Plans are in the works for an outpatient pediatric specialty clinic in Naples as part of the Fort Myers-based Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida. “We hear from doctors and families in Collier County that they would like to see our specialists closer to home rather than come to Fort Myers,” says Dr. John Iacuone, CEO of the hospital that’s on the campus of HealthPark Medical Center in South Fort Myers. “The clinic will bring The Children’s Hospital into Collier County,” Dr. Iacuone adds. “We’re a regional children’s hospital, and we’re committed to help children and families in Collier County… They’re in our fold, and we want to provide the care that those families deserve.”

Part of Lee Memorial Health System, The Children’s Hospital of SWF serves families in five Southwest Florida counties. The new Naples clinic, set for a location on Immokalee Road, will bring services in endocrinology, neurology, pediatrics, and more.

Ericka Basile is afraid of heights and closed spaces. When confronted with these situations, she becomes sweaty, anxious, and panicky. The typically cheery Naples resident shudders when she recalls the time she was overcome with a panic attack during a rugged hike in a tight space in Belize. “I never liked closed spaces,” she said.

Ms. Basile is not alone in grappling with a fear or fears that can make doing ordinary things an extreme challenge. Imagine not being able to drive your car out of the driveway. What if...
There are many ways to be a slave, and most of them don’t constitute slavery. You can be a slave to fashion, love, duty, desire, drugs, drink, children, pets, a man, a woman, sex, whimsy, the Almighty dollar or the 9-to-5, to name just a few. You’re free to pick (and most of us have, at one time or another). It’s a grand country that offers so beautiful a buffet of tasty miseries, with so many juicy options for self-imposed enslavement. God bless America!

Slavery itself is something else, however — a rotting, festering thing as uncompromisingly prohibited in the United States as murder. In fact, slavery is the greatest anathema in light of the Constitution, since there is no specific amendment prohibiting murder, which remains very popular as an American pastime, along with baseball, ice cream and Wall Street shenanigans.

But there is a very specific amendment prohibiting slavery — the Thirteenth Amendment, adopted in 1865.

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But there is a very specific amendment prohibiting slavery — the Thirteenth Amendment, adopted in 1865.

It’s as lean and spare as an old bone, and just as unequivalent.

“Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, shall exist within the United States, or be tolerated.

“Section 2. Congress shall have power to prohibit the importation of slaves, after the year 1808.”

So why have roughly 1,000 men and women in Florida (both American citizens and international migrants) been identified as slaves, then rescued by federal authorities, just in the last 25 years?

Here’s a better question: Since you and I live here, and this is our home, what are we going to do about it?

No moral prohibition (the Ten Commandments come to mind) or mere Constitutional amendment ever stopped people from killing or enslaving other people. So obviously we can’t just sit back and let God and the Constitution solve the problem.

In 1970, 105 years after Lincoln first wrestled down “chattel slavery” in a tide of blood — slavery in which people were bought and sold outright — the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Migrant Labor (part of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare) had this to say about 20th century versions of slavery:

“A migrant camp is a microcosm... of nearly every social ill, every injustice, and everything shameful in our society: poverty almost beyond belief, rampant disease and malnutrition, racism, theft and squallor, pitiful children, chained inside at night, to urinate, defecate, vomit, suffer and sleep until dawn. That could make the Marine Corps “schooled” once attended, which was no picnic at the time, seem like a real picnic in hindsight.

Like hundreds of others, the men were slaves on prosperous corporate farms, which sell produce to prosperous corporate supermarkets and food vendors, a fact widely reported here by newspapers and television.

One would think the solution would be a no-brainer, therefore: just stop supporting those places. But it’s not. And the issue is not limited to the fields, either.

“It’s bigger than that,” says coalition member Greg Asbed, a lean and muscled 40-something with an Ivy League degree who spent years working the rugged seasonal harvests in the watermelon fields.

Instead, the issue stretches right into our grocery bags and our home kitchens.

“Slavery is rooted in poverty,” Mr. Asbed explains. “But when it’s everybody, you can’t stop it. When nobody says it’s wrong, everybody can say it’s fine.”

Result? Very real slavery, right here at home, a slavery acknowledged as “fine,” in Mr. Asbed’s terse word, by everybody from the corporation to the individual.

