

# NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY®

IN THE KNOW. IN THE NOW.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 27, 2018-JANUARY 2, 2019

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**INSIDE:** The 119th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count continues to unfold across our state. **A10** ▶

## THE (SUNSHINE) STATE of **our BIRDS**

At one time, about 500 species of birds once existed in Florida alone. About 350 exist today.

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

ONCE UPON A TIME IN FLORIDA — THE time when Hamilton Disston bought 4 million acres of Everglades wetlands for 25 cents per acre and tried to drain them, and Henry Flagler began building railroads along the southern peninsula's Atlantic coast — a Gulf Coast traveler reported seeing a burrowing owl colony three miles long, inhabited by several hundred pairs of owls.

SEE BIRDING, A10 ▶

At top, a painted bunting and at right a peregrine falcon. They can be seen in Florida.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID MORGAN AND MATTHEW MALWITZ / AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

### INSIDE



#### From blockbusters to stinkers

The best and worst of films screened in 2018. **C1** ▶



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Shangri-La Springs Art & Nature Community Night. **A32** ▶



#### Talent pool

In a tight labor market, consider hiring those who don't have a college degree. **A31** ▶



#### Going solar

An ambitious solar project comes to Shark Valley. **A6** ▶

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## Naples Editor named a top young journalist by Naples Press Club

### SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Naples Press Club recently bestowed three local journalists their "Young Journalist" award — one of them was a Florida Weekly journalist.

Naples editor Robbie Spencer was named among the recipients. He was awarded for his work in print news; Delia D'Ambra of NBC-2 was named for her work in broadcast and Dorothy Edwards for photography work at the Naples Daily News. Each winner was



SPENCER

that spirit, the NPC chose to create its

presented a plaque and \$500 cash prize at the press club's December luncheon at Tiburon Golf Club in Naples.

Part of the Naples Press Club's mission is helping develop young broadcast and print journalists throughout Southwest Florida. In

annual Young Journalist Awards last year.

"Our judges were impressed with the caliber of entries and feel optimistic about the future of journalism based on the portfolios provided by entrants," said Bob Orr, retired CBS news correspondent and co-chair of the NPC's young journalist award program.

This is the second straight year Florida Weekly had an award recipient; staff writer Evan Williams was named a top young journalist by the Naples Press Club at last year's inaugural award luncheon. ■

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# COMMENTARY

## New Year's mirror



**roger WILLIAMS**  
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Some good-hearted folks suggested I might be a racist the other day, people who didn't like something I once wrote in satire.

Satire or not, I wondered if these folks could be right. The New Year is a time for reflection, after all. Who are we and what can we do better? So I resolved to examine myself in the mirror.

Normally I try to avoid mirrors since they tend to show me something I don't want to see. If I spot one lying in ambush — say while passing a mirrored wall or when standing over a bathroom sink — either I tiptoe out of the room with my head down or I look studiously in another direction.

But I realized that had to change, especially since another guy wrote to suggest that perhaps “as the years advance upon you, you are turning into a mean-spirited old man.” I had called a local politician a “puff-adder” in print, if you can imagine such an indiscretion, and my correspondent pointed out how ungracious that is — that, and my consistently critical fun-making of our president.

He even wrote to another columnist, the inestimable Stephanie Davis, to tell

her she was “strident,” I was “offensive,” and based on those characteristics we should consider “a quickie marriage” that could provide “a maximum of liberal gobbledygook and a minimum of common sense.”

I've always favored liberal doses of gobbledygook along with uncommon acts of great joy and good, even when they don't make any sense whatsoever, common or otherwise.

But these aren't silly people, they're critics, and they should be taken seriously. They were silly, once, when they were 5 years old, like all of us. But by the time they turned 6 I suspect they were sober as stone, as mature as your grandmother and as serious as a fire in California.

So I finally mustered the courage of Snow White's mother — I studied that mirror like a scholar. And to my discomfort, I decided the critics were right. I am both a racist and a bitter old man; also, still white and bald, just like the last time I checked a mirror during Obama's first term in the White House.

I think about race all the time, just to start with. It's been an undercurrent, long and strong, throughout my entire white American life.

And I'm deeply bitter about the fact that we haven't put a stop to racism right on the spot, we white Americans. It's up to us; I know that now.

It took us a century of abusing and terrorizing black people just to get from the Civil War to the 1964 Civil Rights Act. In one 70-or-so year period in the

South white people lynched more than 4,000 blacks, according to the Equal Justice Initiative. Just between 1882 and 1930 alone, a 48-year period, 212 documented lynchings occurred in Florida, giving us the highest rate of lynchings per capita in the United States.

And it's taken us another 55 years since 1964 to achieve equal opportunity for all. Equal opportunity, perhaps, but not equal justice.

Can't black people, and by extension brown people or any other citizens, get the same jobs for the same money we white folks get, have the same opportunities to attend schools and colleges we white folks have, live in the same neighborhoods we white folks do, marry white folks if they see fit, and cut themselves out a big juicy wedge of the American dream just like us white folks, under the law?

The answer is yes. We Americans have made extraordinary progress toward the creation and shaping of the founding fathers' vision — a practical dream of a someday they couldn't even get close to in their own lifetimes.

It went like this, as you know: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

My own view is this: history is still sitting in our back seat trying to drive.

Or think of it another way: Two cars

line up on a dirt track to compete for the prize. They face the same road conditions, the same distance to the finish, the same starting second. They have an equal opportunity to win the race.

But one car comes equipped with a 2.2-liter twin turbo V-6 putting out 750 horsepower and up to 12,000 RPMs in the second decade 21st century design. The other starts with Ford's Single Overhead Cam 427, producing 657 horsepower with two four-barrel induction, using the best of 1960s muscle-car technology.

There's history in those engines, even if they start at the same time. One is better equipped than the other to go fast.

With a white friend and classmate at Columbia University's graduate School of Journalism I once argued with the Rev. Calvin Butts, then and still pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church on 138th Street in Harlem, a brilliant do-gooder with degrees from Morehouse College, Union Theological Seminary and Drew University.

We insisted black people could be racists just as well as white people. We offered examples. Rev. Butts insisted they couldn't, expanding the definition of racism to include not just misapprehension of another human based on skin color, but power. Economic, legal and cultural power.

Looking in that 2019 mirror (a test model), I can still see it whether I want to or not: I can see that power shimmering off me like the heat from a big new engine. ■

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**OPINION****Lame-duck mucking**

OK, I get it. After an election, when the incumbent is about to be transformed into the former, we need a transition period. All in all, it's a good idea. It allows for a smooth changeover. Yada, yada, yada. But like all bright ideas, this one is invariably tarnished, because humans are involved. (How's that for Yuletide cheer?)

As we all know, the time between outgoing and incoming is called the "lame duck" period. In Wisconsin and Michigan, the Democrats who were victorious in winning the governor's races and other statewide races are crying "fowl" because of the Republican tactics to change the rules of engagement, as they have in other states.

The way it's supposed to work is that the voters choose between not only candidates but policies. Another long-familiar expression is they can elect to "throw the rascals out." The new rascals get to implement their approaches, changing those of the old ones. But these GOP lame ducks in Wisconsin and Michigan are spoiling things. With their fading quacks, they are trying to override the voice of the people by duck-walking over the new guys before they take control. They are using partisan sleight of hand to feather their nests with their rich patrons, and otherwise taking some important ruling powers away from those who will replace them.



It's not just a state problem. In Washington, we have a Congress with Republicans ruling both roosts until next month. The lame ducks, and there are a lot of them, are trying to pull a fast one and jam through a budget and other priorities of the gaggle up at the other end of the street.

It's not a pretty sight, nor is there much hope that it will improve when the Democrats take over one of these animal houses, the House of Representatives. If anything, the barnyard squalling will get louder.

It's not just the Republicans who abuse their lame-duck status. Bill Clin-

ton issued 140 pardons on his last day in office, including one for fugitive Marc Rich, who had been prosecuted for massive tax fraud and evaded arrest by residing in Switzerland. It became known as "Pardongate" (what else?) because his former wife had made big-time donations to both the Clinton Library and Hillary Clinton's Senate campaign. Even after he left office, Bill Clinton was formally scrutinized but ultimately cleared. Interestingly, the head of the investigation who legally exonerated him was none other than James Comey — yup, the very same guy, all of which proves there's nothing new in politics.

Of course, our current president is no slouch at that; he's probably the ultimate self-promoter. Unfortunately for him, once Congress gets past its current lame-duck status, the Democrats, with their new majority in the House, give every indication that they will make his first two years in office look tame by comparison. For the most part, they're avoiding the "I-word," particularly since they don't want to look overly anxious. Besides, they have Robert Mueller doing all their heavy lifting.

But assuming that Donald Trump avoids impeachment, he'll presumably run for re-election against a Democratic someone. Democratic candidate TBD will be determined to make him a lame duck. Imagine how dangerous Trump will be if he feels like he has nothing left to lose. ■

— Bob Franken is an Emmy Award-winning reporter who covered Washington for more than 20 years with CNN.

**Does Trump care that he's president?**

The office of the presidency is known for wearing down the mere mortals who hold it.

At the very least, it prematurely ages its occupants. Often, it humiliates them, forcing them to rehabilitate their reputations later (George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter). In the worst case, it chews them up and spits them out (Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon).

It is a journalistic trope that this is happening to Donald Trump before our eyes. The media constantly write stories about how the president is panicked and cornered, barely able to handle his duties, as the walls perpetually "close in." But as far as any outside observer can tell, he's as ebullient and combative as ever, and has never blinked no matter how intense the pressure of any given controversy.

Far from getting crushed by the weight of the office, Trump doesn't seem to feel it at all. Never has any president been as outwardly unfazed by the majesty of the presidency or made less accommodation to its trappings and norms.

President Trump still acts like he's Celebrity Trump fighting a vicious flame war with Rosie O'Donnell, except his targets now might be another head of state, or his own attorney general, or losing members of his own party.

The idea that he's a representative of the nation apparently makes very little impression on him. He never stops to think that any given gibe might be



unworthy of the office, or maybe that he, blessed with more power and showered with more attention than anyone on the planet, has an obligation to be elevating and restrained, even if no one else is.

One of the attractions of the presidency to him appears to be that he can continue to punch down — but do it from a higher altitude than ever before.

Even after two years, he hasn't lost his capacity to surprise. Did the president of the United States really render the last name of the incoming chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Adam Schiff, as an expletive? Did he call that TV anchor "low IQ"? Did he call his former secretary of state dumb?

Of course, he did.

Much of this is ephemera, but collectively and over time it creates a lasting impression. A major factor in the drubbing that Republicans suffered in the suburbs in November was a reaction against

Trump's persona, as underlined by his own conduct and tweets. If he cares about keeping the presidency — and he surely does — he should care a little more about respecting the dignity of the office.

The great advantage of the presidency is that it is naturally set up to invest people elected to it with a certain grandeur, via the White House, saluting Marines, Air Force One, "Hail to the Chief" and ceremonial events large and small. All it requires is showing up and, very often, reading from a script. Rather than simply pocketing this benefit, Trump tends to undercut it 280 characters at a time.

If he's ever brought low, it's less likely to be from the pressures of his responsibilities than his cursed inability or unwillingness to make a minimal effort to conform to his role. ■

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



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# FPL partners with Everglades park on solar energy project at Shark Valley

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

It's an intriguing fact of nature that alligators, the ubiquitous denizens of the Everglades, are solar powered, with scaly skin that optimizes the sun's rays to maintain energy. Now, thanks to a grant and new solar panels donated by Florida Power & Light Company, solar energy will power the Shark Valley Visitor Center in Everglades National Park, where hundreds of thousands of visitors can learn fascinating facts about solar energy, alligators and the Everglades.

Through a \$25,000 donation, a matching grant from the National Park Service and an in-kind donation of solar panels, FPL is working with the South Florida National Parks Trust and Everglades National Park to install a 12-kilowatt solar system at the visitor center in western Miami-Dade County. This is in addition to one of its groundbreaking energy-storage battery projects already in operation at Flamingo in Everglades National Park.

The new system is expected to generate more than 40 percent of the center's energy needs.

"When you're surrounded by an oasis of green space like the Everglades, opportunities abound to tell engaging stories about how nature powers this amazing ecosystem. Adding solar power to the mix is a perfect fit," said SFNPT Chairman Wayne Rassner. "The visitor center is an ideal location to showcase renewable energy projects, and FPL's solar panels will help visitors better understand this connection through interpretive exhibits and displays."

The center houses an information desk staffed by park rangers and volunteers and has interpretive exhibits, a



bookstore and a ticket counter for tram tours and bike rentals. It's open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. seven days a week.

"FPL has powered South Florida for 90 years, and we share a commitment to protecting our community's environmental treasures," said Michael Sole, vice president of environmental services for FPL and its parent company, NextEra Energy Inc. "We have partnered with Everglades National Park on a number of innovative projects, and we are thrilled to announce this latest endeavor ... People come from all over the globe to visit and learn about America's Everglades because it is a place of wonder with incredible environmental

importance."

FPL is in the midst of installing 1 million solar panels across Miami-Dade County as part of one of the largest solar expansions in the country. It currently operates 14 solar power plants and a major solar research facility at Florida International University.

Similar to solar panels, alligator skin absorbs heat from the sun. It is composed of bumpy scales made from keratin, which is the same protein found in hooves and horns, making it extremely tough. Heat is slowly radiated back into alligators' bodies after the sun has gone, which allows these creatures to maintain a higher rate of energy over time

and remain active far after other reptiles have lost their ability to regulate their body temperatures.

## About SFNPT

The South Florida National Parks Trust is the official nonprofit fundraising partner of four national parks in South Florida: Everglades, Biscayne and Dry Tortugas national parks and Big Cypress National Preserve. Since 2002, the SFNPT has raised more than \$7 million to support national park programs and projects in five key areas: environmental education, resource protection, visitor services, volunteer activities and community outreach. Learn more at [www.southfloridaparks.org](http://www.southfloridaparks.org)

## About Everglades National Park

Everglades National Park protects the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States with more than 1.5 million acres of mangrove forests, sawgrass prairies, pine rocklands and a vast marine estuary opening to Florida Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Established in 1947 as the first national park created for its biodiversity, it's home to 39 threatened or endangered species including the Florida panther, the American crocodile and the West Indian manatee.

## About Shark Valley

The heartland of the Everglades, Shark Valley has a 15-mile-loop trail that visitors can walk, bicycle or ride a tram to see some of the park's best wildlife concentrations including alligators, turtles, fish and birds. Entrance is on U.S. 41 25 miles west of the Florida Turnpike. Learn more at [www.sharkvalleytramtours.com](http://www.sharkvalleytramtours.com). ■

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## GET OUT FOR A GOOD CAUSE

■ **The Naples Garden Club** will host a floral celebration at Naples Botanical Garden on Jan. 7 with Bruno Duarte. The event will take place in Kapnick Hall from 1 to 3 p.m. Mr. Duarte is considered an artist rather than a florist, and he will show how he uses flowers more as an accent rather than the design's central focus at the garden exhibit. He will also host a hands-on workshop on Jan. 8 at Buehler Hall at the Naples Botanical Garden from 10 a.m. to noon. Registration is online at [www.naplesgardenclub.org](http://www.naplesgardenclub.org). The Jan. 7 fee is \$30 for guests, free for members. The workshop on Jan. 8 is \$100 for guests and garden club members.

■ **The Naples Senior Center**, a non-profit organization that provides comprehensive programs and social services for seniors, giving them the tools to address life's challenges, will honor the 60th anniversary of Motown with its annual signature gala "An Evening for Better Tomorrows" on Jan. 12 at Royal Poinciana Golf Club. Attendees will be entertained with a Night of Motown Magic featuring the Shadows of the '60s, paying tribute to the legacy of such Motor City greats as the Temptations, Four Tops and Supremes. Founder and creator Dave Revels was a member of the Hall of Fame group the Drifters and is currently lead singer of the internally acclaimed a cappella group The Persuasions. Guests also will enjoy a lavish cocktail hour and seated dinner. The Naples Senior Center's seventh Annual Signature Fundraising gala takes place

at 6 p.m. at the Royal Poinciana Golf Club, 1600 Solana Rd. Tickets are \$375 per person and Patron Tables are available for \$7,500. Additional sponsorship opportunities are also available.

■ **Youth Haven** will host its signature annual fundraising event, Soiree of the Season, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 19, at Ritz-Carlton Naples. All proceeds from the event will directly benefit the children and teens that Youth Haven serves. The evening will feature dinner and cocktails, a casino night atmosphere, giving opportunities and other entertainment. Tickets are \$500 per person, with scholarships available starting at \$500. For more information visit [www.youthhavenswfl.org](http://www.youthhavenswfl.org).

■ **The Boss Legacy Inc.** fundraiser will be held from 4-9 p.m. on Jan. 26 at Boston Beer Garden in Naples. The foundation was founded by two active law enforcement officers in honor of retired police canine, K9 Boss, who succumbed to cancer on May 30. The foundation's mission is to raise funds for retired police/military and active service canines to care for daily, medical and "end of watch" services. Once a canine retires from the agency they selflessly served, the dog's handler takes over the financial responsibility of his or her retired partner. These canines retire due to injury, illness and old age, which all have medical and/or financial strain attached to them. Visit [www.thebosslegacyfl.com](http://www.thebosslegacyfl.com) for more information about the foundation and its upcoming event. ■

# THIS JANUARY ON **WGCU**

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### Discover Tuesdays

**Starting January 8 at 8pm**

**Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Season 5**  
Join Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. to uncover the ancestral stories of 28 cultural trailblazers with fascinating histories. Featuring Laura Linney, Michael Strahan, Sarah Silverman, Andy Samberg, Seth Myers, Tig Notaro, Marco Rubio and more.

**January 15 at 9pm ▼**

**The Swamp: American Experience**

The dramatic story of humanity's attempts to conquer the Florida Everglades, one of nature's most mysterious and unique ecosystems. *The Swamp* explores the repeated efforts to transform what was seen as a vast wasteland into an agricultural and urban paradise, ultimately leading to a passionate campaign to preserve America's greatest wetland. As the world copes with increasingly deadly weather events, *The Swamp* is a timely tale of the perils of mankind's abuse of nature.



**January 22 at 9pm**

**The Big Burn: American Experience**

**January 29 at 9pm**

**Surviving the Dust Bowl: American Experience**

### Think Wednesdays

**January 9 at 8pm**

**Nature: Attenborough and the Sea Dragon**

**January 9 at 9pm**

**NOVA: Einstein's Quantum Riddle**

**Starting January 9 at 10pm ▼**

**The Dictator's Playbook**

From Mussolini to Saddam Hussein, dictators have had a profound effect on the 20th century. How did they seize and wield power? What forces rose up against them or resisted them in secret? How did they finally come to the bitter end? This six-part series answers those questions, each a revealing portrait of brutality and power.

**January 16 and 22 at 8pm**

**Nature: Equus - The Story of the Horse**

**January 23 at 9pm**

**NOVA: Island Volcano**



### Drama Sundays

**Starting January 13 at 9pm**

**Victoria on Masterpiece, Season 3**

Travel back to 1848 as revolution breaks out across Europe. In Britain, one woman stands between order and chaos: Queen Victoria.

**January 13 and 20 at 10pm ▼**

**Victoria and Albert: The Wedding**

Enjoy a recreation of the wedding that changed British matrimonial ceremonies forever. This series celebrates an enduring love that was to melt the nation's heart and set the standard for generations of brides to come.



### Returning Favorites

**Mondays starting January 7**

**Antiques Roadshow**

Experience Roadshow's all-new look this season from the historic Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester, Mich.

**Thursdays starting January 17**

**Doc Martin, Season 8**

Martin and Louisa, after having had therapy to save their marriage last season, face up to the challenge of living happily together with their (now toddler) son James.





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“We never know what’s going to happen on these counts — we try to go into it without any expectations ... Last year was particularly tough for birds here, and also tough for insects and lots of critters.”

— Sharon Stilwell, a member of the Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary’s sustainability board in northeast Collier County.



American oystercatcher with young.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER CICCONE / AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

# BIRDING

From page 1

The long-legged little predator of insects, lizards, mice, prairie dogs and the like, called the “howdy bird” by cowboys



DISSTON

for its habit of nodding in the direction of passersby when it spotted them, fashions its own burrows or inhabits those of others, including man-made holes in such environs as golf courses.



FLAGLER

That fact suggests it is adaptable. But no matter how adaptable it may be, Florida’s year-round native also requires open ground and prairies — the drier habitats sought first and most eagerly by developers and builders.

Thus, burrowing owls typify the troubled evolutions of a number of Florida birds that have managed to survive the last 150 years but now are threatened or endangered by vastly shrunken ranges, by human toxins, and by changes in climate and food opportunities.

The list is sobering: two bats, the Florida bonneted and the gray have made the endangered and threatened species list; the Everglades snail kite; the Cape



COURTESY PHOTO

Sharon Stilwell and Dick Stilwell at the Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

Sable seaside sparrow; both Kirtland’s and Bachman’s warblers; red-cockaded woodpeckers; Audubon’s crested caracara; the red knot; the piping plover; the Florida scrub-jay; wood storks; roseate terns and the Florida grasshopper sparrow.

In the case of the latter, ornithologists say the little five-inch grasshopper sparrow is spiraling down the chillingly termed “extinction vortex” and may disappear this year. An inhabitant of grasslands and open areas in central Florida for 3,000 years — a bird sometimes co-existing with burrowing owls — now only about 70 individuals, including just 22 females, were known to exist at the

beginning of 2018; a few others live in captivity, according to news reports.

To put the once-upon-a-time in perspective, author Jack de Golia described the history of birds and humans here in a single paragraph of his 1978 book, “Everglades: The Story Behind The Scenery,” a history as true now as it was then:

“Back in 1870, when only 85 people lived along the coast of southeastern Florida, an estimated 2 million wading birds inhabited the Everglades during dry seasons. During the late 19th century, plume-hunting reduced these birds to only several hundred thousand. This dramatic loss spurred protective laws in Florida — and in New York, where the

plumes had been shipped to millinery houses. Thus protected, the wading-bird population rebounded to near its original level.”

Delightful as that seems to be, it’s not the end of the story.

“Then, in the 1940s and after, the character of the Everglades itself began to change. As South Florida grew, the Everglades shrank, its waters controlled for man’s uses. By the mid-1970s, wading-bird numbers had dropped back to a few hundred thousand, about 10 percent of what it had been a century before. Biologists actively study these birds, looking for clues that might lead to stopping or even reversing the decline. As yet the only thing certain is that life in the Everglades is more fragile than anyone ever thought.”

And not just in the Everglades.

The traveler’s recollection of burrowing owls in vast numbers dating from the 1880s is particularly poignant now, as the New Year arrives in the Sunshine State and the 119th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count continues to unfold across Florida, the nation, the North American continent and the world.

The longest-running community science bird project on the planet, its counts will not include a lot of burrowing owls.

The owl’s most fertile and reliable winter territories have always been southwest Florida and southern coastal California (its summer range includes portions of the central Midwest and West). But now it holds the unenviable position of being the cover model for a lavishly photographed Audubon report on the decline of too many birds: “314

Species on the Brink.” To see the report, go to [www://climate.audubon.org/](http://www://climate.audubon.org/).

Birders themselves now might be lucky to see three pairs of burrowing owls, let alone three miles of pairs. And by 2080, Audubon says, burrowing owls could lose between two-thirds and three-quarters of their range just from global warming — an untenable position for the birds arising from a warmer global environment that changes what can live where, and when, and what will eat what.

“Nearly half of our birds are at the risk of extinction this century,” writes David Yarnold, president and CEO of Audubon. “That doesn’t have to happen.”

Every single day from now through Jan. 5, Audubon volunteers will come face to face with that fact about owls and many other birds, as well: when they lose habitat, either they go elsewhere or they die, sometimes in large numbers.

The bird counters, working from dawn to dusk in geographic circles with 15-mile diameters, are counting anyway, in whatever habitats exist.

“Our center point is at the U.S. Highway 1 bridge in Stuart — so it’s everything we can see for 7.5 miles in every direction from the bridge,” says Laurie Odium, a retired teacher who’s done the bird count for a decade or more, describing her circle — which, she points out, faces the challenge not of wilderness, but of many gated communities.

The importance of looking — of seeing what’s there, and how it compares to what was there in each year since 1900 when the counts began — is crucial to the work of researchers and scientists seeking to preserve and protect birds, they say.

“You start as a volunteer counter not really knowing anything but saying yes when they ask you to go count somewhere, because your eyes are better than no eyes in an area,” explains Ms. Odium. “And, you learn.”

**How it works**

In and out of cities, on land and water, by foot, by boat, in ATVs or other vehicles, the birders are recording time and place, weather and cloud cover, species and number — all data that will be carefully compiled, sent to a regional office and put in order, then relayed to an international and public database later in January when the counting is done.

The Audubon database has now become an extraordinary resource for hundreds of scientific studies aimed at preserving birds by protecting habitats, ranges and food sources, and by identifying unexpected or even unseen changes and their causes.

“The data collected over the past century allow researchers, conservation biologists and others to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America,” explains Tony Licata, who with his wife Judy Licata is part of the Peace River Audubon bird count.

He can provide examples.

“In the 1980s Christmas Bird Count data documented the decline of wintering populations of the American Black Duck, after which conservation measures were put into effect to reduce hunting pressure on this species. In 2009, CBC data were instrumental in Audubon’s birds and climate change analysis, which documented range shifts of bird species over time.”

In the past three years, he says — and even with gentle weather — the total count along the Peace River was down: volunteers saw 19,247 birds last year, 21,266 birds the year before and 23,272 birds in 2015.

In 2017, the numbers represented declines in ibis, vultures, grackles, cormorants and tree swallows, although the total number would have been worse, he notes, without an increase of 238 percent in the Lesser Scaup, a little North American diving duck with a blue bill



COURTESY PHOTO

**Burrowing owls typify the troubled evolutions of a number of Florida birds that have managed to survive the last 150 years but now are threatened or endangered by vastly shrunken ranges, by human toxins, and by changes in climate and food opportunities.**



COURTESY PHOTO

**Jayne Johnston, a volunteer leader for Audubon of Southwest Florida, is a wildlife assistance biologist with the FWC.**

that can migrate all the way into Central America in winter.

“We never know what’s going to happen on these counts — we try to go into it without any expectations,” explains Sharon Stilwell, a member of the Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary’s sustainability board in northeast Collier County. “Last year was particularly tough for birds here, and also tough for insects and lots of critters.”

The cause: a hurricane named Irma. “It wiped out dragonflies, butterflies, insects in general, and that affects birds. A lot had to go elsewhere.”

**How the bird count started**

Since 1900, when passenger pigeons and ivory-billed woodpeckers still clung to the planet in dwindling numbers that would ultimately vanish forever, the Christmas bird counts have become part of winter living in many communities.

The last passenger pigeon died in a zoo on March 1, 1914, and the last verified sightings of ivory-billed woodpeckers took place in Louisiana in 1944 and Cuba in 1986. Both birds inhabited Florida, and people like John Jay Audubon himself early in the 19th century, and later ornithologist Frank Chapman, saw it coming.

“A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children,” Audubon wrote early in the 19th century.

The irony was that Audubon shot all the birds he used for his famous illustrations.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEAN HOLLOWELL / AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

**Florida scrub-jay.**

Chapman, however, started the Audubon Society’s Christmas bird count in New England in 1900, by proposing the count to replace the unfortunate and widespread holiday sport of the Christmas “side hunt” — teams would shoot as many birds of any species or size as they could find, winning at the end of the day by bringing in the most dead birds.

The counters today are just as ardent and determined as the shooters of yesterday — especially given the struggles so many animals are now enduring. Ms. Stilwell and her birders at Corkscrew, for example, hope to see black-throated, green and magnolia warblers, American redstarts, yellow-rumps, yellow-throated warblers and

worm-eating warblers, she says, along with painted buntings, red-shouldered hawks, anhingas, wood storks and eagles “which are feeding their young, so they’ll be out hunting and flying over the boardwalk.”

Only 27 counters, most in New England but ranging from Ontario to California, counted about 90 species on the first ever Christmas Bird Count, organized by Chapman. By contrast, in Tony Licata’s Peace River count on any given recent year it’s typical for counters to spot roughly 135 species, give or take a few.

In Florida alone, about 500 species once existed; roughly 350 exist today.

**Recent experience**

And this year across the nation, the Christmas counters expect to gather data on almost 800 species, Audubon officials estimate.

One is the seemingly hearty crow, a bird recognized as remarkably adaptable and wide-ranging on the North American continent, thriving from 10,000 feet above sea level in the Rockies to the beaches themselves — the Pacific, the Atlantic, and the Gulf coasts, with a multitude of terrains in between.

“Last year,” recalls Jayne Johnston, a Lee County birder working the Christmas Count in her second year as a compiler of data, “we saw a lot of crows.”

Her circle along portions of the Orange River includes cattle leases on pastures, palmetto and oak scrub, some heavy woods and other landscapes including development set on or near fresh water.

Although crows do well, the Audubon data shows them taking a significant hit — with numbers far down — about two decades ago. That data corresponds with the arrival of West Nile virus, says Ms. Johnston, a volunteer leader and bird count compiler at Audubon of Southwest Florida, and a wildlife biologist by profession for the state’s Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Last year, she reports, “I saw a solitary sandpiper in the middle of a cattle lease, at the Hickory Swamp Preserve.”

Probably a bird blown off course or looking for food where it normally wouldn’t, theorizes Ms. Johnston — but she wonders if the region’s water woes both in fresh and salt contribute to such a sighting.

As a result of cyanobacteria that’s plagued the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee waterways with their tributary canals, or oxygen-destroying red tide in salt water along the coasts, food typically consumed by such birds as sandpipers may be in short supply: crustaceans, worms, little water bugs and the like.

Better to know than not know, the bird counters figure. ■

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# COMMENTARY



## On Medicare? You can help prevent fraud, waste and abuse

BY CAMILITA ALDRIDGE

SHINE Program Manager  
Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida



ALDRIDGE

Medicare fraud is in the news again, and it serves as a reminder for everyone over the age of 65 to understand how to fight against fraud, waste, abuse and dishonest practices.

Medicare fraud and abuse cost taxpayers billions of dollars every year. In fact, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services estimates that \$60 billion is lost to fraud, waste, abuse and improper payments in a single year. That's \$60 billion in taxpayer dollars that were meant to assist senior citizens with their medical needs.

Combating the growing problem of Medicare fraud is the main goal of the federal Senior Medicare Patrol program, which is funded by the U.S. Administration for Community Living. Here in Florida, Senior Medicare Patrol is part of the SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) program. SHINE is a free program of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs offered locally through the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida.

We empower and assist older Floridians who could become victims of Medicare scams and health care fraud.

You can protect yourself by never sharing your Medicare number with strangers or to anyone calling you or selling medical equipment door-to-door. Shred your personal documents before disposing of them. Empty your mailbox every day — don't leave personal information out where anyone can steal it.

There are also easy steps to detect potential Medicare abuse. Most health care fraud involves billing for services that were not provided and double-billing. Each beneficiary receives Medicare Summary Notices in the mail. Check these notices for services that you don't remember receiving, or charges for equipment or services that your provider didn't order.

Keeping a calendar of your doctor's visits and medical tests can be helpful for detecting fraud, as well. Compare the dates on Medicare Summary Notice to the dates on your calendar. If the dates don't match up, there may be reason for concern.

What do you do if something seems amiss? Report your suspicions. First, contact your health care provider about charges that don't seem right. It may simply be a billing error. However, if they're unwilling to make a correction, or if you still have suspicions, reach out to the SHINE program. You can reach the SHINE program by calling the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida's Elder Helpline at 866-413-5337. Outside of Southwest Florida, you can contact the statewide helpline at 800-963-5337.

SHINE can assist with other Medicare needs, as well. Counselors provide free, unbiased and personalized assistance with Medicare, Medicaid, prescription drug plans and long-term care insurance. ■





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Itemizing and need to give to charity but not sure which ones yet? Consider a donor advised fund. Donor advised funds serve as a philanthropic checkbook for donors who wish to give to a variety of organizations or causes over the year.

Worried about paying capital gains on appreciated assets and want to support something you care about? Whether securities or property, consider giving it to the foundation to start a donor advised fund or start a scholarship fund now. We stand ready to accept transfers until the end of business Dec. 31.

Need a tax deduction now but also want income for life? Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity, Charitable Remainder Unitrust or Annuity Trust. The foundation can run your birth date and produce a proposal to show you what you can get in income and how much you can deduct now and later.

Need to take your required distribution from your IRA at 70½ years of age but don’t want to pay the tax? Consider rolling it into a fund at the Community Foundation for the causes or organizations you care about. Give it all away now or endow it for the future.

Are you bunching your deductions every other year because of the new tax law? Consider putting your charitable contributions into a donor advised fund so you can keep on giving like you do each year and take advantage of the tax deduction in a different year.

Want to give a gift in memory or honor of someone special this holiday season? Want it to last forever? Consider a customized gift in that person’s name to one of our specialty funds that supports a cause important to you or start a fund or scholarship in his/her name.

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Just click on our website at [www.floridacommunity.com](http://www.floridacommunity.com), send us an email at [Give@Floridacommunity.com](mailto:Give@Floridacommunity.com) or give me a call at 274-5900. ■

— The Southwest Florida Community Foundation cultivates regional change for the common good through collective leadership, social innovation and philanthropy to address the evolving community needs in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties. With assets of more than \$126 million, it has provided \$78.2 million in grants and scholarships to the communities it serves since inception. For more information, call 274-5900 or visit [www.floridacommunity.com](http://www.floridacommunity.com).

