisnaples.org).

**Family Trips** — Learn about family travel opportunities from the experts at Betty Maclean Travel from 1-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at Clive Daniel Home. 2777 Tamiami Trail N. 513-0333 or [bettymacleantravel.com](http://bettymacleantravel.com).

**Social Media** — The Marco Island Center for the Arts hosts FGCU's Renaissance Academy's lecture about understanding Facebook and Twitter at 2 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 11. \$24 for academy members, \$29 for non-members. 1010 Winterberry Drive. 394-4221 or [fgcu.edu](http://fgcu.edu).

**Chorus Concert** — The Barron Collier High School Chorus performs at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at Moorings Presbyterian Church. 791 Harbor Drive. Free. [Collierschools.com/bch](http://Collierschools.com/bch).

**Gallery Reception** — Gallery on Fifth in Mercato hosts an opening reception at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, for Bobby Goldsboro, whose paintings will be on exhibit through Dec. 24. 821-9459 or [artorg.net](http://artorg.net).

**Sculpture Exhibit** — Bayshore Center for Performing Arts presents an exhibit featuring the works of more than 20 sculptors from 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at The Galleria Shoppes at Vanderbilt. 2349 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Suite 506. 775-2800 or [bayshorecapa.org](http://bayshorecapa.org).

**A Capella Holidays** — The Paradise Coastmen, a 50-person a capella group, sings holiday favorites from 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at The Norris Center. \$15. 352-6366 or [paradisecoastmen.org](http://paradisecoastmen.org).

**Teddy Bear Tea** — The Ritz-Carlton of Naples begins its teatime for children with hot chocolate, sweet treats and stories at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13. \$59. 598-6644 or [ritzcarlton.com](http://ritzcarlton.com) for additional dates.

**Boat Parade** — The Collier County Marine Industries Association presents the 25th annual Christmas Boat Parade on Naples Bay the evening of Saturday, Dec. 13. 682-0900 or [miacc.org](http://miacc.org).

**Barn Dance** — Enjoy a pig roast, dancing, live music, raffles and more starting at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at The Stable Life Barn in Ave Maria. Proceeds benefit the Donahue Catholic Academy. \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door. [Facebook.com/barndanceyeehaw](http://Facebook.com/barndanceyeehaw).

**Holiday Gala** — The Bach Ensemble performs its gala Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Community

Congregational Church, 15300 Tamiami Trail N., and at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Grace Lutheran Church, 860 Banyan Blvd. \$25 general admission, \$10 students. 732-1055 or [thebachensemble.org](http://thebachensemble.org).

**Concert in the Park** — The Gulf Coast Big Band performs a free concert from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, in the bandshell at Cambier Park. [Gulfcoastbigband.com](http://Gulfcoastbigband.com).

**More Music** — The Bonita Springs Concert Band performs a free concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Riverside Park. 405-3320 or [bonitaspringsconcertband.com](http://bonitaspringsconcertband.com).

**Jewish Film** — Jewish Congregation of Marco Island hosts a screening on "The Jewish Cardinal" (2014) at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. \$25. 991 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island. 642-0800 or [marcojcmi.com](http://marcojcmi.com).

**Lights in the Garden** — Enjoy family activities, musical performances and Christmas lights at Naples Botanical Garden from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 17-23. Regular Garden admission applies. 643-7275 or [naplesgarden.org](http://naplesgarden.org).

**Abacadabra** — The Marco Island Historical Society presents magician Craig Diamond and his "Off the Wall Magic Show!" at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. \$25. 180 S. Heathwood Drive. Purchase tickets at the museum gift shop or call (800) 838-3006.

**Choral Christmas** — Trinity-by-the-Cove's choir performs Christmas favorites at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. Free. 553 Galleon Drive. 262-6581 or [trinitybythecove.com](http://trinitybythecove.com).

**Santa's Sleigh** — Players have a chance to win a 2016 Infinity Q60 convertible at Immokalee Seminole Indian Casino on Dec. 25. Drawings are from 5:30-8:30 p.m. for 11 finalists who will win \$5,000 to \$10,000 in free play. One will win the car. 506 First St., Immokalee. (800) 218-0007 or [seminoleimmokaleeindiancasino.com](http://seminoleimmokaleeindiancasino.com).

**By the Light of the Moon** — Naples Historical Society hosts a full moon tour of Palm Cottage and The Norris Gardens starting at 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5. \$10. 137 12th Ave. S. 261-8164 or [napleshistoricalsociety.org](http://napleshistoricalsociety.org). ■

— *Email calendar listings and high-resolution photos to Lindsey Nesmith at [lnesmith@floridaweekly.com](mailto:lnesmith@floridaweekly.com). Please send Word or text documents and jpgs. No pdfs or photos of fliers. Deadline for calendar submissions is noon Monday.*

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## ARTS COMMENTARY

## Naples Players do the 'Hokey-Hokey' for the holidays



Hokey, hokey, hokey!

"The Spitfire Grill," playing at the Sugden Community Theatre through Dec. 6, serves up a great big helping of hokey, with hokey on the side, and a cuppa hokey to help wash it all down.

If you think Hallmark specials just aren't sweet enough, well, this is the holiday musical for you.

If not, you might find it a little too sappy and cloying.

The musical revolves around the Spitfire Grill, the lone cafe/restaurant in the small town of Gilead, Wis.

Percy (Alyssa Lee) shows up in town and winds up staying with and working for Hannah (Ellen Cooper), the crotchety older woman who owns the cafe. Percy's been in prison for five years and just been released; though they've never met her before, her very appearance scandalizes the apparently xenophobic townspeople.

If you've ever seen one of these kind of shows, you know how it goes, of course: This stranger shakes everything up and helps set everything right, including mending every shattered relationship in town. She even softens up Hannah.

Hannah has been trying to sell the cafe for at least 10 years; Percy and fellow waitress Shelby (Laura Needle) come up with the idea of raffling it off. Participants have to pay \$100 and write an essay about why they want to take over the Spitfire Grill.

What happens is no surprise; I could guess the ending even before intermission. (And that is more a commentary on the musical's uncreative book, rather than my guessing prowess.)

The script is insipid and predictable, the characters stereotypes. The dialogue is clunky, though sometimes it's set to music. Sometimes the actors will stop singing and speak a line or two, then break into song again. (Fred Alley was responsible for both book and lyrics.)

Except for a few "hells" and "damns," this show is so preachy and obvious, it seems like something a church group would put on. (With a bit of research I learned it had its start as movie in 1966 and was conceived by Roger M. Courts, director and CEO of Sacred Heart League Inc.)



Ellen Cooper as Hannah Ferguson, Alyssa Lee as Percy Talbott and Laura Needle as Shelby Thorpe get excited as the entries come pouring in for their contest to win the Spitfire Grill.

The musical tries so hard to put across a message that it forgets all about depth or reality.

The actors, whom I admire, are much better than this hokey show.

The Naples production comes alive when Ms. Needle as Shelby steps on stage. Though initially she's a browbeaten, timid wife, her song with Percy, "The Colors of Paradise," is the first genuine moment in the show. Somehow, Ms. Needle manages to rise above her stereotype of a role and bring us someone authentic.

Dave Gipson plays her Neanderthal of a husband; not only is he domineer-

ing and insecure, but he seems to think his wife exists only to cook and clean for him. He doesn't want her to work or have a life of her own. He not only mistreats her, but at one point raises his hand to her.

Ms. Lee, who plays Percy, has a great voice, as does James Badger, the town's sheriff.

But Ms. Cooper, always a favorite, is puzzling. Though they've put a gray wig on her, she seems much too young for the role of Hannah. Maybe my calculations are off, but I think she's supposed to be in her 50s or early 60s, yet her character is written as if she's feeble and

already has one foot in the grave.

I would have loved to see her be much more acerbic. She just seems to have been Disneyfied in this musical.

I'm not sure why The Naples Players chose to put on this musical in the first place. Perhaps they felt it would appeal to the largest number of potential audience members who don't require much from a show.

Despite wanting desperately to like it, I felt antsy the whole time I was watching it. It made me empathetic for theater-hating husbands whose wives drag them to a show.

I wish director/choreographer Dawn Lebrecht Fornara had had the actors dig down deeper into the characters and rise above the uninspired writing.

There are some wonderful things about this production, though.

Scenic Designer Jason Sherwood has created a creative, spacious two-leveled structure. (He was responsible for the great sets for "Rabbit Hole" and "Good People," among others, previously at the Sugden.)

And the music, written by James Valcq and led by musical director/conductor Charles Fornara, is incredible. I could have sat for the entire evening just listening to the score. With touches of Celtic, folk and country, it's played by Eddy Leyva on violin, Christopher Glandsdorp on cello, Joan Dilkey on accordion, Tom Weaver on guitar and mandolin and Mr. Fornara on piano.

The music, all on its own, is breathtaking. And this small acoustic orchestra is outstanding.

If only everything about this show were equally as creative.

"The Spitfire Grill" has all the subtlety of an anvil being dropped on your head. (Even Craig Walck's lighting at the end of the show — red and green lights — was too blatant.)

If Hallmark specials on steroids are just your thing, then you will love this show.

Although I adored the band, "The Spitfire Grill" left me hungry for something tastier and much more substantial. ■

in the know

'The Spitfire Grill'

- >> Who: The Naples Players
- >> When: Through Dec. 6
- >> Where: The Sugden Community Theatre, Naples
- >> Cost: \$40
- >> Info: 263-7990 or naplesplayers.org