But it’s always the individual, in my opinion, even and especially at the corporate level.

As I drove through Immokalee, for example, a swollen Anglo male driving a muscular pick-up truck down Main Street past hundreds of small brown pedestrians proudly sported this bumper sticker: “I’ll keep my guns, my money and my freedom. You can keep The Change.”

Displayed beside it was a flag with a hammer and sickle.

If we ignore slavery — if we don’t “change,” however — we might as well dump the Thirteenth Amendment right along side the Ten Commandments, and never look back.

That guy should know that, and so should every man or woman sitting in a corporate office.

But I wonder about myself. The next time I stare at bins full of perfect corporate tomatoes, will I ignore them to drive a little farther, or do without if need be?

At least, there’s a farm stand down the road, where they grow their own, in season.

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Make the smart choice. Visit Vineyards today and remember to ask about the private financing now available to qualified new home buyers in Vineyards.

NOW THAT’S A SMART CHOICE!

A resort-style community that’s debt free...
BY RICH LOWRY

In keeping with his new spirit of compromise, President Barack Obama has offered a healthcare bill striking out middle ground between House and Senate Democrats. At $900 billion, it’s more expensive than the Senate bill, but cheaper than the House bill, and mixes and matches sundry tax, provision and amendment ideas. Obama has again proven himself a committed bipartisan leader — if liberals from the House and liberals from the Senate are considered political parties.

Obama’s true post-Massachusetts strategy now comes into focus. It wasn’t to engage in good faith with Republicans. It wasn’t to “pivots to jobs.” It was to wait until the shock of losing Ted Kennedy’s Senate seat faded enough that he could keep doing what he’d done previously. Democrats are now in pursuit of a “catastrophic success” — to borrow George W. Bush’s phrase for the Iraq War — on health care. They figure that both House and Senate Democrats have already taken defining votes for unpopular health-care bills, that November is inevitably going to be ugly, so they might as well reach again for the goal that last eluded them since Truman.

It’s the Samson Option, with a twist. In his last extremity, Samson pulled down the pillars of the temple of Dagon to destroy himself and his enemies. Democrats will rain destruction on their own hapless vulnerable members, a category that grows by the day. These swing-district Democrats, once hailed as the “majority makers” by Nancy Pelosi, have taken on the role as the suicide front ranks of Pelosi’s Last Charge.

Top Democrats have talked themselves into believing that the providing health-care reform will save them. Having failed to persuade the public of the merits of their bill, Democrats will try to pass it anyway on sheer legislative muscle — including the exploitation of filibuster bypassing “reconciliation” rules in the Senate — and convince people what a good idea it was afterwards. They think Obama will be better able to make the case for the bill once it passes. This assumes that once the bill is written in law over their vehement objections, Republicans will quietly leave the field and not contest the increases, Medicare cuts and the overall cost, i.e., “winning the message war.”

There’s no much doubt that Iran is being heralded as a nuclear weapon, the kind of arsenal that makes any nation a military force. Iran’s neighbors those terrible devices, and so the Iraqis ask: Why not us, too? That’s the definition of an arms race.

On a recent trip to the Middle East, Sec. Clinton told students at Qatar University that Iran’s Revolutionary Guards have become more powerful than the government and are heavily involved in oil exports, gasoline imports and defense contracts. Apparent Middle East maps were in red line mullows were easier to deal with.

Cent. Clinton also was tough on the Palestinians during her tour in the region. She said the Palestinians — who have seen most of their land annexed by Israelis — have to make more concessions” to the occupier to get peace talks going.

The word “peace” has not been exalted in the White House for years, and neither President Barack Obama nor his secretary of state seems to aspire to it. They fret that some conservative critic somewhere will accuse the administration of being “soft” on something.

Democrats continue to labor to prove that they are tough, tough, tough, so that they don’t have to deal with a temporary version of the old “Who lost China?” rant that conservatives used to be so political a advantage in the 1940s and 1950s.

The rhetoric from the Obama administration is framed in terms of “winning” and “victory” while a war-weary nation searches for an end to the war in Afghanistan, which has been going on for nine years and is gaining new momentum in the form of thousands of additional American troops being sent there.