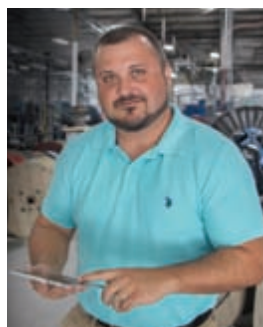
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COURTESY PHOTO

Students from Shadowlawn Elementary School participate in a program with volunteers from FineMark National Bank & Trust. Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida will expand programs like these through a grant from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation.

## Junior Achievement gets \$50,000 Schulze grant

Programs that help students in Collier, Lee and Charlotte counties have gotten a boost, thanks to a \$50,000 grant to Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation.

“This grant will enable us to extend Junior Achievement programs to 2,500 more students in Southwest Florida, helping our goal of reaching 12,500 students during the 2018-2019 school year,” said Angela Fisher, president and CEO. “Our volunteer-led programs and job shadowing experiences provide students real-life, hands-on learning opportunities that build a foundation for future success in a global economy.”

Junior Achievement partners with

classroom business volunteers to deliver lessons on financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship to students at public and private schools, as well as after-school programs and special at-risk groups. During the 2017-2018 school year, Junior Achievement facilitated nearly 63,800 hours of instruction to more than 11,600 students.

“We’re proud to support the work that Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida does with local schools in our community,” said Mary Beth Geier, Florida director of the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation.

To learn more, visit [www.JASWFL.org](http://www.JASWFL.org) or call 225-2590. ■

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# GET OUT FOR A GOOD CAUSE

■ **Bonita Boat Center** is donating a boat to Sunlight Homes of Naples in the hopes of raising money for the organization, which is a residential maternity home that provides a safe, loving, family atmosphere that serves pregnant women and teens. For a \$25 donation, people can enter the drawing to win the boat, a new 2017 Monterey 197 FS. The drawing will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, at the Bonita Boat Center. Visit [www.bonitaboatcenter.com](http://www.bonitaboatcenter.com) to enter the drawing, and visit [www.sunlighthouse.org](http://www.sunlighthouse.org) for more information about Sunlight Homes of Naples.



■ **The Venetian Charity Ball** will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs.

All proceeds will benefit the programs and services of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. in Lee, Hendry, and Glades counties, which include Positive Youth Development Program, Senior Support Coordination Program, Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Program, immigration services, food assistance and pantries, DUI counseling, baby supplies, disaster response and recovery, and direct assistance. The evening will include a cocktail hour, auctions, dinner, and dancing. Tickets are \$250. For information and tickets, visit [www.catholic-charitiesdov.org](http://www.catholic-charitiesdov.org) or call 337-4193 or email [venetianball@ccslee.org](mailto:venetianball@ccslee.org).

■ **The Third on Canvas** fundraising art auction will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 21. Talented artists from across the country will paint "en plein air" on Feb. 17 and 18. They will be set up throughout Third Street South and the Old Naples Historic District. The two-day art event will conclude with a fundraising auction on Feb. 21 to be held at Naples Beach Hotel. Guests will enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, plus silent and live art auctions. This year the event will benefit FFCF and PAWS Assistance Dogs. Visit [www.thirdstreetsouth.com](http://www.thirdstreetsouth.com) for more information. ■

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## GUEST COMMENTARY

## The view from Good Fortune II

BY DR. JUDY HUSHON

Conservancy of Southwest Florida board member, volunteer naturalist

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida's eco-cruise tour aboard the Good Fortune II makes two trips a day into Rookery Bay. Conservancy naturalists like me help passengers understand and enjoy the rich nature that is on display. With the weather starting to change, the birds are preparing for their active season of nest building, laying eggs and rearing their young. With no major hurricanes this season, last year's nests only needed some shoring up and relining and many of the birds have already begun this process.

The absence of hurricanes also means the mangroves are in full leaf. The red mangroves line the shores with the black mangroves behind them and the white mangroves still farther back. The mangroves in Rookery Bay look healthy, with only a few trees upended by Hurricane Irma and some stumps washed into the bay. These mangroves help to block storm surge, wind and waves, protecting the land behind them from storm damage. Salt water can wash through the mangroves without damaging them and their prop-root structure breaks up waves.

Our eagles in Hall Bay usually lay their eggs in December and hatch about a month later. Both eagles have been seen flying around and roosting in the tree where their nest is located. Some osprey are also preparing for an early nesting season — they traditionally do not nest until late January, but several pairs are definitely

putting the finishing touches on nests located on channel markers, which keep the snakes and raccoons away. This may be a by-product of global warming, since their greatest stressor is heat at the end of the season before their babies have fledged.

The wading birds are also starting to migrate to Rookery Bay from the Everglades, especially since this has been a dry fall and the Everglades will be drying out. They typically collect along the roots of the red mangroves and wait for small fish to appear. So far we have seen great blue herons, great egrets, snowy egrets, reddish egrets, little blue egrets, cattle egrets, tri-color herons and, on one evening cruise, we saw a couple of roseate spoonbills flying over. On a morning cruise we caught sight of a black-crowned night heron looking for a final treat before his daytime nap. Most of these wading birds, except for the night heron and the great blue heron, come to the rookery island at night.

The oyster catchers have returned and are regularly seen feasting on the coon oysters on the oyster mound at the entrance to Hall Bay. They are typically at the edge of the water where the oysters are opening to filter the water. They reach in with their strong bright orange beaks and clip the muscle that holds the oyster shell before eating the meat inside. The oyster catchers migrate north during the



COURTESY PHOTOS  
Left: The safety talk aboard the Good Fortune II. Above: Egrets, cormorants and pelicans on Rookery Bay.

summer and only return to Southwest Florida in the fall.

There have also been a lot of dolphins around Rookery Bay. We have seen a number of mothers with small babies, probably still nursing. Last week we were treated to a feeding frenzy in very shallow water, after which the five dolphins involved slowly swam off to find more fish. The dolphin sightings are almost like taking a Disney jungle ride as they appear and actually swim under and around the boat.

The evening show at the rookery island is visible every night. In the half hour before sunset, 1,500 to 2,000 birds flock to a small island only about 120 feet in diameter that is covered with mangroves. During the day you can see brown pelicans and double crested cormorants digest-

ing their previous meals — but at night, everyone joins in the party. There are flocks of up to 100 ibis at a time, armadas of pelicans flying in formation, little blue herons slipping into the foliage never to be seen again and all of the other birds that hang out in Naples and Rookery Bay during the day. The unwritten rule is that you have to be at the island before sunset so the birds arrive in swarms. This process is also noisy and there definitely is a pecking order. Late arriving birds will take places occupied by already roosting birds, but not without a noisy altercation — this goes on constantly for the half hour before sunset.

To book a cruise aboard the Conservancy's Good Fortune II, call 213-2500 or visit [www.conservancy.org/goodfortune](http://www.conservancy.org/goodfortune). ■

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## GUEST COMMENTARY

### More than just a number

BY SUE ZUMSTEIN  
Quest for Success

Sending a child to college is often an expensive proposition, with costs to attend a four-year college or university ranging from \$18,000/year all the way up to \$75,000/year\* (including housing, food, tuition, fees and books). As Florida residents we are fortunate, as we have the second lowest tuition rates in the United States, less than \$6500/year including fees. However that does not mean attending college in Florida cannot be a costly endeavor. There are 12 colleges/universities in the Florida State University system, with several nationally ranked institutions, which Florida residents can attend for super low in-state tuition rates. What a bargain...right? Well let's for a moment focus on value instead of just the cost to attend.

Each year I attend the State University System (SUS) workshop, hearing from the admissions officers from each public college or university in Florida. There Quest staff and I are given the SUS Admissions Tour Matrix, which provides data on the most popular majors, undergraduate enrollment numbers, testing policies, admissions statistics as well as graduation rates. In past years, we were only provided with six-year graduation rates, however this year, we were given four-year graduation numbers. I cannot speak for the other counselors in the room, but I was stunned.

Without mentioning specific colleges, the four-year graduation rate ranged from

a low of 21 percent at one institution to a high of 68 percent at another. I am sure there are a myriad of reasons for these less-than-impressive numbers, and I am not here to criticize specific institutions or even offer a formulaic remedy to improve these statistics. However, I am here to encourage us to provide our best and brightest students who attend these institutions with the knowledge necessary to graduate in four years.

When a student takes longer than four years to graduate from college, it not only results in the student or parent having to incur additional costs to pay for college, but it also means the student is not working, not earning a living; an unacknowledged cost to be sure, but nevertheless a financial setback as young people begin their adult lives. In working with high school students about to begin college, I find most have little to no knowledge about the inner workings of earning college credit. So what insight can we provide high school seniors so they can adeptly navigate the ins and outs of college?

Have students seek out academic advisors at their college or university so they can receive guidance in the sequence of their course work. Talk about credits per year, the "drop-add" period, time management and other important skills.

Let's not become so focused on the race to get into college that we lose sight of the bigger goal: to graduate from college. Because I cannot imagine there is anyone among us who wants our outstanding Collier County students to become a statistic. ■



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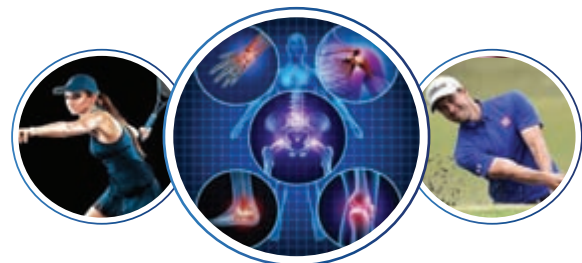
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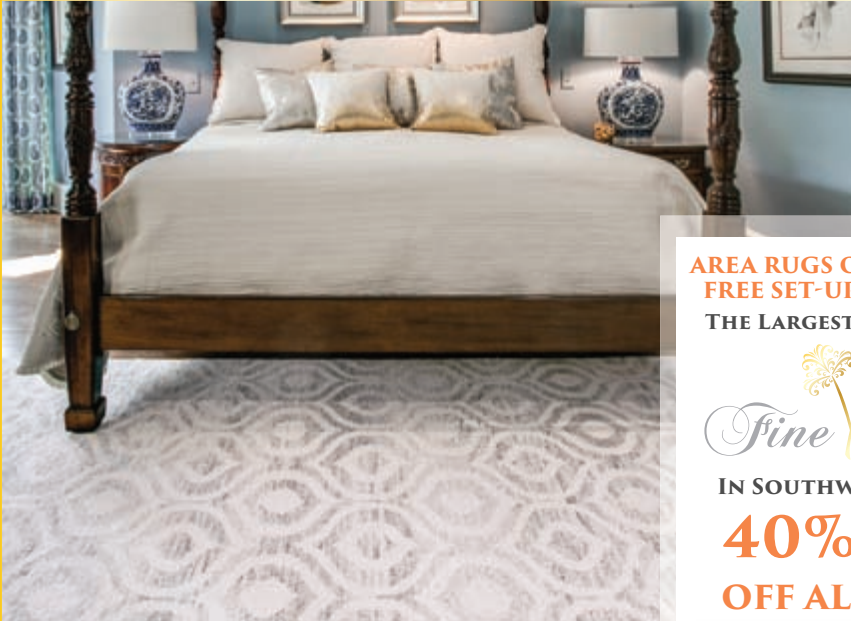
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## Casino offers dealing classes

Want to deal cards for a living? Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee is launching a free dealer school to prepare candidates for career opportunities at the gaming tables.

Classes will run for 8-10 weeks starting in 2019; times are to be determined.

Candidates must be able to pass a math assessment, complete the interview process, be proficient in English and demonstrate guest service skills.

Applications can be submitted online at [www.gotoworkhappy.com](http://www.gotoworkhappy.com). ■

## Frank Jenkins named Lee BIA president

Homebuilder Frank R. Jenkins has been installed as the Lee Building Industry Association's president.

Mr. Jenkins has more than 26 years working in the custom home-building industry and was recently awarded Lee BIA's Pinnacle Award for Best Kitchen Design for his Longwater Chase home in Gulf Harbour, a news release said.

"I'm honored to once again be leading this incredible association for our region," he said. "The Lee BIA does such great work not only for our thriving construction industry but also for much needed community outreach like Builders Care that provides emergency construction services at no cost to needy and deserv-



JENKINS

ing elderly and/or disabled homeowners and their families."

The Lee BIA, with 370 members, is a not-for-profit trade organization representing Lee, Hendry and Glades counties and serves as a voice for the building industry in the regulatory arena.

Mr. Jenkins has been a member of Lee BIA since 1995 and has previously served as president of the organization in 2000, 2001 and 2004. He will serve a two-year term. ■

## Get documents shredded and help the United Way

Get rid of unwanted documents and help a good cause.

Richard Johnston Law and Thrivent Financial are holding the second annual shred event for the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee.

The free shred will be held Jan. 12 from 9 a.m.-noon in the parking lot of Richard Johnston at 7370 College Park-

way, Fort Myers. Up to four file-sized boxes per vehicle are being accepted for shredding.

Donations will be accepted for the United Way, and Bennett's Fresh Roast donuts and coffee will be served to the first 100 attendees.

For more information, visit [www.UnitedWayLee.org](http://www.UnitedWayLee.org). ■

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# NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY THE EDITORS AT ANDREWS MCMEEL  
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

## Bromance

Anthony Akers, 38, and the Richland (Washington) Police Department embarked on an amusing meet-cute of law and fugitive when the department posted a wanted photo of Akers on its Facebook page. Five hours after the posting, National Public Radio reported, Akers responded with: "Calm down, I'm going to turn myself in." When Akers was a no-show, the department messaged him the next day: "Hey Anthony! We haven't seen you yet." Officers even offered him a ride. But Akers couldn't be bothered: "Thank you, tying up a

couple loose ends since I will probably be in there for a month." He promised to surrender within 48 hours. When the weekend passed without any sign of Akers, officers wrote: "Is it us? We waited but you didn't show." To which Akers replied: "Dear RPD, it's not you, it's me. I obviously have commitment issues. ... P.S. You're beautiful." Finally, on Dec. 4, Akers arrived at the Richland police station, posting a selfie with the caption: "Thank you RPD for letting me do this on my own." Aww, ain't love grand?

## Around the bend

Science teacher Margaret Gieszinger, 52, at University Preparatory High School in Visalia, Calif., was captured on video chopping off students' hair with scissors on Dec. 5, while loudly, and incorrectly, singing "The Star-Spangled Banner." The Visalia Times-Delta described the video showing Gieszinger starting with a male student seated in a chair at the front of the room as she cuts portions of his hair and tosses them behind her. When she moved on to a

female student, other teenagers started screaming and ran out of the classroom. Lilli Gates, one of Gieszinger's students, told the Times-Delta the teacher "is a loving and kind lady. She is usually all smiles and laughs. This is not the Miss G. we know and love." After Gieszinger's arrest on suspicion of felony child endangerment, the district notified parents that she would not be returning to the classroom.

## The litigious society

When Stephen Keys boarded a SkyWest flight in Reno, Nev., on Sept. 9, he settled into his first-class seat and reached to buckle his seat belt. But when he raised the right armrest for better access, his right pinky finger became lodged in a small hole under the armrest, according to the lawsuit he filed against American Airlines and SkyWest on Dec. 5. Keys tried repeatedly to remove his finger but could not, and it remained stuck for nearly an hour until the flight landed and airline mechanics disassembled the armrest, reported

City News Service. "The spring mechanism ... applied intense pressure to the plaintiff's finger, immediately inflicting injury, swelling and pain," the lawsuit read. "Dozens of passengers became aware of Mr. Keys' perilous condition, causing his dire situation to become a humiliating public spectacle." What's more, the injury left Mr. Keys unable to drive and play with his children, causing severe emotional distress, according to the lawsuit. SkyWest, citing ongoing litigation, would not comment on the suit.

## So there

Administrators at Spalding Grammar School in Spalding, Lincolnshire, England, introduced a new policy this year, banning sixth-formers (high-schoolers) from carrying book bags between classes. The school felt the heavy bags were causing injury to students and encouraged them to carry their books in their arms instead. But Jacob Ford, 17, disagreed, reported Metro News, and made his point by carrying his books in a wicker basket and an open microwave oven, for which he

received a two-day suspension. Head teacher Steven Wilkinson huffed, "We have a student who has behaved in an increasingly inappropriate way, actions the likes of which I have never witnessed, and who has been sanctioned entirely in line with the school's policies." But Ford's mother, Tracy, backed up her son's protest: "I'm very proud of him for standing up for something he believes in. Microwave or no microwave."

## Picky, picky

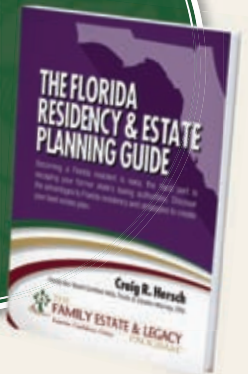
A referee in a Women's Super League soccer match in Manchester City, England, stayed cool at the start of the televised game on Oct. 26 when he realized he'd forgotten his coin for the kickoff coin toss. Thinking quickly, David McNamara had the captains of the Manchester City and Reading teams play "Rock, Paper, Scissors" instead. But

the Football Association, soccer's governing body in England, was unamused, and on Nov. 26, McNamara began a 21-day suspension after accepting a charge of "not acting in the best interests of the game," according to the BBC. An FA refereeing manager said: "He should have been more prepared. ... It's very unprofessional." ■

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# HEALTHY LIVING

## National survey shows teens vaping more

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America's teens report a dramatic increase in their use of vaping devices in just a single year, with 37.3 percent of 12th graders reporting "any vaping" in the past 12 months, compared to just 27.8 percent in 2017. These findings come from the 2018 Monitoring the Future survey of a nationally representative sample of eighth, 10th and 12th graders in schools nationwide.

The MTF survey was funded by a government grant to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The results were announced recently by the director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse along with the scientists who lead the research team. NIDA is part of the National Institutes of Health.

Reported use of vaping nicotine specifically in the 30 days prior to the survey nearly doubled among high school seniors, from 11 percent in 2017 to 20.9 percent in 2018. More than 1 in 10 eighth graders (10.9 percent) say they vaped nicotine in the past year, and use is up significantly in virtually all vaping measures among the surveyed students. Reports of past year marijuana vaping also increased this year, at 13.1 percent for 12th graders, up from 9.5 percent last year.



"Teens are clearly attracted to the marketable technology and flavorings seen in vaping devices," NIDA Director

Nora Volkow, M.D., said. She warned it is urgent that teens understand the possible effects of vaping on overall health and on

the development of the teen brain as well as the potential for vaping addiction.

"Research tells us that teens who vape may be at risk for transitioning to regular cigarettes, so while we have celebrated our success in lowering their rates of tobacco use in recent years, we must continue aggressive educational efforts on all products containing nicotine," Dr. Volkow said.

The percent of 12th graders who say they vaped "just flavoring" in the past year also increased to 25.7 percent in 2018, up from 20.6 percent in 2017. However, it is unclear if teens know what is in the vaping devices they are using, since the most popular devices do not have nicotine-free options, and some labeling has been shown to be inaccurate. There was also a significant jump in perceived availability of vaping devices and liquids in eighth and 10th graders, with 45.7 percent and 66.6 percent, respectively, saying the devices are "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get.

The increase in vaping rates between 2017-2018 also aligns with the recently released CDC/FDA government-funded National Youth Tobacco Survey. Here are some highlights:

SEE VAPING, A23 ►

## How to tell the difference between a cold and the flu

### BY SEBASTIAN SAIITA

PHYSICIANS REGIONAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Colds and the flu are common this time of year and can often be confused. It's understandable as they can share a number of the same symptoms, and more often than not, the two words appear together. Just walk through any pharmacy, and you will see the numerous medicines with the words "Cold & Flu" in big bold letters on the packaging. While it can be hard to differentiate between the two, it's important to distinguish the cause of your symptoms to determine the best course of treatment.

"There are a few signs and symptoms that do help to determine if you have the flu or not, with the biggest difference being the severity of your symptoms and how rapidly they begin," says Andrea Bickerton, M.D. board certified family medicine physician at Physicians Regional Medical Group. "With a cold, symptoms tend to gradually progress whereas the flu tends to occur very rapidly." Common symptoms of a cold

are within the respiratory system and include a stuffy or runny nose, sneezing, cough or chest discomfort. Treatment for these symptoms is available through over-the-counter medication designed to target the various symptoms.

It is also important to drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated and monitor for symptoms that last longer than five to seven days. If symptoms persist, your cold may have developed into an advanced respiratory illness in the form of an ear infection, sinus infection or bronchitis. If this occurs, you should seek treatment from your doctor.

While both a cold and the flu generally attack the respiratory system, producing many or all of the same symptoms, flu can affect the entire body. Additional symptoms associated with flu include a fever between 100 F and 104 F, headache, body aches, fatigue, exhaustion and nausea. "People often describe almost the exact time their flu symptoms began and the feeling of being hit by a bus," says Dr. Bickerton. As with a cold, if symptoms persist longer than three to five days,

or become increasingly severe, see your doctor. The flu can develop into bronchitis or pneumonia, particularly in patients who are older or have compromised immune systems, and may require more intense medical treatment or even hospitalization. Dr. Bickerton mentions that, while there is no cure for the influenza virus, there are medications that can shorten the duration of symptoms and help ease their severity as long as the medication is taken within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms.

There is no way to guarantee you will never get the flu, but there are certain things you can do to help reduce your risk of spreading it to others:

- Get vaccinated. The Centers for Disease Control recognizes a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.
- Wash your hands consistently throughout the day. Hand washing is still one of the most effective and easiest ways to prevent infection.

- Keep your hands away from your face. Microscopic germs find their way into our bodies most often through hand-to-eye, -nose or -mouth contact. Door knob and handles, office coffee pots and grocery cart handles can all carry the virus. Also, cover your mouth when sneezing or coughing.
- Avoid close contact with sick individuals and stay at home if you are sick. People can still be contagious for 24 hours after a fever and other symptoms cease.
- Practice good health habits such as getting plenty of sleep, manage stress, keeping hydrated, eating nutritious foods and being physically active.

Dr. Bickerton's office is located in Naples at Physicians Regional - Pine Ridge, 6101 Pine Ridge Rd., Naples 34119. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 348-4221 or schedule online at [www.PhysiciansRegionalMedicalGroup.com](http://www.PhysiciansRegionalMedicalGroup.com). ■

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# HEALTHY LIVING

## VAPING

From page 22

■ **Tobacco** - This year's survey shows regular tobacco is still at its lowest point in the survey since it began measuring it, with only 3.6 percent of high school seniors smoking daily, compared to 22.4 percent two decades ago. Smoking tobacco with a hookah is significantly lower than five years ago, at 7.8 percent in the past year among high school seniors, compared to 21.4 percent in 2013.

■ **Opioids** - The alarming news about vaping is in sharp contrast to the good news about teenage opioid use. The past year use of narcotics other than heroin (i.e., prescription opioids) is at 3.4 percent among 12th graders — a significant change from 4.2 percent in 2017. Only 1.7 percent of high school seniors report misuse of Vicodin in the past year, compared to a peak of 10.5 percent 15 years ago. Heroin use in all three grades remains very low, with only 0.4 percent of 12th graders reporting past year use.

"With illicit opioid use at generally the lowest in the history of the survey, it is possible that being in high school offers a protective effect against opioid misuse and addiction," said Dr. Volkow. NIDA will focus much of its new prevention research on the period of time when teens transition out of school into the adult world and become exposed to the dangerous use of these drugs, she added.

■ **Illicit drugs** - Close to 1 in 4 high

school seniors report use of an illicit drug in the past month, led by marijuana use. Rates of overall marijuana use are steady, with 5.8 percent of 12th graders reporting daily use. Daily use of marijuana has been reported by high school seniors for the past 20 years at somewhere between 5.0 and 6.6 percent. Past year rates of marijuana use are generally steady among sophomores and seniors, showing as 27.5 percent for 10th graders and 35.9 percent for 12th graders. However, there is a significant five-year drop among eighth graders—from 12.7 percent in 2013 to 10.5 percent in 2018.

■ **Other illicit drugs** - The use of cocaine, synthetic cannabinoids and MDMA remains close to historic lows. Inhalants, the only drug category that is usually higher among younger teens, is reported at 4.6 among eighth graders, compared to a peak of 12.8 percent in 1995.

■ **Alcohol** - There is positive news related to teen drinking with just 17.5 percent of 12th graders saying they have been drunk in the past 30 days, down significantly from five years ago, when it was reported at 26 percent. Reports of binge drinking (five or more drinks in a row in the past two weeks) are down significantly among 12th graders, at 13.8 percent, down from 16.6 percent in 2017. These findings represent the lowest rates seen for these alcohol measures since the survey began asking the questions.

The MTF survey has been conducted at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, since 1975. For more information, visit [www.drugabuse.gov/drugpages/MTF.html](http://www.drugabuse.gov/drugpages/MTF.html). ■


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# PET TALES

## Cross-country cat

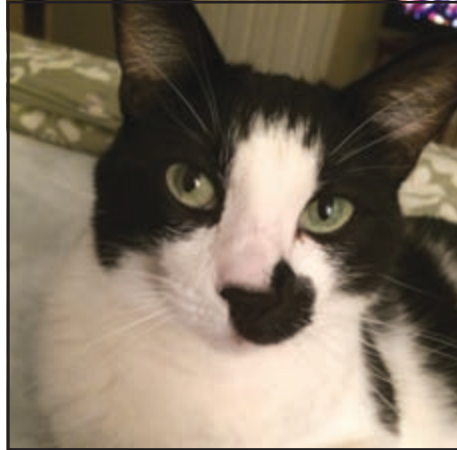
BY KIM CAMPBELL THORNTON  
Andrews McMeel Syndication

When Barbara Cole Miller made the decision to move from her longtime home in Southern California to her hometown of Albany, New York, she knew one of the greatest challenges she faced would be transporting her 10-year-old cat. Piper, adopted by Miller from San Clemente-Dana Point Animal Shelter in 2013, was fearful of loud noises and rarely left home except for visits to the veterinarian. Their cross-country trip by air would involve a two-day stay at a hotel before the flight, a new experience for Piper.

Her head exploding with “what-ifs,” Miller reached out for advice from Piper’s veterinarian, Bernadine Cruz, DVM, who is certified in Fear Free techniques, and to acquaintances experienced in traveling with cats.

The first step was finding a soft-sided carrier with mesh sides for good air flow that would fit comfortably beneath the airline seat. She chose one that allowed 15-pound Piper to be placed in it from the top or side.

Miller also purchased a portable folding litter box and packed a zippered plastic bag of lightweight clumping litter for the flight. She didn’t expect Piper to need or use it during the flight, but she wanted to have it in case they were delayed at their connection in Chicago. Janiss Garza, who travels frequently with her Somali cat Summer, advised on litter selection.



Piper’s journey from California to upstate New York went smoothly thanks to her owner’s planning.

“Clay litter is heavy and will almost guarantee your suitcase will be inspected by the TSA, since it has some of the same chemical makeup as another substance on their danger list,” she says.

To make sure Piper could urinate comfortably and mess-free if she had to during the flight, Miller lined the bottom of the carrier with a plastic bag, then layered it with absorbent pee pads and folded newspaper. She also added shredded newspaper to help Piper stay warm.

Her biggest fear was that Piper would defecate during the flight.

“I carried a cat carrier change: plastic bag, pee pads and newspaper, but my good girl only peed a little while confined or away from a litter box,” she says.

To help Piper feel comfortable in the

hotel room and the carrier, Miller used feline pheromone spray provided by Dr. Cruz. She also planned ahead for the flight. Piper’s carrier required a special airline tag, so they had to check in at the counter. Miller has had both knees replaced, so she had to enter a special line to go through security. She knew that Piper would have to be removed from the carrier during the security check so the bag could be X-rayed. To help maintain control of Piper while the cat was out of the bag, she purchased a custom vest with a touch fastener and a ring for attaching a leash.

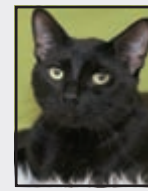
“Most important,” she says, “I requested a private room for inspection of her carrier. We were escorted to a small, fully enclosed room where Piper could walk around for a few minutes.”

Before arriving at the airport and again before takeoff, Miller gave Piper a dose of gabapentin prescribed by Dr. Cruz. The medication doesn’t cause complete sedation, but it reduces stress. Aside from an occasional quiet meow, Piper tolerated the two flights without issue.

They reached their new home five days before the movers arrived with furniture, but Miller had arranged for a friend to have a litter box and food waiting for Piper. She also brought familiar throw pillows and used the pheromone spray to help Piper settle in to her new digs.

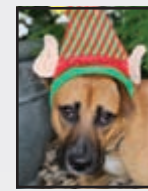
“All in all, she did far better than I could have imagined,” Miller says. “Piper has a strong bond with me, and as long as I was around, she was fine.” ■

### Pets of the Week



>> **Joe (A762541)**, a 3-year-old black kitty, takes his job as a snuggler seriously. He is the epitome of a lap cat. It is hard to get any work done with Joe around — all the shelter staff wants to do is hang out with this handsome guy. They need someone to adopt him so they can get back to work. He is both a gorgeous cat and one with a personality to match.

**Adoption Fee:** Pick an ornament and pay the price listed, ranging from \$15 to \$50. As always cats are two for one adoption fee.



>> **Prancer (A762812)** a 1-year-old hound mix, has only had a year’s practice being a best friend but the shelter staff can confirm that he is an expert. A few of his favorite things are playtime,

people and cuddling. He is learning sit and shake.

**Adoption Fee:** Pick an ornament from the shelter calendar and pay the price listed, ranging from \$15 to \$50.

### To adopt or foster a pet

■ **For information:** Call 533-7387 (**LEE-PETS**) or visit Animal Services’ site at [www.LeeLostPets.com](http://www.LeeLostPets.com). When calling, please refer to the animal’s ID number. The site updates hourly so you will be able to see which pets are still available.

■ **December promotion:** The Countdown to Christmas means the countdown to find pets their forever homes in time to spend the holiday season. It also means reduced adoption fees for the lucky families who find their perfect match. Just pick a door on our Countdown to Christmas calendar to reveal your reduced adoption fee from \$15 to \$50. ■

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# MONEY & INVESTING

## International economic slowdowns causing drops in U.S. stock markets

**ericBRETAN**  
 estaterick@gmail.com



Many people today are understandably confused with the current state of the financial markets. On one hand, the economic data shows that the unemployment rate remains at historical lows, incomes are rising, corporate earnings are great and consumer spending remains strong. But on the other hand, if this is truly the case, why does the stock market drop day after day? Surprisingly, I found the answer to this perplexing question in FedEx's surprise earnings announcement released last week.

FedEx was founded in 1971 to provide air freight services that would be responsible for a package from pickup to drop-off. Previously, air freight customers would often have to use multiple companies to pick up, fly, and then drop off cargo that needed to be delivered quickly. Since that time, the company has developed multiple innovations in the shipping industry, including introducing barcode scanners on packages which allowed tracking by the customer. Today the company has quarterly revenues in excess of \$17 billion, employs over 350,000 people, and now even transports all of the USPS's Express and Priority mail.

Heading into the company's quarterly earnings announcement, FedEx stock

was under recent pressure due to rumors that Amazon was expanding its shipping fleet and would potentially no longer need FedEx to deliver its packages. Even more disturbingly, some speculated that Amazon could even launch a competing delivery service to FedEx. However, with the current strength of the U.S. economy, many analysts predicted a fantastic quarter for FedEx and the company delivered. FedEx beat expectations both in terms of revenue and earnings by a healthy margin. Yet the stock fell 10 percent on the news. The reason for this drop had nothing to do with the company's current earnings but instead was a reaction to the company's guidance for 2019.

Prior to last week's announcement, FedEx estimated that it would earn between \$17.20 and \$17.80 per share. The company now believes that its profit will range between \$15.50 and \$16.60 per share, a very meaningful drop. This was a big surprise for analysts who believed that FedEx would potentially even raise its guidance as the economy remained resilient. But the CEO blamed the drop in expected earnings on one factor, a slowdown in international trade, especially in Europe and Asia.

The company explained in its post earnings release conference call that the U.S./Chinese trade war, tariffs and Brexit all would contribute to a dramatic decrease in goods being shipped between countries in 2019. Further, FedEx stated that it did not believe that this business will recover in the foreseeable future and that the company announced plans to limit hiring,



reduce capacity at FedEx international, cut discretionary spending, and even start voluntary employee buyouts.

The problems disclosed by FedEx are the reasons that the stock market is falling. While domestically our economy is strong for the time being, the rest of the world is not so lucky. Most of the leading equity markets across Europe and Asia are already in bear markets with their economies heading closer and closer to recessionary levels. And many economists believe that it is just a matter of time until these negative pressures push the U.S. into a recession as well. This is why many U.S. companies that have meaningful sales abroad are cutting financial forecasts and are being hit hard by the markets.

Finally, the CEO of FedEx, Frederick

Smith, made an acute observation at the end of the company's earnings call regarding the cause of the recent global slowdown. He placed the blame squarely on the world's politicians. He stated, "I'll just conclude by saying most of the issues that we're dealing with today are induced by bad political choices. I mean, making a bad decision about a new tax, creating a tremendously difficult situation with Brexit, the immigration crisis in Germany, the mercantilism and state-owned enterprise initiatives in China, the tariffs that the United States put in unilaterally. So, you just go down the list, and they're all things that have created macroeconomic slowdowns." Something to think about as we enter the next election cycle. ■

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# BUSINESS

“One of the biggest misconceptions among employers is that people must hold a college degree to be a viable candidate ... It’s just not true.”