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# PUZZLE ANSWERS



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

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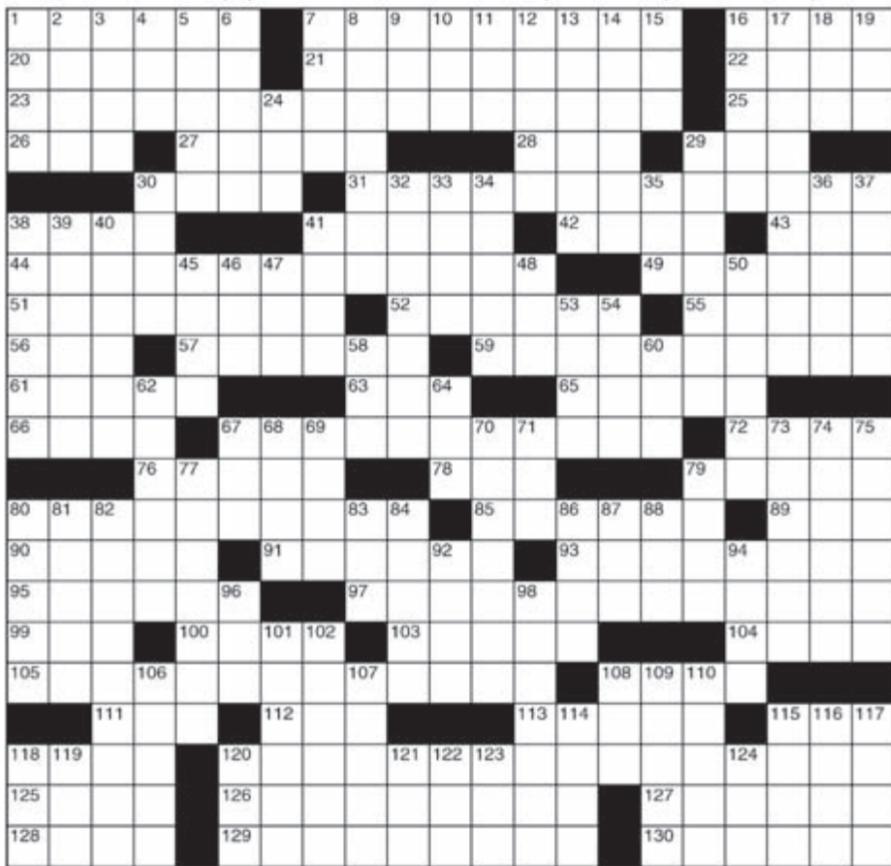
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  - 7 "Fame" singer
  - 16 Wood-trimming tool
  - 20 Ice-block houses
  - 21 Bottom-line costs
  - 22 Taunt in fun
  - 23 Talks Texas-style while trapped by some rubble?
  - 25 Era-spanning story
  - 26 Legislator in D.C.
  - 27 Crowded
  - 28 — Magnon man
  - 29 Part of rpm
  - 30 "As — often the case ..."
  - 31 Things enjoyed at a beer-selling gallery?
  - 38 — charge (gratis)
  - 41 Become swollen
  - 42 Dried out
  - 43 "Quiet down!"
  - 44 What major flooding may do to an Australian state?
  - 49 Hammy actor
  - 51 Item swiped for credit
  - 52 Sums of cash
  - 55 "There is Nothin' Like —" ("South Pacific" song)
  - 56 Suffix with fool or ghoul
  - 57 A law unto —
  - 59 Order Barrymore to stay in?
  - 61 Game with pawns
  - 63 Baby tiger
  - 65 "— Gold" (Peter Fonda film)
  - 66 SSE part
  - 67 Dull color worn by violinists?
  - 72 Gem with a play of colors
  - 76 John Hersey's "A Bell for —"
  - 78 Prefix with physics
  - 79 Take potshots (at)
  - 80 Papas who love pekee?
  - 85 Riches
  - 89 Elite retreat
  - 90 Second part of a play
  - 91 Not live, as a TV show
  - 93 Shark to watch out for
  - 95 Team esteem
  - 97 Gorgeous resident of Rome?
  - 99 Brian of Roxy Music
  - 100 Nest eggs for srs.
  - 103 A levee rival
  - 104 Cure- — (panaceas)
  - 105 Dog trained to load ships?
  - 108 "The Man" Musial
  - 111 Seat winners
  - 112 Sorority letters
  - 113 Hideaways
  - 115 Hedge shrub
  - 118 Conical-bore instrument
  - 120 Boy shopping for foppish clothes?
  - 125 Loathsome
  - 126 Very big dog
  - 127 Broadway's "Miss —"
  - 128 See 117-Down
  - 129 "The Divine Sarah" of stage and screen
  - 130 Data-entry person
  - 136 Main topic
  - 137 Mole's kin
  - 138 Counsel
  - 139 Singer
  - 140 Quick bites
  - 141 F preceders
  - 145 CBS military drama
  - 146 Large tank
  - 147 CPA hirer
  - 148 Ireland's —
  - 150 Like a heavy favorite
  - 153 In- — face
  - 154 Toni Morrison bestseller
  - 158 PC monitor type
  - 160 la. neighbor
  - 162 Arenas
  - 164 Plead
  - 167 Rage
  - 168 — Aryan
  - 169 Bring to ruin
  - 170 Braid anew
  - 171 Fawn nurse
  - 173 Flower part
  - 174 Plea
  - 175 Finds out
  - 177 Many newspapers
  - 179 Mets' old ballpark
  - 180 Housebroke
  - 181 — Lodge
  - 182 Appalling
  - 183 Takeoff abbr.
  - 184 Kitchen wrap
  - 186 — nitrite (angina treatment)
  - 187 Chou En- —
  - 188 Blast stuff
  - 192 Mani- —
  - 194 Actor Arkin
  - 196 Make a gaffe
  - 198 "The Lost Weekend" co-star Ray
  - 101 Hope (to)
  - 102 Silk spinner
  - 106 Genueflected
  - 107 Chinese, e.g.
  - 108 Punker
  - 109 Amorous rendezvous
  - 110 Test, as ore
  - 114 Work without —
  - 115 Berra of baseball
  - 116 Valentine's Day god
  - 117 With 128-Across, sped
  - 118 A bit askew
  - 119 Furry scarf
  - 120 Soviet Union spy org.
  - 121 Ultimate degree
  - 122 Toothpaste tube letters
  - 123 — es Salaam
  - 124 Helpful lead
- DOWN**
- 1 Pan toppers
  - 2 Real meanie
  - 3 — Bator
  - 4 At once
  - 5 Top medals
  - 6 Twisty paths
  - 7 Little hotels
  - 8 Gave out new hands
  - 9 Summer, in Toulon
  - 10 "On the Media" airer
  - 11 Time of note
  - 12 About, in dates
  - 13 Squirrel food
  - 14 Modify, as a program
  - 15 Set a price of
  - 16 Totally lost
  - 17 Proxima Centauri, e.g.
  - 18 — and zag
  - 19 Sorority letter
  - 24 Game using a large deck
  - 29 Fabricated in advance
  - 30 Ames' home
  - 32 Wall-to-wall people, e.g.
  - 33 Poi base
  - 34 Jellyfish woe
  - 35 Rapping "Dr."
  - 36 Main topic

## HOROSCOPES

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** Cheer up. That unusual circumstance that might faze most people can be handled pretty well by the savvy Sagittarian. Look at it as an opportunity rather than an obstacle.

**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** Someone you believe has hurt you in the past might now need your help. Reaching out could be difficult. But the generous Goat will be able to do the right thing, as always.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** Prioritizing is an important part of your pre-holiday scheduling. Try to give time both to your workday responsibilities and those personal matters you might have neglected.

**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** With the vestiges of your anger about that painful incident fading, you can now focus all your energy on the more positive aspects of your life, including that personal situation.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** That change in holiday travel plans might be more vexing than you'd expected. But try to take it in stride. Also, it couldn't hurt to use that Aries charm to coax out some helpful cooperation.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** Your Bovine determination helps you deal with an unforeseen complication. And, as usual, you prove that when it comes to a challenge, you have what it takes to take it on.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** Although a romantic theme dominates much of the

week, all those warm and fuzzy feelings don't interfere with the more pragmatic matters you need to take care of.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Best not to ignore those doubts about an upcoming decision. Instead, recheck the facts you were given to make sure nothing important was left out. A weekend surprise awaits you.

**LEO (July 23 to August 22)** No time for a catnap -- yet. You might still have to straighten out one or two factors so that you can finally assure yourself of the truth about a troubling workplace situation. Stay with it.

**VIRGO (August 23 September 22)** News from an old friend could lead to an unexpected (but nonetheless welcome) reunion with someone who had once been very special in your life. Be open to the possibilities.

**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** It might be time for a family council. The sooner those problems are resolved, the sooner you can move ahead with your holiday preparations. Don't let the opportunity pass you by.

**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** Take some time out to give more attention to a personal relationship that seems to be suffering from a sense of emotional neglect. Provide that much-needed reassurance.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a way of bringing your own strong sense of reassurance to others and encouraging them to hope. ■

By Linda Thistle

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

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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, C11

◀ SEE ANSWERS, C11

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# CONTRACT BRIDGE

## Famous hand

BY STEVE BECKER

The 2002 Cavendish Pairs — perhaps the most prestigious pairs tournament in the world — was won in Las Vegas by Robert Levin and Steve Weinstein, who also won in 1999.

The Cavendish — so-called because it originated at New York's now-defunct club of the same name — is unusual in that it offers substantial cash prizes. The contest is preceded by a Calcutta, an auction in which interested parties can purchase a pair for a minimum bid of at least \$10,000. The 2002 pool totaled \$1,070,500, with the winner's share coming to about \$240,000, and Levin-Weinstein earning about \$33,000 each.

This deal contributed substantially to their victory. After a highly competitive auction, Levin, South, wound up in four spades doubled. West led the queen of clubs and continued a club to East's king. East shifted to a low diamond, West taking Levin's queen with the ace and returning a diamond, ruffed by declarer. Levin then led a trump toward dummy.

So far, West had turned up with the ace of diamonds and queen of clubs, and judging from the lead, probably also the jack of clubs. Given the relatively few high cards missing, Levin did not think East could have bid as he did — including the final double of four spades — without the king of spades. He also did not think West could have that card and bid as he did.

East dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♠ A Q J 5  
♥ A K 8 7  
♦ 9 4 2  
♣ 10 4

**WEST**

♠ 9 8 2  
♥ 9 6 3  
♦ A J 8 7  
♣ Q J 8

**EAST**

♠ K  
♥ 10 5  
♦ K 10 6 5 3  
♣ A K 7 6 5

**SOUTH**

♠ 10 7 6 4 3  
♥ Q J 4 2  
♦ Q  
♣ 9 3 2

The bidding:

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

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Demonstrating the courage of his convictions, Levin put up dummy's ace of spades, dropped East's king and so made his doubled game for a huge 316-IMP across-the-field gain. Since the pair's winning margin was 231 IMPs, Levin's critical guess in effect determined the outcome of the tournament. ■



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# FILM CAPSULES

## The Theory of Everything

★★★★1/2

(Eddie Redmayne, Felicity Jones, Emily Watson) Astrophysicist Stephen Hawking (Mr. Redmayne) meets and marries Jane (Ms. Jones) while they're students at Cambridge. The catch is he has a motor neuron disease that doesn't affect his brain but does deprive him of muscle control, leaving him a prisoner in his own body. A genuinely heartwarming story and phenomenal performance from Mr. Redmayne make this a surefire Oscar contender. Rated PG-13.

## Horrible Bosses 2

★★★★ (Jason Bateman, Charlie Day, Jason Sudeikis) After a father-son business duo (Mhristoph Waltz and Chris Pine) backs out on a business deal with Nick (Mr. Bateman), Dale (Mr. Day) and Kurt (Mr. Sudeikis), the trio attempts to kidnap the son and hold him for ransom. It's sillier than and lacks the appeal of the original, but damn, is it funny. Rated R.

## Big Hero 6

★★★★ (Voices of T.J. Miller, James Cromwell, Ryan Potter) Robotic engineering prodigy Hiro (Mr. Potter) needs the help of friends with superpowers to track down the villain who stole his creation. The animation is bright and crisp in 3D, the action rollicks and there's a good amount of humor throughout. Disney Animation ("Frozen") does it again. Rated PG.

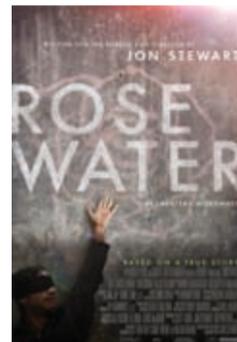
## Birdman

★★★★ (Michael Keaton, Edward Norton, Naomi Watts) Chaos ensues as an actor (Mr. Keaton) who once played a super-

hero tries to "go serious" by staging an adaptation of a Raymond Carver short story. The performances are strong, and the artistic approach to appear as if the film is all one shot is a bold move by director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu ("Babel"). Still, it doesn't necessarily percolate and come together in all the right ways. Rated R.