In the Israeli-Palestinian front, former Sen. George Mitchell, the man shuttling back and forth with much success in trying to bring leaders from both sides to a peace table. Pres. Obama was not much help in breaking the stalemate when he buckled to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s refusal to impose a total freeze on settlement building. Instead, the Israeli leader offered a 10-month halt in expanding settlements. Such settlements — colonies in reality — are illegal under international law.

Unlike his domestic proposals, where the president faces so much Republican opposition, Obama is in sync with the GOP in treading along the belligerent footsteps of his predecessor.

His hawkish secretary of state takes her cues from the boss. ■

Hillary the hawk

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is finding her voice in the world of foreign affairs — and it’s the sound of hawk-speak, filled with threats and warnings.

She has warned that Iran is becoming a military dictatorship. She is trying — with some success — to persuade the U.S. allies to support stronger sanctions against Tehran.

There’s no sign that the U.S. is about to invade Iran, but there’s tons of speculation that the Pentagon has been tasked to figure out what bunker-buster bombs would do to Iran’s underground nuclear industry and whether such an attack would help or hinder efforts to neutralize Iran as a nuclear threat.

While a massive bombing certainly would delay Iran’s nuclear development, it would not stop it. The cost of such a military option would be grave: Iran’s hard-liners would be fortified politically; the growing domestic insurgency there would be silenced; and anti-American terrorists everywhere would see such an attack as justifying their own violence.

➤ On March 4, 1888, Knute Rockne was born in Voss, Norway. He would go on to become one of the most success- ful coaches in the history of college football. Rockne led the 1924 Notre Dame team, he recorded 105 wins, 12 losses and 5 ties for a winning percent- age of .881, the highest in the history of college or professional football.

➤ On March 5, 1963, the Hula-Hoop, a hip-swiveling toy that became a huge fad across America when it was first marketed by Wham-O in 1958, is patented. An estimated 25 million Hula-Hoops were sold in its first four months of production alone. Following the Hula-Hoop, Wham-O produced the Superball, Water Wiggle, Silly String, Silly Side and all the rest. The most famous, but not the last, was the Hula-Hoop.

➤ On March 6, 1475, Michelangelo Buonarroti, the greatest of the Italian Renaissance artists, is born. His most important early work was the Pieta sculptures in St. Peter’s Basilica that showed the dead body of Christ in the lap of the Virgin Mary. Demonstrating masterful skill, Michelangelo extracted the two per- fectly balanced figures of the Pieta from a single block of marble.

➤ On March 7, 1955, the first Broad- way play to be televised in color, featu- ring Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis, the play was “Peter Pan,” starring Mary Martin.

➤ On March 8, 1475, Michelangelo Buonarroti, the greatest of the Italian Renaissance artists, is born. His most important early work was the Pieta sculptures in St. Peter’s Basilica that showed the dead body of Christ in the lap of the Virgin Mary. Demonstrating masterful skill, Michelangelo extracted the two perfectly balanced figures of the Pieta from a single block of marble.

➤ On March 9, 1959, the first Barbie doll goes on display at the American Toy Fair in New York City. Barbie was first marketed by the toy company Mattel in the United States with adult features. Bar- bie’s appearance was modeled on a doll from a German comic- strip character. ■
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At the end of a dark journey, courage and redemption

BY EVAN WILLIAMS
ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

One night on a wintry commute back to New Jersey, Bob Ayers pulled over with a flat tire. Feeling the whoosh of cars on his back, he focused on the job at hand.

“I remember changing the tire, and feeling the wind and the ground shake, and thinking that I have to concentrate to get this done,” he says. “And then I woke up two months later wondering what had happened. Everything I was taught as a youngster just flew out the window.”

Mr. Ayers, now 60, used to run in the mountains surrounding Mexico City, where he lived until he was 17. His family had owned a steel mill there starting after World War II, until the 1960s. Well-off and open-minded, his parents raised Mr. Ayers to count his blessings, to welcome humanity as a whole.

“We were brought up with the fact that we were blessed, that you have to treat people equally,” he says. “There was no distinction between nationality, religion, color of skin — we were just all the same.”