— **Danny Iny**, author of “Leveraged Learning: How the Disruption of Education Helps Lifelong Learners and Experts with Something to Teach.”



# Talent pool

*In a tight labor market, consider hiring those who don't have a college degree.*

**SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY**

**T**he U.S. Department of Labor has just released its latest numbers and unemployment rates are holding firm at 3.7 percent. This is a nearly 50-year low. If you're an employer, you don't have to be told what this means: It's really tough to find great talent right now. Danny Iny has a suggestion:

Expand your pool of candidates by considering those who don't have a college degree.

“One of the biggest misconceptions among employers is that people must hold a college degree to be a viable candidate,” says Mr. Iny “It’s just not true.” He is the author of the new book “Leveraged Learning: How the Disruption of Education Helps Lifelong Learners and Experts with Something to Teach.”

SEE TALENT, A28 ►



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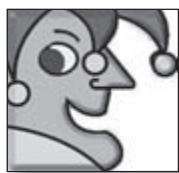


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## Fool's School Want a Raise?

Most of us would love to receive a raise at work, and a big one, too. Yet, per a PayScale.com survey, only 37 percent of workers have ever asked for one. That's too bad, because the same survey revealed that 70 percent of those who asked for a raise got one. Here, then, are some tips that can help you get a raise.

■ **Deserve the raise:** Your odds of winning a raise will be higher if you actually deserve it. If you don't work hard or you're known to goof off, or if your work has been sloppy, late or incomplete, you're probably not the best candidate for a raise. Companies generally want to keep their best, most productive workers and will seek ways to keep them happy.

■ **Do some research first:** Find out how your company is doing. If it's having a tough year, this might not be the best time to ask for a raise. If it just posted record revenue, mentioning that can bolster your case. Find out what others in your position are earning, too, because if you're earning less, a raise will seem more reasonable. Some good resources are Salary.com, Glassdoor.com, SalaryExpert.com, Indeed.com and the Department of Labor's "Occupational Outlook Handbook."

■ **Make a strong case for your value:** The value you create for the company matters much more

to your employer than how long you've been in your position, how unfair you think your salary is or how you need more money to put your child through college. Spend some time thinking about how and what you've done at your job. List your accomplishments, and be as specific as possible, ideally mentioning measurable results. For example: "Coordinated an advertising campaign that brought in \$800,000." "Cut costs in my department, saving the company \$100,000." "Reworked production process, increasing efficiency by 20 percent."

■ **Be persuasive:** Don't complain or threaten, but instead present your request as a win-win scenario, with you earning more and the company continuing to benefit from your skills and efforts.

■ **Be prepared:** Rehearse your conversation with your boss — perhaps with a friend or trusted co-worker — and know what you want your new salary to be.

If you don't feel ready yet or it's not a good time, you might at least meet with your boss and express interest in a raise, possibly asking what it would take for you to earn much more. If you ask for a raise and are turned down, you can always ask for something else instead, such as tuition reimbursement or more flexible hours. ■

## My Dumbest Investment Dividends and P/E Ratios

Many years ago, I got excited about a company when it introduced an impressive new electronic storage device. I bought shares at \$15 apiece as a long-term investment, planning to sell only if or when it went above \$30. Well, it split 2-for-1 and then the stock price plunged, only to linger around \$3 per share. When the annual report arrived, I read about generous stock options for management and employees and found only one sentence about dividends, essentially saying that the company had never paid any and probably never would.

I sold my shares, roughly breaking even — but I consider that a loss, as I could have done better even in a money market account. I learned that a stock's dividend is more important than its price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio.

— S., via email

**The Fool Responds:** Those two factors are apples and oranges. A dividend is one way that a company can reward shareholders — by directly sending them cash. Investing in healthy and growing dividend payers can be very profitable, but you can do very well with non payers, too, if their stock appreciates at a good clip.

Meanwhile, a P/E ratio is simply a measure that can help you determine whether a stock is under- or overvalued. If you like the idea of regular income, seek attractive dividend-paying stocks — but aim to buy them when they're undervalued. Both dividends and P/E ratios can be important. ■

## Last week's trivia answer

I'm the product of a 2010 merger between Ticketmaster, which was founded in 1976, and a concert promoter founded in 1997. (I took the promoter's name.) Today, based in Beverly Hills, California, I'm the world's premier live-entertainment company. Last year I had 86 million attendees at about 30,000 events in 40 countries. I own, operate or manage 78 clubs and theaters, including House of Blues and Fillmore locations. I also promote monster truck shows, manage sports celebrities and coordinate touring theatrical shows. I employ around 37,000 full-time and seasonal workers and rake in more than \$10 billion annually. Who am I? (Answer: Live Nation Entertainment) ■



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## Ask the Fool

### Common Stock and Activist Investors

Q What's "common stock"?

— G.W., online

A It's probably what you have in your stock portfolio. A share of stock is a share of a company — meaning each shareholder is literally a part-owner of the enterprise, with a stake in its earnings. Those earnings can reward shareholders in various ways: They can be paid out in dividends or reinvested in the business, helping it grow. Holders of common stock also usually get to vote on company matters and elect the board of directors.

Another type of stock you might encounter is "preferred stock." Holders of preferred shares typically do not vote on company matters, but do have first dibs on any dividends paid and higher priority on corporate assets if the company goes out of business.

\*\*\*

Q Can you explain what activist investors do?

— B.K., Canton, Ohio

A Sure. Activist investors buy many shares of a company's stock in order to wield influence with it, sometimes even getting onto its board of directors. They typically target big companies that they view as inefficient, and they push for changes such as significant cost-cutting, replacing top managers, taking the company private, splitting up the company or spending heavily on dividends or share buybacks.

As an example, JANA Partners LLC bought up more than 8 percent of Whole Foods Market stock and pushed for the company to be acquired by Amazon.com, profiting in the process as the stock price rose.

Famous activist Carl Icahn objected to Dell Technologies' plan to go public until the deal was sweetened, and he has also pushed Apple to repurchase more shares. Activist investors are often heads of hedge funds or private equity companies. ■

Want more information about stocks? Send us an email to foolnews@fool.com.

## Name That Company

I trace my roots back to 1865, when a Scot founded a bank in Hong Kong and Shanghai that aimed to finance international trade. I was the first commercial bank in Thailand and printed its first banknotes. Many of my staff became prisoners of war during World War II. I bought Marine Midland Bank in the 1980s and, over the years, many other banks, too. Today, with a market value recently top-



ping \$160 billion, I serve more than 38 million customers via roughly 3,800 offices in 66 countries and territories. P.G. Wodehouse once worked for me. Who am I?

Think you know the answer? We'll announce it in next week's edition. ■

## The Motley Fool Take

### A Cancer-Fighting Biotech Company

It's rare to find rapid growth coupled with a relatively low valuation in the biotech industry, but that's what you get with cancer-drug developer Exelixis (Nasdaq: EXEL). Its lead drug, Cabometyx, approved to treat renal cell carcinoma (the most common form of kidney cancer), has turned it into a cash cow for the foreseeable future. (Exelixis' most recent quarterly report featured net product sales growth of 69 percent, driven almost entirely by Cabometyx.) The drug is also expected (but not guaranteed) to win approval to treat advanced hepatocellular carcinoma, the most common form of liver cancer, next year.

With strong pricing power for Cabometyx, Exelixis may collect \$1 billion annually from the drug by 2021.

Biotech stocks can be risky, as many of their drugs in development end up failing to win approval from the Food and Drug Administration. It helps when the company has one or more drugs already on the market, as Exelixis does. In its third quarter, Exelixis posted year-over-year growth of more than 50 percent for both earnings and income from operations.

Exelixis does face competition, but it's expected by some (though not guaranteed) to grow by 30 percent annually through 2021, and its price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio was recently in the teens. If you can stomach some volatility and risk, consider Exelixis for your long-term portfolio. (The Motley Fool has recommended and owns shares of Exelixis.) ■

## Tri-Town Construction establishes trust to support nonprofits

To formalize its ongoing charitable efforts, Tri-Town Construction, LLC, has established Tri-Town Trust, a fund that will support nonprofits in Southwest Florida, with the Community Foundation of Southwest Florida. The initial trust donation is being made to Hope Clubhouse for the gardens it is installing at elementary schools for students with mental illness.

Recent company donations include the Bonita Historical Society, to which Tri-Town donated the labor for a new roof, and Habitat for Humanity, to which Tri-Town donated five roofs. The company sponsors nonprofit events throughout the year and regularly donates goods and

services to children in need.

Going forward, Tri-Town Trust will focus on supporting nonprofits serving children's needs and environmental organizations.

Tri-Town Construction is a remodeling, roofing and emergency services contractor serving Southwest Florida.

Founder and owner Marc Devisse, working from a home office with a staff of three, established the company in 2006 and now employs a work force of more than 40 people. The company's Fort Myers headquarters recently doubled its space on Alico Commerce Drive to 4,000 square feet. The company has also increased its fleet of vehicles. ■

## Zonta seeks nominations for Woman of the Year

Zonta Club of Bonita Springs-Estero is accepting nominations for its 2019 Woman of the Year. Nominations are due by Feb. 1. The application is on the Zonta Bonita Springs-Estero Facebook page and can also be downloaded from www.zontabonitasprings.com.

Nancy Dalaskey, club president, can also be contacted via email for the application at ndalaskey@comcast.net.

Past women of the year include Tiffany Esposito, Brenda Tate, Teri Lamaine, Christine Ross and Lori Nelson.

The 2019 Woman of the Year luncheon is set for Tuesday, April 16, at Palmira Golf and Country Club. Tickets

are \$50 each if purchased by April 1 and \$65 thereafter. RSVPs are required by April 9. To purchase tickets, go to the website above.

For more information, email Ms. Dalaskey at the email provided above or visit the website.

The Zonta Club of Bonita Springs-Estero is an organization of business and professional women dedicated to improving the circumstances of women at all stages of life, locally and globally. It is part of Zonta International and participates in global initiatives, such as "Free the Girls" and "Say No to Violence Against Women." ■

# TALENT

From page 26

“Not only are there plenty of smart young people out there who are choosing not to follow the traditional path, those who do follow it often don’t have the skills employers need,” he adds. “It makes no sense to cling to old hiring practices when we live and work in a whole new world.”

Mr. Iny wants to change the conversation around how we educate America’s workforce. He says not only are colleges failing to deliver candidates with the skills businesses need, many talented young people are bypassing college altogether. They see the astronomical price of a four-year degree and are unwilling to cripple themselves financially to attain one. Plus, they believe (and rightly so) that they can find better educational options and hone their skill set elsewhere.

So why do employers still believe traditional education is needed? Mr. Iny says it’s because the presence of a degree is a signal — a psychological shortcut that enables us to make good decisions without doing the exhaustive research needed to investigate every option. But signals can lose their meaning, and that’s what has been happening for some time now.

The “I have a degree, therefore I am smart, hardworking and well-to-do” signal made sense back when only 5 percent of males born in 1900 had a college degree.

Today, with nearly 40 percent of working-age Americans holding degrees, it doesn’t mean as much. What’s worse,

many degrees are useless to employers, curricula are disconnected from the needs of today’s marketplace, and college typically fails to develop needed skills like critical thinking, complex reasoning and written communication.

The bottom line? If employers insist that the person we hire have a degree, we might well be missing out on the perfect candidate. Mr. Iny offers the following suggestions:

- First, shift your mindset to override the “degree” signal. Take a long, hard look at what really leads to success and performance, recognizing that university degrees aren’t the key, and revising your job postings to reflect the stuff that actually matters. You won’t be the first; in 2015 Ernst & Young professional services in the United Kingdom removed degree classification from its hiring criteria, citing a lack of evidence that university success correlated with job performance. Similarly, Laszlo Bock, former head of people operations at Google, went on record saying that grades in degree programs are “worthless as a criteria for hiring” — and currently as much as 14 percent of employees on some Google teams never attended college.
- Drop the application tracking system, or at least switch off the filtering related to education. While you’re tweaking your hiring process, lean more into the assessments and simulations that actually give you a sense of what candidates can bring to the table. When Ernst & Young did this, it saw a 10 percent increase in the diversity of new hires.



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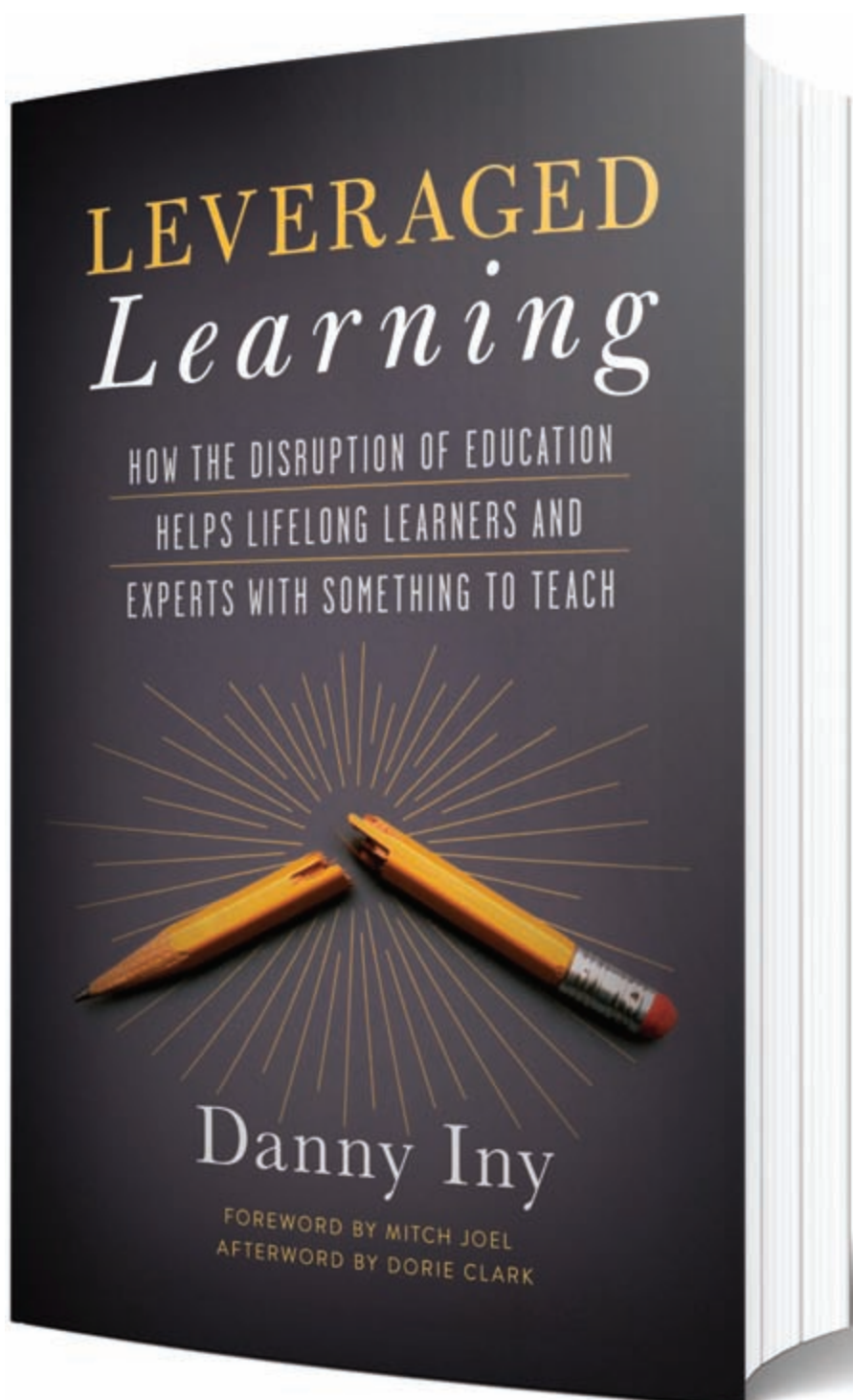
Danny Iny, author of “Leveraged Learning: How the Disruption of Education Helps Lifelong Learners and Experts with Something to Teach.”

- Look at candidates who have pursued more progressive, cutting-edge options. Many students are now choosing hybrid programs like the one offered by Minerva Schools at KGI, or a “last mile” training offered by MissionU, or a program like Praxis, whose slogan is “The degree is dead. You need experience.”
- Consider ditching the résumé requirement. People often embellish the truth (or outright lie) on resumes. Instead, ask candidates to fill out an online application that has behavior questions and asks people to do tasks they’ll need to be able to do on the job. This provides a much better picture of whether they’ll be able to perform. Plus, some candidates might have exactly the qualities you want but don’t come across well on a resume.
- Ask candidates to perform a task that simulates the job. These could be built into your online application. For example, if you’re hiring a writer you would ask him or her to complete a short writing task. This is a good way to weed out those candidates who don’t have the technical proficiency to do the job, which will make narrowing down the list much easier.
- For more complicated jobs, consider paying a candidate to take on a project. Or hire someone on a contract basis to make sure she or

he has the right stuff before you extend a more permanent offer.

- During the interview, focus mostly on chemistry and culture fit. By the time a candidate gets to this phase, they will have demonstrated that they have what it takes to do the job. What the interview can really tell you is how well you’ll get along with the person. So ask any remaining questions you may have, but mostly let the candidate do the talking.
- Finally, cultivate the things that matter by developing a culture of learning and growth. While it’s important to find the right candidates, it’s even more important to make sure you continue to develop people after you hire them. There are many great books on this subject. Also, consider engaging training providers, such as Mind Gym, The Center for Work Ethic Development and Mr. Iny’s company, Mirasee (focused on developing the strategic thinking skills of your employees and creating your own internal training).

“Remember that talent comes in all shapes and sizes and that the value of the degree you might have earned decades ago is very different from the value of degrees offered by institutions of higher learning today,” writes Mr. Iny. “As a business leader, it is your job to take the actions that lead your organization into the future, and this is how to do it.” ■



# NETWORKING

## Shangri-La Springs Art & Nature Community Night



**Diane Vinopal and Colleen Passaro**

- 1. Terri Eilers, Joan Farwell and Terri O'Connor
- 2. Charlene Baron, Craig Bellofatto, Jessica Partington and David Vainer
- 3. Carrie Riddle and Joanna Bradford
- 4. Jacob Driskell and Melissa Sullivan
- 5. Kristin Shelton and Tiffany Misenko
- 6. Rachel Ward and Ellie Zubrowski
- 7. Michael Thomas and Samantha Gaebel

COURTESY PHOTOS

"Like" us on Facebook.com/NaplesFloridaWeekly to see more photos. We take more society and business networking photos at area events than we can fit in the newspaper. So, if you think we missed you or one of your friends, go to floridaweekly.com and view the photo albums from the many events we cover. You can purchase any of the photos too. Send us your society and business networking photos. Include the names of everyone in the picture. Email them to cpierce@floridaweekly.com.

# NETWORKING

## Membership Director's Association of SWFL meeting at The Strand



- 1. Colleen Sowerby and Laura Hill
- 2. Cheri Martin and Jennah Liskin
- 3. Danita Osborn, Stephanie Glasco, Kathie Pedit and Kristen Yanzer
- 4. Sandy Cotter, Karen Nardella and Tammy Mercer
- 5. Shelly Anderson, Rose Readigos and Hilda Gilbert

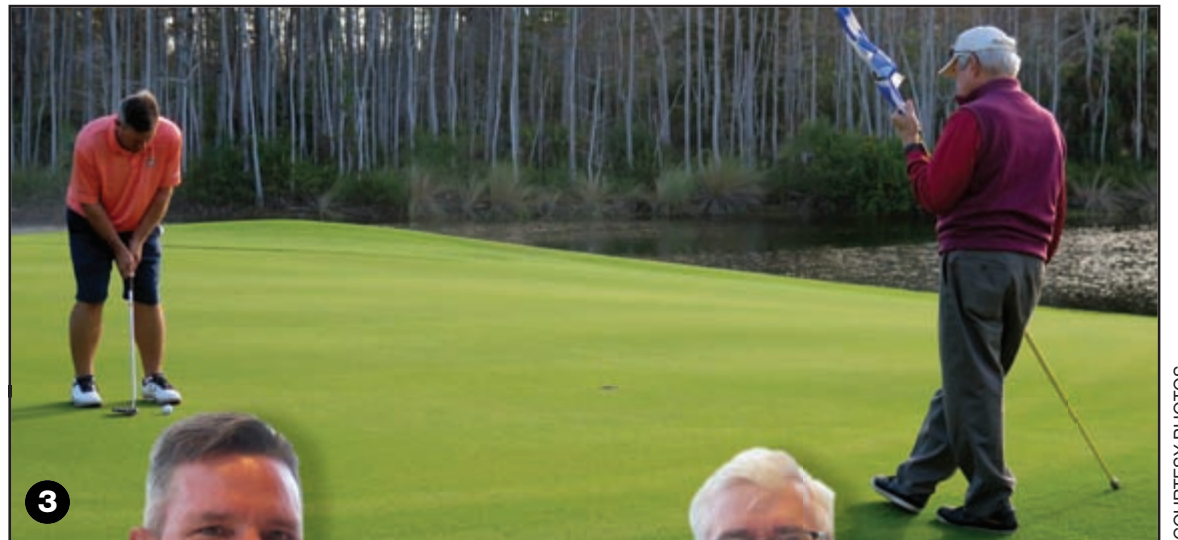
Shana Overhulser and Denise Payton

PHOTOS COURTESY/ URSULA GIBBONS FOR CHARLIE MCDONALD PHOTOGRAPHY

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# NETWORKING

## Local golf pro Stan Geer embarked on a 200-hole golf day to raise money for Harry Chapin Food Bank



Stan Geer, Penny Smith and Richard LeBer

- 1. Stan Geer hit a hole-in-one on Hole 12 at the Vi at Bentley Village golf course.
- 2. Local golf pro Stan Geer embarked on a 200-hole golf day to raise money for Harry Chapin Food Bank.
- 3. Stan Geer with Paul Donald

Florida Weekly welcomes submissions for the Networking pages from charity galas and fundraising events, club meetings and other to-dos around town. We need 300-dpi photographs of groups of two or more people, facing the camera and identified by first and last names. Questions? Email [rspencer@floridaweekly.com](mailto:rspencer@floridaweekly.com).

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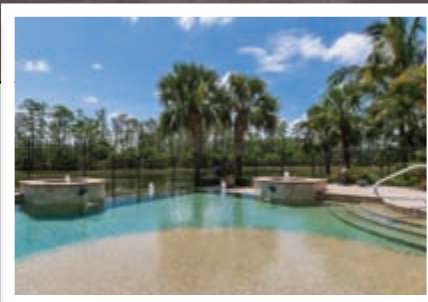
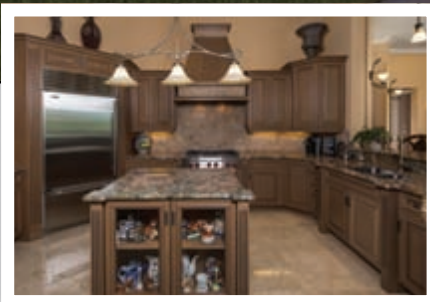
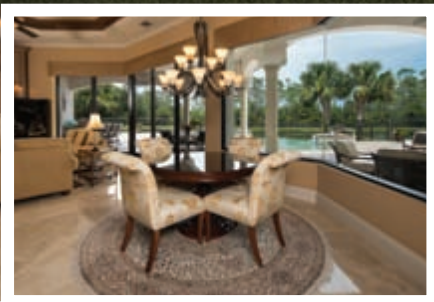


# COASTAL REAL ESTATE GUIDE

WEEK OF DECEMBER 27, 2018 - JANUARY 2, 2019

WWW.FLORIDAWEEKLY.COM

SECTION B



## House Hunting 2901 1 Amarone Court

Privacy, elegance and luxury abound in this four-bedroom-plus-den, 4½-bath former model in Amarone at Mediterra. Expansive windows provide wide lake and reserve views, while details throughout include crown molding, tray ceilings, plantation shutters and polished marble floors in the main living areas. The chef's kitchen boasts custom cabinetry, Wolf, Sub-Zero and Miele appliances and a walk-in pantry. The master suite has a

sitting area, lanai access and a luxurious bath with walk-in shower and a soaking tub. Each guest room is en-suite.

The covered summer kitchen with granite countertops, sink, refrigerator and built-in Wolf grill is perfect for entertaining family and friends. Open-air living spaces surround the infinity-edge pool with sun lounging deck and spillover spa, and MosquitoNix misters will keep the pests away.

This home is complete with a large laundry and extra storage space, a natural gas whole home generator and an air-conditioned and insulated three-car garage with epoxy floors.

Emily K. Bua and Tade Bua-Bell of John R. Wood Properties have the listing for \$1,850,000. For more information or to arrange a showing, call 595-0097. See more available properties at [www.Bua-BellSellsNaples.com](http://www.Bua-BellSellsNaples.com). ■

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**A**s we prepare to start 2019 and reflect upon the New Year ahead with 2018 soon to be behind us, there is so very much to be grateful for in our Naples community. Thank you to our military; our Federal, State, and Local law enforcement, our firefighters, our EMS and all of our first responders at all levels in all places in all capacities who help to protect our community and all of our residents ... thank you for the help and the care you provide each day. To our dedicated teachers who are teaching the children and students of all ages ... thank you for all you do each day; for your patience, your guidance, and your care. To our clergy; our physicians, our nurses, our medical personnel and staff, our caregivers, our volunteers, and our charitable institutions and organizations with their many vital community services as well as outreaches ... thank you for all you do each and every day. A special thanks to all within our Collier County community who help those dealing with addiction, mental illness, and loss with special prayers for strength, peace, and healing to those struggling to find or live their recovery as well as the family; friends and loved ones who have sought to help along that difficult journey. Another special thank you to those individuals and organizations who help, aide and serve the homeless as well as those who cannot physically or mentally care for themselves ... we are grateful for your kindness and compassion. For our Federal, State, Collier County and City of Naples elected representatives, officials and employees who help us all in so many various ways throughout each year ... thank you for your service to those whose service is ending and an equal thanks to those whose service has just begun. Thank you to the support staff, co-workers, managers, associates, receptionists,

## grateful

\grāt-fəl\  
 ADJECTIVE

feeling or showing thanks: feeling or showing thanks to someone for some helpful act

attorneys, paralegals, title insurance companies, Naples Area Board of Realtors, Realtor colleagues, Collier Building Industry Association, building contractors, subcontractors, architects, interior designers, marine contractors, assistants, surveyors, engineers, inspectors, security personnel, graphic designers, pool service companies, advertising representatives, landscaping services, painting contractors, pest control service providers, company management, building management, service personnel, landscape architects, floor plan service providers, and photographers along with so very many other professionals whom I work with throughout each and every year as well as our

local business community at large. Every best wish for each of you and your families in this New Year as well as to our overall Naples community ... the place we all call home. As I enter my 35th year as a full time Realtor here in Naples, I would like to give a thank you to all for your help, your time, your assistance, for that extra effort that makes a difference, and for the work you do for others. Thank you so very much to the thousands of seasonal and full time residents I have worked with and had the opportunity to represent over the years who in so many direct and indirect ways have contributed to the privilege of working as well as earning a living for my family in our Naples community ... thank you and thank you so kindly for your many referrals and recommendations. There is so very much to be grateful for in so many ways. There is so much generosity and giving of time, spirit and resources that occurs in our community. Thank you to all who share any kindness or thoughtful act with another person for no reason other than to simply help another person and to be compassionate in that moment. Cheers. All the very best wishes for health, safety and prosperity.



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# Prices up, more sales, listings across Florida in November

**FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS**

Florida's housing market reported more sales, more new listings and higher median prices in November compared to a year ago, according to the latest housing data released by Florida Realtors. Sales of single-family homes statewide totaled 20,578 last month, up 3 percent compared to November 2017.

"Buyers who have been frustrated by a lack of for-sale homes in their areas may be encouraged by signs that too-tight inventory levels are easing," said 2018 Florida Realtors President Christine Hansen, broker-owner with Century 21 Hansen Realty in Fort Lauderdale.

"In a year-over-year trend that we've been seeing now for a few months, new listings rose in November: Up 4.1 percent for existing single-family homes and 1.5 percent for condo-townhouse properties.

"At the same time, the median time for a sale to go to contract is getting shorter: For single-family homes, it was 41 days, down 10.9 percent from the same time last year; for condo-townhouse properties, it was 44 days, down 15.4 percent."

November marked 83 months in a row (more than six and a half years) that statewide median sales prices for both single-family homes and condo-

townhouse properties increased year-over-year. The statewide median sales price for single-family existing homes was \$255,000, up 6.3 percent from the previous year, according to data from Florida Realtors Research Department in partnership with local Realtor boards/associations. Last month's statewide median price for condo-townhouse units was \$185,000, up 5.1 percent over the year-ago figure. The median is the midpoint; half the homes sold for more, half for less.

According to the National Association of Realtors, the national median sales price for existing single-family homes in October was \$257,900, up 4.3

percent from the previous year; the national median existing condo price was \$236,200. In California, the statewide median sales price for single-family existing homes in October was \$572,000; in Massachusetts, it was \$390,000; in Maryland, it was \$279,000; and in New York, it was \$260,000.

Looking at Florida's condo-townhouse market in November, statewide closed sales totaled 8,643, up 4.9 percent compared to a year ago. Closed sales data continued to show fewer short sales and foreclosures in November: Short sales for condo-townhouse properties

SEE PRICES, B19 ▶



**333 GULF SHORE BLVD SOUTH - \$8,500,000**



**1003 Moraya Bay - \$6,975,000**



**2075 Crayton Road - \$3,895,000**



**1807 Snook Drive - \$2,885,000**

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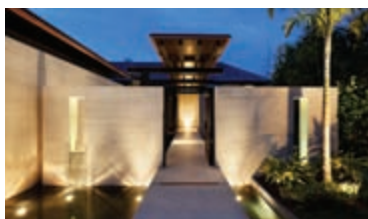
FEATURED LISTINGS



- 1 **THE MOORINGS**  
681 Fairway Terrace  
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939  
\$2,495,000
- 2 **THE MOORINGS**  
600 Mooring Line Drive  
Cathy Brodie 239.272.7725  
\$1,450,000
- 3 **THE MOORINGS**  
441 Wedge Drive  
Karen Van Arsdale 239.860.0894  
\$2,250,000



**1203 Spyglass Lane**  
Peter Reppucci 239.595.6500  
\$8,995,000



**3065 Fort Charles Drive**  
Karen Van Arsdale 239.860.0894  
\$15,900,000



**1351 Spyglass Lane**  
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939  
\$9,995,000



**3800 Fort Charles Drive**  
Karen Van Arsdale 239.860.0894  
\$9,495,000



**1390 Spyglass Lane**  
Karen Van Arsdale 239.860.0894  
\$8,900,000



**1365 Spyglass Lane**  
Keith Buchanan 239.253.7775  
\$5,995,000



**60 Cove Lane**  
Peter Reppucci 239.595.6500  
\$550,000



**1760 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #2**  
Sandra McCarthy-Meeks 239.287.7921  
\$4,495,000



**2650 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #203**  
Craig Jones 239.825.6857  
\$998,500



**3483 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #304**  
Kimberly Wagner 239.571.5474  
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**2201 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #F-3**  
Dana Mount 239.404.2209  
\$925,000



**2312 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #214**  
Larry Roorda 239.860.2534  
\$895,000



**3215 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #601N**  
Ryan Nordyke 239.776.9390  
\$850,000



**3443 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #706**  
Larry Roorda 239.860.2534  
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**3399 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #407**  
Angela R. Allen 239.825.8494  
\$795,000



**222 Harbour Drive #110**  
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\$529,000



**222 Harbour Drive #306**  
Robin/Tim Weidle 239.370.5515  
\$529,000



**2900 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #414**  
Vanya/Dimo Demirev 239.565.0550  
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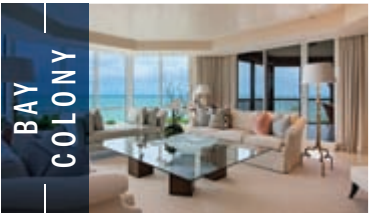











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	 <p><b>4251 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #5A</b> Amy Becker/Leah Ritchey \$1,395,000</p>	 <p><b>4751 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #1203</b> Susan Barton \$827,777</p>	 <p><b>723 Neapolitan Way #723</b> Tami Eilers \$438,000</p>	
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	 <p><b>7425 Pelican Bay Boulevard #203</b> Gilman/Hamilton/Briscoe \$1,299,000</p>	 <p><b>7425 Pelican Bay Boulevard #303</b> Wil Bedard \$1,299,000</p>	 <p><b>633 Serendipity Drive #633</b> Tricia Ale \$485,000</p>	
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	 <p><b>8930 Bay Colony Drive #1202</b> Gilman/Hamilton/Briscoe \$2,095,000</p>			
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	 <p><b>2432 Ravenna Boulevard #102</b> Debra McInnis \$429,900</p>			

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Sue Black 239.250.5611  
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**4437 Club Estates Drive**  
Jacquie Lewisy 239.227.3070  
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**14835 Dockside Lane**  
Lura Jones 239.370.5340  
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**4968 Andros Drive**  
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**2931 Bellflower Lane**  
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**1326 Noble Heron Way**  
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**14689 Reserve Lane**  
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	<b>132 Shorecrest Court</b> Lori Holland \$1,149,999 239.404.7070	<b>1100 South Collier Boulevard #920</b> Darlene Roddy \$679,000 239.404.0685	<b>140 Seaview Court #701S</b> Cathy Brodie \$635,000 239.272.7725	<b>1044 Cottonwood Court</b> Vince Colace \$599,900 239.260.3333	
	<b>58 North Collier Boulevard #504</b> Darlene Roddy \$479,000 239.404.0685	<b>243 Edgewater Court</b> Cathy Brodie \$419,000 239.272.7725	<b>211 Seminole Court</b> Cathy Brodie \$399,000 239.272.7725		
FIDDLER'S CREEK					
	<b>9364 Vadala Bend Court</b> Lura Jones \$819,600 239.370.5340	<b>7634 Mulberry Lane</b> Lura Jones \$719,000 239.370.5340	<b>9292 Menaggio Court #201</b> Lura Jones \$629,000 239.370.5340	<b>9233 Campanile Circle</b> Michelle Thomas \$529,999 239.860.7176	<b>9288 Menaggio Court #102</b> Michelle Thomas \$439,000 239.860.7176
LELY					
	<b>7859 Players Street</b> Matthew Meacham \$1,249,000 239.825.4500	<b>6465 Costa Circle</b> Nancy Harris-Gannon \$1,049,000 239.691.0939	<b>7874 Players Street</b> Sean Meehan \$899,000 239.404.0109	<b>7863 Valencia Court</b> Lura Jones \$541,000 239.370.5340	<b>8629 Champions Point #701</b> Michael Husted \$396,900 239.825.0857
BONITA BAY					
	<b>26931 Montego Pointe Court #202</b> Harriet Harnar \$415,000 239.273.5443	<b>4521 Riverwatch Drive #202</b> Cathy/Jim McCormick \$364,900 239.850.4278	<b>240 Barefoot Beach Boulevard</b> Lisa Tashjian \$3,200,000 239.259.7024	<b>9872 Alhambra Lane</b> Vanya/Dimo Demirev \$599,000 239.565.0550	<b>9890 El Greco Circle</b> Roxanne Jeske \$430,000 239.450.5210
BONITA SPRINGS ESTERO					
	<b>10110 Valiant Court #201</b> Debron Fowles \$429,999 239.826.6655	<b>19737 Villa Rosa Loop</b> Jay Westerlund \$419,000 239.216.1211	<b>28172 Herring Way</b> Roxanne Jeske \$418,900 239.450.5210	<b>28871 Bermuda Lago Court #302</b> Amy Reinholdt \$244,900 239.248.8388	<b>19990 Barletta Lane #821</b> Yola Zapiec \$199,000 239.848.6693
FORT MYERS SANIBEL/CAPTIVA					
	<b>3386 West Gulf Drive</b> Burns Family \$1,297,700 239.464.2984	<b>15291 Captiva Drive #2-A</b> Burns Family \$919,000 239.464.2984	<b>5681 Baltusrol Court #1B</b> Burns Family \$775,000 239.464.2984	<b>979 East Gulf Drive #573</b> Burns Family \$729,000 239.464.2984	<b>200 Periwinkle Way #229</b> Burns Family \$719,000 239.464.2984

ADVERTORIAL

# Kalea Bay residents love the community's amenities

## Tower 2 under construction

A clubhouse should be the social and recreational centerpiece of a community, and at Kalea Bay, the gated, luxury residential high-rise community currently being developed on Vanderbilt Drive in North Naples, that couldn't be more true.