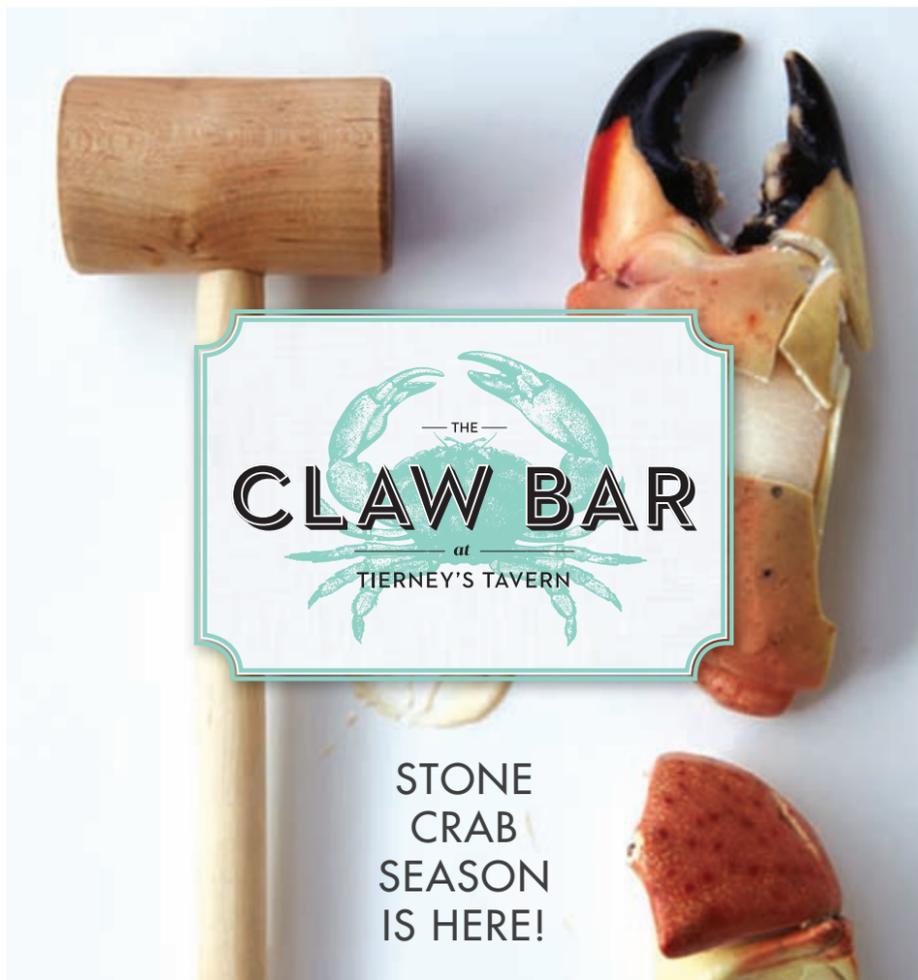
## Rosewater

★★★★1/2 (Gael Garcia Bernal, Shohreh Aghdashloo, Claire Foy) In Iran, journalist Maziar Bahari (Mr. Bernal) is arrested and tortured for 118 days after he's accused of being a spy. Writer/director Jon Stewart ("The Daily Show") gets a solid performance from Mr. Bernal, but the film doesn't have an engaging visual style and therefore is dull at times. Unrated: Would be an R for language, not graphic torture.



## Fury

★★★★1/2 (Brad Pitt, Logan Lerman, Jon Bernthal) As WWII draws to a close, the five members of a U.S. tank unit (Mr. Pitt, Mr. Lerman, Mr. Bernthal, Michael Pena, Shia LaBeouf) fight for survival and their humanity. The action is fierce, but the human element often glossed over in war movies is startlingly omnipresent to great effect. Rated R. ■



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## LATEST FILMS

# 'The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1'

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### Is it worth \$10? No

It is an insult — an appalling, avaricious insult — to ask moviegoers to pay hard-earned money and give them nothing in return. So little happens in "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1" that it should be skipped altogether without a second thought. This movie is deplorable. I hated every second of it.

This is not the first time a mega-franchise has split the final installment of its finale into two parts, and it will not be the last (the third "Avengers" movie will do the same). But this strategy didn't work for "Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part One" or for "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part One," so there's little reason to think it would work here. And it doesn't. Oh, boy, it doesn't.

We already know there's no ending. "Part 2" doesn't open until November 2015. Fine. What was it, then, about Suzanne Collins' "Mockingjay" book (the third and final entry of "The Hunger Games" trilogy) that made Lionsgate believe it had two good movies at hand? It certainly isn't the story. The slowest part of Collins' trilogy is the first half of "Mockingjay," and true to form, almost nothing of consequence occurs in director Francis Lawrence's film.

Here's everything in a snapshot: Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) doesn't want to lead the rebellion against President Snow (a slithery Donald Sutherland). She strikes a deal with rebel leaders Alma Coin (Julianne Moore) and Plutarch Heavensbee (Philip Seymour Hoffman): In exchange for rescuing captured Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) from the Capitol, Katniss will be their Mockingjay rebel leader figurehead.

And that's it. That's all that happens. And if you didn't already know that was going to happen based on how the last film, "Catching Fire," ended, you've clearly never been to the movies.

The action is nominal and uninspired. There are naturally fewer pyrotechnics without the glitz of the Hunger Games arena, but that's no excuse for the supposedly up-tempo sequences to play so stale. Francis Lawrence, writers Danny Strong

and Peter Craig, and costume designers Kurt and Bart (really, that's how they're credited), who have the ensemble in the most unflattering green jumpsuits you can imagine, are all to blame for the movie's unconscionable dullness.

Lionsgate's true motivating factor in splitting "Mockingjay," of course, is money. If you can get people to pay twice for a single product, the decision makes sense from a business perspective. But from a fan's perspective, it ruins the story. They're splitting something into two parts that isn't meant for two parts, and in the process dragging out scenes and writing new ones for characters who are barely in the book (with all due respect to Elizabeth Banks, get Effie the hell off the screen).



Everything that happens over 123 minutes could've been accomplished in a little more than a half hour if Lionsgate had done things the right way. Instead, we get Katniss still reluctant to be the Mockingjay, still unsure of her feelings for Gale (Liam Hemsworth), still in love with Peeta and still tormented by President Snow. If this sounds familiar, it's because it is essentially where "Catching Fire" left off, and so little progress forward is made that Francis Lawrence's movie could not be a bigger waste of time.

So here's what you do: It's the holidays. Take the \$10 you were going to spend to see this and give it to charity. I guarantee you'll feel better about giving to a good cause than you will if you waste money on the disappointment of this dreck. What's more, not giving money to the theater will send a loud and clear message to Hollywood that this greedy practice of splitting movies into two parts must end, and it must end now.

A final, apropos note: Early in "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1," Katniss journeys to District 12 and collects things from her old home. About an hour later, she returns and collects more things, for no better reason than that which prompted her first trip. In other words, a full hour goes by and nothing changes or happens. If that isn't reflective of the entire film, nothing is. ■

### in the know

>> **Philip Seymour Hoffman** died in February 2014 with roughly a week's worth of filming remaining on his schedule. His performance was finished with rewrites (his character's scenes/lines were given to someone else) and visual effects.



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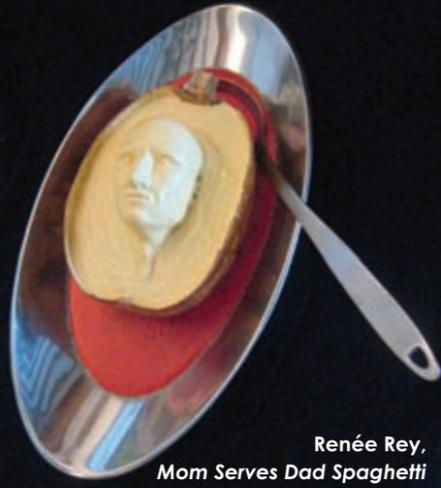
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# Young Artists Awards to grant 44 student scholarships this year

The Young Artists Awards, a performing arts audition, performance, education and scholarship program for area students, is entering its 12th year of programming.

Registration is open for students ages 8-21 throughout Southwest Florida to audition in the performing arts. Forty-four cash scholarships and other prizes will be awarded this year. All genres of music, acting, dance and vocal performance are encouraged.

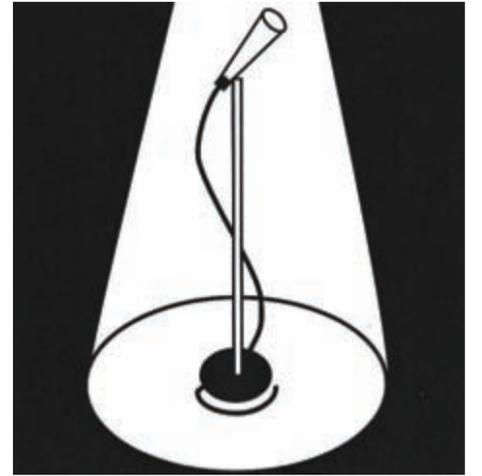
To accommodate the number of students who would like to participate in the program, the organization has expanded auditions to four full days. Students will perform before panels of professional adjudicators. More than 50 judges from throughout the nation participated last year. Students will receive scoring sheets and written comments from all members of the judging panel.

Twenty-two finalists will be chosen to perform individually and in a coached group number at the 12th annual Young Artists Awards gala March 16 at the Broadway Palm Theatre in Fort Myers. The new Audience Choice award will be voted on that evening.

In addition, all participating students will be given the opportunity to perform at various community events.

Students can audition in multiple categories. Auditions will be held on the campus of the Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 17-18 and 24-25 in the following categories.

- Classical voice: ages 13-16; ages 17-21
- Contemporary voice and/or musical theater: ages 8-12; ages 13-16; ages 17-21



- Instrumental music: ages 13-16; ages 17-21
- Drama: ages 13-16; ages 17-21
- Dance: ages 8-14; ages 15-21

A student can register for two auditions in the instrumental music category if he or she plays more than one instrument. A student can also register to tryout in both contemporary voice and or musical theater if he or she would like to perform a contemporary piece and a musical theater piece.

For a guaranteed audition slot(s), registrations must be postmarked by Dec. 15. A limited number of late registrations will be accepted on a space-available basis only if postmarked by Dec. 31.

Audition fee registration waivers are available.

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## Sand-sculpting championship continues on Fort Myers Beach

The 28th annual American Sand-Sculpting Championships presented by the Seminole Casino Immokalee continues through Sunday, Nov. 30, on Fort Myers Beach. It's the biggest sand-sculpting event in the state, with more than 40 sculptures made from more than 1,000 tons of sand.

Contestants construct their sculptures in an area on the beach alongside a tent with live entertainment. Food vendors and arts and crafts booths are set up nearby.

This year's competitors come from nine different countries and 10 states. Collectively they hold more than 300 competition trophies, and many of them

are world champions. Sixteen Solo Master sculptors, five Doubles Master teams and 11 Advanced Amateurs are vying for the the 2014 Florida State Championship.

The event is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Free parking is at Lovers Key State Park, with a free shuttle to the event. Interactive activities for guests include:

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■ **Kids zone** - An area where kids

can try their hand at building their own sand sculptures.

■ **Flying Colors** - On Saturday, Nov. 29, Flying Colors artist John Gowdy will be at work. On a blank, spinning canvas, he creates a portrait of a famous person or object, timed to music, in less than 10 minutes.

■ **Sand sculpting demonstrations and lessons** - Ongoing throughout the event.

Admission is \$5 (free for ages 4 and younger), or \$12 for a three-day pass. For more information, visit [FMBSandSculpting.com](http://FMBSandSculpting.com). ■



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PEACE.

## John Tesh brings big band Christmas show to The Ritz

Grammy-winning composer, Grammy-nominated musician and nationally syndicated television and radio host John Tesh returns to the stage this holiday season for "John Tesh: Big Band Christmas." The tour stops at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort on Friday evening, Dec. 12.

Mr. Tesh will perform his signature piano and vocals along with an 11-piece rhythm and horn section. The two-hour program includes holiday classics such as "Sleigh Ride," "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and "Let it Snow," as well as solo piano versions of "What Child is This?" "Jingle Bells" and more. The evening provides a glimpse into how Mr. Tesh has sold 7.2 million records and still plays to more than 200,000 live concert fans each year.

In addition to his Christmas tour dates, Mr. Tesh, his wife Connie Sellecca and son Gib Gerard have launched their new nationally syndicated television show, "Intelligence for Your Life." Airing daily on 130 stations, it's described as "shareable intel that can improve every part of your life." It serves as the televised extension of Mr. Tesh's "Intelligence for Your Life" and his wife's "Intelligence for Your Health," nationally syndicated radio programs that have reached 8.2 million listeners each week for the past 12 years.

Since his early days as a composer and announcer for the Olympic Games and co-hosting the hit television show "Entertainment Tonight," Mr. Tesh has branched out to become a successful recording and touring artist, a best-sell-



ing author, a humanitarian and the host of the largest independently syndicated radio show in North America (and now television show). As a recording artist, he has sold more than 7 million albums and DVDs, has had a string of No. 1 radio hits, earned two Grammy nominations,

produced seven hit PBS music specials and continues to perform 25-30 North American tour dates each year.