He carried those values with him into his mid 20s, when he moved north to New Jersey. But after he was struck and debilitated by a car, Mr. Ayers no longer thought of himself as blessed, or necessarily equal to anyone. Angry and distraught, he shrank behind a curtain of pills and booze.

It wasn’t the first time he’d faced adversity. He was a white Protestant growing up in a Mexican Catholic school, which led to more than a few fights and, eventually, to military school in St. Petersburg, Fla. (His spring and winter breaks were spent with his grandparents in Naples; summers he went home to Mexico City.) But there was nothing to prepare him for this crushing blow, in which he ultimately lost a leg above the knee, and all the assurances he lived by.

For nearly 20 years after the accident, his behavior alienated family and loved ones. He has an older sister and younger brother; a stepbrother in Houston; twin 26-year-old daughters who live in Fort Ogden; and a 22-year-old son in Naples, where Mr. Ayers and his wife, Diana, also live.

In 2005, Mr. Ayers drank himself into a coma. When he woke up, somehow, the anger he felt was gone, replaced by an idea he pursued without hesitation: Miracle Limbs-Courage in Motion, a nonprofit organization he founded. With his volunteer board of directors, Mr. Ayers has been helping amputees, including those coming home from the war in Afghanistan, overcome a variety of hurdles: psychological, medical, financial and spiritual.

Mr. Ayers’ dramatic turnaround surprised his family. “They can’t believe it,” he says. “You make amends once and then let your actions do the talking.”

He says friends warned him to take things slowly with his vision for Miracle Limbs, saying the initial burst of enthusiasm could wear him out. “There were people I knew that said ‘Bob, this is too much of a risk, you’ll be drinking and drugging,’” he says. “My life is not a risk. It’s the ultimate truth for me, and I’m pursuing it fearlessly. I don’t listen to the critics.”

He adds, “I was in the grocery store about six months ago. I always wear shorts, and a lady came up to me — she didn’t even know me — and said, ‘You know, if that happened to me, I’d want someone to pull the plug.’”

Mr. Ayers, on the other hand, has discovered that he wants exactly the opposite. “Life is the ultimate truth for me,” he says.

He runs, cycles, goes to the gym, says his prayers at the end of the day and has been enveloped by a sense of peace. “I’m not embarrassed by my scars anymore,” he says. “This is who I am, and I’m cool with it. I guess you could say I found purpose and meaning in all that suffering I went through — and I want to use it.”
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you could not bring yourself to open your front door and leave the confines of your home? What if the mere thought of getting on a plane to visit family made you break into a cold sweat? For some people tackling these tasks can be a challenge and in some cases — seemingly insurmountable.

Welcome to the world of phobias.

What are phobias?
The Greek word phobia means a strong but irrational fear of something. Phobias affect about 11.5 million U.S. residents or about one in 23 people. The National Institute of Mental Health says that most people feel anxious about something for a short time now and again. However, individuals with anxiety disorders feel this way most of the time. For these folks, fears and worries make it hard to do everyday activities. About 18 percent of American adults have anxiety disorders. Children can also be afflicted, according to the NIMH.

Some phobias, such as agoraphobia, the fear of being in an open space, or social phobias, like the fear of being judged or scrutinized by others, can severely hamper someone’s life and happiness.

What we’re really afraid of
Phobias typically don’t start to just materialize without a cause. “All phobias are a coping mechanism,” said Valerie Sciarretta, a marriage and family counselor based in Punta Gorda. “This is how I am going to face this feeling.”

Famously, environment, culture and an often-traumatic event such as a car accident add to a mix that can create a phobia. For instance, someone who sees his or her parents show fear of snakes or learns that snakes are bad from Bible school might develop a phobia.

“None of these things really happen in a vacuum,” said Ms. Sciarretta. “It’s always important to remember that there are a multitude of factors involved.”

Phobias can also be a symptom of a much greater concern. Death, alienation and fear of our own limitations — issues that most people would rather stuff in the deepest crevices of the mind rather than face — can sometimes take on different, albeit safer, symbols such as snakes, dark rooms or the bogeymen.

Dr. Rose Thorn, a Fort Myers psychologist, said this is called connecting phobias. “We distract ourselves with phobias,” Dr. Thorn said. “There are a lot of people who don’t go on the freeway at all.”