"There are several reasons buyers have decided to purchase at Kalea Bay," said Inga Lodge, Vice President of Sales & Marketing for Kalea Bay. "The first is the beautifully designed three-bedroom plus den/three-and-a-half-bath and four-bedroom/four-bath tower residences with Gulf views. The other is our spectacular main amenity area, which includes our community clubhouse. Not only is it a dramatic sight as residents and visitors drive into the community, but it's now the envy of every community in the Naples area."

Kalea Bay's 88,000-square-foot main amenity area is located on the north side of the large lake at the community's entrance.

The clubhouse features three individual pools, including a resort pool, an adults-only pool and a children's pool, plus an expansive pool deck, an open-air bar, an indoor/outdoor restaurant, a fitness center,

a snack bar, a lakeside fire pit, an Internet cafe and a gifts and sundries shop.

"All three pools overlook the lake and provide a multitude of recreational options for everyone who lives and visits here," said Lodge.

Expansive sun decks with lounge chairs and native, tropical plants separate each of the three pools for the ultimate in privacy.

If basking in the sun or taking a refreshing dip in the pool isn't on a resident's schedule, perhaps meeting friends for lunch, dinner or drinks is.

"We have the perfect place for all three," said Lodge. "The indoor/outdoor restaurant serves

incredible meals throughout the day. And what better way to celebrate the good life in Florida than meeting family and friends for drinks while watching the sun set over the Gulf of Mexico. This is what living in Florida is supposed to be."

Adjacent to the clubhouse is the tennis pavilion with 4 Har-Tru tennis courts, as well as eight pickleball courts. Guest suites that can accommodate overnight guests and family members are also located nearby.

Residents also have a shuttle service that originates from the clubhouse and takes them to the beach.

"Two of the top-rated beaches in the country are only minutes away from Kalea Bay," stated Lodge. "They include Barefoot Beach Preserve Park, which was ranked #2 nationally, and Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, which was ranked #9."

Just a short distance from the main amenity area, the community's second tower continues to reach skyward, as the completed first tower watches proudly nearby.

Like its predecessor, Tower 200 is also 22-stories with 120 residences. Specifically, it's 20 floors of residences over two floors of parking. It will also have similar rooftop amenities as Tower 100, including a rooftop pool, open-air fitness center and a sky lounge.

"More than half of the residences in



Above: A fire pit at the clubhouse offers stunning views of the community's first tower on the opposite end of the lake. Left: Tower 200 at Kalea Bay is 22 stories and features 120 luxury residences. Below: Kalea Bay's main amenity area includes the community's clubhouse which features three separate pools, an indoor/ outdoor restaurant, fitness center, open-air bar and Internet café.



Above: The second tower's rooftop amenities will include a pool, open-air fitness center and sky lounge. Right: Residents of Kalea Bay have indoor and outdoor dining options.



our second tower have already been sold," added Lodge.

Six floor plans are available in Tower 2. Residences 1 and 6 are 3-bedroom plus den/3.5 bath plans with 3,704 total square feet. Residences 2 and 5 are 4-bedroom/4.5 bath plans with 3,791 total square feet. Residences 3 and 4 are 4-bedroom/4.5-bath plans with 3,919 total square feet.

"Residents will revel in Gulf views, open floor plans, a private elevator leading directly into their residence and wood floors throughout," said Lodge.

The custom kitchens have Wolf and SubZero appliances, a natural gas range, luxury cabinetry, quartz countertops, a Butler's pantry and oversized island, all

standard features.

"Our floor plans have an open design we call 'lifestyle designs' that blends the kitchen seamlessly into the living and dining rooms, perfect for the way people live today," said Lodge.

The master bedroom includes an oversized walk-in closet while the master bath has his and hers vanities, quartz countertops, luxury cabinetry, a soaking tub and separate glass-enclosed shower.

"Master suites, kitchens and main living areas in most units have direct views to the water and preserve. They are perfect vantage points to watch our spectacular sunsets," Lodge said.

Additional residential features include floor-to-ceiling windows and doors that open to large lanais with transparent glass rails.

"We take our outdoor living as seriously as our indoor living with oversized lanais on every residence," said Lodge. High-tech wiring and fully equipped laundry rooms round out the list of features.

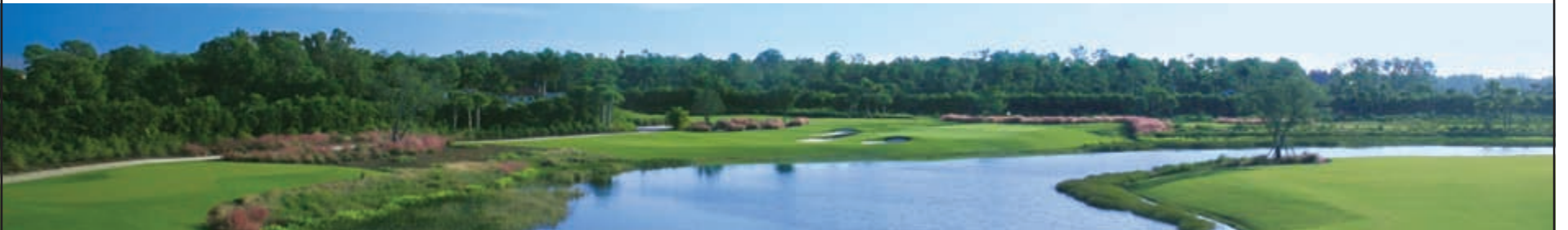
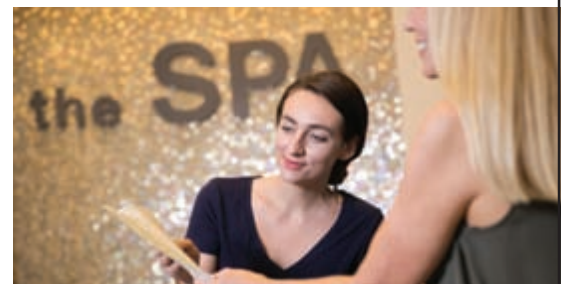
Prices in Tower 200 begin at \$1.4 million. For more information regarding Kalea Bay, visit the onsite sales center. It is located on Vanderbilt Drive, two-tenths of a mile north of Wiggins Pass Road. Call (239) 793-0110 or visit KaleaBay.com. ■





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**\$13,495,000 MLS 217020067**  
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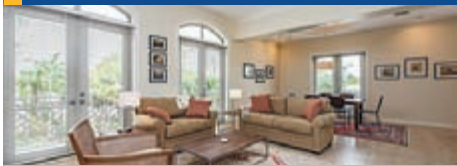
### BONITA BAY - AZURE



OPEN 12/29 1:00PM - 4:00PM

4931 BONITA BAY BLVD. #1403, BONITA  
• Breathtaking Bay & Gulf Views  
• \$25,000 Credit for Addtl. HOA Fees Due to Irma  
**\$1,975,000 MLS 218035663**  
Deb Adams-Bateman 239.273.4824

### OLD NAPLES - MODENA



OPEN 12/29 & 12/30 12:00PM - 4:00PM

380 10TH ST. S. #204, NAPLES  
• Beautiful 2 BR, 3 BA + Den Townhouse  
• Bright & Airy Floor Plan, 1 Car Garage  
**\$939,000 MLS 218009698**  
Galietti Team 239.826.5897

### PELICAN LANDING



OPEN 12/29 1:00PM - 4:00PM

3538 HERON GLEN CT., ESTERO  
• Completely Updated 3 BR, 3 BA + Den  
• Large, Private Wooded Lot  
**\$595,000 MLS 218076725**  
Gary Ryan 239.273.6796

### PELICAN MARSH



1520 CLERMONT DR. #H-304, NAPLES  
• Southern Views of Golf Course  
• Updated Wood Flooring  
**\$430,000 MLS 218027857**  
Ed Biddison 239.218.7444

### BONITA BAY - HARBOR LAKES



27020 LAKE HARBOR CT. #102, BONITA  
• 2 BR, 2 BA, 1 Car Attached GA, 1st Floor  
• Beautifully Remodeled Kitchen & Baths  
**\$335,000 MLS 218076889**  
Sandy Kass, The Fagan Team 239.292.4044

### TWIN EAGLES



OPEN 12/30 1:00PM - 4:00PM

12021 COVENT GARDEN CT. #2701, NAPLES  
• 2nd Floor End Unit, 2,045 S.F. Under Air  
• Beautifully Updated, Full 2 Car Garage  
**\$269,000 MLS 218066890**  
Corye Reiter, The Lummmis Team 239.273.3722

### OLDE NAPLES



150 13TH AVE. S., NAPLES  
• One Block to Beach & 3rd Street Shopping  
• 4 Bedrooms, 7 Bathrooms, 3.5 Car Garage  
**\$4,375,000 MLS 217053800**  
Mike & Lauren Taranto 239.572.0066

### BONITA BAY - OAK KNOLL

NEW PRICE



27180 OAK KNOLL DR. BONITA  
• Custom Built, 4 BR, 5.5 BA + Den, 3 Car Garage  
• Gorgeous Lake & Wildlife Views, Oversized Lanai  
**\$1,575,000 MLS 218060986**  
Connie Lummmis, The Lummmis Team 239.289.3543

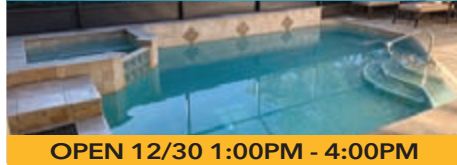
### BELLE LAGO



19249 LA SERENA DR., ESTERO  
• Best Long Lake & Sunset Views, 5 BR, 4.2 BA  
• Oversized Lanai w/Pool & Spa, Fabulous Kitchen  
**\$869,680 MLS 218066388**  
Leah Alfieri 239.464.2829

### BONITA BAY - ENCLAVE

NEW LISTING



3611 KEY LIME CT., BONITA  
• Spacious 4 BR, 2.5 BA, Pool Villa, 2 Car GA  
• Remodeled w/Tile & Hardwood Floors  
**\$589,900 MLS 218082802**  
Robin Bennett & Denny Koesters 219.789.0099

### HAWTHORNE - COBBLESTONE

NEW LISTING



10369 FLAT STONE LP, BONITA  
• Beautiful Kitchen  
• Great Outdoor Living Space  
**\$410,000 MLS 218081792**  
Deb Adams-Bateman 239.273.4824

### SHADOW WOOD AT THE BROOKS



23051 ROSEDALE DR. #201, ESTERO  
• 3 BR, 2nd Floor, Turnkey Furnished Condo  
• Golf Course to Lake Sunrise Views  
**\$335,000 MLS 218071036**  
The Bordner Team 239.989.8829

### VASARI - MATERA



OPEN 12/30 1:00PM - 4:00PM

28442 ALTESSA WAY #202, BONITA  
• 2 BR, 2 BA + Den, 1,616 S.F., Turnkey Furnished  
• Beautiful Lake View w/Southern Exposure  
**\$249,900 MLS 218070017**  
Corye Reiter, The Lummmis Team 239.273.3722

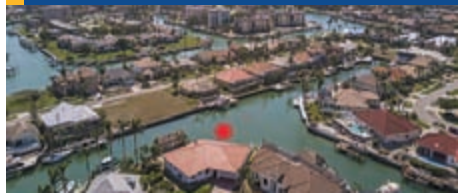
### PARK SHORE



OPEN SUNDAYS 1:00PM - 4:00PM

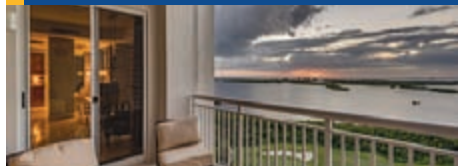
351 NEAPOLITAN WAY, NAPLES  
• Furnished 3 BR, 4 BA + Den, 3 Car Garage  
• Waterfall Swimming Pool & Spa  
**\$4,200,000 MLS 218018897**  
Dodona & Omela, The Roboci Team 239.776.8123

### MARCO BEACH



786 ORCHID CT., MARCO ISLAND  
• Long & Wide Converging Waterway Views  
• Furnished 3 BR, 3.5 BA, Wraparound Lanai  
**\$1,450,000 MLS 218010046**  
Liz Appling 239.272.7201

### BONITA BAY - ESPERIA SOUTH



4951 BONITA BAY BLVD. #1804, BONITA  
• Open Floor Plan w/Over 2,100 S.F.  
• 2 Spacious Suites, 2 Separate Terraces  
**\$850,000 MLS 218066454**  
Connie Lummmis, The Lummmis Team 239.289.3543

### RIVERSTONE



3574 BEAUFORT CT., NAPLES  
• Turnkey Furnished Pool Home  
• Walking Distance to Clubhouse  
**\$579,900 MLS 218055714**  
Patti Fortune 239.272.8494

### NAPLES BAY RESORT



1025 SANDPIPER ST. #E105, NAPLES  
• Resort Style Living, 2 BR, 2 BA, Turnkey  
• 5 Minute Walk to 5th Avenue  
**\$389,000 MLS 217033486**  
Roger Stening 239.770.4707

### MOON LAKE



1202 JARDIN DR., NAPLES  
• 3 BR, 2 BA, Tile Roof 2017, A/C 2017  
• 2 Car Garage, New Opener & Garbage Disposal  
**\$327,600 MLS 218060791**  
Mark Semeraro 239.370.2455

### VASARI - TRIESTE



OPEN 12/30 1:00PM - 4:00PM

11071 CORSIA TRIESTE WAY #201, BONITA  
• Turnkey, 2 BR, 2 BA + Den, 1,600+ S.F.  
• Beautiful Water View, S. Exposure  
**\$247,500 MLS 218071481**  
Corye Reiter, The Lummmis Team 239.273.3722

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OPEN 12/30 1:00PM - 4:00PM

23331 FOXBERRY LN., ESTERO  
• Former Tamarind Trace Model Home  
• 3 BR + Den on Lake w/Southern Exposure  
**\$760,000 MLS 218079518**  
Gary Ryan 239.273.6796

### AUDUBON COUNTRY CLUB



344 CHANCERY CIR., NAPLES  
• Natural Preserve  
• Over 1/2 Acre on Golf Course  
**\$575,000 MLS 218044862**  
Roger Stening 239.770.4707

### CEDAR CREEK

NEW LISTING



25510 SPRINGTIDE CT., BONITA  
• Upgraded 3 BR, 2 BA, Pool, Gated Community  
• Approximately 5 Minutes to Bonita Beaches  
**\$385,000 MLS 218081157**  
Darlene Rice 239.325.3537

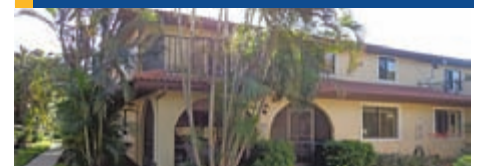
### TREVISIO BAY - AVELLINO



OPEN 12/29 1:00PM - 4:00PM

9532 AVELLINO WAY #2722, NAPLES  
• 2017 Condo w/Spectacular Lake Views  
• 2 BR, 2 BA + Den, 1 Car Garage, Furnished  
**\$327,500 MLS 218072885**  
Liz Appling 239.272.7201

### HACIENDA VILLAGE



27850 HACIENDA EAST BLVD. #203C, BONITA  
• 2 BR, 2.5 BA End Unit Townhouse  
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**\$217,900 MLS 218065791**  
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 • Furnished, Transitional Style Courtyard  
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 Pam Olsen 239.464.6873



**BONITA BAY - COCONUT ISLE**

26448 BRICK LN., BONITA  
 • Visit 26448BrickLane.com for Details  
 • 3 Bedrooms + Den, Pool/Spa  
**\$1,199,000 MLS 218019976**  
 Gary & Jeff Jaarda 239.293.1507



**SHADOW WOOD AT THE BROOKS**

22221 FAIRVIEW BEND DR., ESTERO  
 • 3 BR, 4 BA, 2 Story, Great Room Floor Plan  
 • Overlooks 2 Lakes, Fairway #12 & Preserve  
**\$1,190,000 MLS 218050396**  
 Mike & Lauren Taranto 239.572.0066



**PELICAN BAY - CRESCENT**

8460 ABBINGTON CIR. #1822, NAPLES  
 • Private & Serene Golf Course Views  
 • 3 BR, 3 BA + Den, Remodeled Condo  
**\$1,150,000 MLS 218056866**  
 Dodona & Omela, The Roboci Team 239.776.8123



**THE COLONY - FLORENCIA**

23850 VIA ITALIA CIR. #406, ESTERO  
 • 3 Balconies w/Spectacular Views  
 • 3 Bedroom, 3 Bathroom + Den High Rise  
**\$749,000 MLS 217064749**  
 Taylor Ekovich 239.370.7715



**TALL PINES**

5801 WAXMYRTLE WAY, NAPLES  
 • 6 Miles from the Beach  
 • Walking Distance to Shopping & Dining  
**\$689,000 MLS 218071601**  
 Dodona & Omela, The Roboci Team 239.776.8123



**SHADOW WOOD AT THE BROOKS**

23307 FOXBERRY LN., ESTERO  
 • 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths + Den, Pool  
 • Lake & Golf Course Views  
**\$659,000 MLS 218070289**  
 Gary Ryan 239.273.6796



**BENT CREEK PRESERVE**

9323 GLENFOREST DR., NAPLES  
 • 3 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, 3 Car Garage  
 • Large Lot, Long Lake Views  
**\$624,900 MLS 218072467**  
 Bob Fagan, The Fagan Team 239.272.3006



**BONITA BAY - ENCLAVE**  
NEW PRICE

27100 ENCLAVE DR., BONITA  
 • Furnished, 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2 Car Garage, 2,200 S.F.  
 • Private Pool, S. Exposure, Golf Course View  
**\$549,000 MLS 218045159**  
 Corye Reiter, The Lummis Team 239.273.3722



**CORKSCREW SHORES**  
NEW PRICE

20529 SHADY GLEN CT., ESTERO  
 • Peaceful Preserve Views, Coveted SW Exposure  
 • 2 BR, 2 BA + Den, 3 Car GA w/Built-Ins & Sink  
**\$549,000 MLS 218044581**  
 Dotti Fagan, The Fagan Team 239.272.4946



**SPANISH WELLS**

9904 WHITE SANDS PL., BONITA  
 • Outstanding Golf Course Views  
 • 3 BR, 2 BA, Pool, 2,184 S.F. Under Air  
**\$469,000 MLS 218080167**  
 Jim Griffith, The Boeglin Team 239.322.2409



**CEDAR CREEK**

8801 SPRINGWOOD CT., BONITA  
 • Canterbury II - Great Room Model  
 • 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 2 Car Garage  
**\$431,000 MLS 218067885**  
 Darlene Rice 239.325.3537



**WORTHINGTON CC**

13721 SOUTHAMPTON DR., BONITA  
 • Remodeled, 3 BR, 2 BA, Pool, 2 Car Garage  
 • Gated, Bundled Golf & Tennis Community  
**\$377,500 MLS 218046816**  
 Robin Bennett & Denny Koesters 219.789.0099



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2500 GULF SHORE BLVD. N. #N6, NAPLES  
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 Jackie Gantzer 239.825.3206



**VILLA PALMERAS**

21572 MISANO DR., ESTERO  
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 • SS Appliances, Silestone Counters, Island  
**\$337,500 MLS 218062780**  
 Greg Lewis, The Lewis Team 239.287.1158



**SHADOW WOOD - PALMETTO RIDGE**

9231 PALMETTO RIDGE DR. #101, ESTERO  
 • 2 BR, 2 BA + Den, Offered Turnkey  
 • 2 Car Garage w/Built-In Cabinets  
**\$309,000 MLS 218023408**  
 Sue Ellen Mathers 239.877.2726



**BRENDAN COVE**

9124 BRENDAN PRESERVE CT., BONITA  
 • 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms  
 • Peaceful Preserve View  
**\$304,900 MLS 218054343**  
 Jim Westerfield, Westerfield Group 239.287.6617



**SPANISH WELLS - MARBELLA**

28270 LISBON CT. #2911, BONITA  
 • 1st Floor, 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 Car Garage  
 • Beautiful Golf Course & Preserve Views  
**\$288,000 MLS 218081193**  
 The Boeglin Team 239.287.6414



**WILDCAT RUN**

20921 WILDCAT RUN DR., ESTERO  
 • Spacious 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2 Car Garage Villa  
 • Lake & Preserve View  
**\$282,500 MLS 218054083**  
 Carol Jones 239.250.4310



**HERITAGE BAY CC**

10321 HERITAGE BAY BLVD. #1514, NAPLES  
 • Furnished, 1st Floor, 2 BR, 2 BA Condo  
 • Only 100 Steps from On-Site Pool  
**\$199,000 MLS 218051762**  
 The Bordner Team 239.989.8829



**HIGHLAND WOODS**  
NEW LISTING

9200 HIGHLAND WOODS BLVD. #1108, BONITA  
 • Highly Upgraded 1st Floor Condo  
 • Tee Box Golf Course View  
**\$184,900 MLS 218082409**  
 Jim Westerfield, Westerfield Group 239.287.6617



**GLEN EAGLE**  
NEW PRICE

6820 STERLING GREENS PL. #2104, NAPLES  
 • 1st Floor, Unfurnished, 2 BR, 2 BA  
 • Serene Panoramic Views  
**\$180,000 MLS 218027340**  
 Mark Semeraro 239.370.2455



**HIGHLAND WOODS CC**

9200 HIGHLAND WOODS BLVD. #1307, BONITA  
 • 1,041 S.F., 2 BR, 2 BA Condo  
 • Newly Rebuilt Bundled Golf Course  
**\$169,000 MLS 218064338**  
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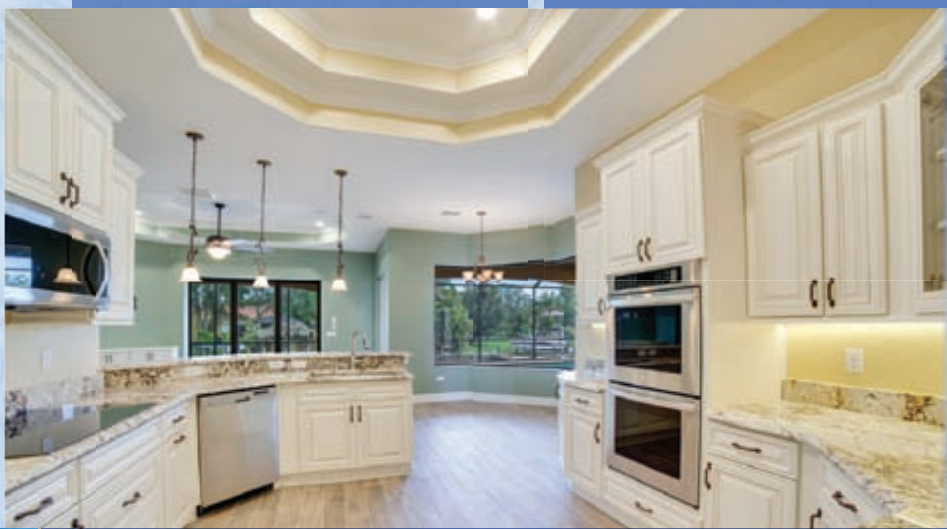
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ADVERTORIAL

## Peninsula is the perfect addition to the amenity-rich Treviso Bay

**M**ove in to the gated, luxurious neighborhood of the Peninsula and enjoy your private lakefront golf view residence with a laid-back lifestyle, and then take advantage of one of the bustling clubhouses for socializing, fitness, and dining. Treviso Bay is a master-planned golf community featuring incredible amenities, including an 18-hole TPC/PGA designed championship golf course with pro-shop, restaurant and lounge. In addition, residents enjoy the tennis center with 8 lighted courts, the health and fitness center with full service spa, pickleball, bocce and dining at the poolside restaurant, La Piscina. Nestled within this community is the Peninsula, a coastal contemporary neighborhood, comprised of 55 home sites offering six customizable floor plans designed by Kuk Architecture and built by Imperial Homes of Naples.

The most prestigious amenity is the 18-hole TPC championship golf course membership included with every property purchase at the Peninsula. Licensed by the PGA tour, the Tournament Players Club (TPC) is a network of over 30 private, resort, and daily fee properties designed by the elite of today's course architects. To receive distinction as a TPC golf course, it must have hosted or be designed to host a PGA Tour-sponsored event.

Designed by golf course architect legend Arthur Hills, Treviso Bay's 18 holes represent the most unique, challenging, and innovative characteristics, enticing players at all levels. Better yet, members enjoy the TPC Passport reciprocal program, designed to deliver the consummate golf experience for TPC private club members when they're away from home. It ensures your golf membership travels with you worldwide and affords you privileges at all of the premier destination properties in the TPC Network.

In addition to this prestigious course, Treviso Bay's golf clubhouse is among the largest in the TPC network. The 76,000 square foot Mediterranean inspired clubhouse offers guests casual but elegant dining with private spaces for special luncheons and meetings, a smartly stocked Pro Shop, and a lounge area where members will find billiards, a game room, library and even an attendant ready to shine your shoes, change your spikes or order full-service food. The Player's Grille presents delectable menu options and the opportunity to enjoy your meal while overlooking the 9th and 18th hole.

In addition to the incredible golf clubhouse, residents enjoy the resort club, Villa Rilassare, which is even more all-encompassing and inclusive. Villa Rilassare is a 15,000 square foot facility with lavish resort-style amenities, including a full-service spa, fitness and health club, and pool complex. The tropical inspired main pool features bright umbrellas, lush landscaping, and waterfalls galore surrounded by plenty of relaxing chaises ideal for soaking up some signature Florida sun. A uniquely designed bridge suspends above the pool and separates the lap pool from the resort-style pool. Swim under the bridge to reach the lap pool for a quick change of scenery, and a quick workout. The children are awarded their own private (and shallow) gated pool with toys and fountains to maximize the fun.

For those who crave a sandy beach on a warm winter Florida day, look no further. Villa Rilassare dedicates a portion of its lakefront to a sandy beach complete with more chaises, palm trees, hammocks, and private cabanas. This man-made beach feels just like the real thing, which is found only a mere six miles away at the Gulf. There is something for everyone at Villa Rilassare, whether it's swimming



**Top: Treviso Bay's 18 hole TPC championship golf course. Above Left: Treviso Bay's Villa Rilassare: 15,000 square foot clubhouse with full-service spa, fitness center, restaurant, bar, and pool. Above Right Top: Iconic Treviso Bay bridge leading into the picturesque community. Above Right Bottom: One of 8 lighted HarTru tennis courts in Treviso Bay. Right: Peninsula's Burano Model, one of six floor plans in the coastal contemporary neighborhood.**

laps, relaxing poolside, or napping in a hammock on a sandy beach.

When lunchtime sets in, the resort club offers an ideal poolside-dining menu. Salads, pizzas, sandwiches and entrees are the perfect lunchtime delicacies sure to delight any palate. For a more expanded dinnertime menu, Villa Rilassare offers outside dining and allows guests to enjoy their favorite dishes by the moonlight.

The Villa Rilassare spa is the epitome of blissful convenience. The full-service Utopia Spa offers guests a luxurious array of specialty services, including signature massages, 75-minute facials, nail treatments and waxing. Indulge in one of the spa's packages to enjoy a bundle of these services all in one day. The Utopia Spa also offers a full list of hair services, including cuts, colors, and specialties like blow-outs and keratin treatments. Imagine the luxury of having all of these services inside your community.

Not only does Villa Rilassare cater to



guests seeking relaxation, it also harbors some more active lifestyle amenities with eight lighted tennis courts, pickle ball, beach volleyball and bocce. A tennis pro is permanently on staff to assist players with their game.

Treviso Bay really does offer their residents the ultimate luxury lifestyle. There are endless ways to spend your day in this incredibly designed master-planned community. You have the opportunity to gain access to this and more with the purchase of your new home at the Peninsula. As the newest neighborhood in Treviso Bay, the

Peninsula is the exclusive opportunity to enjoy Treviso Bay's amenities in a brand new home. All 55 homesites are lakefront and overlook the TPC golf course. The coastal contemporary style homes designed by Kuk Architecture are built exclusively by Imperial Homes of Naples and are designed to maximize views with their six open floor plans. For more information, call 239-249-6830, visit <https://peninsulanaples.com> or come by the Sales Office, located at the Treviso Bay Sales Center, 9004 Tamiami Trail East, Naples. Sales Office and model homes are open daily 10-5. ■

ADVERTORIAL

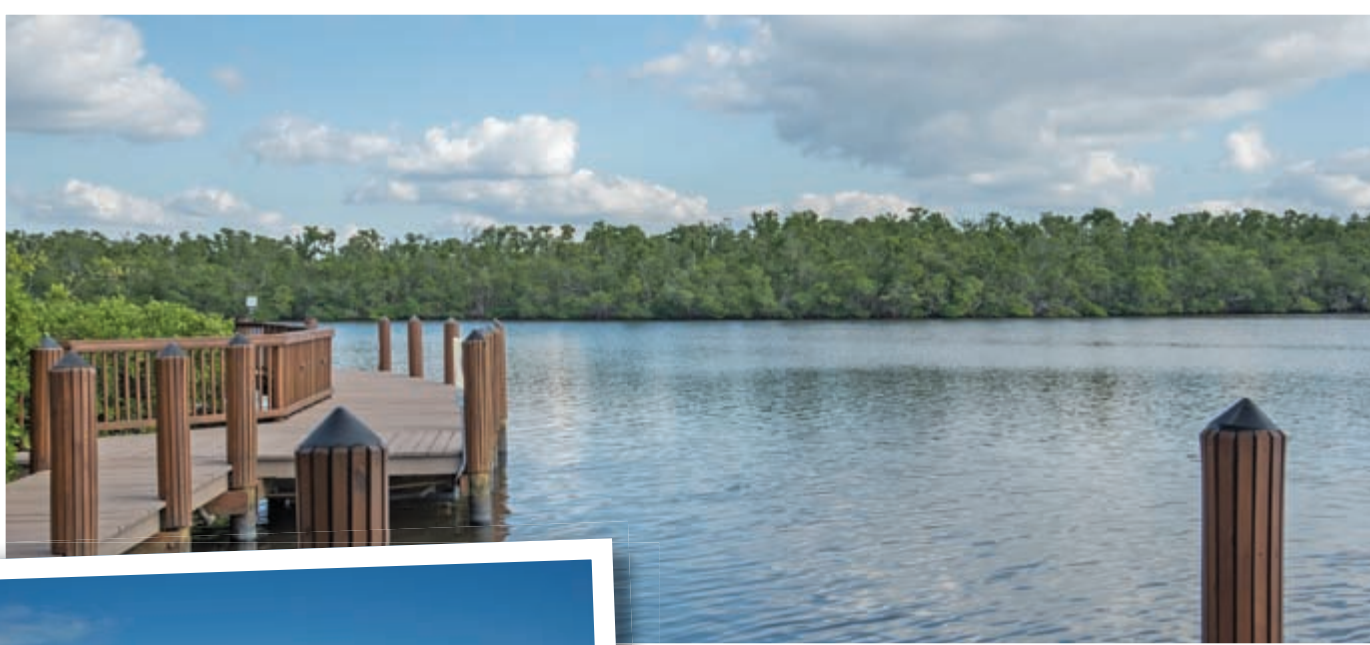
# Mangrove Bay

**B**uilt on Old Naples' last remaining significant waterfront property for residential development, the homes at Mangrove Bay are designed for those with exceptional taste desiring an unequaled residence and lifestyle.