For tickets or more information about "John Tesh: Big Band Christmas" at The Ritz-Carlton on Dec. 12, visit [teshmusic.com](http://teshmusic.com). ■

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## FLORIDA WRITERS

## Insider view deepens legal thriller's insights

philJASON

pkjason@comcast.net



■ **"Blame" by Linda Rocker.** Wheatmark. 286 pages. Trade paperback, \$14.95.

Linda Rocker's new novel follows "Punishment" (2012) and precedes "Innocence," which will conclude her trilogy. This simply named novel is also well named. One thing readers learn from the book is that many are blamed but few are guilty. The rush to blame a person or persons for an unpleasant occurrence comes more out of emotional need than from any reasonable assessment of motive and evidence.



ROCKER

When Jeffrey Klausner takes his own life shortly before his wedding day, the young man is not allowed to be thought accountable for his actions. Something or someone must have driven him to this desperate end.

Should we blame the girlfriend who exhibited hesitation about marrying a drug addict? The doctor who might have overprescribed medication for pain? The parents who failed to take his

problems seriously?

The actors in the legal system will frame the issue so a verdict allows for the transition from blame to guilt, both a moral and a societal label.

From her many years of trial experience as a litigator and judge, the author allows us a close-up examination of the system, including the strengths and frailties of those charged with making it work.

A trial is many different things to the many people involved.

To prosecutor and State Attorney Charlie Graham, it's the step to public adoration that will win him a judgeship, perhaps the one held by Janet Kanterman, whom he will try to discredit through his manipulation of the case brought against the pain specialist, Dr. Neil Hammer.

To Mrs. Klausner, the young suicide victim's mother and the driving force behind this case, it's about blame and revenge. The narrator interprets her need as the result of buried guilt over her poor parenting.

Inside of the courtroom drama, which focuses in part on the overreaching of Charlie Graham, are several other story lines. One of these follows the romance between Casey Portman, Judge Kan-

terman's bailiff, and the much older but thoroughly attractive Sheriff Luke Anderson. Missed signals in communication and expectation have led to a major rupture in their relationship. Casey is angry and despondent, and

things get much worse when she is attacked — raped and severely beaten — by a mob hit man who was just after his twisted kind of fun. The man was actually in the courthouse following a totally separate case from that of the pain doctor trial.

That other case involves the vulnerability of Pleasure Jones, who runs an "escort service" that crosses the legal line in several ways. Pleasure is an amazing minor character — a tall, gorgeous black woman who is smart and seemingly confident. Her illegal business allows law enforcement sufficient leverage to force her testimony at a criminal case about human trafficking being tried in New York.

Also radiating out from Jeffrey Klausner's death is Ms. Rocker's exploration of the Nussbaum family, who lost a son-in-law but act as if they only lost a chance to throw a glamorous party. Lovey Nussbaum is the epitome of self-aggrandizement and shallow values. She sends her daughter Marcy out of town

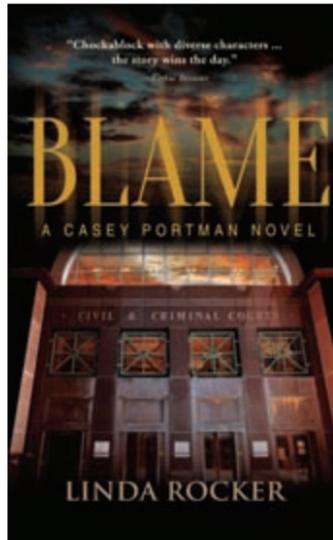
to avoid scrutiny and scandal — Marcy who turns out to be pregnant. Now, of course, the fight is on between the Klausers and the Nussbaums over control of the grandchild.

It should be clear by now that in "Blame," one thing leads to another and then another. Litigation is the vehicle for resolution, but it is also the vehicle for power and an arena for various kinds of corruption and shady, if legal, dealings. The courthouse is its home, and no one handles the ugly side of what transpires there better than Linda Rocker.

Shifting back and forth among different perspectives and story threads is a standard plot-building technique. However, perhaps because most chapters are very short, the transitions seem a bit choppy and disorienting.

The large cast of major and minor characters lessens our sense of Casey Portman's centrality, even though "Blame" is billed as a Casey Portman Novel. However, the range of colorful personality types, with their various quirks, appetites and talents, makes for a most engaging reading experience. Floridians will enjoy the well-handled Palm Beach County setting, particularly the courthouse neighborhood. This highly entertaining legal thriller has a lot to offer. ■

— 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.

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# BEACH READING

## 'Martin Scorsese: A Retrospective'

By Tom Shone  
(Abrams, \$40)

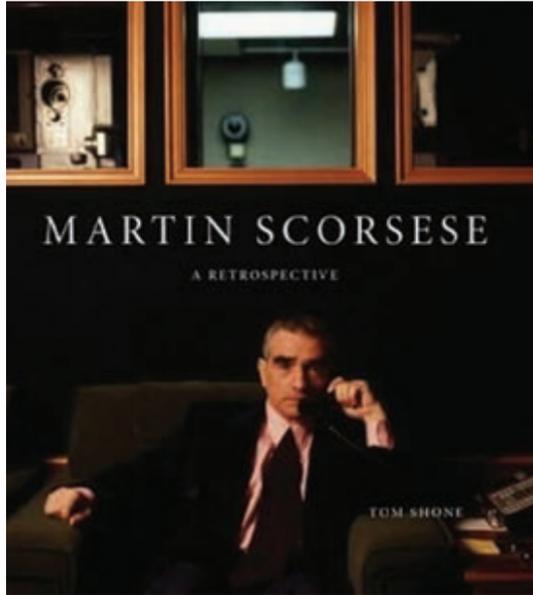
REVIEWED BY LARRY COX

Martin Scorsese made his first film in 1963 while still a student at New York University's film school, but it was "Mean Streets" a decade later that brought him international attention.

Mr. Scorsese's 50-year career in filmmaking includes such movies as "Raging Bull," "The King of Comedy," "The Color of Money" and, of course, the controversial 1976 classic "Taxi Driver." Not only have his films established him as an important director, his work also created stars such as Robert De Niro.

Tom Shone, film critic of the Economist's Intelligent Life magazine and a frequent contributor to *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*, has compiled a remarkable book about Scorsese and his work. Featuring more than 250 images, including movie stills, archive publicity material and on-set photography, this stunning monograph is the next best thing to actually viewing a Scorsese film.

Born in New York City in 1942, Mr. Scorsese spent much of his childhood absorbing the sights and sounds of Little Italy from the balcony of his family's tenement apartment. This is, perhaps, why his films, especially those set in New York City, have such authenticity. Because of childhood asthma, Mr.



Scorsese spent much of his early years watching movies. In fact, he became so caught up in movies and movie making that he began constructing storyboards. When he was accepted at New York University's film school, he learned his craft and became not just good, but great.

Tom Shone draws on his in-depth knowledge and unique viewpoint to present new takes on all 23 of Scorsese's main features. As Mr. Scorsese once said, "My whole life has been movies and religion. That's it. Nothing else."

This lavish book is a fitting tribute to one of cinema's most enduring talents. ■

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The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG13)	11:15a, 2:00p, 4:45p, 7:30p, 10:15p
Interstellar (PG13)	11:30a, 3:00p, 7:00p
Penguins of Madagascar (PG)	12:00p, 2:30p, 4:45p, 7:00p, 9:15p
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# KOZ

From page 1

Artis—Naples.

Mr. Koz indeed had big names joining him on the album — vocalists Johnny Mathis, Stevie Wonder, Gloria Estefan, Richard Marx and India.Arie, among them.

Together they came up with something Mr. Koz had never done before: a vocal-oriented album.

"I like new challenges," he said. "And I don't ever like to repeat ... So I had never made a Christmas duets album. And over the years I've been able to make some really special friendships, so I called upon those friendships to create this album."

The enthusiasm Mr. Koz shows in discussing "The 25th of December" makes it clear that this was one of his more satisfying projects.

Of course, his career is filled with far more successes than setbacks.

After debuting on Capitol Records in 1990 with a self-titled album, Mr. Koz quickly rose to the front ranks of the smooth jazz scene with a largely instrumental sound that combined a strong element of pop melodicism with jazz and R&B.

His 1993 "Lucky Man" and 1999 "The Dance" each stayed on the Billboard chart for more than 100 weeks, with the latter topping 500,000 in sales — a huge number within the jazz field. His second decade included such hits as "Saxophonic," which featured two hit singles ("Honey-Dipped" and "All I See Is You") in 2003 and "Hello Tomorrow," a chart-topping album that added two No. 1 jazz singles to his catalog ("Put the Top Down" and "Anything's

Possible").

Now comes "The 25th December," which quickly topped the Billboard chart for contemporary jazz albums upon its release.

The big-event song on the album has to be the cover of the Beatles' "All You Need Is Love." The first single from the album, it started as a showpiece for Stevie Wonder.

"It's like this is the guy who is the walking epitome in this world of love, to me," Mr. Koz said of Mr. Wonder. "To hear him do that, it was like, honestly I had to punch myself. I watched it happen and I just couldn't believe what I was seeing."

"He came to the studio with such passion to create something very special. He wasn't just phoning it in. He went over and over and over it ...

"And of course, the first thing that he did, which is what we used, was perfect."

Mr. Wonder is still a primary voice, but "All You Need Is Love" evolved into a song where most of the other singers on the album also contributed vocals.

It's likely that "All You Need Is Love" will be part of the enore each night on this year's "Dave Koz & Friends: A Smooth Jazz Christmas" tour (see box). ■

in the know

**'Dave Koz & Friends: A Smooth Jazz Christmas'**

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>> **Where:** Artis—Naples

>> **Tickets:** \$59-\$89

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## Crumpet the Elf to take his final bow in Florida Rep's 'The Santaland Diaries'

Florida Repertory Theatre will present David Sedaris' thorny holiday comedy, "The Santaland Diaries," for the last time in its ArtStage Studio Theatre.

Back for a sixth season of yuletide mischief, this December marks the end of a tradition in Southwest Florida, as Jason Parrish retires his tights and takes a final bow as the lovably snarky elf, Crumpet. "The Santaland Diaries" plays Dec. 17-28.

"It's a bittersweet announcement to make because the production is so near and dear to all of our hearts," said Producing Artistic Director Robert Cacioppo. "Santaland was the first play we ever produced in our second space in December of 2009 — paving the way for the theater's renovation in the fall of 2012. It's been a joy watching the production delight audiences over the past five years, but it's time to try something new at the holidays. Of course, I'm sad to see Crumpet go, but excited to see what the future will hold."

Written by bestselling humorist and NPR and New Yorker contributor David Sedaris, "The Santaland Diaries" is a hilariously funny and biting honest portrait of the Christmas season that Mr. Sedaris spent working as an Elf at New York City's iconic Macy's Herald Square. Adapted for the stage by Tony-winning actor and director Joe Mantello, the play takes audiences on a sometimes subversive and sometimes touching journey from the interview process to the last crazed shopping days



before Christmas.

Florida Rep's Associate Artistic Director and ensemble member Chris Clavelli directs the production for a fifth year after recently helping Florida Rep's critically acclaimed production of "Tribes" this fall. Mr. Clavelli's work as both an actor and a director with Florida Rep includes more than 30 productions and goes back to 2002.

All seats are \$25. Students with ID are \$10. Tickets are available online at FloridaRep.org and through the box office at 332-4488.

"The Santaland Diaries" contains adult language and is for mature elves only.

Florida Repertory Theatre is located on Bay Street between Jackson and Hendry streets with free parking in the downtown Fort Myers River District. ■

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## Second annual Naples Jewish Film Festival set

Subscription packages and sponsorship opportunities are available now for the second annual Naples Jewish Film Festival.