Some people will not get in a dentist chair. They risk major pain and serious medical problems due to fear of dental work.

“It’s the anxiety that keeps people from coming in,” said Terry Corke, an administrator at Laser Dentistry in Fort Myers. “It’s very real. It would be just like throwing them in a room full of snakes.”

Tarantulas are big, hairy spiders that can cause a strong but irrational fear called arachnophobia.

Faces of phobia
Shawn McKeilv, a Fort Myers resident, must take a deep breath and steel herself when approaching bridges. Years ago, she used to have to drive to and from St. Petersburg — but not without anguish and anxiety as she approached the towering Sunshine Skyway Bridge.

“At the time I thought I was going to have a heart attack,” Ms. McKeilv said.

She cited an ominous dream in which she had a stroke on a bridge as the reason that led to her phobia. Throughout her life, anything with height and intense drops, such as roller coasters, frightened the typically no-nonsense professional.

Many people with phobias try their best to work around their fears or simply accept it. For instance, Ms. Basile, an artist and business woman who is terrified of closed spaces — a phobia she said harkens to a childhood event in Germany when she became stuck in a small enclosure — forces herself to deal with the fear despite the anxiety.

Denise Zymba of Punta Gorda breaks a sweat and becomes anxious when confined to small spaces such as on an airplane. She attributes her claustrophobia to the boisterous behavior of her three brothers. Ms. Zymba said her older brothers used to put a beanbag chair on her head and then sit on it.

“I do deal with it because I love to travel,” she said.

Most of the phobias seem to have a starting point in childhood. Sanibel artist Myra Roberts does not like elevators after being stuck in one at the age of 8. Kim Little, a veterinarian technician at Visca- ya-Prado Veterinary Hospital in Cape Coral, said she spent many years of her life fearfully riding elevators because her dad was afraid of them.

Ria Brown, the public information officer for Lee County Domestic Animal Services in Fort Myers, worked through an entrenched fear of snakes. She remembers at the start of her humane society career being in a truck during an assignment with a snake tackled inside a pillowcase.

Top phobias:
• 1. Public speaking
• 2. Flying in an airplane
• 3. Insects, spiders

Source: Dr. Russell A. Sabella, professor and department head of counseling in the College of Education, Florida Gulf Coast University.

Some unusual phobias:
• Ornithophobia – fear of birds
• Ablutophobia – fear of washing or bathing
• Geopgraphophobia – fear of being tickled
• Pteronophobia – fear of being tickled
• Oenophobia – fear of wine

There are about 11.5 million sufferers in the U.S. and 2.5 million in the UK. Approximately 19.1 million American adults aged between 18 and 54 (13.3 percent of people in this age group in a given year have an anxiety disorder.

Almost 6.2 million U.S. citizens have some sort of specific phobia. All three types of phobia, social, agoraphobia and specific are likely to effect between five and 10 people in every 1,000. Females are more prone to irrational fears than males. Phobia statistics consider that roughly twice as many women as men suffer from panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, generalized anxiety disorder and specific phobia through about equal numbers of women and men have obsessive-compulsive disorder and social phobia.

Only about 20 percent of specific phobias go away on their own for adults.

Source: www.phobia-help.com
“We’re always trying to have a sense of what’s going on. We distract ourselves with phobias. Phobias are essentially not remembering the essence of what’s really bothering us.”

Dr. Rose Thorn, Fort Myers psychologist

“The good news is anything that is learned can be unlearned,” said Dr. Mark Corke, of Laser Dentistry in Fort Myers, uses a variety of ways to help people overcome their dental fears. Oral sedation, laser drills and good old-fashioned compassion help alleviate his patients’ apprehensions. “I try to be very patient and understanding,” Dr. Corke said.

He estimates that 25 percent of the patients he sees experience major dental fears. Some of these patients have had to endure emergency dental visits because of being too fearful of going to regular dentist appointments.

“We work to break those fears,” he said. “Understanding the person and their fear is vital to a successful treatment.”

Dr. Thorn said creating a narrative of the individual to see why they are afraid of something is important to treatment. Controlled exposure and empowering the client with the right tools will help them recover.