We are pleased to announce that the Coquina I on lot 7 is furnished and ready for move in! Located at 1315 1st Avenue South, this furnished residence is 2,664 square feet and available for immediate occupancy. Superior construction and luxury appointments feature throughout this three bedroom, three and one half bath residence including an upstairs loft living space. The price for this stunning home is \$2,373,000.

Additionally, the Keewaydin I located on lot 41 will have its Certificate of Occupancy and be fully furnished in the next 2 weeks! Located at 1452 2nd Avenue South, this residence will be priced at \$3,720,000. This stunning 3,272 square foot model exemplifies Old Florida architecture brilliantly. The second story features a loft living area allowing for picturesque views as well as two guest bedrooms giving the first floor master an open concept living space with privacy and functionality.

2 new furnished Coquina II models are also fast approaching completion! Lot 13, located at 1314 1st Avenue South is priced at \$2,805,000 and lot 25, located at 181 14th Street South is priced at \$2,830,000. Both will have beautiful two-story, 3-bedroom Coquina II models. These cottage style homes are



designed to maximize privacy and functionality in an exquisite floor plan.

With Old Florida inspired architecture by MHK Architecture & Planning, all homes have Gulf access private boat slips included with purchase.

Lots 6, 12, and 16 are slated for comple-

tion in early 2019! Additionally, construction is now completed on the seawall and boat ramp.

Mangrove Bay is ideally placed to explore the exciting Naples Design District. A collection of home and interior design stores and studios, along with antique and resale shops, this area is located along 10th Street North between 5th Avenue North and 2nd Avenue South in Old Naples.

Another wonderful addition to the area and right on the doorstep of Mangrove Bay is the soon to break ground Gulfshore

Playhouse, a cultural icon in Naples which will be a wonderful complement to the Mangrove Bay community.

The lifestyle in Mangrove Bay affords homeowners access to all the Naples has to offer including the wonderful downtown offerings of 5th Avenue, nearby Baker Park (completion in 2019), the new Greenway Bridge, City of Naples Dog Park and of course Naples beautiful sandy beaches.

Built by Lotus Construction, LLC the exclusive General Contractor for Mangrove Bay, these waterfront homes are available and won't last long. Come by our Sales Office to learn more about this exciting new construction waterfront community in the heart of Old Naples. ■

## OLD NAPLES WATERFRONT LIVING



### FEATURED MODEL COQUINA I

We are pleased to announce that the Coquina I on lot 7 is available for immediate occupancy! Located at 1315 1st Avenue South, this furnished residence has 2,664 square feet. Superior construction and luxury appointments featured throughout this three bedroom, one half bath residence including an upstairs loft living space.

**\$2,373,000**

### FURNISHED MODELS ON THE WAY! *Under Construction and Slated for Completion Soon!*

**LOT 41**  
Waterfront views of Naples Bay



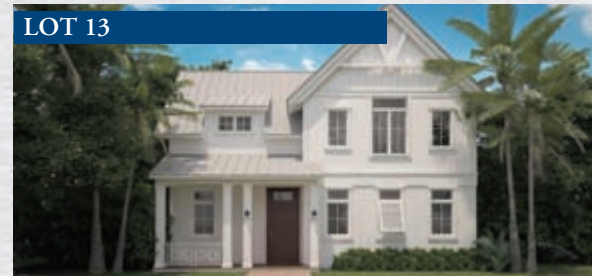
THE KEEWAYDIN I - \$3,720,000  
3,272 sq. ft., Furnished

**LOT 31**  
Waterfront views of Naples Bay



THE USEPPA I - \$3,453,000  
3,513 sq. ft., Furnished

**LOT 13**



THE COQUINA II - \$2,805,000  
3,232 sq. ft., Furnished

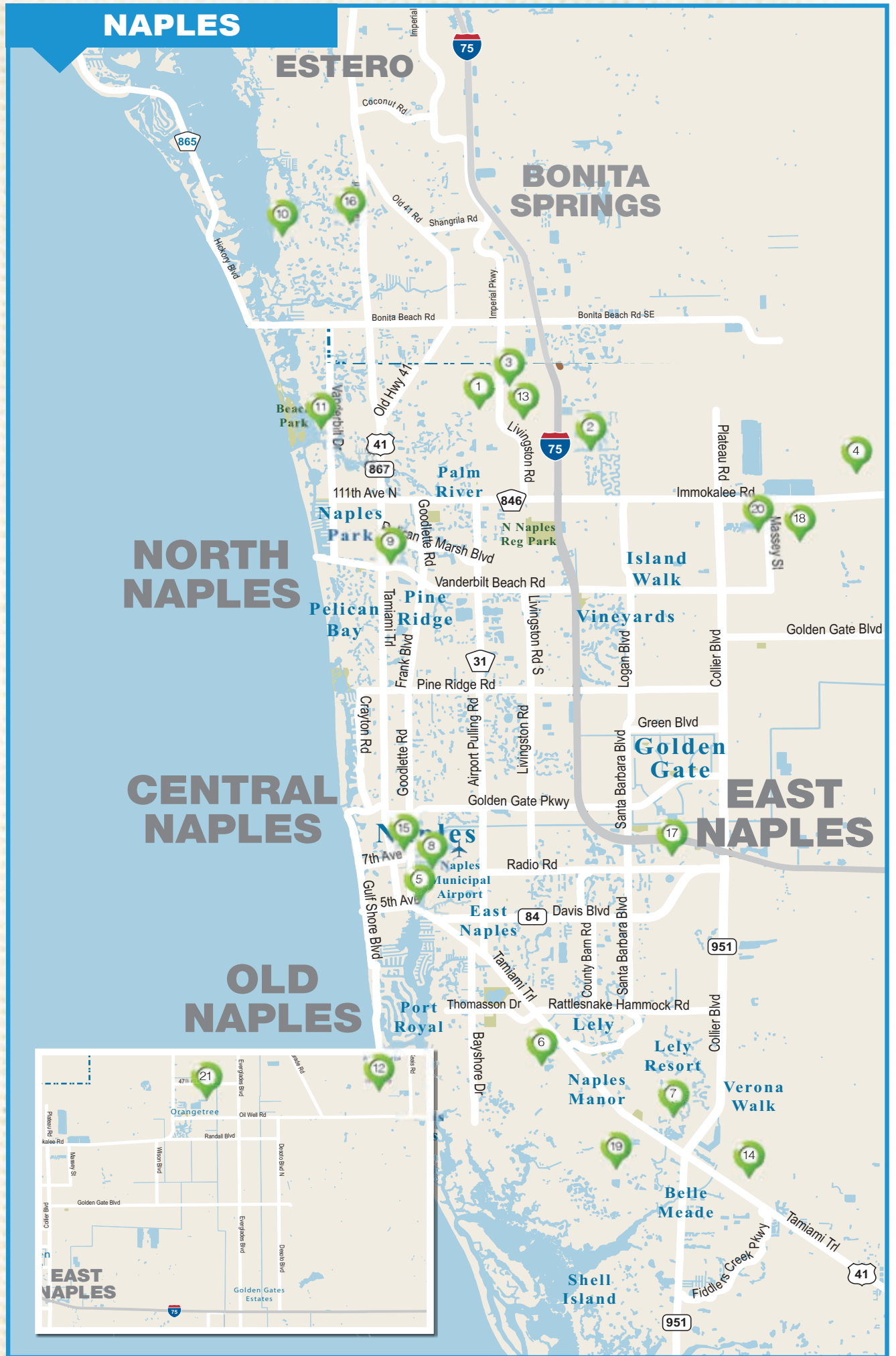


239.261.2200 | [www.mangrovebaynaples.com](http://www.mangrovebaynaples.com)  
201 Goodlette Road South | Naples, Florida 34102  
Sales Center Hours of Operation:  
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YOUR NEW HOME COMMUNITY FINDER



**1** **MEDITERRA**  
**Mediterra**  
 15836 Savona Way  
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 855.810.7976  
[mediterranaples.com](http://mediterranaples.com)

**2** **QUAIL WEST**  
**Quail West**  
 6289 Burnham Road  
 Naples, FL  
 239.592.1010  
[QuailWest.com](http://QuailWest.com)

**3** **TALIS PARK**  
**Talis Park**  
 16980 Livingston Road  
 Naples, FL  
 239.449.5900  
[TalisPark.com](http://TalisPark.com)

**4** **TWINEAGLES**  
**Twin Eagles**  
 11330 Twin Eagles Boulevard  
 Naples, FL  
 239.352.8000  
[TwinEagles.com](http://TwinEagles.com)

**5** **NAPLES SQUARE**  
**Naples Square**  
 1030 3rd Avenue South #101  
 Naples, FL  
 239.228.5800  
[NaplesSquare.com](http://NaplesSquare.com)

**6** **The Isles**  
**The Isles of Collier Preserve**  
 5445 Caribe Avenue  
 Naples, FL  
 844.838.3392  
[MintoUSA.com](http://MintoUSA.com)

**7** **LELY**  
**Lely Resort New Home Sales**  
 8038 Signature Club Circle, Bldg 8-102  
 Naples, FL  
 239.793.2100  
[stockdevelopment.com](http://stockdevelopment.com)

**8** **MANGROVE BAY**  
**Mangrove Bay**  
 201 Goodlette Road South  
 Naples, FL  
 239.261.2200  
[MangroveBayNaples.com](http://MangroveBayNaples.com)

**9** **RESIDENCES AT MERCATO**  
**Residences at Mercato**  
 9123 Strada Place, Suite 7125  
 Naples, FL  
 239.594.9400  
[ResidencesAtMercato.com](http://ResidencesAtMercato.com)

**10** **SEAGLASS**  
**Seaglass at Bonita Bay**  
 26951 Country Club Drive  
 Bonita Springs, FL  
 239.301.4940  
[seaglassatbonitabay.com](http://seaglassatbonitabay.com)

**11** **KALEA**  
**Kalea Bay**  
 13910 Old Coast Road  
 Naples, FL  
 239.793.0110  
[KaleaBay.com](http://KaleaBay.com)

**12** **Ave Maria**  
**Ave Maria**  
 5076 Annunciation Circle #104  
 Ave Maria, FL  
 888.841.3477  
[AveMaria.com](http://AveMaria.com)

**13** **Barrington Cove**  
**Barrington Cove - DR Horton**  
 16168 Aberdeen Avenue  
 Naples, FL  
 239.287.9499  
[drhorton.com/swfla](http://drhorton.com/swfla)

**14** **Naples Reserve**  
**Naples Reserve**  
 14885 Naples Reserve Circle  
 Naples, FL  
 239.732.1414  
[naplesreserve.com](http://naplesreserve.com)

**15** **eleven CENTRAL**  
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 100 Goodlette-Frank Road South  
 Naples, FL  
 239.302.6848  
[1111central.com](http://1111central.com)

**16** **OMEGA**  
**Omega**  
 26951 Country Club Drive  
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 239.301.4940  
[omegabonitabay.com](http://omegabonitabay.com)

**17** **FRONTERRA**  
**Fronterra by CC Homes**  
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 Naples, FL  
 239.207.3721  
[FronterraFL.com](http://FronterraFL.com)

**18** **Mockingbird**  
**Mockingbird Crossing-DR Horton**  
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 Naples, FL  
 239.225.2678  
[drhorton.com/swfla](http://drhorton.com/swfla)

**19** **ARTESIA**  
**Artisia - Lennar**  
 1347 Artesia Drive East  
 Naples, FL  
 877-45-LENNAR  
[Lennar.com/SWFLSave](http://Lennar.com/SWFLSave)

**20** **LAMORADA**  
**La Morada**  
 2385 Montserrat Lane  
 Naples, FL  
 877-45-LENNAR  
[Lennar.com/SWFLSave](http://Lennar.com/SWFLSave)

**21** **ORANGE BLOSSOM RANCH**  
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### Featured Open House

NATURE POINTE • 1661 Gordon River Lane • \$1,200,000 • Open Sunday 1-4pm  
 Two-story home with views overlooking the Greenway Conservancy with Gulf access via Naples Bay! Renovated with porcelain wood tile, quartzite countertops and all new Whirlpool appliances. Screened in lanai with heated pool & spill-over spa.  
 John R Wood Properties  
 Emily K. Bua & Tade Bua-Bell 239.595.0097

## Florida Weekly's OPEN HOUSE DIRECTORY | December 29 & 30

### Naples

AREA	ADDRESS	PRICE	REAL ESTATE OFFICE	AGENT & PHONE NUMBER	HOURS
PORT ROYAL	1201 Galleon Drive	\$13,495,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Call for Details! 239.213.9100	Sunday 1-4pm
PORT ROYAL	1351 Spyglass Lane	\$9,995,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939	Sunday 1-4pm
PORT ROYAL	960 Galleon Drive	\$8,995,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Paul Arpin 239.877.4450	Sunday 1-4pm
GREY OAKS - ESTUARY AT GREY OAKS	2394 Grey Oaks Drive North	From \$6,595,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Sales Office 239.262.5557	Mon-Sat 9am-5pm & Sun 12-5pm
OLD NAPLES	477 2nd Avenue North	\$4,399,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Peter Reppucci 239.595.6500	Sunday 1-4pm
PARK SHORE	351 Neapolitan Way	\$4,200,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Dodona & Ornela, The Roboci Team 239.776.8123	Sunday 1-4pm
THE MOORINGS	3020 Crayton Road	\$3,495,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939	Sunday 1-4pm
PARK SHORE	488 Devils Lane	\$2,995,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939	Sunday 1-4pm
QUAIL WEST	4213 Brynwood Drive	\$2,799,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Pam Olsen 239.464.6873	Sunday 1-4pm
QUAIL WEST	6320 Burnham Road	\$2,500,000	John R Wood Properties	Emily K. Bua & Tade Bua-Bell 239.595.0097	Sunday 1-4pm
GREY OAKS - ISLA VISTA	2004 Isla Vista Lane	\$2,395,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Sonya Shaheen 239.877.2797	Sunday 1-4pm
VANDERBILT BEACH - CONNERS	155 Heron Avenue	\$2,299,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Clint Parsons 239.273.1474	Sunday 1-4pm
THE MOORINGS	441 Wedge Drive	\$2,250,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Petra Kloss 239.595.5554	Sunday 1-4pm
LAKE PARK	1187 10th Avenue North	\$1,950,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Melinda Gunther 239.297.2155	Sunday 1-3m
BAY VILLAS AT PELICAN BAY	541 Bay Villas Lane	\$1,595,000	John R Wood Properties	Emily K. Bua & Tade Bua-Bell 239.595.0097	Sunday 1-4pm
TORINO AT GREY OAKS	2071 Torino Way	\$1,500,000	John R Wood Properties	Emily K. Bua & Tade Bua-Bell 239.595.0097	Sunday 1-4pm
RESIDENCES AT MERCATO	9123 Strada Place #7125	From \$1,325,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Sales Office 239.594.9400	Mon-Sat 10am-6pm & Sun 12-6pm
VILLALAGO AT MEDITERRA	18172 Lagos Way	\$1,300,000	John R Wood Properties	Emily K. Bua & Tade Bua-Bell 239.595.0097	Sunday 1-4pm
NATURE POINTE	1661 Gordon River Lane	\$1,200,000	John R Wood Properties	Emily K. Bua & Tade Bua-Bell 239.595.0097	Sunday 1-4pm
PELICAN BAY - CRESCENT	8460 Abbingtion Circle #1822	\$1,150,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Dodona & Ornela, The Roboci Team 239.776.8123	Sunday 1-4pm
PELICAN MARSH - IVY POINTE	1793 Ivy Pointe Court	\$985,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Emie Barnes 239.877.0252	Sunday 1-4pm
THE DUNES	300 Dunes Boulevard #1102	\$959,900	Gulf Breeze Real Estate	Sue Myhelic 239.216.6444	Sunday 1-4pm
FIDDLER'S CREEK - RUNAWAY BAY	3361 Runaway Lane	\$939,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	ML Meade 239.293.4851	Sunday 1-4pm
OLD NAPLES - MODENA	380 10th Street South #204	\$939,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Galietti Team 239.826.5897	Sat & Sun 12-4pm
ISLES OF COLLIER PRESERVE	4968 Andros Drive	\$835,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Sascha Nagel 239.285.6283	Sunday 1-4pm
TIBURON - CASTILLO	2830 Tiburon Boulevard East #103	\$825,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Julie Rembos 239.595.1809	Sunday 1-4pm
TALL PINES	5801 Waxmyrtle Way	\$689,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Dodona & Ornela, The Roboci Team 239.776.8123	Sunday 1-4pm
GULF HARBOR	730 Pan Am Avenue	\$575,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Linda Perry 239.450.9113	Sunday 12-3pm
FIDDLER'S CREEK - CASCADE	9006 Cascada Way #201	\$499,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	ML Meade 239.293.4851	Sunday 1-4pm
THE MOORINGS - YACHT HARBOR MANOR	2500 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #N6	\$369,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Deborah Viglas 239.215.2035	Sunday 1-4pm
NAPLES PARK	820 110th Avenue North	\$359,000	Gulf Breeze Real Estate	Sue Myhelic 239.216.6444	Saturday 1-4pm
FIDDLER'S CREEK - COTTON GREEN	3836 Cotton Green Path Drive	\$359,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	ML Meade 239.293.4851	Sunday 1-4pm
AUTUMN WOODS - CEDAR RIDGE	7134 Blue Juniper Court #101	\$329,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Catherine McAvoy 239.370.2539	Sunday 1-4pm
TREVISIO BAY - AVELLINO	9532 Avellino Way #2722	\$327,500	Royal Shell Real Estate	Liz Appling 239.272.7201	Saturday 1-4pm
FIDDLER'S CREEK - DEER CROSSING	3940 Deer Crossing Court #102	\$279,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	ML Meade 239.293.4851	Sunday 1-4pm
TWIN EAGLES - COVENT GARDEN	12021 Covent Garden Court #2701	\$269,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Corye Reiter, The Lummis Team 239.273.3722	Sunday 1-4pm
PALM RIVER	215 Cypress Way East Unit C-5	\$269,000	Gulf Breeze Real Estate	Sue Myhelic 239.216.6444	Saturday 1-4pm
CYPRESS WOODS GOLF & C.C.	3445 Grand Cypress Drive #102	\$264,900	Gulf Breeze Real Estate	Sue Myhelic 239.216.6444	Saturday 1-4pm

### Bonita Springs

AREA	ADDRESS	PRICE	REAL ESTATE OFFICE	AGENT & PHONE NUMBER	HOURS
BONITA BAY - AZURE	4931 Bonita Bay Boulevard #1403	\$1,975,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Deb Adams-Bateman 239.273.4824	Saturday 1-4pm
BONITA BAY - ENCLAVE	3611 Key Lime Court	\$589,900	Royal Shell Real Estate	Robin Bennett & Denny Koesters 219.789.0099	Sunday 1-4pm
BONITA BAY - ENCLAVE	27100 Enclave Drive	\$549,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Corye Reiter, The Lummis Team 239.273.3722	Sunday 1-4pm
SPANISH WELLS	9904 White Sands Place	\$469,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Jim Griffith, The Boeglin Team 239.322.2409	Sunday 1-4pm
CEDAR CREEK	8801 Springwood Court	\$431,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Darlene Rice 239.325.3537	Sunday 1-4pm
WORTHINGTON CC - VILLAS	13721 Southampton Drive	\$377,500	Royal Shell Real Estate	Robin Bennett & Denny Koesters 219.789.0099	Sunday 1-4pm
PELICAN LANDING - CREEKSIDE CROSSING	25256 Pelican Creek Circle #201	\$348,000	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Pam Umscheid/Stephanie Coburn 239.691.3541	Sunday 1-4pm
SPANISH WELLS - MARBELLA	28270 Lisbon Court #2911	\$288,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	The Boeglin Team 239.287.6414	Sunday 1-4pm
VASARI - MATERA	28442 Altessa Way #202	\$249,900	Royal Shell Real Estate	Corye Reiter, The Lummis Team 239.273.3722	Sunday 1-4pm
VASARI - TRIESTE	11071 Corsia Trieste Way #201	\$247,500	Royal Shell Real Estate	Corye Reiter, The Lummis Team 239.273.3722	Sunday 1-4pm

### Estero

AREA	ADDRESS	PRICE	REAL ESTATE OFFICE	AGENT & PHONE NUMBER	HOURS
SHADOW WOOD AT THE BROOKS	23331 Foxberry Lane	\$760,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Gary Ryan 239.273.6796	Sunday 1-4pm
SHADOW WOOD AT THE BROOKS	23307 Foxberry Lane	\$659,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Gary Ryan 239.273.6796	Sunday 1-4pm
PELICAN LANDING - HERON GLEN	3538 Heron Glen Court	\$595,000	Royal Shell Real Estate	Gary Ryan 239.273.6796	Saturday 1-4pm
BELLE LAGO	19645 Maddelena Circle	\$475,500	Premier Sotheby's International Realty	Catherine Ouellette 239.851.9721	Sunday 1-4pm
WILDCAT RUN - LAKESIDE VILLAS	20921 Wildcat Run Drive	\$282,500	Royal Shell Real Estate	Carol Jones 239.250.4310	Sunday 1-4pm

Call 239.325.1960 to be included in Florida Weekly's OPEN HOUSE DIRECTORY

# PRICES

From page 3

declined 38 percent and foreclosures fell 25.2 percent year-to-year; while short sales for single-family homes dropped 43.3 percent and foreclosures fell 32.1 percent year-to-year. Closed sales may occur from 30- to 90-plus days after sales contracts are written.

“Statewide inventory (active listings) of single-family homes continued to rise in November, with just over 96,000 homes, an increase of nearly 12 percent,” said Erica Plemmons, economist and director of housing statistics

for Florida Realtors. “We see similar trends on the condo/townhome side of the market, with that inventory level up 6.6 percent to over 56,000 condos and townhomes.

“So as we close out the year, how has 2018 compared to 2017? Median sale price has continued its climb every month in 2018 versus the same month in 2017 — and we anticipate a continued trend in higher year-over-year closed sales as well, once the December numbers are available.”

According to Freddie Mac, the interest rate for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 4.87 percent in November 2018, up from the 3.92 percent averaged during the same month a year earlier. ■

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# Best & Worst movies of 2018



Elsie Fisher in "Eighth Grade" and Tom Cruise in "Mission: Impossible - Fallout."



BY DAN HUDAK

Florida Weekly movie critic

**F**OR AS GOOD A YEAR AS IT WAS for dramas, indies and foreign films, it was an even better year for blockbusters, especially Disney's. Yes, the studio took a hit with "Solo: A Star Wars Story" underperforming, but in the last 11 months three of its releases became one of the top 10 highest-grossing films of all time. "Black Panther" is third on the list after earning \$700 million, "Avengers: Infinity War" is fourth with \$678 million, and "Incred-

SEE BEST WORST, C4 ►

## INSIDE



### Latest films

Check out "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse." C19 ►



### Top Picks

Plan your week filled with the top arts & entertainment picks. C6-9 ►



### Society

The Naples Chamber's Stuff-a-Sus campaign was a success. C26 ►

## Washed Ashore: Recycled plastic artists making a statement

BY KRISTINE GILL

Florida Weekly Correspondent

Chompers the Shark has a bit of a skin condition. Instead of smooth flesh, the 11-foot sculpture is made of shotgun shells, bottle caps and flip-flops screwed together along its sides and fin regions. But the piece is not a fun exercise in using found objects to create art. It's a statement.

All 800 pounds of plastic, metal and

SEE ASHORE, C22 ►



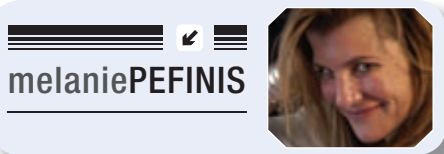
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The Washed Ashore Project uses found plastics to create art, with the goal of making a statement to the world that it's time to change consumer habits.

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# Where 2018 dropped the ball



As we get ready to celebrate the New Year, many in Naples are settling on places to party, chilling champagne or buffing up buffet tables. From the outdoor firework celebration on the Pier to the glitzier bow tie events at various clubs, there is no shortage of places to ring in 2019.

The annual New Year's Eve ball drop got me thinking; not about watching a ball drop, but where I think 2018 dropped the ball. I am ready to be rid of a lot that shaped 2018. Especially after watching Miley Cyrus join Sean Lennon to sing "Happy Christmas" on SNL. What have you done? Another year older. A new one just begun.

I gladly say goodbye to the war on journalism, which peaked in 2018. From the Capital Gazette shooting in Annapolis to the death of Washington Post writer Jamal Khashoggi, I bid those horrors of 2018 a hearty farewell. We need a free and open press. News isn't fake just because you don't like it. War is over if you want it. Let's want it.

With pain in my heart I say goodbye to the 11 people killed at the Tree of Life Synagogue, the 10 killed at Santa Fe High School in Texas, the 12 killed at the Borderline Bar and Grill in California and the 17 killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas. To this remarkable crew in Parkland who stood up and voiced their pain and passion, I send new year's

wishes for 2019 and beyond. Let's hope it's a good one without any fear.

As a movie lover, I say goodbye to the bliss with which I used to enjoy a Weinstein film. While of course I will still appreciate the collective result of these artistic collaborations, there is now a taint to my enjoyment. I bid adieu to old corporate behaviors that were brushed under the rug in Hollywood and elsewhere. As we enter 2019 with fresh eyes, I am hopeful to embark on the legacy of Nobel Prize winners Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murard and the

brave women of the Me Too movement.

I bid a heartbroken farewell to the dolphins beached along our shores. The red tide that distressed our waterways throughout 2018 is something I hope is a thing of the past. And to those of us unable to play in the Gulf for most of this year, I eagerly cross my fingers for the New Year. The U.S.'s withdrawal from the Paris Accord last year dims my hopes for 2019, but I hold to my belief that truth and science will win.

So 2018, if you're listening — yeah, I think you dropped the ball on some

vital matters. But as we prepare to drop the New Year's ball into 2019, I hope we usher in a year of compassion. For weak and for strong. For rich and the poor ones. The road is so long. ■

— A recent transplant from the Baltimore/D.C. area, Melanie Pefinis works as a writer and TV producer in Southwest Florida. After spending her childhood as a performer, she went behind the scenes to create worthwhile media working in radio, film, TV and print journalism.





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# CLUB NOTES

■ **ACBL-sanctioned bridge** at 1 p.m. each Tuesday at the Jewish Congregation of Marco Island, 991 Winterberry Drive. The game will be suspended for the holidays, Jan. 1, and resumes Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019. For further information and partnerships, contact Richard Perlman at 609-306-9732.

■ **The Naples Area Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club** invites all Pi Phi alumnae in Naples, Marco Island, Bonita Springs and Estero to join the club at its luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 12, at Naples Lakes Country Club, 4784 Inverness Club Drive. Gulfshore Playhouse founder & CEO, Kristin Coury, will share the design for the new theater in downtown Naples set to open in 2021. Cost is approximately \$30, to be paid by credit card at the event. Advanced reservations are required. For more information, contact Elaine Thornton, elainethornton@mac.com, 419-271-0500.

■ **The Naples Christian Women's Connection** invites area women to attend the Friday, Jan. 4, luncheon at Cypress Woods Golf & Country Club, 3525 Northbrooke Drive. The Stonecroft speaker will be Erv Smith with "Oh, the Night Life!" The featured event will be "Jewelry Potluck" where guests are invited to bring their unwanted jewelry in a zip lock bag to sell or trade. Proceeds will benefit Stonecroft Ministries. 11:30 a.m. Reservations and prepayment of \$28, inclusive, should be made one week prior to the luncheon. For reservations and mailing directions, contact cwcnaples@gmail.com, or Tricia at 594-2056.



■ **Solo Singles of Collier County** was organized more than 25 years ago to create and promote recreation, culture, charitable and social activities for those persons single, divorced or widowed as a means towards helping them achieve a fuller and better life socially, emotionally and intellectually. Members meet at 5 p.m. for happy hour followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Fridays at a different restaurant EVERY Friday. Interested in being a member call Carey Hughes 262-0278 or email careyjh@aol.com. The next event is Dec. 28 at Joey D's Italian Restaurant and Bar (2356 Immokalee Road in Greentree Center).

■ **The German-American Club Naples** holds during the winter season a dinner dance on the third Friday of every month. Non-member guests are welcome. For more information or to make a reservation call 352-0041.

■ "Are you Tall?" **The Tall Friends of Southwest Florida** is forming in Naples to encourage friendships while promoting tall awareness among tall men and women in the community. The club will be an affiliate member of Tall Club International. Tall Friends of SWFL invites the community to join the social club that will participate in an event every month. Candidates must have passed their 21st birthday, and men must be of a height not less than six feet, two inches while women must be a height not less than five feet, ten inches. For more information, send an email to TallFriendsofSWFL@gmail.com.

■ **The SW Florida Chapter of the Alpha Delta Pi Alumnae Association** invites all ADPI alums who live in Naples, Marco Island or Bonita Springs, (or visit for the season) to join us for our monthly meetings. Send an email with your name, telephone number and e-mail address to swfladpialum@gmail.com for more information.

■ **SWFL WAX, Chapter of International Encaustic Artists**, meets every third Monday in months of September through May at the Naples Art Association. All encaustic artists are welcome. For more information visit [www.mdelinesugerman.com/swflwax](http://www.mdelinesugerman.com/swflwax).



■ **The Naples Park Area Association** holds beginning lessons in Mah jong for anyone who would like to learn the game. Regular games are played from 1-4 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday. For information about lessons, send an email to Donna Caccese at [naples-donnac@gmail.com](mailto:naples-donnac@gmail.com).

■ **Sons of the American Revolution Naples Chapter** meets at 11:30 a.m. the second Thursday of the month, October through May 2019, at Tiburon Golf Club. Guests and prospective members welcome. Call Tom Woodruff 732-0602 or visit [www.NaplesSAR.org](http://www.NaplesSAR.org).

■ **The Naples Newcomers Club** helps members learn about the community and local activities and make new and lasting friendships for women new to Naples. Members gather for lunch and a program on the second Thursday of each month at country clubs throughout northern Collier County. Members must be able to attend at least six meetings each year. Members explore Naples and form special interest groups to share a variety of interests, from books, bridge and mahjong to gourmet cooking, conversation and wine tasting. For more information, visit [www.naplesnewcomersnorth.com](http://www.naplesnewcomersnorth.com).

■ **The Greater Naples Unit of the New York State United Teachers**, retired, meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. from October through April at Longshore Lake Clubhouse on Valewood Drive in Naples. Lunch follows each meeting. All teachers are welcome. For further information, please contact Paul Murphy 593-7738 or Robert Lomicka 514-7234.

■ **Naples Ship Modelers** meets at 9:30 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of every month at the Landmark Naples community in North Naples. All are invited to enjoy lunch together afterward at a location TBA. For more information, call Dick Ritchie at 594-0868 or email [dritchier@comcast.net](mailto:dritchier@comcast.net).

■ **The Naples Beta Theta Pi Alumni Association** will hold luncheons on Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 21 and April 18. For more information and reservations, contact Dave Nordhoff at 594-8420 or by email at [davidcnordhoff@gmail.com](mailto:davidcnordhoff@gmail.com). ■

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# BEST WORST

From page 1

ibles 2" ranks ninth with \$608 million. Thus, even with various streaming outlets, home video releases, and more TV than ever before at our disposal, it seems as if the blockbuster movie is alive and well. Which means we'll get more of the same.

There's only one real blockbuster on the list of the 10 best movies of 2018 that follows, because while the aforementioned titles were certainly good, they do not stand out with the best of the best. These 10 films, however, moved us with their power, suspense and/or excitement, and provided a sense of deep satisfaction.

## ■ 10.) American Animals

Based on a true story, and swiftly blending interviews with the real participants with reenactments of the events, writer/director Bart Layton's film chronicles the mishaps of four amateurs thinking they can pull off a heist based on what they've learned from "Ocean's 11" and similar movies. It's clever, funny, sad and suspenseful. Now on home video.

## ■ 9.) Hereditary

Easily the best horror movie of the year, highlighted by a Toni Collette performance that's so good she deserves an Oscar nomination. The story is full of surprises and freaky beyond belief, and it has the most shocking moment you will find on screen in 2018. It involves the daughter of Collette's character — those who've seen it know what I mean, and are probably put off by me reminding them of the gruesomeness. Apologies. Now on home video.