Following its sold-out inaugural season, the 2015 festival, "A Journey of Jewish Experience," takes place on four Wednesday evenings in March at The Norris Center.

There are only 200 seats available for each screening. Subscriptions are \$100 for the four films; single tickets will become available on Feb. 1 for \$25 each.

The selections for 2015 represent a wide range of subjects, styles and moods. Here's the lineup:

■ **March 2: "Above and Beyond"** – In 1948, a group of WWII pilots volunteered to fight for Israel in the War of Independence. The members of "Machal" — volunteers from abroad — not only turned the tide of the war, they also laid the groundwork for the Israeli Air Force.

This gripping documentary produced



by Nancy Spielberg, younger sister to Steven Spielberg, has been sold out at film festivals since its first showing in Jerusalem.

■ **March 16: "God's Slave"** – Trained since childhood as an Islamic terrorist, Ahmed now must suicide-bomb a Bue-



nos Aires synagogue. The investigation by an Israeli special agent determined to prevent the attack leads to unexpected and violent consequences. Winner of the Nueva Vision Award for the best Spanish/Latin American film at the 2014 Santa Barbara International Film Festival, this film is based on actual events.

■ **March 23: "Belle & Sebastian"** – In the French Alps during WWII, lonely Sebastian befriends "the beast" the local



farmers think is killing their sheep — an enormous yet gentle sheepdog. With Nazis rooting out resistance fighters, Belle and Sebastian's loyalties are put to the test. This film won the 2014 Youth

Jury Award Prize for Best Films4Families and the Grand Jury Prize at the Seattle Film Festival.

■ **March 30: "Under the Same Sun"** – In the near future, two businessmen — a Palestinian and an Israeli — struggle to set up a solar energy company. Their attempts to overcome hostility from their families and the



people around them ultimately change the political map. This film won the Helping Hand International Humanitarian Award at the 2014 Rhode Island International Film Festival.

For more information about the 2015 Naples Jewish Film Festival, visit [naples-jewishfilmfestival.org](http://naples-jewishfilmfestival.org) or email [info@naplesjewishfilmfestival.org](mailto:info@naplesjewishfilmfestival.org). ■

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# KOVEL: ANTIQUES

## Even Santa can be a 'cigar-store Indian'

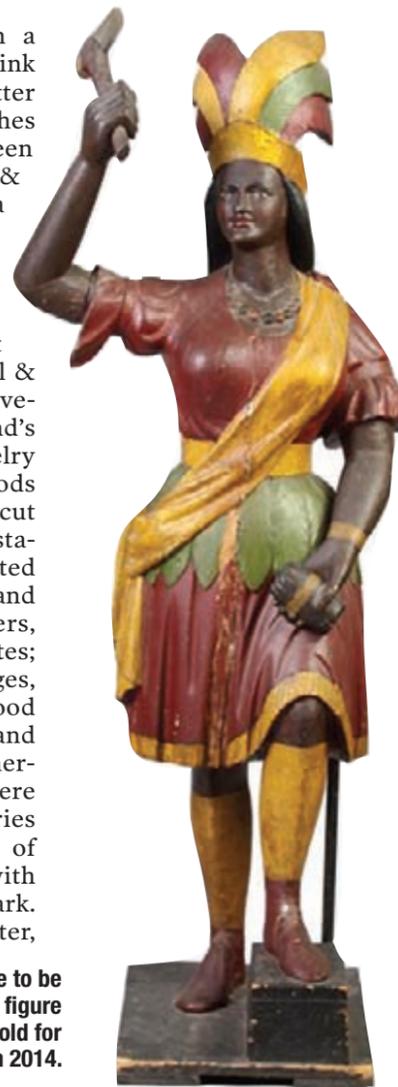
BY TERRY AND KIM KOVEL

Is an old barber pole or carved cigar store Indian worth as much as an oil painting of the same age? Some collectors today think so. One bidder paid \$42,550 for a well-documented Indian maiden cigar store figure at a 2014 antiques auction. The hand-carved figure was pictured in the 1970s book, "Treasury of American Design," which discusses a 1935 WPA project. Jobs were scarce during the Depression and the project gave jobs to artists who created watercolors of important American folk art. These original pictures can be viewed at the National Gallery of Art. You can see them online at [nga.gov](http://nga.gov) (search for "Index of American Design").

The wooden Indian was the accepted sign in front of a tobacco shop by the 1840s, but it was almost gone by 1900, replaced by flat signs with store names. The term "cigar store Indian" today includes all the wooden or metal figures used as store signs in the past. Most of them did represent American Indians and were dressed in traditional feathers and robes. Many held tobacco leaves. The record price for a Santa Claus figure, set at Sotheby's in January 2014, is \$875,000. The Santa Claus figure was made in 1926 by Samuel A. Robb, who also carved American Indians. Even if a figure is a clown, dandy, Turk, soldier, young girl, Chinese man, Scotsman, Santa Claus or anyone else, all are referred to as "cigarstore Indians."

**Q:** I was given a platter with a painted turkey in the center and a pink and green flower border. The platter is round, 2 inches high and 15½ inches in diameter. It's marked with a green backstamp that reads "The Cowell & Hubbard Co., Cleveland, O" inside a shield-shaped cartouche. Can you tell me more about my platter and what it's worth?

**A:** Your turkey platter was sold by Cowell & Hubbard, but it wasn't made by that company. The Cowell & Hubbard Co. was founded in Cleveland in 1861 and was once Cleveland's oldest and most prestigious jewelry store. It sold a variety of luxury goods — jewelry, fine silver, china dishes, cut glass, clocks, lamps and engraved stationery. Cowell & Hubbard contracted with some of the best American and European ceramics manufacturers, such as Lenox in the United States; Haviland and Ahrenfeldt in Limoges, France; Cauldon, Minton, Wedgwood and Royal Worcester in England; and Rosenthal of Germany to buy dinnerware and decorative items that were sold exclusively by the store. Factories often printed the names or marks of retailers as part of a backstamp with and without the maker's own mark. It's not clear who made your platter,



Antique cigar store Indians continue to be popular with collectors. This 19th-century figure of an Indian maiden, 68 inches high, sold for \$42,550 at Cottone Auctions in March 2014.

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*The Adventures of the Beach Boys: The Tale of Mira* by Mindy Kirkley

*Malcolm the Muscovy Duck of Naples, Florida* by Joan Curley

*Emily's Everyday Manners* by Peggy Post



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but it was probably made in the 1930s and is worth about \$75 to \$100, thanks to the turkey and every family's need for a Thanksgiving platter.

**Q:** We have a copy of the Nov. 23, 1936, issue of Life magazine. That's Vol. 1, No. 1. There is a picture of the Fort Peck Dam in Montana on the cover. It measures 8½ by 6½ inches and is in excellent condition. Is this a real original or a souvenir copy? It doesn't say "copy" on it anywhere. What would it be worth to a collector?

**A:** You have a replica of the first issue of Life magazine. It's an exact but smaller replica of the full-size issue. The Fort Peck Dam was built on the Missouri River as part of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal projects. The cover photo was taken by Margaret Bourke-White. Life was published weekly until 1972. It was revived as a weekly newspaper supplement from 2004 to 2007. Full-size first editions of Life can sell for over \$100, but online sellers offer the smaller replica for \$10 to \$15.

**Q:** My husband and I knew the sculptor Edward Marshall Boehm and his wife when he was studying porcelain manufacturing in the 1950s. His earliest figurines were dogs and farm animals, made before he began creating the beautiful birds for which he became famous. I have a black and white Boehm cocker spaniel. What is it worth?

**A:** Edward Marshall Boehm (1913-1969) was a veterinarian's assistant from 1945 until 1949. He made most of his dog figures between 1949 and the late 1950s. He opened a porcelain studio in his home in Trenton, N.J., in 1950 and began experimenting with different glazes. His wife, Helen, pro-

moted the business and marketed the figurines. Boehm made cocker spaniels in several colors and in two sizes. An early version, with the dog's head turned slightly to the right, was made between 1951 and 1957. Two hundred black and white cocker spaniels were made. Value of your figurine: \$200 to \$300.

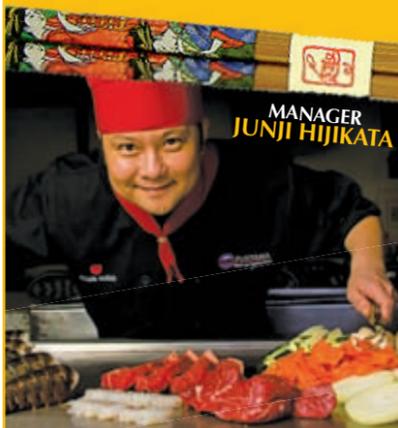
**Q:** I own a pine double-bed headboard and double dresser with mirror. A label in a drawer says "Hand Burnished Pine by Shockey." Could you give me a value?

**A:** Your two-piece bedroom set was made by Franklin Shockey Co. of Lexington, N.C. The furniture company opened in 1941 and appears to have operated into the early 1960s. Shockey made a line of mid-century modern pine furniture that collectors hunt for today. If your set is in the mid-century modern style and in good condition, you might get as much as \$1,000.

**Tip:** Be careful when you're eating at your Thanksgiving dining-room table. The hardest stains to remove from a tablecloth — or a blouse — are gravy and Merlot wine. ■

— Terry Kovel and Kim Kovel answer questions sent to 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 photographs, but if a stamped envelope is included, we will try. The amount of mail makes personal answers or appraisals impossible. Write to Kovels, (Florida Weekly), King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

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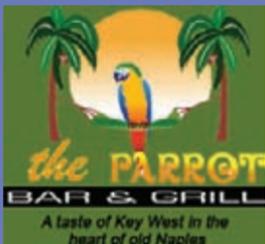


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**THURSDAY, NOV. 27, 9:30 P.M.**  
**Masterpiece Mystery: Poirot**  
Curtain Hercule Poirot made his final appearance in print in 1975. This is his swan song onscreen.

**FRIDAY, NOV. 28, 9 P.M.**  
**Kristin Chenoweth: Coming Home**  
The Emmy and Tony Award-winner brings it home — to Broken Arrow, Okla. — to perform songs from “Wicked,” “Glee,” “Les Miserables,” “Phantom of the Opera” and many more.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 29, 8 P.M.**  
**Best of WGCU**  
Catch some of the local station’s most popular programs.

**SUNDAY, NOV. 30, 8 P.M.**  
**Downton Abbey Rediscovered**  
Relive treasured moments from the first four seasons of “Downton Abbey” and get a tantalizing preview of what’s in store for the Crawleys and the staff in Season 5. Video clips, cast interviews and behind-the-scenes footage help answer some burning questions: Is Lady Mary ready for romance? Did Mr. Bates kill Mr. Green? What will become of Edith’s baby? Carson and Mrs. Hughes — will they or won’t they?

**MONDAY, DEC. 1, 8 P.M.**  
**Antiques Roadshow  
Junk in the Trunk**  
Appraisals include a Steiff Pushmi-Pullyu Doctor Dolittle character, about 1967, acquired at a PBS auction in 1968; a Pablo Picasso linocut, about



American Masters: “Bing Crosby Rediscovered,” Dec. 2



“Downton Abbey Rediscovered,” Nov. 30



“Kristin Chenoweth: Coming Home,” Nov. 28



NOVA: “First Man on the Moon,” Dec. 3

1950, discovered in a basement; and a pair of Italian carved door panels, about 1550, purchased at an estate sale for \$500 and now valued at \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Bennett. Narrated by Stanley Tucci, this documentary reveals a man far more complex than his public persona would suggest.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 2, 8 P.M.**  
**American Masters  
Bing Crosby Rediscovered**  
Explore the life and legend of this iconic entertainer through never-before-seen footage and interviews with his immediate family and Tony

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3, 9 P.M.**  
**NOVA: First Man on the Moon**  
Nova presents an intimate portrait of Neil Armstrong through interviews with his family and friends. This is an inspiring story of heroic risk-taking and humble dedication to advancing humanity’s adventure in space. ■

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# CELEBRITY EXTRA

## Fan favorites returning in 2015

BY CINDY ELAVSKY

**Q:** My husband and I are fans of "Bates Motel." I would like to know if it's coming back and when.

— *Gert B., Rochester, New York*

**A:** A&E's mesmerizing adaptation of the classic Alfred Hitchcock movie will return for its third season this coming March. Expect 10 more spine-tingling episodes of the Vera Farmiga and Freddie Highmore-starring thriller. Former "Sons of Anarchy" cast member Ryan Hurst joins the show for its third season, cast in the role of Chick Hogan, and ex-con who owns a bike shop and also runs an illegal firearms operation near Dylan's new farm. He will butt heads with Dylan's father, Caleb, who's played by another "Sons," alum Kenny Johnson.