“But for those who feel their phobia goes beyond the ordinary, some psychic healers offer treatment. At the Masters of Healing and Light Center in Fort Myers, owner and psychic Jennie Martin said they can use regression to bring a person back to the point that a phobia developed — whether in this lifetime or another. She maintains that by using intuition and healing the soul a phobia can be eased. ‘I find it very effective,’” Ms. Martin said.

Most professionals will agree however that exposure is the key for treating most phobias. Depending on the severity of the phobia it can take about 12 weeks to treat — though people should start seeing results in about three to four weeks, Dr. Sabella said.

Giving phobias the boot

Some people try to work through their phobias on their own. Ms. McKelvie made a dent in her bridges phobia last year on a trip to Mexico. While on the trip, she convinced herself to try riding a zip line — a cable/pulley mechanism suspended high in the air.

“I didn’t want to disappoint my husband,” she said. “I think that was the start of helping.”

Ms. Basile uses therapeutic techniques such as positive self-talk to work through her fear of closed spaces. And Ms. Brown worked to overcome her fear of snakes by gradually exposing herself to them.

“It took me a while before I could actually touch it,” she said. “I am fine with them now. I realize there are good and bad snakes. They don’t scare me.”

Ms. Liles squashed her spider fear by making them her pets. At one point, the woman who couldn’t bear to be in the room with a spider kept more that 125 spiders. She even holds some of the more docile hairy arachnids, “I am a recovered phobe,” Ms. Liles said. She recalled how her father’s fear of spiders led to her own fear. She used to spray the house with bug spray at the sign of a spider. One day she told herself that the fear was irrational and picked up a spider. She continued to handle them despite her reaction.

“My palms would sweat,” she said. “Now I have over 50 spiders.”

Future treatment

Techniques such as empowering a person to go back to the time before they had the phobia holds promise, Dr. Sabella said.

He hopes Southwest Florida can some day have an anxiety and phobia center. A specialized clinic could hold instruments and specialized equipment that might help people overcome their fears using that latest treatments. Some of this equipment would include a virtual reality simulator that allows a patient to be gradually exposed to their fear and work through it.

Right now people needing help for anxiety and phobias must seek individual counselors but a center would be a clearinghouse for people challenged with phobias and anxieties. It would facilitate matching patients with the right treatments and therapists.

“There’s definitely a need here,” he said.


"The past is never dead; it is not even past." — William Faulkner

Mr. Faulkner would have loved the eatery I visited last Friday, as it is a microcosm of many Southern towns. He would have right at home sitting at the counter, giving his order to Jackie Nash, an old timer whose initials were lovingly carved into the trunk of N.P. Sloan’s banyan sapling planted in 1918 (just down from the Pier). He would have been just as comfortable seated in a booth with some of the others who frequent the diner, old timers and notables such as the great nephew of Lester Norris, Phil Collins and even City Councilwoman Dee Sulick.

Mr. Faulkner’s quote was a befitting reference to spirit me toward this column. His writings were rooted in compassion-ate humanism that embraced the tragic, edgy, spirit and humor of everyday life; his literary brilliance was in unique reference to spirit me toward this column. His writings were rooted in compassion-ate humanism that embraced the tragic, edgy, spirit and humor of everyday life; his literary brilliance was in unique reference to spirit me toward this column. His writings were rooted in compassion-ate humanism that embraced the tragic, edgy, spirit and humor of everyday life; his literary brilliance was in unique reference to spirit me toward this column. His writings were rooted in compassion-ate humanism that embraced the tragic, edgy, spirit and humor of everyday life; his literary brilliance was in unique

Everyone at the table responded with shock to hear that the club denied the former judge her membership renewal. Almost perfectly in unison, each of the four old timers dropped the right side of his chin toward the left side of his chest, like a snap of the wrist when bringing in mullet (or so I am told). Roughly translated, the gesture meant: “It don’t make no sense.” The moment imprinted a smile on my heart. If you’re not busy tomorrow around lunchtime, come on down to Fine Fixin’s for fried mullet and grits. Not only will you have a fine meal, you’ll find the past perfectly in unison, each of the four old timers dropped the right side of his chin toward the left side of his chest, like a snap of the wrist when bringing in mullet (or so I am told). Roughly translated, the gesture meant: “It don’t make no sense.” The moment imprinted a smile on my heart. If you’re not busy tomorrow around lunchtime, come on down to Fine Fixin’s for fried mullet and grits. Not only will you have a fine meal, you’ll find the past