## ■ 8.) The Front Runner

On paper, this Jason Reitman-directed, Hugh Jackman-starring film about fallen politician Gary Hart looks standard, and in many ways it is. But Reitman also successfully looks at American media and society, and notes the transition from the press covering up for politicians' philandering to exposing it, sometimes even without verification. As such, it's an examination of shifting American values and media biases and is fascinating because of it. In limited theaters now; available on home video Feb. 19.

## ■ 7.) First Reformed

Ethan Hawke gives a career-best performance as a priest who's lost his way yet is still called upon by others to guide them to happiness. Greed, corruption and morality quickly factor in, as his character realizes God doesn't have the answers to his problems. This was written and directed by Paul Schrader, who wrote "Taxi Driver," and indeed there are parallels between that film and this one — just



Chris Pine in "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse."

COURTESY PHOTO



Rachel Weisz in "The Favourite."

COURTESY PHOTO

not exactly in ways you'll expect. Now on home video.

## ■ 6.) Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse

What a surprise, and what an absolute blast! The beautiful, crisp animation, combined with the boldness and imagination of the story, made this easily the best animated film of the year. Trust me: This is not just a tired retread of the "Spider-Man" story we've already seen — it's much more ambitious than that, and a success at every turn. Now in theaters.

## ■ 5.) Mission: Impossible – Fallout

How does this franchise keep doing it? Six movies in, and they're still spectacular. For as much as I love James Bond, he only wishes he could be this consistently good. Once again, Tom Cruise, thank you for risking your life for our entertainment: This time you jumped out of a plane from 25,000 feet and trained for a year to fly a helicopter. Now on home video.

## ■ 4.) The Favourite

Such a unique film. The use of a fish eye camera lens creates a distorted, surreal feel in many scenes, and when combined with the quick wit, cutting remarks and divine performances of Olivia Colman, Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz, the film becomes a delectable treat you can't get enough of. Expect it to get showered with Oscar nominations, as this cleverly shot and catty period piece has all the posh elements the Academy loves. Now in theaters.

## ■ 3.) Ready Player One

I did not have more fun at any movie this year. Director Steven Spielberg took me back to my childhood (the '80s) in grand fashion, and made an exhilarating film in the process. The only shame is that he humbly didn't include mentions of any films he directed in the '80s ("E.T."), which would have made it all the sweeter. Now on home video.

## ■ 2.) If Beale Street Could Talk

A beautiful musical score, intelligent story structure and terrific performances highlight co-writer and director Barry Jenkins' ("Moonlight") latest. Your heart swells as the protagonists fall in love and breaks as they're powerless to keep their love together. In theaters Jan. 4.

## ■ 1.) Eighth Grade

Every moment of writer/director Bo Burnham's feature film debut resonated with me, and I'm not sure if I've ever related to a film more. It may have been told through the prism of an eighth-grade girl (a wonderful Elsie Fisher), but the social awkwardness and inherent desire to fit in and be liked is something almost everyone can relate to. It's painful at times, cringe-worthy at others, yet you're always rooting for this poor girl every step of the way. Now on home video.

## Honorable mention:

Expect Oscar nominations for Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali for the spectacular "Green Book," which just barely missed the top 10; Claire Foy should be a supporting actress Oscar nominee for the beautifully shot "First

Man"; Christian Bale is Oscar nominee-worthy as Dick Cheney in "Vice"; kudos to Bradley Cooper, in his feature film directorial debut, for getting a great performance from Lady Gaga and making "A Star Is Born" shine; Melissa McCarthy and Richard E. Grant made a terrific duo in "Can You Ever Forgive Me?"; Alfonso Cuarón's "Roma" is dense, lyrical and lengthy, but also pure cinema at its finest; and welcome back to Spike Lee, whose "BlacKKKlansman" is deservedly receiving ample awards attention.

## The worst

We wouldn't appreciate the good movies as much without the bad for comparison. And surely, the below titles are as stink-tastic as they come. Below are the five worst movies of 2018, ranked from "best" to the absolute worst. It's not always good to be number one.

## ■ 5.) Solo: A Star Wars Story

Boy, the "Star Wars" movies have gone downhill since Disney took over in 2012. This is the worst thus far, punctuated by a horribly miscast Alden Ehrenreich as Han Solo, who doesn't have the looks, charm or swagger to pull off the character.

## ■ 4.) The Happytime Murders

Fans of the Broadway musical hit "Avenue Q" will understand what director Brian Henson (son of Muppets creator Jim Henson) was going for with this vulgar mash-up of puppet and detective movies, while the rest will simply hate it without recourse. None of it was funny, but it might be bad enough to get Melissa McCarthy a Razzie nomination. So, there's that.

## ■ 3.) Peppermint

I can understand what Jennifer Garner saw in this revenge story about a mother whose husband and daughter are murdered by a gang. But man, did this movie thud. Overly violent and dramatically strained, its clever moments were quickly outshone by harried plot contrivances, a weak villain and an ending that's both painfully predictable and painfully boring. Plus: horrible title.

## ■ 2.) The Oath

Another clever premise wasted in an aggressive, angry way, this time as a socio-political satire. It starts well enough with writer/director/star Ike Barinholtz and Tiffany Haddish playing a married couple in a politically divided family hoping to survive Thanksgiving, but it completely goes off the rails with a hostage situation in its third act. A disappointment sure, but an even bigger missed opportunity.

## ■ 1.) The worst movie of the year: The Hurricane Heist

A global disaster of a motion picture. The filmmakers tried to combine heist movie, natural disaster and family drama themes, and none of it worked. The visual effects were cheesy, the plot had seemingly zero original thought, and by the end you wish a storm could wipe this movie from existence forever. ■




Ethan Hawke and Amanda Seyfried in "First Reformed."

COURTESY PHOTO



# Is it legal to say I don't like Harry Potter books?

**stephanieDAVIS**  
sdavis@floridaweekly.com



Kittens and puppy dogs, vacation photos and the occasional gripe about the weather — in a perfect world, that's what Facebook would look like and we'd all live happily after.

A while back, when the political stress of being on social media got to a boiling point with me, I vowed to step back from the grip of Mark Zuckerberg, but the mid-term elections lured me back in and I found myself (usually after that one extra glass of wine) getting involved in too many tangled debate threads.

And just as I was about to toss my iPhone in the red tide-infested Gulf of Mexico (thanks, Rick Scott), a friend posted something I could finally get behind: "Post your opinion about something (non-political posts only) that is likely to be unpopular (NO disagreements allowed)."

Finally, a place where I could vent without getting into an online war with my cousin's husband's best friend's mother — or anyone else for that matter. So, I said it: "I've never gotten into the Harry Potter books and I don't understand the appeal of them."

It was risky, but I'd never shared my incredibly unpopular opinion about the fictional characters of Hogwarts.

Looking down the thread, I learned

that I wasn't the only one who desperately needed to be heard:

■ "I have NO interest in seeing Hamilton," wrote Laura.

■ Alexa bravely added, "I think seafood is disgusting."

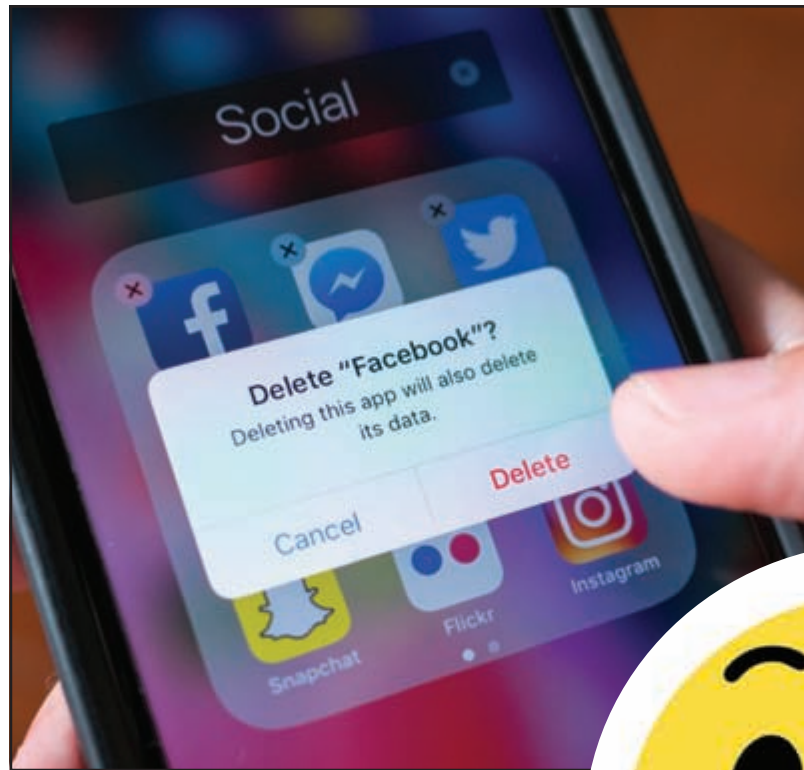
■ "Babies are a gift from God, but some of those gifts are straight up ugly!" declared Jess.

The gloves were coming off — and still no mention of Trump, his misspelled tweets or the fact that he neglected to read the Apostles Creed with the rest of the former presidents at President George H.W. Bush's funeral.

■ Marie added, "I hate the term 'adulthood' — it's stupid. It's called 'responsibility'" (I definitely clicked "like" on that one).

■ From Christopher: "I'm not a huge fan of Stevie Wonder songs." I had to hold myself back — how can anyone not like Stevie Wonder songs?! But I reminded myself that this was a safe place (even for Stevie Wonder haters).

■ "Pets are NOT 'fur kids' — they're PETS," wrote Anne (Anne is right, by the way — I have a child and I have a



■ "Cilantro is how you ruin good food," opined Kim.

■ "I think gender reveal parties are dumb," wrote Cindy (I silently applauded Cindy's moxie).

■ "I hate it when people use the hashtag #blessed all the time," offered Greg.

And when poor, misguided Moira wrote, "I love pineapple on pizza!" no one attacked her and told her that pineapple on pizza is an abomination. Instead, I confessed: "I hate shrimp."

Finally, a thread that moved me to stay on Facebook — at least until the election cycle revs up again. ■



cat — there is a difference).

The thread (with over 300 comments in just a few hours) reminded me of how we scroll past so many posts that irk us, but when someone expresses a political opinion that we don't agree with, many of us pounce with unleashed fury. Yet, when a friend refers to her Chihuahua as her "beautiful daughter," we just roll our eyes and move on.

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**A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum** – By Gulfshore Playhouse through Dec. 30, at The Norris Center. 755 Eighth Ave. S. 866-811-4111 or [www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org](http://www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org).

**Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical** – By Florida Repertory Theatre through Feb. 24. 2268 Bay St., Fort Myers. 332-4488 or [www.FloridaRep.org](http://www.FloridaRep.org).

**Come Blow Your Horn** – By The Marco Players from Jan. 2-20, at The Marco Players Theater. 1089 N. Collier Blvd. 642-7270 or [www.themarcoplayers.com](http://www.themarcoplayers.com).

**The Revolutionists** – By Gulfshore Playhouse Jan. 12-Feb. 3, at The Norris Center. 755 Eighth Ave. S. 866-811-4111 or [www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org](http://www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org).

**The Mystery of Edwin Drood** – By TheatreZone Jan. 10-13, at G&L Theatre. 13275 Livingston Road. 888-966-3352 or [www.theatre.zone](http://www.theatre.zone).

**Don't Dress for Dinner** – By The Naples Players Jan. 16-Feb. 10 at Sugden Community Theater. 263-7990 or [www.naplesplayers.org](http://www.naplesplayers.org).



There's still time to check out Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida's current exhibition, **Violins of Hope**, which showcases instruments played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust through Jan. 20. Pictured here is Israeli violinmaker Amnon Weinstein, who, with his brother Avshalom, brings these instruments back to life. [www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org](http://www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org).

## THURSDAY 12.27

**Military Talk** – South Regional Library hosts a presentation on military tribunals from 10-11:30 a.m. Free, registration required. 8065 Lely Cultural Blvd. 252-7542 or [www.collierlibrary.org](http://www.collierlibrary.org).

**Tango Night** – Anibal Berraute and Miguel Arrabal perform at 7 p.m. at Wang Opera Center. \$10-\$50. 2408 Linwood Ave. 775-2800 or [www.capacenter.org](http://www.capacenter.org).

## FRIDAY 12.28

**All Aboard** – Volunteer docents from the Naples Train Museum are on hand at the Naples Depot Museum from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at Saturday to help visitors of all ages enjoy the outdoor and indoor trains. Corner of 10th St. S. and Fifth Ave. S. [www.naplestrainmuseum.org](http://www.naplestrainmuseum.org).

## SATURDAY 12.29

**To Market, To Market** – Stock up on fresh produce and locally made goodies at the Third Street South farmers market from 7:30-11:30 a.m. 434-6533 or [www.thirdstreetsouth.com](http://www.thirdstreetsouth.com).

**Farmers Market** – Ave Maria Towne Center hosts a farmer's market with local produce and handmade goods from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday through April. [www.avemaria.com](http://www.avemaria.com).

## SUNDAY 12.30

**Fresh Produce** – Take your grocery list to the Naples Farmers Market from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the corner Pine Ridge and Livingston roads.

**Throwback Cinema** – Silverspot at Mercato screens "Die Hard" (1988) at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 592-0300 or [www.silverspot.net](http://www.silverspot.net).

## MONDAY 12.31

**Yoga on the Beach** – Friends of Lovers Key hosts a morning yoga session at 9:30 a.m. each Monday through May at the state park's gazebo. \$10 plus park entry fee. 774-563-8874 or [www.friendsoflovesskey.org](http://www.friendsoflovesskey.org).

**Light It Up** – The City of Naples hosts a New Year's Eve fireworks display on the beach at 7:30 p.m. 213-7120 or [www.naplesgov.com](http://www.naplesgov.com).

**NYE on the Water** – Pure Florida hosts two celebratory cruises at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. where guests can enjoy appetizers, drinks and the City of Naples fireworks show during the early excursion. \$95, includes drink ticket. 263-4949 or [www.purefl.com](http://www.purefl.com).

**Puttin' on the Glitz** – Artis—Naples hosts its annual New Year's Eve Party with a jubilant performance by soprano Karita Mattila and the Naples Philharmonic, followed by a grand reception with live music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres, bottomless champagne and midnight countdown, all starting at 9 p.m. 597-1900 or [www.artisnaples.org](http://www.artisnaples.org).

## TUESDAY 1.1



**Gulfcoast Runners** – hosts the Dave Cranor 5k at 7:30 a.m. that ends at Lowdermilk Park for Big Dave's Polar Plunge at 9 a.m. where participants will take a quick, chilly dip in the Gulf to benefit Drug Court Kids. \$20. 435-0939 or [www.gcrunner.org](http://www.gcrunner.org).

## WEDNESDAY 1.2

**Art Tours** – Naples Art District, located in the industrial park behind Airport-Pulling and Pine Ridge Roads, hosts studio and gallery tours from 5-8 p.m. where artists will showcase their latest work and perform demonstrations at studios displaying the organization's magenta and white flags. 289-5070 or [www.naplesartdistrict.com](http://www.naplesartdistrict.com).

## COMING UP

**Beach Concert** – Friends of Lovers Key hosts a beach barbecue and sunset performance by local singer/songwriters at 3:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3. Free with park entry fee. [www.friendsoflovesskey.org](http://www.friendsoflovesskey.org).

**Free Concert** – Victor Wainwright & The Train perform from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3, on the lawn at Mercato. 254-1080 or [www.mercatoshops.com](http://www.mercatoshops.com).

**Country Concert** – Gemma Pearl performs at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, at The Norris Center. \$25. 755 Eighth Ave. S. 213-3058 or [www.naplesgov.com](http://www.naplesgov.com).

**Upbeat** – Atlanta Rhythm Section performs at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, at Southwest Florida Event Center. \$32-\$58. 11515 Bonita Beach Road. 245-9910 or [www.swflevntcenter.com](http://www.swflevntcenter.com).

**Om in the swamp** – Spiritual guide Bethanny Gonzalez hosts an outdoor meditation session at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, in Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary's natural amphitheater. \$20. 349-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org).

**The Big One** – Naples Art Association hosts its annual Naples New Year's Art Show with over 250 professional artists from around the country from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 5-6, on Fifth Avenue South. 262-6517 or [www.naplesart.org](http://www.naplesart.org).

**Art Show** – Hot Works hosts the 22nd annual Estero Fine Arts Show Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 5-6, at Jet Blue Park in Fort Myers, where vendors will provide their art works in a variety of mediums. [www.hotworks.org](http://www.hotworks.org).

**Bluegrass** – Bluewater Bluegrass presents its 2018 Cluster Pluckin' concert with performances by Andy Wahlberg, Sarah Hadekah, Captain Joe & The Bottom Feeders, Bob Zotolla & Friends, J. Robert & Son and Frank Corso at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, at The Norris Center. \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. 755 Eighth Ave. S. 213-3058 or [www.naplesgov.com](http://www.naplesgov.com).

**Piano Concert** – Pianist, composer and visual artist Lera Auerbach presents a lecture and performance of work by Mussorgsky at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church. \$40. 1225 Piper Blvd. [www.grandpianoseries.com](http://www.grandpianoseries.com).

**Classic Film** – The Norris Center screens "The Maltese Falcon" (1941) at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7. A detective takes on a case that involves him with three criminals, a beautiful liar and a priceless statue. \$3. 755 Eighth Ave. S. 213-3058 or [www.naplesgov.com](http://www.naplesgov.com).

**WWII Lecture** – As part of the seventh annual Elliot Katz Lecture Series, The Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida host a lecture titled "Casablanca: France shows its True Colors and the Most Adored Spy in the World" from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Jan. 10, at Hodges University. \$20 per person, \$80 for the entire series. 2647 Professional Cir. 263-9200 or [www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org](http://www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org).

**Artist Reception** – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a reception with painter Tara Funk Grim Parker from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11. 375 Sanctuary Road. 348-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org).

**Classical Concert** – The Italian Cultural Society hosts a performance of works by Paganini, Chopin and Liszt at 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11, at Moorings Presbyterian Church. \$40. 791 Harbour Dr. 434-3323 or [www.italianculturalsociety.com](http://www.italianculturalsociety.com).

**Opera Star** – Soprano Nicole Heaston performs at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11, at Wang Opera Center. \$35-\$95. 2408 Linwood Ave. 963-9050 or [www.operanaples.org](http://www.operanaples.org).

in the know



BILLY JOEL

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Hot tickets across the state

- >> **SHINEDOWN** — Dec. 27-29, House of Blues, Orlando. [www.houseofblues.com/orlando](http://www.houseofblues.com/orlando)
- >> **JJ GREY & MOFRO** — Dec. 29, Sunset Green Event Lawn, Key West. [www.thekeywesttheater.com](http://www.thekeywesttheater.com)
- >> **COREY SMITH** — Dec. 30, House of Blues, Orlando. [www.houseofblues.com/orlando](http://www.houseofblues.com/orlando)
- >> **STICK FIGURE** — Dec. 31, House of Blues, Orlando. [www.houseofblues.com/orlando](http://www.houseofblues.com/orlando)
- >> **RON WHITE** — Jan. 5, Sunrise Theatre, Fort Pierce. [www.sunrisetheatre.com](http://www.sunrisetheatre.com)
- >> **THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA** — Jan. 5, Mahaffey Theater, St. Petersburg. [www.themahaffey.com](http://www.themahaffey.com)
- >> **THE WAILERS** — Jan. 10, Key West Theater, Key West. [www.thekeywesttheater.com](http://www.thekeywesttheater.com)
- >> **BILLY JOEL** — Jan. 11, Amway Center, Orlando. [amway.centerorlando.com](http://amway.centerorlando.com)
- >> **THE WAILERS** — Jan. 11, The Plaza Live, Orlando. [www.plazaliveorlando.org](http://www.plazaliveorlando.org)
- >> **AIR SUPPLY** — Jan. 12, Seminole Casino Immokalee, Immokalee. [www.seminoleimmokaleecasino.com](http://www.seminoleimmokaleecasino.com)
- >> **ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK** — Jan. 13, Capitol Theatre, Clearwater. [www.rutheckerdhall.com/capitol-theatre](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com/capitol-theatre)
- >> **AIR SUPPLY** — Jan. 13, Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, Sarasota. [www.vanwezel.org](http://www.vanwezel.org)
- >> **CHER** — Jan. 17, Hertz Arena formerly Germain Arena, Estero. [www.hertzarena.com](http://www.hertzarena.com)

— Compiled by Janis Fontaine

# WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

**Art Show** – Members of Naples Art-crafters host an arts and crafts show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, at Cam-bier Park. [www.naplesartcrafters.com](http://www.naplesartcrafters.com).

**Met Live** – Silverspot hosts a live viewing of the Metropolitan Opera’s production of Cilea’s “Adriana Lecouvreur” at 12:55 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12. 592-0300 or [www.silverspot.net](http://www.silverspot.net).

**Jazz Concert** – Vocalist Michelle Amato performs with Bob Zottola & Friends at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, at Wang Opera Center. \$10-\$50. 2408 Linwood Ave. 775-2800 or [www.capacenter.org](http://www.capacenter.org).

**Lost in Love** – Air Supply performs at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, at Seminole Immokalee Casino. 218-0007 or [www.moreinparadise.com](http://www.moreinparadise.com).

**Sicilian Night** – Naples Italian American Foundation hosts dinner and dancing with music by Night Train featuring Dino Valle from 6-9 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13. \$40 for members, \$50 for others. 7035 Airport-Pulling Road. 597-5210 or [www.niaf.org](http://www.niaf.org).

**Author Talk** – Friends of the Libraries of Collier Counties presents a luncheon and lecture by Brad Meltzer, author of “The Escape Artist,” as part of its 16th annual Nick Linn Lecture Series at noon on Monday, Jan. 14, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. Check website for ticket prices. 262-8135 or [www.collier-friends.org](http://www.collier-friends.org).

**Italian Film** – The Norris Center screens “A Tavola” (2004) at 6:45 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14. \$5. 755 Eighth Ave. S. 213-3058 or [www.naplesgov.com](http://www.naplesgov.com).

**Early Birds** – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a birding walk from 8-11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15. \$10-\$25. 348-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org).

**Musical Interlude** – Jebry & Friends perform from 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, at Marco Island Center for the Arts. \$25 for members, \$30 for others. 1010 Winterberry Drive. 394-4221 or [www.marcoislandart.org](http://www.marcoislandart.org).

**Dream Kitchens** – Naples Woman’s Club hosts its Annual Kitchen Tour, where guests can see spectacular kitchens in four upscale homes while enjoying bites from notable local chefs and speakers, at 8:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16. \$170-\$240. 262-6331 or [www.kitchentour2019.eventbrite.com](http://www.kitchentour2019.eventbrite.com).

**The Elders** – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a boardwalk tour of its stand of old-growth bald cypress from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, Jan. 17. \$10-\$25. 348-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org).

**Give My Regards** – Cast members from TheatreZone’s “The Mystery of Edwin Drood” perform their favorite show tunes and share stories in a cabaret show with a pre-show reception from 4-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17. Check website for prices. 13275 Livingston Road. (800) 966-3352 or [www.theatre.zone](http://www.theatre.zone).

**Brews in the Garden** – Naples Beach Brewery introduces its Palm Cottage Pilsner from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, at Palm Cottage’s Norris Gardens. \$15 for members, \$25 for others. 137 12th Ave. S. 261-8164 or [www.napleshistoricalsociety.com](http://www.napleshistoricalsociety.com).

**Bluegrass Concert** – Trinity River Band performs at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, at Unity of Naples. \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. 2000 Unity Way. 775-3009 or [www.unitynaples.org](http://www.unitynaples.org).

**Opera Concert** – Gulfshore Opera hosts a concert with nationally recognized vocalists at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, at North Naples Church. \$25-\$45. 6000 Goodlette-Frank Road. 529-3925 or [www.gulfshoreopera.com](http://www.gulfshoreopera.com).



## #RING IT

■ The City of Naples hosts a **New Year’s Eve** fireworks display on the beach at 7:30 p.m.

— [naplesgov.com](http://naplesgov.com)



12.27

## #DANCE IT

■ **Anibal Berruete** and **Miguel Arrabal** perform at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, at Wang Opera Center.

— [capacenter.org](http://capacenter.org)



12.31

■ Soprano **Karita Mattila** and the Naples Philharmonic kicks off Artis—Naples’ swanky **New Year’s Eve bash** at 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31, with an energetic performance of selections by Cole Porter, George Gershwin and many more before guests enjoy a night of dancing and champagne before the midnight countdown.

— [artisnaples.org](http://artisnaples.org)



■ Snag at seat at the Norris Center to see Gulfshore Playhouse’s “**A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,**” which ends its run on Sunday, Dec. 30.

— [gulfshoreplayhouse.org](http://gulfshoreplayhouse.org)



12.28

■ Moscow Ballet’s “**Great Russian Nutcracker**” comes to Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 28.

— [bbmannpah.com](http://bbmannpah.com)

## WHAT TO DO



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**Celebration in the Sky** – Seminole Immokalee Casino hosts the area's largest fireworks show at 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19. Free. (800) 218-0007 or [www.moreinparadise.com](http://www.moreinparadise.com).

**Wild Art** – Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park hosts its 21st annual Wildlife & Wildlands Art Show, where all the featured works highlight "Old Florida," from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free with park entry fee. Saturday, Jan. 19. 597-6196 or [www.delnorwiggins.org](http://www.delnorwiggins.org).

**Swamp Walk** – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a 1.5-mile swamp walk for beginners, which includes stretches of boardwalk and submerged terrain, from 9:30-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19. \$60-\$85. 348-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org).

**Art Tours** – Naples Art District, located in the industrial park behind Airport-Pulling and Pine Ridge Roads, hosts studio and gallery tours from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, where artists will showcase their latest work and perform demonstrations at studios displaying the organization's magenta and white flags. 289-5070 or [www.naplesartdistrict.com](http://www.naplesartdistrict.com).

**Pets on Parade** – Third Street South hosts its annual Pets on Third with vendors and costumed pet parade from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20. [www.thirdstreetsouth.com](http://www.thirdstreetsouth.com).

**Casino Royale** – Naples Italian American Foundation hosts its second annual Casino Night, where guests can play craps, roulette, black jack, poker and slots from 6-9 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20. \$75, includes hors d'oeuvres and 2500 gaming chips. Reservations required by 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18. 7035 Airport-Pulling Road. 597-5210 or [www.niaf.org](http://www.niaf.org).

**New Works** – The Naples Players presents "An Evening of New Plays" ("The Honeylocust Tree" by Marc Simon; "The Name Game" by Cerin Holes; "Intermission" by Ed Belling; "Stopping By" by Carole Fenstermacher") at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at Sugden Community Theater. \$10. 263-7990 or [www.naplesplayers.org](http://www.naplesplayers.org).

**Author Talk** – Friends of the Library of Collier County host a breakfast buffet and lecture by T.J. English, author of "The Corporation," at 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 21, at Moorings Country Club. This talk is part of the group's annual non-fiction author lecture series. \$55 for members, \$65 for others. 2500 Crayton Road. 262-8135 or [www.collier-friends.org](http://www.collier-friends.org).

**Early Birds** – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a birding walk from 8-11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22. \$10-\$25. 348-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org).

**Chamber Concert** – Maxwell Quartet, hailed as one of Britain's finest string ensembles, performs at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, at Wang Opera Center. \$20-\$59. 2408 Linwood Ave. 963-9050 or [www.operanaples.org](http://www.operanaples.org).

**Luxe Life** – The Italian Cultural Society hosts a luncheon and presentations about Italian luxury goods, with speaker Patti Capalli speaking about fashion houses like Armani, Valentino and others at 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at Audubon Country Club. Naples Ferrari Club will also display member vehicles. \$45. 625 Audubon Blvd. 434-3323 or [www.italianculturalsociety.com](http://www.italianculturalsociety.com).

**Book Signing** – Melinda Ponder, author of "Katherine Lee Bates: From Sea to Shining Sea," signs books from 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at Marco Island Library. 210 S. Heathwood Dr. 394-3272 or [www.collierlibrary.org](http://www.collierlibrary.org).

**WWII Lecture** – As part of the seventh annual Elliot Katz Lecture Series, The Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida host a lecture titled "The Hereros, The Nama and The Kaiser. Now It Begins. Where Will It End?" from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Jan. 24, at Hodges University. \$20 per person, \$80 for the entire series. 2647 Professional Cir. 263-9200 or [www.holocaustmuseumsfwfl.org](http://www.holocaustmuseumsfwfl.org).

**Gulfshore Opera** – hosts a dinner with performances of popular melodies and opera scenes at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, at The Colony Golf & Country Club. \$150. 4101 Pelican Colony Blvd. 529-3925 or [www.gulfshoreopera.com](http://www.gulfshoreopera.com).

**Tile Time** – Naples Italian American Foundation hosts a mah jongg tournament Friday through Sunday, Jan. 25-27, at the organization's headquarters. Call for more information. 7035 Airport Road N. 597-5210 or [www.niafoundation.org](http://www.niafoundation.org).

**Jazz Concert** – Mudbone performs at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, at Wang Opera Center. \$10-\$50. 2408 Linwood Ave. 775-2800 or [www.capacenter.org](http://www.capacenter.org).

**For the Birds** – CREW Trust hosts a birding walk with master naturalist Bernie Master from 8-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at the organization's rookery swamp trails. \$15-\$25. 1295 Shady Hollow Blvd. 657-2253 or [www.crewtrust.org](http://www.crewtrust.org).

**Double Dose** – Hot Tuna performs at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at Southwest Florida Event Center. \$40-\$55. 11515 Bonita Beach Road. 245-9910 or [www.swfiventcenter.com](http://www.swfiventcenter.com).

**Cabaret Night** – Gulfshore Opera's artist in residence performs hits from the '40s, '50s and '60s with jazz accompaniment at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27, at Naples Art Association. 585 Park St. 529-3925 or [www.gulfshoreopera.com](http://www.gulfshoreopera.com)

**Who Am I** – The Broadway production of "Les Miserables" visits Artis—Naples Jan. 26-Feb. 3. 597-1900 or [www.artisnaples.org](http://www.artisnaples.org).

**Italian Film** – The Norris Center screens "Le Consequenze D'Amore" (2004) at 6:45 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28. \$5. 755 Eighth Ave. S. 213-3058 or [www.naplesgov.com](http://www.naplesgov.com).

**Early Birds** – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a birding walk from 8-11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29. \$10-\$25. 348-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org).

**Opera Lecture** – Tom Cimarusti, an associate professor of musicology at FGCU, hosts a presentation on Haydn's "L'Isola Disabitata" at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, at Wang Opera Center \$25, wine and cheese to follow. 2408 Linwood Ave. 963-9050 or [www.operanaples.org](http://www.operanaples.org).

**Musical Interlude** – Peter & Will Anderson Jazz Trio perform from 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, at Marco Island Center for the Arts. \$25 for members, \$30 for others. 1010 Winterberry Drive. 394-4221 or [www.marcoislandart.org](http://www.marcoislandart.org).

**Opera Night** – Gulfshore Opera presents a performance of Donizetti's "Don Pasquale" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, at Rose History Auditorium. \$45-\$60. 180 S. Heathwood Dr. 529-3925 or [www.gulfshoreopera.com](http://www.gulfshoreopera.com)

**American Pie** – Don McLean performs at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, at Seminole Immokalee Casino. \$62.50. (800) 218-0007 or [www.moreinparadise.com](http://www.moreinparadise.com).

**Swamp Buggies** – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts swamp buggy tours for educational excursion through the north end of the preserve at select times Friday through Wednesday, Feb. 1-6. \$100-\$125. 348-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org).

## WHERE TO GO

**Opera Night** – Gulfshore Opera presents a performance of Donizetti's "Don Pasquale" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, at Naples First United Methodist Church. \$45-\$60. 388 First Ave. S. 529-3925 or [www.gulfshoreopera.com](http://www.gulfshoreopera.com)

**My Girl** – The Temptations and The Four Tops perform at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1, at Seminole Immokalee Casino. (800)218-0007 or [www.moreinparadise.com](http://www.moreinparadise.com).

**Om in the swamp** – Spiritual guide Bethanny Gonzalez hosts an outdoor meditation session at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, in Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary's natural amphitheater. \$20. 349-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org).

**Met Live** – Silverspot hosts a live viewing of the Metropolitan Opera's production of Bizet's "Carmen" at 12:55 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2. 592-0300 or [www.silverspot.net](http://www.silverspot.net).

**Author Talk** – Friends of the Libraries of Collier Counties presents a luncheon and lecture by A.J. Finn, author of "The Girl in the Window," as part of its 16th annual Nick Linn Lecture Series at noon on Monday, Feb. 4, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. Check website for ticket prices. 262-8135 or [www.collier-friends.org](http://www.collier-friends.org).

**Early Birds** – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a birding walk from 8-11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5. \$10-\$25. 348-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org).

**Art Tours** – Naples Art District, located in the industrial park behind Airport-Pulling and Pine Ridge Roads, hosts studio and gallery tours from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, where artists will showcase their latest work and perform demonstrations at studios displaying the organization's magenta and white flags. 289-5070 or [www.naplesartdistrict.com](http://www.naplesartdistrict.com).

**The Elders** – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a boardwalk tour of its stand of old-growth bald cypress from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, Feb. 7. \$10-\$25. 348-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org).

**WWII Lecture** – As part of the seventh annual Elliot Katz Lecture Series, The Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida host a lecture titled "Armenia: Germany Perfects the Art of Extermination and the World Looks On and Does Nothing" from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Feb. 7, at Hodges University. \$20 per person, \$80 for the entire series. 2647 Professional Cir. 263-9200 or [www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org](http://www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org).