**Q:** I am a huge fan of "Graceland," and I'm anxious to know if it will be back for another season. Can you give me any good news?

— *Dana F., via email*

**A:** I love being the bearer of good news: The USA Network has indeed renewed the crime thriller for a third season. Fans were getting a bit antsy for some news, since it seemed to take a bit longer than usual for the network to decide on the pickup. But we can all breathe more easily now, knowing that we won't be left hanging after season two's awesome cliffhanger finale. There's no word yet on a premiere date, but I'd look for it come summer 2015.

**Q:** I need my "Rizzoli and Isles!"

— *Gina D., Conyers, Ga.*

**A:** Well, that wasn't really a question, Gina, but I think I catch your meaning. You're wondering when TNT's hit procedural crime drama will return from its midseason hiatus to finish out its fifth season, right? You have just a little while longer to hang on. Our favorite cop and doctor team (Angie Harmon and Sasha Alexander, respectively) will be back at 9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17. If you're a "Perception" fan, you'll be happy to know that it also returns that same night at 10 p.m., right after "Rizzoli and Isles."

**Q:** I am so happy that "Hot in Cleveland" has returned for another season — it's hard to find a good, fun comedy these days starring such wonderful and hilarious actresses. My daughter told me that she heard that it won't be back after this season. Please tell me she's wrong.

— *Genevieve G., via email*



Angie Harmon and Sasha Alexander in "Rizzoli and Isles."

**A:** I am sorry to have to tell you that your daughter is correct: The folks at TV Land recently announced that the current 24-episode sixth season of the hit comedy will be its last. In a statement from TV Land: "After five incredible seasons of 'Hot in Cleveland,' the sixth season, currently in production, will be its last. It's been an honor to work with Valerie Bertinelli, Jane Leeves, Wendie Malick and the incomparable Betty White. We will continue to celebrate the show and are looking forward to a fantastic series finale." ■

— Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or email her at [letters@cindyelavsky.com](mailto:letters@cindyelavsky.com).



Freddie Highmore in "Bates Motel"



### SHOWTIMES 11/27/14-11/30/14

**DUMB AND DUMBER TO (PG13)**  
THURS: 12:30PM, 3PM, 5:25PM, 7:50PM, 10:15PM  
FRI: 12:30PM, 3PM, 5:25PM, 7:50PM, 10:15PM  
WEEKEND: 12:30PM, 3PM, 5:25PM, 7:50PM, 10:15PM

**HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 (R)**  
THURS: 11:50AM, 12:50PM, 2:15PM, 3:40PM, 4:50PM, 6:05PM, 7:30PM, 8:30PM, 10PM  
FRI: 11:50AM, 12:50PM, 2:15PM, 3:40PM, 4:50PM, 6:05PM, 7:30PM, 8:30PM, 10PM  
WEEKEND: 11:50AM, 12:50PM, 2:15PM, 3:40PM, 4:50PM, 6:05PM, 7:30PM, 8:30PM, 10PM

**ROSEWATER (R)**  
THURS: 12PM, 2:20PM, 4:40PM, 7PM, 9:20PM  
FRI: 12PM, 2:20PM, 4:40PM, 7PM, 9:20PM  
WEEKEND: 12PM, 2:20PM, 4:40PM, 7PM, 9:20PM

**THE JUDGE (R)**  
THURS: 3:25PM, 6:30PM, 9:30PM  
FRI: 3:25PM, 6:30PM, 9:30PM  
WEEKEND: 3:25PM, 6:30PM, 9:30PM

**THEORY OF EVERYTHING (PG13)**  
THURS: 11:30AM, 1PM, 2:10PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM, 9:55PM  
FRI: 11:30AM, 1PM, 2:10PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM, 9:55PM  
WEEKEND: 11:30AM, 1PM, 2:10PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM, 9:55PM

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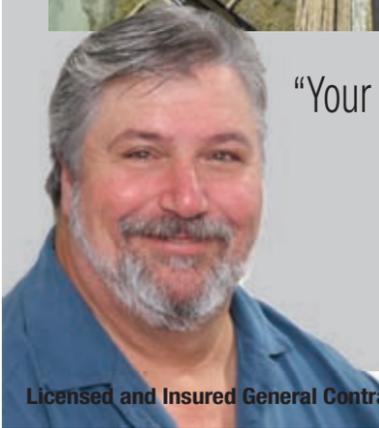
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# SOCIETY

## Humane Society Naples' 16th annual Tea & Fashion Show at The Ritz



The group from Dermatology Specialists of Naples



"Dogs I've Nosed Naples" photographer Jack Kenner and Lily



Jill Delie and Jim Delie with Henry



Jennifer Conery and Paige on the runway



Tanner



Model Cassidy Dorris



Joie Wilson, Cynthia Sherman and Julia Valentine



Eva on the runway



Alex Heller, Janet Evanovich, Michael Simonik and Doug Olsen



Diana Mitchell, Rachael Johnston, Diane Whiting and Cassidy Dorris

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# SOCIETY

## Clive Daniel Home hosts a sneak peek at the season ahead for Arts Naples World Festival and Classic Chamber Concerts



William Noll and Nancy Kerns



Harriet Lickhalter and Merlin Lickhalter



Jan Tricker and Dave Trecker



Zoe Martin-Doike, Miho Saegusa, Ayane Kozasa and Karen Ouzounion



Jason Hughes, Cathy Bridges, Claudia Pelzin and Ryan Spring



Chuck Lounsbury and Carol Fox

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# SOCIETY

The Shelter for Abused Women & Children hosts  
The Monarch Society appreciation luncheon at The Ritz



Adria Starkey and Kirsten Ferrara



Gwyn Sanford and Bev Haas



Cathy Orr and Donna Waltrip



Janice Teal, Mary Ann Pisarczyk and Pat Asiel



JoAnn Remington, Linda Oberhaus and Patti Wachowicz



Caroline Ridgway, Jeannie Smith and Carol Dinardo



Mary Ann Pisarczyk, Janice Teal and Patti Wachowicz



Glorie Jimenez, Cyndi Fields and Barbara Jordan



Marie Stonesifer and Shirley Hubers

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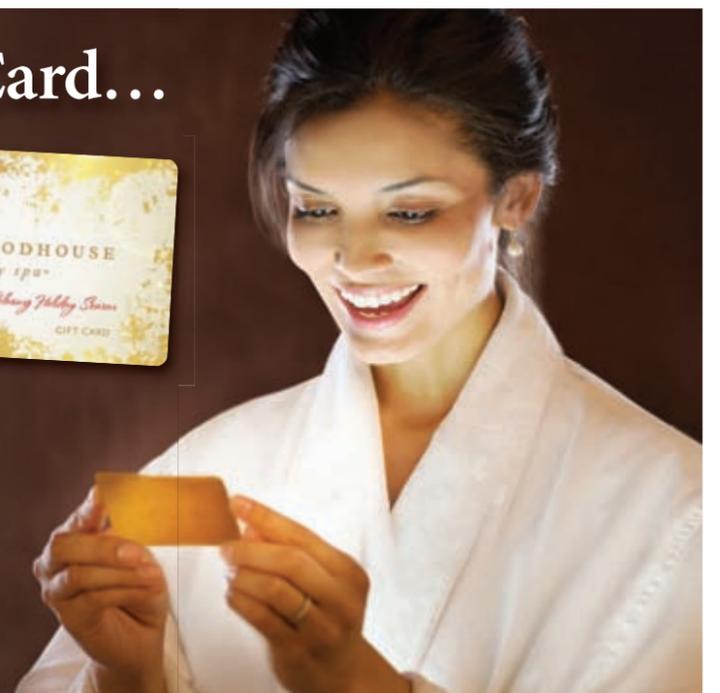
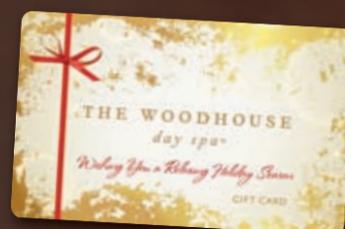
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# CUISINE NEWS

## Gluten sensitivity? Forget about it and have some sweets

BY LINDSEY NESMITH  
lnessmith@floridaweekly.com

One of life's little joys is a sweet treat now and then, and Karen Hill of Forgettaboudit Bakery doesn't think people with dietary restrictions should miss out on such indulgences. After a lifetime of baking traditional Italian treats learned from her mother, Ms. Hill noticed a



COURTESY PHOTOS  
Cookie trays and bread from Karen Hill's gluten-free Forgettaboudit Bakery.

few years ago that some of her friends had to skip her ever-popular holiday cakes and cookies because of gluten allergies.

"I had a couple of new friends, and they just couldn't eat them," she says. "It was really a surprise to me, so I started dabbling in cooking recipes that



HILL



were gluten-free so at Christmas time I could give them cookies."

Despite a "huge learning curve," she experimented with ingredients like rice and almond flour so everyone she loved feeding could continue to reap the benefits of being her friend.

Once she knew her gluten-free treats were a success, she created Forgettaboudit Bakery, making her buckeyes and



Chef Charles Mereday at Mereday's Fine Dining at Naples Bay Resort

pizzelles available to the public. Anyone interested in her treats can head to the Naples Marketplace on the corner of Pine Ridge and Livingston roads from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Sunday. To place a special order, call 250-0842 or visit forgettabouditbakery.com. Orders must be placed at least five days in advance; delivery is free in Collier County.

### All about the duck

Diners who love to help kids and dine on duck can satisfy both passions at Chef Charles Mereday's second

annual Holiday Duck Feast on Wednesday evening, Dec. 17, to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center of Collier County. Guests at Mereday's Fine Dining at Naples Bay Resort will enjoy an elaborate, multi-course feast that includes duck donated by renowned duck farmer and Marco Island resident Joe Jurglewicz. All other costs have been donated as well, which means 100 percent of the \$250-per-person price will go to the children's organization.

The Children's Advocacy Center's mission is to improve the lives of abused and neglected children in Collier County. Last year's feast resulted in \$6,500 going directly to the center. For reservations or more information, call 263-8383 or visit caccollier.org.

### Go with the 'Originals'

Naples Originals, a consortium of 40 independent, locally owned and operated restaurants, offers a 30 percent discount on gift certificates purchased online the morning of Cyber Monday, Dec. 1. A limited amount of discounted certificates from member restaurants will be available for diners to purchase via the website naplesoriginals.com (\$50 certificates will be \$35, \$25 certificates will go for \$17.50, and \$15 certificates will be \$10.50). The gift certificates are immediately emailed to diners, who print them and redeem them at the member restaurants. Visit the website for more information. ■

MORECUISINE NEWS, C36 ►

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## CUISINE NEWS

### Sweet! Chocolatier at Norman Love preparing to take on the world

BY LINDSEY NESMITH  
lnesmith@floridaweekly.com

Chocolatier Dan Forgey of Norman Love Confections has been chosen to represent the United States at the 2015 World Chocolate Masters competition in Paris. Candidates were asked to submit a portfolio of creations for review, as well as samples of dipped and molded pralines and a layered cake.