If you’re not busy tomorrow around lunchtime, come on down to Fine Fixin’s for fried mullet and grits. Not only will you have a fine meal, you’ll find the past

As I looked around, I thought this must be like the days when they’d all crowd into the booth at the Beach Store on Third Street South to await the mail delivery. Sitting at Fine Fixin’s were some notable names in local history, including Morgan, Storter, Turner and Thigpen.

I stood and talked to Nick Turner (Pap- py’s grandson) and Grant Thigpen, and then went over and pulled up a chair to “sit a spell” at the booth that hosted Johnny Morgan, whose great-great grandfa- ther, W.T. Collier, once owned 95 percent of Marco Island (Collier City) and Bern Storter, whose great-great grandfather, G.W. Storter, founded Everglades City. Chili Williams, who came in 1948, and Rodney Earnshaw, who got here in 1927 because his father thought Miami was too crowded, rounded out the booth — which, with the addition of my chair, became crowded.

First thoughts were on the recent pass- ing of Buba Frank, whose father, Ed, invented the Swamp Buggy and had the first strip mall on Fifth Avenue South. It seems that Buba’s funeral had standing room only and started 30 minutes late due to the crowd.

Sitting at Fine Fixin’s were some notable names in local history, including Morgan, Storter, Turner and Thigpen.

When told that Sue Smith, the iconic city government watchdog (truly a pedigree), and a group of other old tim- ers including Lynn Hixon Holley (Naples’ first woman attorney and judge) had recently filed a suit against the Naples Woman’s Club for not letting members see the financials of a sale of property, Mr. Williams remarked, “That Sue is one woman who will not stop until she gets to the bottom of what she’s after. Just ask the mayor. He’ll tell you.”

At Fine Fixin’s at lunchtime on a recent Friday: Ben Storter and Johnny Morgan, on left, with Rodney Earnshaw and Chili Williams.

If you’re not busy tomorrow around lunchtime, come on down to Fine Fixin’s for fried mullet and grits. Not only will you have a fine meal, you’ll find the past is anything but dead, and the spirit of Mr. Faulkner’s stream of consciousness is most welcomed.

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ORAL HISTORIES NOW SHOWING AT THE NEW COTTAGE THEATER

The Naples Historical Society has opened its Cottage Theater, a 16-seat venue where visitors to historic Palm Cottage can view the society’s “Oral History Premier.” The theater and 24-minute film are an extension of “Naples Oral Histories: If These Walls Could Talk.” The ongoing project focuses on researching, filming and videotaping descendant interviews of select Neapolitans who contributed to the early growth of the city. Along with the feature film, individual oral histories will be shown at the Cottage Theater. The schedule for these stories is as follows:

- March 9-20: Mary Watkins, The Watkins Family, owners of the Naples fishing family
- April 6-17: Irvie and David Weeks, both lifelong residents of Naples (Mr. Weeks is a fourth-generation descendant of Madison Weeks)
- April 20-May 1: Vera and Bob Lindabury, who owned the Corbin Lindabury Nursery

The Cottage is open from 1-4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The request for donation is $8 per person and includes a visit to the Cottage Theater. For more information, visit www.NaplesHistorical.com or call 261-8646.

Celebration at the Garden will include grant awards from 2010 wine festival

On the heels of the 10th anniversary of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, a community celebration and charitable grant presentation, has been set for 1-5 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at the Naples Botanical Garden. This special, first-time event celebrates the Naples Children & Education Foundation’s 10 years of transforming children’s lives in Collier County — made possible through the generosity of festival patrons, sponsors, celebrity chefs and vintners and widespread community support. In 10 years, the festival has raised $82.6 million; proceeds have benefited nearly 100,000 underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County.