**Beach Concert** – Friends of Lovers Key hosts a beach barbecue and sunset performance by local singer/songwriters at 4:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7. Free with park entry fee. [www.friendsof-loverskey.org](http://www.friendsof-loverskey.org).

**Slavic Music** – Daniel Schtereveva and Daniela Dikova perform at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, at Wang Opera Center. \$10-\$50. 2408 Linwood Ave. 775-2800 or [www.capacenter.org](http://www.capacenter.org).

**Great Day To Be Alive** – Country star Travis Tritt performs at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, at Seminole Immokalee Casino. \$67.50. (800) 218-0007 or [www.moreinparadise.com](http://www.moreinparadise.com).

**Sweet Caroline** – Neil Diamond tribute artist Neil Zirconia performs at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, at The Norris Center. \$25. 755 Eighth Ave. S. 213-3058 or [www.naplesgov.com](http://www.naplesgov.com).

**Art Show** – Members of Naples Art-crafters host an arts and crafts show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at Cambier Park. [www.naplesartcrafters.com](http://www.naplesartcrafters.com).

**Swamp Walk** – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a 1.5-mile swamp walk for beginners, which includes stretches of boardwalk and submerged terrain, from 9:30-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9. \$60-\$85. 348-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org).

**Naples Party** – The Norris Center hosts Neapolapalooza, where guests can enjoy local bands, art and cuisine at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9. \$25. 755 Eighth Ave. S. 213-3058 or [www.naplesgov.com](http://www.naplesgov.com).

**Taste of Opera** – Gulfshore Playhouse hosts dinner and performances of popular melodies and opera scenes at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, at Hideaway Beach Club. 250 S. Beach Dr. 529-3925 or [www.gulfshoreopera.com](http://www.gulfshoreopera.com).

**Musical Interlude** – Guitarist Glenn Roth perform from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, at Marco Island Center for the Arts. \$25 for members, \$30 for others. 1010 Winterberry Drive. 394-4221 or [www.marcoislandart.org](http://www.marcoislandart.org).

**Author Talk** – Friends of the Library of Collier County host a breakfast buffet and lecture by Jade Wu, author of "Flash Points," at 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 11, at Moorings Country Club. This talk is part of the group's annual non-fiction author lecture series. \$55 for members, \$65 for others. 2500 Crayton Road. 262-8135 or [www.collier-friends.org](http://www.collier-friends.org).

**Italian Film** – The Norris Center screens "Confusi e Felici" (2014) at 6:45 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11. \$5. 755 Eighth Ave. S. 213-3058 or [www.naplesgov.com](http://www.naplesgov.com).

**Early Birds** – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a birding walk from 8-11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12. \$10-\$25. 348-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org).

**Give My Regards** – Cast members from TheatreZone's "Elton John and Tim Rice's Aida" perform their favorite show tunes and share stories in a cabaret show with a pre-show reception from 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13. Check website for prices. 13275 Livingston Road. (800) 966-3352 or [www.theatre.zone](http://www.theatre.zone).

**Songs of Love** – Gulfshore Opera's Artists in Residence perform popular love songs at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, at Artis—Naples' Daniels Pavilion. 597-1900 or [www.artisnaples.org](http://www.artisnaples.org).

**Cultural Luncheon** – Italian Cultural Society hosts a luncheon and presentation on Italian playwright Dario Fo at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, at Hilton Naples. \$45. 434-3323 or [www.italianculturalsociety.com](http://www.italianculturalsociety.com).

**Jazz Concert** – The Dan Miller-Lew Del Gatto Quintet performs the work of Irving Berlin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, at Wang Opera Center. \$10-\$50. 2408 Linwood Ave. 775-2800 or [www.capacenter.org](http://www.capacenter.org).

**Swamp Walk** – Swamp Walk – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts an advanced 1.5-mile swamp walk, where guests will walk for up to 4.5 hours in rough or submerged terrain, from 9:30-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16. \$125-\$150. 348-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org).

**Early Birds** – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a birding walk from 8-11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19. \$10-\$25. 348-9151 or [www.corkscrew.audubon.org](http://www.corkscrew.audubon.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 with time, date, location, cost and contact information. No pdfs or photos of fliers. Deadline for calendar submissions is noon Monday. No phone calls, please.



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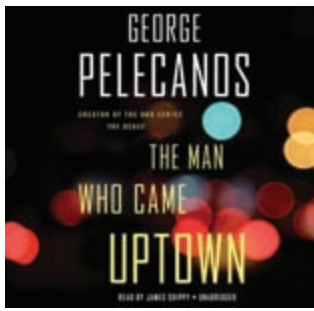
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## ARTS COMMENTARY



## Some titles you may have missed in 2018

nancySTETSON

nstetson@floridaweekly.com



Anyone who knows me knows how much I love books.

I'm usually in the middle of one or two, with a pile always waiting for me. My home, you could say, is decorated in 20th and 21st century books. I typically give books as Christmas or birthday presents. And when I get together with other writers, we like to ask each other, "What are you reading?"

Here's my own quirky, definitely incomplete, totally subjective list of some books you may have overlooked in 2018, but shouldn't have.

■ **"The Man Who Came Uptown" by George Pelecanos.**

George Pelecanos is known for his gritty books about criminals and people just trying to get by on the tough streets of D.C. He's also known for writing episodes of "The Wire" and "Treme" and co-creating "The Deuce" with David Simon.

This thriller revolves around three characters: Michael, a young man who has just gotten out of jail; Phil, the unethical private investigator who got him released; and Anna, who runs the book group program at the jail. As thanks, Phil then wants to draw Michael back into illegal activities.

Will Michael succumb? Will he wind up just going back to jail?

The book is suspenseful, as a good thriller should be, but is also a love letter to books and to reading. It's the books Anna has the prisoners read and her reading suggestions that make Michael re-examine his life. He realizes that reading can take him anywhere and makes him look at the world — and himself — differently.

"When he read a book, he wasn't in his cage anymore," Mr. Pelecanos writes. "When he read a book, the door to his cell was open."

■ **"He" by John Connelly.**

I stumbled across this novel by John

Connelly (not to be confused with another great author, Michael Connelly). Mr. Connelly generally writes thrillers, but "He" is a literary novel about Stan Laurel, one half of the famous comedy team Laurel and Hardy. The story alternates between Laurel, at the end of his life, reminiscing on all that's occurred, and the story of his life and career.

This is also a book about vaudeville, the early days of Hollywood, the struggles of a career in the arts, and an examination of what makes something funny. Charlie Chaplin wasn't the only one to wear a derby — Laurel and Hardy did too, with Laurel wearing one a size or two smaller, for comedic effect.

Perhaps the new movie, "Stan & Ollie," just released, will stir up some interest in this overlooked novel.

■ **"Just the Funny Parts ... And a Few Hard Truths About Sneaking Into the Hollywood Boys' Club" by Nell Scovell.**

"Just the Funny Parts" is a scathing and hilarious memoir by a woman who has written for television for more than 30 years. Writer/producer/director Nell Scovell has written for numerous TV shows, including "The Simpsons," "Late Night With David Letterman," "Murphy Brown," "NCIS," "Newhart" and "The Muppets." She created "Sabrina, the Teenage Witch" and was co-executive producer for "Charmed." She even wrote jokes for President Obama for the White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

But all too often, she was the only female in the writers' room, many of which have a frat house atmosphere.

And those hiring felt that if they did have a woman in the writer's room, there should only be one.

Ms. Scovell also discovers that men are promoted based on their potential while women are promoted based upon their experience.

A discouraging but also fascinating look behind-the-scenes at what goes on in the writers' room of various iconic TV shows, written by a very funny woman.

■ **"Condition Red" and "Artificial Condition" by Martha Wells.**

The sci-fi geek in me enjoyed discovering this series of books by Martha Wells. I guess I was searching for something to read while waiting for the next season of "The Expanse."

So far, I've read half of this quartet of books called The Murderbot Diaries: "Condition Red" and "Artificial Condition." The books are slight — novellas, really. (And some readers have complained about that, feeling that all four books could have been released as one novel, rather than parceled out so sparingly.)

They are narrated by a SecUnit (a security unit that's part robot, part organic components), an Artificial Intelligence that becomes self-aware, hacks its own governor module and has free will. It feels awkward around humans and is addicted to media feeds, watching over 35,000 hours of movies, serials, books, plays and music.

"As a heartless killing machine, I was a failure," he confesses in the first paragraph of the first book. Can't wait to read the remainder of the series.

■ **"The Library Book" by Susan Orlean.**

I will buy whatever Susan Orlean writes, even if I think I'm not interested in the subject matter, simply because she has a way of making even mundane things fascinating. Ms. Orlean could write about dirt and dump trucks, and I'm sure it would be a best-seller. Not only does she possess a great eye for detail, but her writing is lyrical.

Her latest, "The Library Book," is about the 1986 fire at the Los Angeles Central Library. It destroyed 400,000 books and damaged 700,000 others, along with irreplaceable photos, maps and patents. It's also about arson and the strange guy accused of setting the fire who had seven different alibis.

But in typical Orleanian manner, the book is about so much more. It's about the history of libraries, our love of books, the various roles libraries play in our lives, the different departments within a library,

memory and the loss of parents. When she first goes to the library with her young, grade-school son, she's reminded of all the weekly trips she took as a young girl with her own mother.

I gave multiple copies of this book as Christmas gifts this year.

■ **"The Infinite Blacktop" by Sara Gran.**

Sara Gran's "The Infinite Blacktop" is the third in a series of books about Claire DeWitt, "the world's best private detective." (Ms. Gran has also written for the TV series "Southland" and "Berlin Station.") If trip-hop were a book, it would be this series. Author Lauren Beukes blurbed, "If Haruki Murakami wrote 'The Wire,' it would come out something like Sara Gran."

The protagonist has a Zen approach to detective work, following the detection theories of Jacques Silette who wrote things such as, "The truth can never be limited and therefore never found. This is what makes it the only thing worth finding."

But "The Infinite Blacktop" isn't all mysticism. It opens with Claire in an ambulance, after someone has just tried to murder her. Don't ever underestimate her; she's as hard-boiled as they come.

And I'm in the middle of reading "Washington Black" by Esi Edugyan, which was long-listed for the Man Booker Prize and appeared on a number of Best of 2018 lists (The New York Times, Washington Post, Time magazine, Entertainment Weekly.) Ms. Edugyan is the only author to have won the Giller Prize (an award given to Canadian authors) twice. Set in the 1800s, this novel, about a young boy who escapes from a plantation in Barbados and winds up traveling around the world, is Dickensian in both style and scope.

NPR called it "a soaring tale of enslavement and escape."

I gave copies of this for Christmas gifts too, and plan to read an earlier novel of hers, "Half-Blood Blues."

Wishing everyone a new year filled with good reading. ■



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

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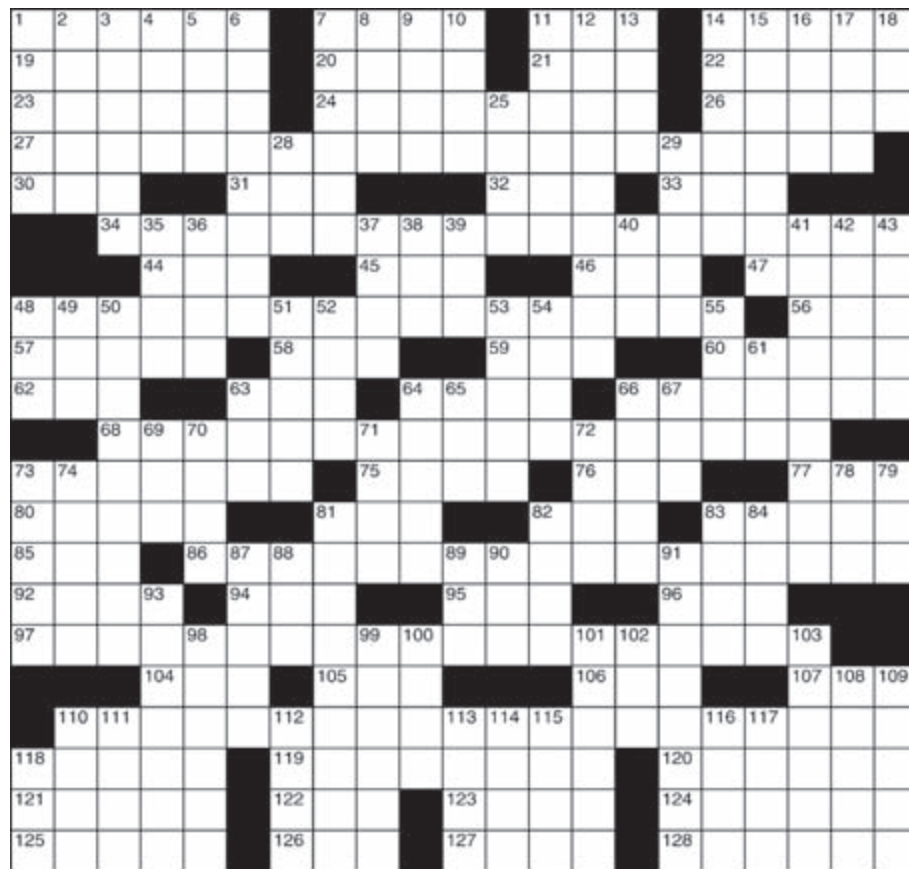
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# PUZZLES

## QUITE A COMPLEMENT

- ACROSS**
- 1 Like whisked eggs
  - 7 11th U.S. president
  - 11 Two — kind
  - 14 OshKosh — (clothing brand)
  - 19 Rio Grande city
  - 20 Turn about an axis
  - 21 Hoop part
  - 22 Supply (with)
  - 23 Reach
  - 24 Back in the day
  - 26 Gird one's —
  - 27 Elena Kagan and others
  - 30 Govt. ecology org.
  - 31 Biblical verb ending
  - 32 Suffix with front or cloth
  - 33 — hall (U. hangout)
  - 34 Limbo and others
  - 44 Vast quantity
  - 45 Motel cousin
  - 46 "Alley- —" (1960 #1 hit)
  - 47 "So it is!"
  - 48 Euterpe and others
  - 56 Cleveland NBAer
  - 57 Actor Sacha Baron —
  - 58 Post-it initialism
  - 59 Up until now
  - 60 Prior to, in poetry
  - 62 Parisian pal
  - 63 Italy's loc.
  - 64 Way of carrying oneself
  - 66 Wooded region in France
  - 68 Kitchen and others
  - 73 Still a bit firm, as cooked pasta
  - 75 Russian city or region
  - 76 Barrett of Pink Floyd
  - 77 ThinkPad maker, once
  - 80 Spy novelist John le —
  - 81 "Boy, — ever!"
  - 82 Inits. on a battleship
  - 83 Delhi's home
  - 85 Noted time
  - 86 Shortstop and others
  - 92 Tire trappers
  - 94 Wall-to-wall, e.g.
  - 95 Water in une fontaine
  - 96 With 61-Down, request
  - 97 "Eroica" and others
  - 104 Sleep cycle acronym
  - 105 Lead-in to natal
  - 106 Texter's "Holy moly!"
  - 107 33rd U.S. pres.
  - 110 Fact about 27-, 34-, 48-, 68-, 86- and 97-Across
  - 118 Out in front
  - 119 Cocky
  - 120 New Zealand indigenes
  - 121 "The Trial" novelist Franz
  - 122 Onetime GI
  - 123 White cheese
  - 124 Bewitched
  - 125 Fidgety
  - 126 Prefix with thermal
  - 127 "And there you have it!"
  - 128 Late actress Gabor
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Oh-so-bored
  - 2 Scarf down
  - 3 Sketcher's tablet
  - 4 Put a rip in
  - 5 Pop singer Brickell
  - 6 Nitrogen or carbon, e.g.
  - 7 Intimidates, with "out"
  - 8 Margarine
  - 9 Maui feast
  - 10 Deborah of old films
  - 11 Mouth pain relief brand
  - 12 Solve
  - 13 Singer Tori
  - 14 Ism
  - 15 Dumplings in an Italian restaurant
  - 16 Dog of comics
  - 17 Phoenix NBA team
  - 18 "— a Rebel" (1962 hit)
  - 25 Bic Clic —
  - 28 Summer, in France
  - 29 Overused theme
  - 35 Arthur with a racket
  - 36 Gas in glass
  - 37 103, to Nero
  - 38 Mag for an entrepreneur
  - 39 It's stranded in cells
  - 40 "Help!" from a helmsman
  - 41 City north of San Diego
  - 42 Hear (of)
  - 43 Flood control structure
  - 48 Longtime record label
  - 49 — Kippur
  - 50 Very inferior
  - 51 Valuable
  - 52 Lamb-in-pita treat
  - 53 Geologist Sir Charles —
  - 54 Bistro list
  - 55 Chronicle
  - 61 See 96-Across
  - 63 Pro trained in trauma
  - 64 Callas of opera
  - 65 Cola cubes
  - 66 Large chasm
  - 67 Angling need
  - 69 Atop, in verse
  - 70 Certain ground-floor apartment
  - 71 Tyro PC gamer, say
  - 72 Petro-Canada rival
  - 73 Sour in taste
  - 74 Actor Lash of Westerns
  - 78 Post office container
  - 79 Mothers
  - 81 TV host Ellen Dunn
  - 82 "—, and away!"
  - 83 Possible reply to "Who's there?"
  - 84 Shoe brand
  - 87 Scent
  - 88 Toyota
  - 89 ESPN anchor Bob
  - 90 Flee quickly
  - 91 He played Andy Torres on "Cougar Town"
  - 93 Spells, as of luck
  - 98 Prime period
  - 99 Not far from
  - 100 Fly alone
  - 101 Age-old flu-fighting drink
  - 102 Yoga chants
  - 103 Iranian city
  - 108 Quick cuts coating
  - 110 More — likely
  - 111 Test by lifting
  - 112 Sitar player Shankar
  - 113 Pride parade initialism
  - 114 — Lee (food brand)
  - 115 Camelot wife
  - 116 Big admirers
  - 117 Comic Dunn
  - 118 Alias abbr.



◀ SEE ANSWERS, C11

## HOROSCOPES

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

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

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

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

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** The Taurean traits of reliability and

thoroughness could be well-tested when decision-makers consider your proposals and/or requests. Be prepared to answer some probing questions.

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

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Avoid prejudging a situation just because it looks bad. Facts could emerge that would make your position uncomfortable, to say the least. A relative has interesting news to share with you.

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

**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** An unsettled situation at home or on the job early in the week could drain your energy levels, mak-

ing it difficult to get your work done on schedule. But things improve by midweek.

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

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

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

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

## SUDOKU

Difficulty level:



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.

By Linda Thistle

3		8		9				5
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		6	2					1
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◀ SEE ANSWERS, C11

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# CONTRACT BRIDGE

## A bit of rope

BY STEVE BECKER

Part of the skill in defensive play lies in giving declarer a chance to make a mistake. The defender who never gives declarer a bit of rope with which to hang himself can hardly expect him to commit suicide.

Consider this case where South is in three notrump and West leads a spade. Declarer takes East's jack with the king and leads a heart to the king. East wins with the ace and returns a spade to dummy's ace.

South crosses to the ace of diamonds, leads another heart and successfully finesses the ten. The queen of hearts is cashed, and when the jack falls, declarer has nine tricks.

It might seem that there isn't anything the defenders can do to stop this outcome, and, looking at all four hands, that is absolutely true. But the fact is that declarer can't see the opposing cards, and with a slight variation in the defense, he could easily go down.

The key play comes at trick two, when South leads a heart to the king. Let's say that this time, instead of taking the trick, East follows smoothly with the deuce.

With the ace of hearts still outstanding, declarer will now probably return to his hand with a diamond to lead another heart. After West produces the seven, which card does South play from dummy?

Of course, if he knows the location of the missing heart honors, he will finesse the ten and end up with the same nine tricks as before.

But since he cannot see where the ace

South dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♠ A 3  
♥ K Q 10 9 6  
♦ 8 5 2  
♣ A 7 3

**WEST**

♠ Q 10 7 2  
♥ J 7 5  
♦ Q J 9 4  
♣ 8 2

**EAST**

♠ J 8 6 4  
♥ A 8 2  
♦ 10 3  
♣ K 10 9 5

**SOUTH**

♠ K 9 5  
♥ 4 3  
♦ A K 7 6  
♣ Q J 6 4

The bidding:

<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	

Opening lead — two of spades.

and jack are actually located, he must guess whether to play the ten or the queen. His primary concern is that if East started with the J-x or J-x-x, the ten play may prove fatal, while the queen play will secure the contract.

No one knows what South might decide to do, but unless East presents him with an option, declarer cannot go wrong. ■

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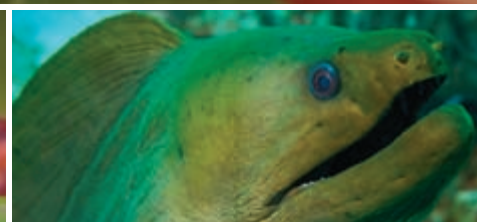
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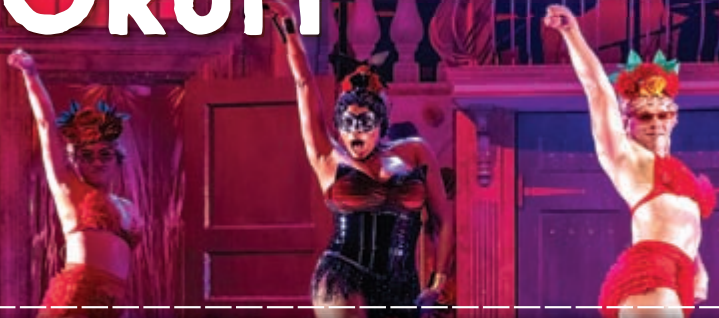
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'Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse'

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Is it worth \$10? Yes

"Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse" is a bold, blissfully fun jolt of imagination. The animation is crisp and colorful, the story endlessly creative and the execution top notch. This is not only the best animated film of 2018, it's one of the best movies of 2018, period.

It's not part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe's recent "Spider-Man" storyline, though it does draw from those films, and also from the earlier "Spider-Man" films starring Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield.

"Spider-Verse" centers on teenager Miles Morales (Shameik Moore) who, like many, idolizes Spider-Man (Chris Pine). Miles also loves graffiti, isn't a great student and has a crush on Wanda (Hailee Steinfeld). His policeman dad (Brian Tyree Henry) is a disciplinarian, so he spends a lot of time with his "cool" Uncle Aaron (Mahershala Ali).

It's with Aaron one night that Miles is bitten by a radioactive spider, which gives him Spider-Manesque powers.

Circumstances soon find Miles trying to help Spider-Man stop Kingpin (Liev Schreiber) and Green Goblin (Jorma Taccone) from opening a portal to alternate dimensions. They fail. Spider-Man dies and the world as Miles knows it becomes ... different. He must destroy the portal before the world permanently changes. Thankfully for him, he receives unexpected help: A new Spider-Man (Jake Johnson), Spider-Man Noir (Nicolas Cage), Peni Parker (Kimiko Glenn), Spider-Gwen (Steinfeld again) and Spider-Ham (John Mulaney) enter Miles' world through the portal and assist in saving the day. The catch is they can't stay long, or they'll die. Other villains include Scorpion (Joaquin Cosio), Tombstone (Marvin Jones III) and Doc Ock (Kathryn Hahn). And because no Spider-Man story would be complete without them, Mary Jane (Zoe Kravitz) and Aunt May (Lily Tomlin) appear as well.

What's really great about the film — which was written by Phil Lord ("21 Jump Street") and directed by Bob Perischetti, Peter Ramsey and Rodney Rothman — is how it ingeniously builds on the familiar. We know the Spider-Man big screen story well at this point; the way "Spider-Verse" takes what we know and expands it into so much more is creative nirvana. Better, it does so in ways that make narrative sense: There are no loose ends. And

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# LATEST FILMS



the animation is superb. Add to this a soundtrack of pop hits and some very funny moments, and you have a film that anyone of any age can enjoy.

There have been seven "Spider-Man" films since 2002, some of which have been quite good. But this is the best of the bunch. I've never read a comic book and don't intend to start, but I sensed at my screening that fans of the comics loved the twists and surprises as they came. Knowing just the movies, I loved

them too.

"Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse" is two hours of unbridled adrenaline. Full of innovation, it's an absolute blast to watch. ■

**in the know**

>> Stan Lee appears (in animated form, of course) to give Miles some sage advice.

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# VINO



## The many colors of wine



jerryGREENFIELD  
vino@floridaweekly.com

Certain grapes have more natural sweetness or acidity or color than others. Some are really black, others are purple. There are similar variations of color and intensity in white grapes. And color also depends on the level or ripeness when harvest time rolls around. But once in the cellar, it's up to the winemaker to apply his or her style and approach to the final product. There are lots of ways to do that.

The first thing we need to remember about color in wine is that all grape juice is white. Red wine gets its color and its flavor when the juice is left on the skins of the crushed grapes for a certain period of time. White grape skins don't impart color — that comes from the aging and how much contact with oak, if any, the winemaker decides to use.

For red wines, how long do we leave the juice in contact with the skins? For example, rose wines are made by draining the juice off red grape skins very quickly, so it gets a very faint pink color. Longer contact, more color. Then, what else can we do to extract the most color, flavor and structure from the grapes?

But understanding color is important because color and clarity give us important clues about what's waiting for us when we get ready to swirl, sniff and sip.

First, we can "punch down." After the crush, the skins rise to the top of the liquid and form a layer called a cap. If you press the skins back down into the juice (usually a few times a day) you'll extract more color, flavor and other structural components. Having had the opportunity

The color and body of a wine is the result of both nature and nurture. In French they call the process of winemaking *élevage*, which means upbringing. You make wine like you raise a child — according to the French, anyway.

It all starts, of course, in the vineyard.

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as primary human experience, and how people turn to ritual and prayer to navigate life.

**MONDAY, DEC. 31, 10:30 P.M.**

**ACL Hall of Fame New Year's Special**

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**FRIDAY, DEC. 28, 11:30 P.M.**

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We'll Meet Again: Escape From Cuba, 8 p.m. Jan. 1.



Antiques Roadshow: Greatest Gifts, 8 p.m. Dec. 29.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 1, 8 P.M.**

**We'll Meet Again Escape From Cuba**

Join Ann Curry as two men search for the people who helped them come to the U.S. when they fled Castro's Cuba. One hopes to find the family who took him in as a boy, while another looks for the shrimp boat skipper who brought him to safety.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 29, 8 P.M.**

**Antiques Roadshow Greatest Gifts**

A Louis Comfort Tiffany necklace from a husband or a Fender bass guitar as a birthday present — these memorable gifts turned out to be valuable and interesting items.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2, 9 P.M.**

**NOVA Beyond Pluto**

Join the mission as the New Horizons spacecraft attempts to fly by NASA's most distant target yet. Since it explored Pluto in 2015, New Horizons is zooming toward Ultima Thule, an object 4 billion miles from Earth. ■

**SUNDAY, DEC. 30, 11 P.M.**

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# JJ Grey & Mofro will welcome 2019 at Buckingham Blues Bar



COURTESY PHOTO

J.J. Grey says the travel and hard work of a musician's life are not a trial. "I just take it as it comes."

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

When JJ Grey & Mofro step from their big bus behind the World Famous Buckingham Blues Bar and Grill in east Lee County early on New Year's eve, they'll be packing.

Not guns, not the South of battle flags and chest-thumping pickups and unhappy politics, but the real South — a place of joy and despair, of longing and knowing, of hard work and hope, of mistakes and triumphs. The South of loss and discovery and betrayal and salvation, of deep loyalty and deep love. The South where storytelling in music can be so sweet it drips like honey and can be so lean you see bone through the muscle and sinew of guitars, harmonicas, keyboards and words that cut like razors.

"Lord have mercy knows, how much I love it/ Every mosquito, every rattlesnake/Every canebrake, everything/Every alligator, every blackwater swamp/Every freshwater spring — everything.../All we need is one more damn developer/ Tearing her heart out...." Mr. Grey laments in "Lochloosa," a song set near a lake of that name in the flat North Florida countryside where he still tends to the 50-tree pecan grove on the farm his grandparents passed down.

For widely experienced music apologists like Buddy Cook, a man who grew up in east Lee County and moved to Mississippi to escape the big-development destruction of his home, the song has a powerful gravity, both bittersweet and personal, he says.

"As a seventh-generation Florida expatriate, 'Lochloosa' is a mantra for all the reasons I'm gone and all the reasons I will probably come back one day, even though so much is gone.

"He does it with a gritty raw voice that portrays both angst and a wistful sense of being. That strikes a chord in this old cracker's heart."

There may be a lot of old crackers in

the world. JJ Grey & Mofro have become internationally famous exporting a bluesy canebrake sound on a tide of lyrical storytelling delivered in the sometimes sweet but searing voice of a man who can tell you — he once told the Oxford American magazine — exactly where you're located: "My belief about happiness, for myself and anyone else, is you have to gauge the distance between how you want things to be and how they are. That distance is where people tend to go astray."

Starting with his first album 17 years ago, "Blackwater," he's moved through collections such as "Country Ghetto," "Orange Blossoms," and "The River" to reach the cliff-hanging edge of the New Year, 2019, crossing over from the old in the company of people who feel exactly like Buddy Cook: "I judge music with a very simple criterion: Would I travel to see this band? As much as I love music, I have a very short list. But his band gets a big yes."

Not just travel across the miles, Mr. Cook suggests, but travel into the future.

Like many Southerners born and raised, including those too often stereotyped, JJ Grey is not just one thing. His wife, for example, is a London-born Trinidadian by ethnicity and heritage; she and their two children, with his parents, are "probably proud of me," he acknowledged in a recent telephone conversation.

His modesty is both disarming and charming, as others have said.

He may have blood in the Lee County soil, too, unbeknownst to him: He was born John Higginbotham, the unusual name of a traditional cattle ranching family from east Lee County now indelibly part of the county's geography in a road lying about 1,500 yards from the Buckingham Blues Bar: Higginbotham Road.

Although he's become famous as JJ Grey, he insists it makes little difference in his life. The constant traveling, the hard, hard work — all of it's a treat, not a trial, apparently.

"I just take it as it comes — it's not that important," he said.

"I don't let it consume my life or me. I don't take it or myself that serious. If somebody said dig a 2-foot-deep box trench 100 yards long on a hot day, you'd think it was the worst thing in the world and like to kilt you. But at the same time you could go out and play that long and that hard, and never think a thing of it, because you wanted to. It's all in your mind."

People who have known him, worked with him and seen him perform, seem to agree on at least one thing: He came in life equipped with a work ethic like a big, muscled-up engine.

At 51 — a born and bred Florida boy who picked up his first guitar as a teenager — Mr. Grey has told his shimmering stories in song for nearly two decades all over the world. And for years he played that first guitar (which he still has) on tour: a Truetone he bought used for \$10, he recalled.

His influences whether visible or subterranean include not just Southern rockers, blues, soul and punk, he says, but such different planets in the American musical solar system as Otis Redding, Jerry Reed and Run-D.M.C.

As a result, the music is an alchemic weave of soul-laced Southern blues and country sometimes so simple-seeming it could be mistaken for a great deal less than it is: an untutored poet's powerful truth-telling, flowing from the black-and-white experiences that feed JJ Grey's North Florida.

He warns of simple stereotyping in the lead song from "Country Ghetto": "So you can say what you will/About your helping hand/I know I'll never be more/ Than just your dumb white trash./ Love touches us all/And yes we're black and we're white/Out here in the cut/Still living side by side/So never mind what you've seen/And just forget what you've heard/ 'Another ignorant redneck'/Just some Hollywood words."

His sound and the power of his lyrics fill the house — he has filled the house, in fact, six times running at the Buckingham Blues Bar, says owner Tommy Lee Cook (no relation to Buddy Cook).

Like JJ Grey, Tommy Lee Cook is also a hard-working mofro (originally a nickname for Grey, with the obvious vulgar implications) — a contractor by day and a storytelling Southern bluesman by night.

The two know each other, and speak well of each other. Mr. Cook, also a published novelist with several albums out, wears red cowboy boots hand-tooled with white musical notes. To him, JJ Grey is magic.

"JJ is one of the most prolific songwriter-singers of his generation. Style, depth, cool, sexy, moving, are a handful of words that come to mind. They still do not come close to expressing the sheer power of his takes on life, on Florida, and on the things that make us human, including our flaws. The world is a better place with his incredible, one-of-a-kind magic."

Mr. Grey himself isn't sure.

"I leave it up to everybody else to decide what this is, and how good. I let it fall where it may. You're kinda too close to what you do, to knowing what you look like. You can look in the mirror for 50 years, and you still don't know."

And why? "Because there's a barrier between you and you that won't allow you to see yourself the way other people can see you."

No matter. What he can do from the inside is beautiful, strong, haunting, instructive, healing — and worth seeing and hearing from the outside. ■

in the know

>> **What:** JJ Grey & Mofro  
>> **Where:** Buckingham Blues Bar and Grill, 5641 Buckingham Road, Fort Myers  
>> **When:** 7 p.m. New Year's Eve  
>> **Info:** 693-7111



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## VINO

From page 16

nity to do it myself, I can tell you it's hard work.

Many wineries have a system that pumps the wine from the bottom of the vat to the top, and as it settles back down through the cap, more flavor and color come out. This is called "pumping over," which is also usually done a few times a day.

White wines don't get color from skin contact. The color comes from two conditions: the age of the wine and its contact with oak. White wines gain color as they age, so darker wines will often be older. If the color is very pale, the wine is young and unoaked. A darker color is your tipoff that the wine has spent some time in a barrel. Also, the wine can be made sweeter by extended skin to juice contact and will have a bit more pigment in it.