FORGEY

"I am honored to represent the United States and am eager to begin my preparation — especially developing inspirational concepts for my chocolate showpiece and plated desserts," Mr. Forgey says about the world's premier competition for chocolate professionals. He'll compete against 19 international artisans in late 2015 for the top spot.

Mr. Forgey trained at the Culinary Institute of New England before coming to Naples to work at the Waldorf-Astoria Naples. He joined Norma Love Confections in 2007 and was promoted to production manager in 2011.



Dan Forgey and his colleague Maura Metheny of Norman Love Confections won the National Showpiece Champions award at the Pastry Live 2013 competition in Atlanta for this magic-themed 3-D chocolate sculpture.

### Sea Salt heads north

Chef Fabrizio Aielli, owner and executive chef of Barbatella and Sea Salt in the Third Street South district, is opening a second location of Sea Salt, this one in downtown St. Petersburg at a new retail and entertainment center called Sundial St. Pete. Opening in January, the new restaurant boasts 12,000 square feet that includes indoor and outdoor seating for 300 guests, a 20-foot wine tower, an 80-foot raw bar and a lounge and private dining room.

Sea Salt St. Pete will have the same concept of fresh seafood and contemporary specialties as the Naples location, including an emphasis on hundreds of artisanal salts to complement Chef Aielli's dishes.

"Much like when my wife Ingrid and I first visited Naples, we fell in love with St. Pete's culture, energy and passion for food and wine," he says. "We'd been strategizing an expansion of the Sea Salt brand for some time, and when the Sundial opportunity itself, we knew all the elements had finally come together."

### Pick up Farmer Mike's produce

Longtime locals familiar with Farmer Mike's U-Pick farm in Bonita Springs will be happy to hear the business' fresh produce is returning to Local Roots Farmers Markets. After record frosts during 2009, the farm had to shut down for two years, reopening its permanent operation on Morton Avenue in 2012.

Now it's back up to speed and ready to provide locals with locally grown produce in area farmers markets. Shop its fruits and veggies at all the Local Roots markets at the Promenade at Bonita Bay on Saturdays, Coconut Point on Thursdays and Lakes Park in South Fort Myers on Fridays. Visit farmermikesupick.com for additional locations.

### Take note

■ Tony's Off Third hosts its 16th annual **Champagne & Sparkler Tasting** from 5:30-7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5. Co-owner and wine director Sukie Honey-

utt will guide guests through a tasting of 20 selections from around the world, including Schramsberg Brut Rose 2009, Bouvet Brut NV, Poema Cava Brut NV, Moet Chandon Imperial NV, Stellina de Notte Prosecco NV, Taittinger Brut La Francaise NV and Veuve Clicquot Brut Rose NV.

Cost is \$25 and includes a coupon for \$10 toward purchases that evening. Registration is required. Call 262-7999. Tony's Off Third is at 1300 Third St. S.

■ It's not too late to add something amazing to your bag of culinary tricks for the holiday season, and **cooking classes** Naples chefs are exactly where to learn.

**Fresh Fit Foods**, 14700 Tamiami Trail N.; 595-2503 or freshfitnaples.com

Gluten- and dairy-free recipes: Thursday, Dec. 11 (\$60)

**The Good Life of Naples**, 2355 Vanderbilt Beach Road; 514-4663 or goodlifefitnaples.com

Soup 'n' Salad: Saturday, Nov. 29 (\$50)  
Appetizers and Small Plates for Entertaining: Thursday, Dec. 4 (\$60)

Satisfying Soups: Wednesday, Dec. 10 (\$60)

Bison, the Healthful Red Meat: Thursday, Dec. 11 (\$65)

Holiday Traditions: Friday, Dec. 12 (\$60)

**Sur la Table**, Mercato; 598-3586 or surlatable.com

Perfect Pizza from Scratch: Wednesday, Dec. 3 (\$69)

Handmade Gnocci: Thursday, Dec. 4 (\$69)

Holiday Tapas Party: Friday, Dec. 5; Saturday, Dec. 6; Monday, Dec. 8 (\$69)

Date Night: Spectacular Seafood: Friday, Dec. 5 (\$79)

Holiday Cookie Workshop: Saturday, Dec. 6 (\$69)

Date Night: Passport to Italy: Saturday, Dec. 6 (\$69)

Classic Croissants from Scratch: Sunday, Dec. 7 (\$69) ■

— Email food and dining news to Lindsey Nesmith, lnesmith@floridaweekly.com.

# THE DISH

**The dish:**  
Carmelized  
Scallops Canoe

**The price:**  
\$35.50

**The place:**  
The Chapel Grill  
811 Seventh Ave. S.  
206-4310

**The hours:**  
Happy hour,  
5-6 p.m.; dining  
room opens at  
5 p.m.

**The full menu:**  
thechapelgrill.com



**The details:** It was our first visit to The Chapel Grill, and my husband and I had spent the afternoon working up our appetites in anticipation. We'd heard numerous friends sing praises for the church-turned-fine-dining establishment (as had *Florida Weekly* restaurant critic Karen Feldman). Turns out they were right.

We arrived early in order to be at The Norris Center across the street for a 7:30 p.m. show. After studying the menu, I decided on the Carmelized Scallops Canoe, described as three large scallops served with "guanciale and fine herbs fingerling potato hash, roasted femur bone marrow, haricot verts, sundried tomato pesto aioli and kaffir lime zest." When I asked my husband what guan-

cialle is, he said he knew I would love any dish in which it was an ingredient. Turns out he was right, too. (Guanciale is an Italian cured meat from pork jowl or cheek). My artfully plated entrée was as delicious as it was attractive.

**One more thing:** We shared an appetizer and can highly recommend the Coco Loco Calamari, described on the menu as "Coconut milk dredged flour dusted tubes, chorizo and squash with a roasted garlic aioli." \$14.60, and worth every penny. n

— Cindy Pierce  
cpierce@floridaweekly.com

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# PAST REPASTS

Here are some capsule summaries of previous restaurant reviews:

■ **Alpine Restaurant, Galleria Shoppes at Vanderbilt, 2355 Vanderbilt Beach Road; 325-9499**

Step into Alpine Restaurant and be instantly transported to a world filled with snow-capped mountains 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 meal that guarantees leftovers. The knedlo-vepro-zelo, a traditional Czech dish, features pork, dumplings and sauerkraut accompanied by caramelized cabbage. 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

■ **The Bay House, 799 Walkerbilt Road, Naples; 591-3837**

Seated in the dining room gazing out on the tranquil mangrove-lined Coccohatchee River, it's hard to believe U.S.

41 is just yards away. The grand view is matched by superb food and polished service. Executive Chef Andy Hunter and his team do a masterful job of showcasing fresh seafood with a nod to carnivores. An appetizer called South of Broad features perfectly cooked fried green tomatoes, tangy goat feta, basil puree and tomato jam. A roasted beet and citrus salad, which included a delicious horseradish panna cotta, was equally good. The Coastal Pan Roast featured golden tilefish, shrimp, a Tampa devil crab, Carolina gold rice, baby vegetables, corn pudding and red wine sauce. Seafood pirlau, a Low Country version of bouillabaisse, contained scallops, shrimp, mussels, an outstanding house-made seafood sausage in a mild seafood brandade served with seafood fumet on the side. Florida Sunshine — goat cheese cheesecake with pink grapefruit gelee and pools of blood orange and lemon curd, finished with tangy lime granita — was an excellent end to a top-notch meal. Full bar.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½  
Service: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½  
Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Reviewed May 2014

■ **Brunina's Pizza and Pasta, 4330 Thomasson Drive, Hammock Cove, Naples; 530-0084**

Pizza is the main draw at this bustling neighborhood join, but a menu of moderately priced Italian classics is available as well. Checkered plastic tablecloths and arched doorways give it the feel of a trattoria. Mushrooms stuffed with cheese, spinach and garlic and fried calamari were good, although the calamari arrived late. Salads were fresh, with tasty balsamic vinaigrette, but our entrees arrived before we

had time to enjoy them. Shrimp over pasta with pesto cream sauce was a nightly special. The shrimp were big and juicy, but the sauce was disappointingly bland. Better were the gnocchi a la Mamma, tender-chewy pillows topped with mushrooms, spinach, white wine, garlic and olive oil. Service was pleasant but spotty. Full bar.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½  
Service: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½  
Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½  
Reviewed February 2014

■ **Mereday's Fine Dining, Naples Bay Resort, 1500 Fifth Ave. S., Naples; 732-0784**

The eponymous restaurant of chef/owner Charles Mereday is a wonder of gracious service, sumptuous surroundings and the inspired cuisine that its creator simply terms American but that is so much more. This is a truly superb restaurant and one that should not be missed. Food is served as multi-course small plates (choose three, four or five courses or sit at the bar and order a large plate) and changes with the availability of seasonal ingredients. I can vouch for the perfectly crafted heirloom red and gold beet salad with grilled ricotta salada, mint and orange segments; superb seared scallops with arugula and parsnip puree; butternut squash ravioli with tempura-fried squash blossom; Creole shrimp and cheddar grits; grilled salmon on sweet potato puree; crispy duck leg with wild mushroom risotto; and warm sticky toffee pudding with sweet toffee sauce and brown sugar ice cream. There's an excellent wine list to choose from as well. Full bar.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Service: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½

Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★  
Reviewed September 2013

■ **Trattoria Abruzzo, Pavilion Shopping Center, 835 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples; 596-8010**

The Laccetti family has developed a loyal following even though this popular dining spot sits well back from the street. You'll find some surprises on the menu, like the calamari Adriatico, squid sautéed with artichoke hearts, kalamata olives and cherry tomatoes, and house-made agnolotti nonno Paolo, large tender half-moons of ravioli stuffed with Parmigiano and fontina cheese topped with porcini mushrooms and a hint of truffle oil. Snapper Livornese consisted of a good-sized fillet topped with kalamatas, capers and anchovies in a light marinara sauce and the pollo ortolona was an impressive plate of boneless chicken breast with shiitake mushrooms, herbs, garlic and demi-glace with grand-reserve balsamic and a load of fresh arugula. We finished by sharing a lovely lemon tart just as a singer began serenading the crowd with Italian classics. Service was friendly but could have been smoother when it came to the flow of courses. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★  
Service: ★ ★ ★ ★  
Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★  
Reviewed August 2014 ■

Key to ratings

★★★★★ Superb	★★ Fair
★★★★ Noteworthy	★ Poor
★★★ Good	

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# CUISINE

## Ristorante Enrico balances Italian classics and special touches



Enrico, the namesake of Ristorante Enrico in Bonita Springs, “was born and raised in Italy where he learned his love for cooking and warm hospitality.”

So says the website for this small but impressive restaurant that’s easily overlooked at the far southern end of a Publix-anchored shopping plaza that looks just like a dozen other shopping plazas on the Tamiami Trail.

It’s only when you walk inside that you realize something special is waiting to be discovered within: authentic Italian cooking with some surprising twists; that aforementioned, genuinely warm hospitality from a big Italian family, some of whom are still learning English; a dark-red dining room with subdued lighting that creates a sense of romance and intimacy (the TV hanging from the ceiling in one corner notwithstanding).

If you read this column regularly, you realize there are a lot of Italian restaurants in Southwest Florida and there’s not always a lot that distinguishes them from one another. One meal was all it took to convince this skeptic that Enrico stands apart from the rest of the pizza-and-red-sauce ristorantes.

Yet somehow it escaped my notice until I went trolling through restaurant review websites in search of something new in Bonita Springs. The credibility of anonymous online reviews is dubious, but the 78 posts dating back to 2012 on TripAdvisor.com were overwhelmingly positive about Enrico.

Many of the posters warned visitors to arrive early or expect to wait for a table, so we arrived at 5:30 on the weeknight we visited. By the time we left about two hours later, there were indeed diners outside waiting to be seated.