So, when you first start evaluating your wine, tip the glass sideways over a white surface, notice the brightness and color intensity. Then swirl, sniff and sip.

Here are this week's new favorites.

**Bonterra Equinox Red California 2016 (\$13)** — Grown and made sustainably and organically, this blend of Merlot and Petite Sirah yields juicy flavors of red and black fruit with savory notes of spices and

herbs. WW 90.

**Ehlers Estate Cabernet Franc St. Helena 2015 (\$65)** — A premium offering from the heart of Napa Valley, an intense wine with plump red berry flavors, black cherry and well-balanced acidity and tannic structure. Decant this one for a while. WW 94.

**Ryder Estate Chardonnay Monterey County 2017 (\$13)** — Stainless steel fermentation preserves the fresh fruit flavors of this aromatic Chardonnay. Savor the red apple and white peach aromas and flavors, accented by notes of vanilla and honey. WW 90.

### Ask the Wine Whisperer

**Q.** I'm planning a vacation to Napa and Sonoma. What wineries should I visit?

— Cameron S., Miami

**A.** The header of my Facebook page says, "The only thing more satisfying than drinking wine is discovering it." So, I suggest going to wineries you never heard of. Bypass the big elaborate tasting rooms and stop in to the smaller places off the main roads. There's a good chance you'll have a more personal experience, maybe spend some time with the winemaker — and you'll find some great wines you didn't know about before. ■

— Jerry Greenfield is *The Wine Whisperer*. He is Wine Director of the international Direct Cellars wine club. He is author of "Ask the Wine Whisperer."





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# FLORIDA WRITERS

## Confronting past trauma and betrayal on the path to revelation

philJASON

philjreviews@gmail.com



**“Dark Rhapsody: A Novel” by Helaine Mario. Oceanview Publishing. 368 pages. Hardcover, \$26.95.**

Helaine Mario’s new book is a sequel to “The Lost Concerto,” and now both titles are listed as parts of the Maggie O’Shea Mystery Series. This one concerns a series of secrets and misunderstandings, each with a dangerous obstacle on the path to revelation. It’s a story about trauma, harmful memories, betrayal and ultimately the majesty of love.

The author’s breathtakingly luxurious prose captures the emotional and communicative power of symphonic music. The plot winds through vividly rendered locales including Virginia, New York City, East Hampton, Tuscany, Rome, Vienna, Salzburg and Provence.

Ms. Mario’s descriptions of the various settings are simply magnificent. She handles the interaction of character and scene with confidence and brilliance. And she has a clear vision of the interplay between natural, man-made and supernatural forces.

Mostly, she delivers a grand and lavishly elaborated story.

In the immediate aftermath of WWII, a young Austrian girl named Gisela finds a box among other containers holding gold and other Nazi-captured treasures. The box, which she hides, includes a rolled canvas marked as the property of Florence art dealer Felix Hoffman. From this opening scene, the story jumps into the present time.

We are brought to a cabin in Virginia’s Blue Ridge mountains and introduced to the renowned pianist Maggie O’Shea; her companion, retired Colonel Michael Beckett; and Michael’s beloved golden retriever, Shiloh.

Michael has pledged to protect Maggie from her threatening oppressor, a revenge-seeking madman named Dane, who attacked her and injured her fingers, attempting to thwart her return to the concert stage.

Maggie suffers from blackouts that leave her unable to remember key elements in her life and nightmares that hint at truths she has repressed. Michael’s strength and dedication help alleviate her suffering as she works to recover her abilities in time for the scheduled performance of an extremely difficult rhapsody.

Several scenes set in Italy develop the grotesque Dane, a fugitive disguised by botched plastic surgery, who is striving to gain control of the black market for rare, including stolen, art.

Secrets, lies and misunderstandings have left Maggie with two major mysteries. One is to discover the truth about how her mother died. The other is to understand the reason behind an action of her father, the great conductor Finn O’Shea, who one day walked off the concert stage, stared at or through Maggie and disappeared from her life.

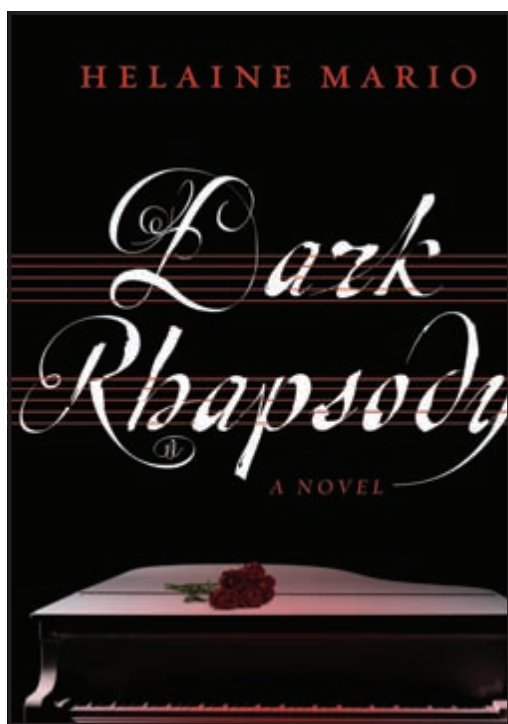
Several other characters play major

roles in Ms. Mario’s story. One is the Cardinal of New York City, another is a man being considered for a Supreme Court judgeship, and yet another is a government agent, Simon Sugarman, working to track down stolen artworks and return them to the owners or their heirs. They all connect to known and unknown elements in Maggie’s life, and that connection goes back, in part, to a prestigious Yale University club.

Also significant is Maggie’s new mentor, once a premier pianist, who is helping her prepare for her return to the concert hall. There is yet another secret buried in this older woman’s past.

Also important is an emerging cellist, a blind woman who is the granddaughter of the Felix Hoffman whose name was on that box that held the rolled canvas and other rarities. Hannah Hoffman softens the starch in Simon Sugarman.

The confrontation between Dane and



Maggie, or the possible ways of avoiding it, is the mainspring that drives the reader forward.

Lovers of fine music and art will have a special appreciation for Ms. Mario’s accomplishment, but all readers will marvel at her ability to develop the many strands and settings of her plot with perfect timing, an ever-changing palette, sympathetic imagination and psychological sophistication.

There is a hint at the end of the book about a third Maggie O’Shea Mystery. This reader is ready.

### About the author

Best-selling author Helaine Mario grew up in New York City and is a graduate of Boston University. She served on many nonprofit boards while residing in Washington, D.C. A passionate advocate for women’s and children’s issues, she founded the SunDial Foundation, which contributed to more than 30 charitable organizations every year for 20 years.

Ms. Mario and her husband, Ron, live in Sarasota and Arlington, Va. “Dark Rhapsody” is her third novel inspired by her son Sean, a classical pianist. ■

— 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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# ASHORE

From page 1

trash used in the piece were found along the Pacific coast beaches, washed up from the depths of the ocean.

Angela Haseltine Pozzi is the founder and artistic director of the Washed Ashore Project, which launched in Bend, Ore., in 2010. From the beginning, the goal has been to change consumer habits to improve the health of our planet.

"We want people to know the issue is real," said Ms. Haseltine Pozzi. "The non-profit organization, Washed Ashore, wants to awaken the public to the plastic pollution problem in the ocean and get people to ask how they can help solve the problem. Taking personal action to reduce plastic consumption is our ultimate goal."

The exhibit is on display now at the Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens and will be there through April. For the regular cost of admission, you'll see 11 of the sculptures from the collection on display throughout the zoo next to various animal exhibits. A 12th sculpture, Nora the Salmon, is at the airport in Fort Myers, greeting visitors as they land.

In addition to Chompers the Shark, you'll see Priscilla the Parrot Fish weighing in at 1,500 pounds, and Daisy the Polar Bear, weighing a whopping 1,750 pounds.

Getting the sculptures into the zoo took some planning.

"They were all driven here, and some had to come by themselves in a single truck," said Stacy Graison, director of education at the zoo. "Most come in one piece except for Daisy the Polar Bear. It was quite an ordeal."



COURTESY PHOTO

The Washed Ashore Project uses found plastics to create art, with the goal of making a statement to the world that it's time to change consumer habits.

Locations for each sculpture were decided in advance, and ultimately it was easier to leave Priscilla the Parrot Fish out front.

Ms. Graison said the zoo staff learned of

the exhibit about a year ago and worked to schedule it for this year.

"It's very important to be talking about the health of the water right now," Ms. Graison said.

Through April 21, zoo guests will be able to view the art and also learn more about how to reduce their impact on the environment. The primary mission, Ms. Graison said, is to have visitors join the

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zoo in reducing the use of single-use plastic, such as straws. "Every department here is either eliminating or reducing single use plastics, and glass and metals are preferred," Ms. Graison said.

Food service at the zoo is catered by Wynn's Market, which is also working to swap containers for their fresh food storage and bottle drinks.

The Skip the Straw campaign is currently popular, and 20 local businesses have joined the zoo by stopping their use of straws at various restaurants. The pledge specifies that businesses will work to eliminate their use of straws by Jan. 1, and in the meantime only provide straws to customers who ask for them.

"We all have to demand it from everywhere for it to work," Ms. Graison said.

Ms. Haseltine Pozzi visited the zoo earlier this year to kick off the exhibit. She said she was inspired to create the sculptures as a way to communicate the dire situation our oceans are facing.

"When I first realized what was happening in the sea, I was horrified. I realized most people don't ever see it and that, as an artist, I can direct community-built art that can make them want to see it," she said. "A giant fish will lure them into having their photograph taken with it. Then they will talk to their neighbors and spread the word through social media, and more discussions mean more solutions and more impact."

Ms. Haseltine Pozzi has created more than 70 sculptures that are on display at



COURTESY PHOTO

The Washed Ashore Project uses found plastics to create art, with the goal of making a statement to the world that it's time to change consumer habits.

various locations throughout the country. Naples, she said, is a prime location for the message.

"Naples is surrounded by water and surrounded by people that love and care about the water and the arts," she said. "Being at Naples Zoo with the Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea exhibit just makes sense. The zoo has a long history of caring for the beauty of nature. The beaches here, just like everywhere in the world, are also threatened by plastic pollution."

To view more about the Washed Ashore Project, visit [www.washedashore.org](http://www.washedashore.org).

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# BEHIND THE WHEEL

## Nissan Kicks aims for hip, delivers value

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A good mainstream vehicle knows how to hide practicality behind a hint of flair. The first-ever Nissan Kicks embodies that idea.

This compact crossover has a budget price, but it shares some of the best styling cues with the larger and more expensive vehicles in the lineup. The cut of the grille looks a little like the Pathfinder, and the boomerang-style taillights resemble many of the company's sedans. Plus, the wide fender flares that join a razor-sharp line running up the profile is straight out of the Murano playbook.

The Kicks is the smallest and lowest-priced crossover Nissan offers, but it comes well equipped. Standard features include keyless entry, push-button ignition, forward collision warning, remote tire pressure monitoring and a touch-screen infotainment system with Bluetooth. It's all laid out in a well-designed interior.

The budget-minded Kicks doesn't offer the upper-echelon options like ventilated seats, rear climate controls, or other features that take up space on the dashboard. This allows for an uncluttered look inside. Also, because there's a long list of practical features, even the base model doesn't get many of the dreaded blank plates that are a dead giveaway that someone bought a cheap vehicle.

Nissan also made a few concessions just for the driver. This seat is the only one with a fold down armrest, knee airbag and optional Bose UltraNearfield speakers built into the headrest. It's an interesting way to pander directly to the person with the most purchase influence.

The Kicks is built to be the right size for urban lifestyles, and it's reflected in the road behavior. The steering is light, visibility is good and turns are nimble. There is no all-wheel drive option on the Kicks, which is likely as much an overall cost saving measure as it is an acknowledgement most of us try to stick

to asphalt.

Under the hood is a 1.6-liter motor that features variable valve timing. It's mated to a continuously variable transmission. The package allows for a wide range of engine controls that deliver above 30 mpg no matter if it's city or highway driving. When the accelerator is pegged to the floor, the little motor has to work hard for its acceleration. The Kicks will never be mistaken for a sports car, but it's not anemic.

The base model starts at \$19,335, and the three pricing tiers are narrow. It reflects



that upgrading trim levels don't change the engine or transmission available.

The mid-level Kicks is \$21,035, and it adds blind spot warning, rear cross traffic alert (great for parking lots), automatic climate control and Apple Carplay/Android Auto. What's really important about this trim is that it's where the two-tone paints become optional. The white roof against the bright blue on our test car made it look like a substantially more expensive machine — for only a \$150 add-on.

There are a few worthwhile features exclusive to the top-level Kicks. This includes a special interior and the 360-degree surround-view camera system. Plus, there are options available only to this level like heated seats and the Bose headrest speakers. Even when indulging

in nearly every factory option, a loaded top-trim Kicks will likely not get above \$25K.

That feels like a solid value, and it needs to be. The compact crossover market is one of the most contested right now.

The Kicks will be cross-shopped with over a dozen new crossovers (not to mention plenty of warranty-backed pre-owned vehicles out there available in this price class). Nissan's entry falls between competitors like the Hyundai Kona and Jeep Renegade. The Kona is a little more like a sports car in both size and steering than the taller Kicks. The Renegade feels more geared for off-road duty, and so it's less fun in an urban environment than the Nissan.

This middle-spot between a sports wagon in disguise and all-out trail run-

ner is where the heart of the compact crossover crowd lies. They want something roomy and airy, but their life goals include staying on the pavement as much as possible. The Kicks embraces that vision quite well without looking like an appliance. ■



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# SOCIETY

## Annual gift giving with Friends of Foster Children



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3. Ashton with shopping helper Rick Taft
4. Christopher with Chance Murphy
5. LaMichael with shopping helper Sue Black
6. James Muehleman, Natalia and Sarah Muehleman
7. Ava Porraro, Ashley Porraro and Nan Henderson
8. Bobby picks out gifts

SUE HUFF / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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# SOCIETY

## Naples Chamber's Inaugural Stuff a Bus



1. The Shelter for Abused Women & Children accepted donations from Stuff a Bus.
2. Davina Hartsfield and her son drop off toys at the Stuff a Bus Toy Drive.
3. Owners of Expedia Cruiseship Centers drop off toys.
4. Youth Haven staff accepted donations from Stuff a Bus.
5. The bus took on more than 1,500 toys.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Florida Weekly welcomes submissions for the Society pages from charity galas and fundraising events, club meetings and other to-dos around town. We need 300-dpi photographs of groups of two or more people, facing the camera and identified by first and last names. Questions? Email editor Robbie Spencer at [rspencer@floridaweekly.com](mailto:rspencer@floridaweekly.com).

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# SOCIETY

## Golden Gate Senior Center's Christmas Celebration



1. Kim Matusiak, Linda Sylvia, Annie Owen, Audrey Thomas and Rita Chartier
2. Paul Nelson and Yolanda Diaz
3. Juanita Araujo, Berena Rosie Araujo and Jenado Aradjo
4. Rev. Anthony Planes and Iris Morlock
5. Vincent Petrosini and Colleen Long
6. Sarah Carpintero, Graciela Tous and Marcia Yepe

COURTESY PHOTOS

Florida Weekly welcomes submissions for the Society pages from charity galas and fundraising events, club meetings and other to-dos around town. We need 300-dpi photographs of groups of two or more people, facing the camera and identified by first and last names. Questions? Email editor Robbie Spencer at [rspencer@floridaweekly.com](mailto:rspencer@floridaweekly.com).



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## CUISINE NEWS



One of several murals in Mellow Mushroom.

### Mellow Mushroom opens second Lee County location

What's better than having a Mellow Mushroom in town? How about having two of them?

Just four months after the first one opened on Daniels Parkway, a second location opened Dec. 17, this one in University Village Shops just south of Florida Gulf Coast University on Ben Hill Griffin Parkway.

It features the brand's trademark graffiti-inspired murals, mushroom-themed artwork and colorful interiors, as well as a bar, open lounge, and indoor and outdoor dining. The restaurant is known for its specialty and signature pizzas made with spring-water crust and high-quality fresh ingredients.

Get Fried and Slicers Hoagies have also been announced as future tenants, joining Skillet's, Tacos & Tequila Cantina, Thai Udon, The Shaved Ice Bar, Smoothie King and Frutta Bowls. Coming this winter and spring are Poke Fusion, Sunshine Sundaes, Marlins Brewhouse and KC American Bistro.

year-round. Children from kindergarten through fifth grade may enjoy a complimentary donut each time they read a



The Mellow Mushroom interior mushroom tree.



Chocolate Peppermint

### Bennett's boasts blueberries, bananas, books and more

Bennett's Fresh Roast in downtown Fort Myers has unveiled three new donuts.

The first is a seasonal creation called Chocolate Peppermint that will be available through the holiday season. It features Bennett's homemade chocolate icing infused with peppermint and topped with candy cane sprinkles.

"If you like peppermint bark that comes out each holiday season, you are going to love this donut," says Bob Grissinger, the owner and creative force behind Bennett's. "And with each of our creations, we are using homemade ingredients. Nothing goes into our donuts that comes from a can."

The other two new entries will be available year-round.

The new Blueberry Iced has homemade vanilla icing and a big spoonful of homemade wild Maine blueberry jam in the middle. Bearing a resemblance to a fried egg, the third selection is the Banana Cream. It's filled with homemade banana custard, topped with vanilla icing and topped with a Nilla Wafer.

Bennett's recently announced that summer reading days are now offered

book at Bennett's. Children may receive one free donut per day when they read a book and are accompanied by a parent until 2 p.m. while daily supplies last. A selection of books appropriate for children are available for reading on site.

In addition to fresh roasted coffee and made-from-scratch donuts, Bennett's also offers packaged whole bean or ground coffees, breakfast muffins, oatmeal, Cajun grit bowls and breakfast sandwiches. On the weekends, Bennett's Strata (a layered baked breakfast dish) is a regular sell-out. Lunch offerings, including paninis, soups, sandwiches, two signature salads and Bennett's lobster roll and donut dog are available 11 a.m.-2 p.m. every day.

Bennett's is at 2011 Bayside Parkway in downtown Fort Myers and is open 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day. Visit [www.Bennetts-FreshRoast.com](http://www.Bennetts-FreshRoast.com).

### Izzy's Fish and Oyster downtown undergoes a sea change

The downtown seafood restaurant known as Izzy's Fish and Oyster has a new chef and a new menu.

Executive Chef Aaron Goldberg, formerly of Cabos Cantina Taco & Tequila, now heads up the kitchen and has added both fish and meat selections to the menu.

"It was a labor of love by the entire Izzy's team," he says. "This was an exciting opportunity to expand our culinary artistry."

New items joining the lineup include conch fritters, Buffalo cauliflower, crab

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# CUISINE NEWS



Izzy's Executive Chef Aaron Goldberg.

cake sandwich, chef's burger, French dip, Key lime mahi, seafood fra diavolo, half roasted chicken, bone-in pork chop and 12-ounce ribeye.

Izzy's is at 2282 First St., Fort Myers. It's open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Call 337-4999 or visit [www.izzysftmyers.com](http://www.izzysftmyers.com).

### Put on the dog

Gulf Coast Humane Society will hold a different sort of event this year when it launches its Celebrity Chef Festival on Thursday, Jan. 17. It will run 5:30-9 p.m. at Six Bends Harley-Davidson and will feature hors d'oeuvres and dinner with eight to 10 chef stations, an open bar, live and silent auctions, music and adoptable pets. Tickets are \$125 each with sponsorships available as well. All proceeds benefit the Gulf Coast Humane Society in Fort Myers. For details, visit [gulfcoasthumane-society.org](http://gulfcoasthumane-society.org).

### Quick bites

■ **Beach Brothers BBQ** has closed its restaurant at 601 Del Prado Blvd. in Cape Coral but is doing pop-up events and plans to have a food truck that will be located somewhere on Del Prado, according to its Facebook page. Want to know where it will be? Check the Facebook page for regular updates.

■ **Tarpon Bay Restaurant at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa** will hold a Flora Springs wine dinner at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10. The six-course dinner will feature a variety of wines from the Napa Valley winemaker as well as dishes prepared by Chef de Cuisine Gaston Javier Sanchez. For reservations, call 390-4297. The resort is at 5001 Coconut Road, Bonita Springs.

■ **Tarpon Lodge** will hold a four-course dinner featuring wines from the Hedges Family Estate from Yakima Valley, Washington at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 23 and 24. The dinner is \$95 per person and reservations are required by Wednesday, Jan. 2. Send to [shohreh@tarponlodge.com](mailto:shohreh@tarponlodge.com) with your name and a daytime phone number and a representative will contact you.

■ **10 Twenty Five**, the Cape Coral gastropub, is taking over the spot formerly occupied by Prime de Leon at 33 Patio de Leon in downtown Fort Myers. Check out the restaurant's Facebook page — FMI0twentyfive — for updates.

■ **La Corte Bistro** has been sold. Anyone with unused gift cards may mail them to 1217 Cape Coral Parkway, Unit 358, Cape Coral, FL 33904, for a full refund. Please include your full name, return address and email address with the gift cards. This offer is good through April 2019. ■



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<b>ENTRÉE</b>		
<p><i>Steak And Lobster</i> Sliced ribeye, grilled lobster tail, asparagus, truffle fries and lobster butter \$65</p>	<p><i>Branzino</i> Whole branzino deep fried Served with tomato-caper sauce MKT</p>	<p><i>Day-Boat Scallops</i> Pan seared over lobster and crab risotto topped with tobikko caviar \$39</p>
<b>DESSERT</b>		
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# CUISINE NEWS

**Yard House**, a draft house and eatery with several Florida locations, will open the doors to its Naples spot at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 21. Located at 4251 Ninth St. N, the 11,000 square-foot space will accommodate up to 390 guests and will feature 130 taps and 100 menu items. [www.yardhouse.com](http://www.yardhouse.com).

**The Local** kicks off 2019 with a New Year's Resolution menu, packed with healthy and delicious items to help diners stick to their nutrition goals. Dishes include shrimp, mango and avocado salad, pickled peach salad, vegan burger, free-range chicken salad sandwich, vegan Korean tacos, a keto steak entrée and vegan zucchini pasta. 5323 Airport-Pulling Road. 596-3276 or [www.thelocalnaples.com](http://www.thelocalnaples.com).

**Osteria Tulia** introduced a new seasonal menu that includes items like Sas-Squash Pizza (delicate squash, ricotta, tomatoes, caramelized onions and scallions), sea scallop crudo (kumquats, pistachio, fennel and olive oil), snow crab risotto, Northern Specktafle Pizza (speck, mushrooms, artichokes and olives) and veal rib chop parmigiana. 466 Fifth Ave. S. 213-2073 or [www.osteriatulia.com](http://www.osteriatulia.com).

**Agave** celebrates the new year with half-priced appetizers and \$5 Modelo micheladas dressed with lime and spices from 4-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 1. 2380 Vanderbilt Beach Road. 598-3473 or [www.agavenaples.com](http://www.agavenaples.com).

**21 Spices** hosts a four-course wine dinner featuring vintages from Napa Valley's ZD Wines at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8. Dishes include pani puri, crunchy pumpkin luqme, pistachio lamb seekh kebob and chocolate-cardamom mille-feuille. \$135. 4270 Tamiami Trail E. 919-8830 or [www.21spicesdining.com](http://www.21spicesdining.com).

**Angelina's Ristorante** hosts a wine dinner featuring vintages from Flora Springs Vineyard from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9. Check website for the upcoming menu and price. 24041 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs. 390-3187 or [www.angelinasofbonitasprings.com](http://www.angelinasofbonitasprings.com).

**Osteria Tulia** offers an exclusive a la carte menu to celebrate the new year during dinner service on Monday, Dec. 31. Featured dishes include wood-grilled octopus, roasted rabbit ravioli, Alaskan halibut and panettone bread pudding. 466 Fifth Ave. S. 213-2073 or [www.osteriatulia.com](http://www.osteriatulia.com).

**Tarpon Bay Restaurant** at Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa hosts a five-course wine dinner featuring vintages from Napa Valley's Flora Springs at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10. With



**Osteria Tulia released a new seasonal menu that includes The Sas-Squash Pizza, which features delicate squash, ricotta, 10-hour tomatoes, caramelized onions and scallions.**

a variety of red and white wines, Chef de Cuisine Gaston Javier Sanchez will prepare dishes like charred Spanish octopus, grilled cobia loin, pheasant breast and elk osso bucco. \$125, reservations required. 390-4270 or [www.hyatt.com](http://www.hyatt.com).

**Campiello** celebrates its 20th anniversary by offering a special menu through December that features guest favorites over the years. Selections include insalata di mare (chilled seafood with pickled vegetables), rigatoni e funghi (pasta with portabella mushrooms and asparagus), capasanta (scallops with pureed sweet potatoes, seasonal mushrooms and roast chicken jus) and torta cioccolato e lamponi (dark chocolate and raspberry torte with pomegranate mousse and cranberry-pistachio bark). 1177 Third St. S. 43-1166 or [www.campiello.naples.com](http://www.campiello.naples.com).

Now through Dec. 31, The Pub at Mercato offers a \$10 bonus card with each \$50 purchase in gift cards. 594-2748 or [www.experiencethepub.com](http://www.experiencethepub.com).

Want to work on your skills in the kitchen? Here are some cooking classes on the front burner:

Sur La Table, 9501 Strada Place, Mercato; 598-1463 or [www.surlatable.com](http://www.surlatable.com) - How to Bake the Ultimate Chocolate Chip Cookie: Thursday, Dec. 27 (Free); Kids & Teens 2-Day Holiday Cooking Series: Thursday and Friday, Dec. 27-28 (\$100); French Croissants 101: Friday, Dec. 28 (\$75); Date Night Winter in Paris: Friday, Dec. 28 (\$69); Winter Holiday Macarons: Saturday, Dec. 29 (\$75); Knife Skills 101: Saturday, Dec. 29 (\$75); Date Night New Year's Eve: Saturday, Dec. 29 (\$85); Cast Iron Desserts: Sunday, Dec. 30 (\$85); Classic Fried Chicken: Sunday, Dec. 30 (\$75); Date Night Italian Steakhouse: Sunday, Dec. 30 (\$85); Kids' 3-Day Holiday Cooking Series: Monday, Dec. 31 (\$150); Date Night New Year's Eve: Monday, Dec. 31 (\$85); Artisan Pizza from Scratch: Tuesday, Jan. 1 (\$75); Winter Ravioli Workshop: Tuesday, Jan. 1; 10 Skills for the New Year: Wednesday, Jan. 2 (\$75); Sushi Party: Wednesday, Jan. 2 (\$85). ■

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Crispy Fried Onion Straw  
Grilled 6oz Filet of Beef - Bacon Blue Cheese Dressing  
Grilled 10oz Bone In Pork Chop - Sausage Cornbread Stuffing  
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**Dessert**  
Key Lime Pie • Bread Pudding with Bourbon Sauce  
Lemon Poppy Seed Cake with Honey Whipped Cream

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# CUISINE REVIEW

## Skip the plane ride and savor the flavors of Italy at Caffe dell'Amore

**karenFELDMAN**  
cuisine@floridaweekly.com



On the all-too-rare occasions when I've traveled to Italy, I've enjoyed exploring without a prescribed agenda. My companion and I would rent a car and wander, taking whatever route looked most appealing.

We used the same approach to dining, more often than not finding ourselves in a small trattoria tended to by a hospitable couple with a passion for cooking that was only surpassed by the delight they derived watching their customers enjoy that food.

I was reminded of those adventures during a recent dinner at Caffe dell'Amore, a cozy, slightly off-the-beaten-path trattoria that seems plucked straight out of Italy and set into the middle of a little strip center on Gulf Shore Boulevard.

It comes complete with the aforementioned proud owners who adhere to the Italian proverb, "The eye of the owner makes the bull grow," meaning it is their careful personal attention that ensures all works well. They are referred to only as Brian and Dominic.

It was Dominic who greeted us and led us to a lovely table. I'm fairly certain it was he or Brian who answered the phone when I called for a reservation and was told he'd return my call because he was driving. (He did call back a short time later.)

Their attention is evident in the dining room, where small crystal chandeliers illuminate the tables and warm beige walls adorned with hand-painted frescoes. It shows in the little cuffs placed on the bottom of water glasses, so they don't sweat onto the tables.

One look at the menu and it's obvious this isn't your typical Italian restaurant. There are no piccatas, Franceses, cacciatores or marinara-slathered dishes. No heavy cream sauces or the usual pasta offerings.

Instead, there are dainty sacchetti - purse-like pastas stuffed with cheese - tender gnocchi paired with roasted eggplant, and calamarata - ring-shaped pasta resembling calamari sturdy enough to stand up to sausage and peppers.

There's wild boar, Cornish hen, lobster and yellowtail snapper. Sauces are made of white wine and capers, slowly



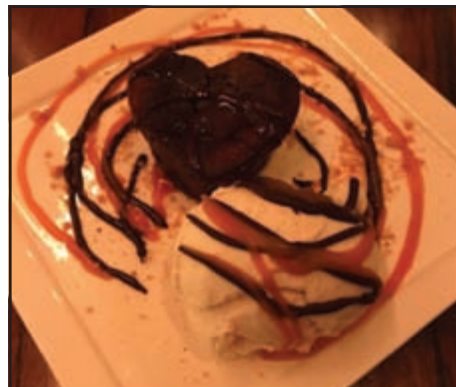
**Prosciutto cups contain ricotta and spinach swathed in tomato sauce.**



**Sausage and peppers come with ring-shaped pasta in tomato sauce.**



**Shrimp alla Siciliana has a rich tomato sauce with marsala wine.**



**A heart-shaped flourless chocolate cake with vanilla gelato is worth every calorie.**

simmered tomatoes and root vegetables.

Local produce used is organic; the meats are free range and the seafood wild caught. Many of the products used are imported from Italy. The result is a meal teeming with vibrant flavors and brimming with the passion with which they are prepared.

Our knowledgeable and friendly server recommended the spinach delizie (\$12), a house specialty, to start and these spinach balls were indeed worth a try. They resembled six brussels sprouts but were soft balls of spinach topped with brown butter, Pecorino Romano cheese, lemon zest and a hint of nutmeg.

The zuppa rustic (\$10) was a hearty bowl of soup studded with sausage balls, lentils, carrots, spinach, cannellini and croutons. It was well seasoned and a sprinkling a cheese finished it off nicely.

A goat cheese salad (\$11) was a stand-out with dried cherries, roasted walnuts, greens, a pair of wild black Amarene cherries from Italy and a blend of olive oil and balsamic vinegar.

My favorite starter proved to be the prosciutto cups (\$14). The thinly sliced prosciutto was shaped into cups that were filled with ricotta and spinach

and baked until the meat was crisp, the cheese creamy then topped with a restrained amount of tomato sauce that complemented the other ingredients.

The previously mentioned entrée of sausage and peppers (\$26) over the calamarata pasta also contained this well-executed sauce and it was just as good in this dish as in the appetizer.

Shrimp alla Siciliana (\$29), contained jumbo Gulf shrimp served over spaghetti squash in another tomato sauce, this one composed of tomatoes, marsala, capers, fennel powder, currants and pine nuts. The result was a deeper, richer sauce, but one that worked well with the shellfish.

For meat lovers, consider the wild boar alla cacciatora (\$29). It comes on polenta but for anyone who is avoiding carbs, the kitchen will be happy to substitute spaghetti squash. The meat is cooked for hours in red wine, root vegetables, juniper berries and herbs, resulting in extremely tender meat and a sauce with a host of flavors. (The meat wasn't gamey at all for those who have had less-than-satisfactory experiences with this protein.)

Servings are just right - enough but not too much - and they leave sufficient room for dessert, which is made on site as well.

A Bosc pear stuffed with cinnamon mascarpone (\$10) retained the flavors in which it had been cooked - red wine, honey and cinnamon - and was finished with a lightly sweet red wine sauce. It was deceptively light and satisfying.

The torta della nonna (\$10) was a touch on the dry side but possessed a delicious ricotta flavor.

A heart-shaped chocolate flourless cake with vanilla gelato (\$12), however, stole the show. The cake was impossibly light and chocolatey. It was served warm, in contrast to the cool creamy gelato, all enhanced by stripes of caramel and raspberry sauce.

Our server and the attendant who assisted him were uniformly polite, attentive and helpful. The only improvement needed here is that they find a system by which they would know who receives which dish without having to call them out at the table. There are easy systems by which to handle this that are used by much larger restaurants. It's a relatively simple matter to fix.

That minor quibble aside, this is a place worth finding. It wasn't called Caffe dell'Amore - the Café of Love - by accident. ■

**in the know**

**Caffe dell'Amore**  
1400 Gulf Shore Blvd. N., Suite 154  
Naples, (239) 261-1389

**Ratings:**  
**Food:** ★★★★★½  
**Service:** ★★★★★  
**Atmosphere:** ★★★★★½

- >> **Hours:** Dinner Served 5-8 nightly
- >> **Reservations:** Recommended
- >> **Credit cards:** Accepted
- >> **Price range:** appetizers, \$11-\$15; entrees, \$26-\$38
- >> **Beverages:** Beer and wine served.
- >> **Seating:** Conventional tables
- >> **Volume:** Low to moderate
- >> **Parking:** Free lot
- >> **Website:** [caffedellamore.com](http://caffedellamore.com)

★★★★★ **Superb**  
★★★★ **Noteworthy**  
★★★ **Good**  
★★ **Fair**  
★ **Poor**



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