While perusing the extensive menu of antipasti, sandwiches, pastas, baked dishes and pizzas, we sipped a Birra Moretti (\$4.50), a light, fizzy pale lager, and a glass of the house Montepulciano (\$6.50) that was very good for the price. Wines by the bottle are reasonably priced from \$20 to \$80; only house wines are offered by the glass.

We quickly settled on an order of calamari (\$10.99) and a side of meatballs (\$4.99) to get things started while we pondered the myriad entrees.

I had taken a break recently from order-



DREW STERWALD / FLORIDA WEEKLY  
**An appetizer portion of Enrico's meatballs.**

ing calamari because it’s just so played out. I’m glad I decided to dip back into the basket of fried squid, because Enrico’s is better than most. It’s very lightly dusted with breading, so the rings cook through quickly and don’t absorb a lot of oil. I also liked the abundance of crispy tentacles, which I can never get enough of. The warm marinara on the side was lushly textured and sweet.

More of that sauce accompanied the trio of meatballs. The plum-sized spheres were nicely browned and juicy, their rich flavor suggesting the presence of meats besides ground beef. Three of these with a nest of spaghetti would make a fine main course.

Freshly made rolls with more marinara sauce arrived with our salads, which are included with most entrees. The salads were simple but fresh.

I don’t know if we caused the delay by not ordering entrees at the same time as appetizers, but there was a significant gap between courses. There was some confusion with our server about whether any of the pastas are made fresh in-house, which she eventually cleared up. The answer was no, but there was still plenty to consider: 15 chef’s specials, pasta sauces like pesto and puttanesca that are less commonly available in this region and seafood dishes featuring scallops and crab, which also are unusual in Italian restaurants.

Ultimately, we decided on one classic baked dish and one surprise. The pizza will



**Penne al granchio contains fresh blue crabmeat.**



**The tiramisu has a homemade touch.**

have to wait for another visit.

There are several ways that eggplant rollatini (\$14.99) can go wrong: skimpy eggplant slices that are lost in the mix; an excess of cheese that leaves you feeling stuffed with rich ricotta; a flood of tomato sauce that drowns the whole creation. Enrico achieves the opposite, producing

a dish with all the right proportions and balance of flavors. Served with a modest tangle of spaghetti, it is an admirable tribute to the home country.

Crab may be common in some regional Italian cooking, but I’ve rarely seen it on menus here. The penne al granchio (\$17.99) consisted of blue crab tossed with a rosy cream sauce, tomatoes and pasta. I fished out some of the crab chunks and could tell it was fresh, not canned meat. There was a good amount of it, too, not just a dollop. Overall, this was another well-balanced creation — and a most welcome diversion from the usual piccatas and parmigianas.

Dessert options were tiramisu and cannoli (each a reasonable \$3.95), and both were clearly not from a mass-production distributor. The handmade touch was especially evident with the tiramisu and its signature layers of soft cake and creamy mascarpone. And was that a note of anise we detected in the cannoli filling? Yum.

More than once during the evening, an older gentleman appeared in an apron in the dining room, delivering or removing plates and checking on customer satisfaction. Was he Enrico? We may never know. But whoever Enrico is, he has won us over by honoring his native culinary traditions while introducing some of his own flair. Bravissimo! ■

— Email dining news to [cuisine@floridaweekly.com](mailto:cuisine@floridaweekly.com).

**in the know**

**Ristorante Enrico, Bonita Bay**  
26831 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; 949-2204

**Ratings:**  
Food: ★★★★★  
Service: ★★★★★½  
Atmosphere: ★★★½

>> **Hours:** 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily  
>> **Reservations:** Yes, for parties of eight or more  
>> **Credit cards:** Accepted  
>> **Price range:** Appetizers, \$4.99-\$11.99; entrees, \$9.99-\$18.99  
>> **Beverages:** Beer and wine  
>> **Specialties of the house:** Italian  
>> **Volume:** Low  
>> **Parking:** Plaza lot  
>> **Website:** [restaurantenrico.com](http://restaurantenrico.com)

★★★★★ Superb  
★★★★ Noteworthy  
★★★ Good  
★★ Fair  
★ Poor



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Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 and 20

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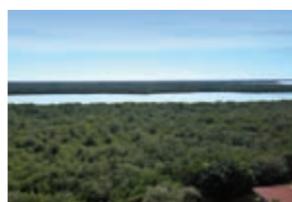
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premiersir.com/id/214018524 \$1,910,000



**PINE RIDGE**

**6846 Trail Boulevard**  
Jeannie McGearty 239.248.4333  
premiersir.com/id/214064447 \$1,499,000



**MEDITERRA**

**15139 Brolio Lane**  
Brenda Grimes 203.246.0306  
premiersir.com/id/214034118 \$3,299,000



**QUAIL WEST**

**5817 Glenholme Circle**  
Paul Gruffy 239.273.0403  
premiersir.com/id/GRAF114141HE \$2,250,000



**PELICAN ISLE**

**Aqua #605**  
John D'Amelio 239.961.5996  
premiersir.com/id/213512733 \$2,050,000



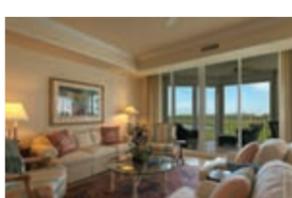
**OLDE CYPRESS**

**2743 Olde Cypress Drive**  
Jane Bond 239.595.9515  
premiersir.com/id/211522993 \$1,595,000



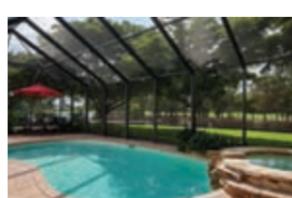
**QUAIL CREEK**

**13189 Valewood Drive**  
Vanya Demireva 239.565.0550  
premiersir.com/id/214062160 \$1,399,000



**THE DUNES**

**Grande Dominica #906**  
Jennifer/Dave Urness 239.273.7731  
premiersir.com/id/214053571 \$1,225,000



**QUAIL CREEK**

**12997 Coco Plum Lane**  
Jane Bond 239.595.9515  
premiersir.com/id/213508890 \$1,199,000



**OLDE CYPRESS**

**7391 Monteverde Way**  
Jennifer/Dave Urness 239.273.7731  
premiersir.com/id/214039941 \$769,000



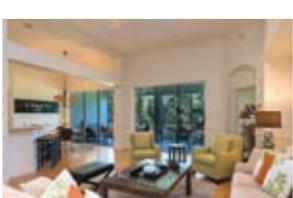
**EDEN ON THE BAY**

**406 Eden Bay Drive**  
Friley Saucier 239.293.3532  
premiersir.com/id/214053742 \$629,000



**QUAIL CREEK VILLAGE**

**10378 Quail Crown Drive**  
Erik David Barber 323.513.6391  
premiersir.com/id/BARB119141HE \$539,000



**STONEBRIDGE**

**Middleburg #202**  
Amy Kodak 239.877.6319  
premiersir.com/id/214014886 \$450,000



**THE QUARRY**

**Quartz Cove #201**  
Lynn Applebaum 239.776.5055  
premiersir.com/id/214064268 \$439,000



**CYPRESS WOODS**

**3512 Grand Cypress Court**  
John Sekely 239.404.7272  
premiersir.com/id/214058576 \$374,900



**THE ORCHARDS**

**7900 Gardner Drive**  
Adrienne Young 239.825.5369  
premiersir.com/id/214063113 \$369,000



**NAPLES PARK**

**707 106th Avenue North**  
Tatyana Bogdanova-Sallee 239.293.5017  
premiersir.com/id/214063884 \$356,000



SATURNIA LAKES

2350 Butterfly Palm Drive  
Sandra McCarthy-Meeks 239.287.7921  
premiersir.com/id/214063590 \$349,900



MILANO

15648 Marcello Circle  
Linda Ohler 239.404.6460  
premiersir.com/id/214058422 \$279,900



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749 109th Avenue North  
Charlina McGee 239.770.1911  
premiersir.com/id/214063236 \$144,900



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160 Seabreeze Avenue  
Sarah Theiss 239.269.0300  
premiersir.com/id/214062907 \$3,750,000



VANDERBILT BEACH

245 Heron Avenue  
Ruth Trettis 239.571.6760  
premiersir.com/id/214048586 \$650,000



BEACHWALK

775 Reef Point Circle  
Jennifer/Dave Urness 239.273.7731  
premiersir.com/id/214064175 \$475,000



BEACHWALK

Beachwalk Gardens #201  
Paul Koch 305.586.5309  
premiersir.com/id/214026217 \$399,000



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Richard/Susie Culp 239.290.2200  
premiersir.com/id/214063267 \$1,268,000



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Helga Wetzold 239.821.6905  
premiersir.com/id/214062838 \$3,695,000



MARCO ISLAND

591 Hammock Court  
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 239.642.1133  
premiersir.com/id/214062818 \$3,375,000



MARCO ISLAND

540 Sand Hill Court  
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 239.642.1133  
premiersir.com/id/214063277 \$3,300,000



MARCO ISLAND

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Michelle Thomas 239.860.7176  
premiersir.com/id/214063680 \$3,084,850



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5220 Old Gallows Way  
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premiersir.com/id/214063267 \$1,268,000



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480 Maunder Court  
Paul Strong 239.404.3280  
premiersir.com/id/214058680 \$2,995,000



MARCO ISLAND

1405 Butterfield Court  
Paul Strong 239.404.3280  
premiersir.com/id/214058366 \$2,350,000



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Belize #1906  
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 239.642.1133  
premiersir.com/id/214061617 \$1,750,000



MARCO ISLAND

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Cathy Rogers 239.821.7926  
premiersir.com/id/214011766 \$1,650,000



MARCO ISLAND

Royal Marco Point #629  
Cathy Rogers 239.821.7926  
premiersir.com/id/214063238 \$1,599,000



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Robin/Larry Taylor 239.250.9016  
premiersir.com/id/214062722 \$1,450,000



MARCO ISLAND

1211 Ember Court  
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premiersir.com/id/213508431 \$995,000



MARCO ISLAND

1189 Strawberry Court  
Paul Strong 239.404.3280  
premiersir.com/id/214061821 \$729,000



MARCO ISLAND

Esplanade #403  
Cullen Shaughnessy 239.248.3978  
premiersir.com/id/214063880 \$679,000



MARCO ISLAND

600 Waterside Drive  
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 239.642.1133  
premiersir.com/id/214063935 \$525,000



MARCO ISLAND

Esplanade II #209  
Roe Tamagni 239.398.1222  
premiersir.com/id/214061798 \$519,000



MARCO ISLAND

South Seas #1407  
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Larry Caruso 239.394.9191  
premiersir.com/id/214010187 \$429,700



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Paul Strong 239.404.3280  
premiersir.com/id/214061836 \$369,000



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premiersir.com/id/214062992 \$239,000



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Lura Jones 239.370.5340  
premiersir.com/id/214046498 \$1,695,000



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Michelle Thomas 239.860.7176  
premiersir.com/id/214063355 \$1,095,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

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ML Meade 239.293.4851  
premiersir.com/id/214064001 \$945,000



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premiersir.com/id/214063718 \$775,000



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premiersir.com/id/214024695 \$599,900



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Cascada #202  
Michelle Thomas 239.860.7176  
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FIDDLER'S CREEK

Serena #202  
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premiersir.com/id/214037081 \$445,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

3848 Mahogany Bend Drive  
Michelle Thomas 239.860.7176  
premiersir.com/id/214063355 \$1,095,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

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ML Meade 239.293.4851  
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Michelle Thomas 239.860.7176  
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FIDDLER'S CREEK

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premiersir.com/id/214063237 \$399,000



FIDDLER'S CREEK

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premiersir.com/id/214062810 \$369,000



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premiersir.com/id/214062870 \$342,000



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