The “Ten Years of Transforming Children’s Lives” check presentation and community celebration will showcase three of Naples’ most successful homegrown organizations: NCEF, the founding organization of the Naples Winter Wine Festival; Naples Originals, the independent restaurants group; and the world-class, newly expanded Naples Botanical Garden. At the event, representatives from 20 local children’s charities will be awarded NCEF grants, and funding allocations will be announced for the foundation’s newest strategic initiative: children’s behavioral health.

In addition to presentations occurring throughout the event, the Garden will encompass a festival atmosphere with games for children and adults, wine tastings and a buffet of the culinary specialties of Naples Originals restaurants, which will also be celebrating its first food festival in honor of NCEF’s record-setting 10 years of giving.

“This event brings together three entities that began as grassroots organizations and that all have grown into significant forces for our community,” says Anne Welsh McNulty, NCEF trustee and the foundation’s grant chair for 2010. Naples Originals is among the strongest groups of independent restaurateurs in the country as measured by Flavor Technology’s Nathan Schmidt. The 170-acre Garden has broken the traditional boundaries of how gardens are experienced by the public. And the NWWF has been ranked as the most successful charity wine auction in the nation by Wine Spectator since 2004.

Tickets to the April 18 celebration are $50 per person, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting NCEF. Children 16 and younger will be admitted free.


See the historical sites on Everglades City tour

The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation invites the public to walk through public and private buildings dating back to the days before drive-throughs and strip malls dominated the landscape.

Public buildings on the tour from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, March 13, are Everglades City Community Church, the Everglades Isle clubhouse and the Rod & Gun Club, the society’s headquarters for its historic homes and buildings tour.

Registration is at the Rod & Gun Club, where participants receive a booklet and map that guides them to the city’s houses and buildings that will be open to the public for the day. Take a break at the lodge and relax on the scenic porch overlooking the river or wander through the lobby where there will be exhibits and signings by local artists and authors.

The history tour benefits a campaign to install historical signage in front of the many of Everglades City’s oldest buildings. Tickets are $20 per person.

For more information, call 695-4642 or visit www.evergladeshistorical.org.

The Rod & Gun Club is historic tour headquarters.
Residents and visitors alike will flip for the Goodland Civic Association’s next pancake breakfast and garage sale coming up Saturday and Sunday, March 6-7, at the Goodland Community Center in the town’s former fire station.

Volunteers served nearly 200 people at the January pancake breakfast and expect to feed even more this weekend. Breakfast will be served from 8-130 a.m. both days. Cost is $5 for adults and $3 for children.

Raffle tickets will be sold both days for a $100 gift basket from Island Woman, $50 worth of services from All Marine Services, an Easter-themed gift basket, a case of white wine, a garage-workshop gift basket and a wine-and-cheese gift basket, all donated by Goodland merchants. Raffle tickets are $1 each or six for $5. The winning tickets will be drawn after breakfast on Sunday. Although winners will be notified by telephone if not present, prizes must be picked up by 1 p.m. Monday, March 8; prizes cannot be shipped.

All proceeds from the pancake breakfast and the garage sale will help the association make improvements to the community center.

"You want fries with that?"
David Fuller seems to be saying.

Pancakes, raffle, garage sale will help fund improvements to Goodland Community Center

Women’s bar association honors two Collier County pioneers

Naples Backyard History wants Collier County residents and visitors alike to know that the Naples Pier was built in 1888, and that the city’s first mayor, Spencer Menefer, served for a total of 15 minutes. Preserving fun trivia like this as well as supporting the groups and museums that curate the supporting documents and photographs that detail Collier County’s past is why NBYH exists.

The Collier County Women’s Bar Association will raise money for the Naples Philharmonic Orchestras Feeding America throughout America collected more than 200,000 packages, representing all 50 states, Orchestras Feeding America will use the collected food donations nationwide. The local effort will benefit the Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida.

The Naples Philharmonic Orchestra teams up with orchestras across the country for Orchestras Feeding America, a national food drive sponsored by the League of American Orchestras to encourage food donations nationwide. The local effort will benefit the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

Performing with the orchestra will be Lynn Hixon-Holley, Collier County’s first female attorney and judge, and Mary Ellen Hawkins, the first woman elected to represent District 89 in the Florida Legislature.

NBYH’s Florida History Fair fund drive is the association’s first pioneering Tribute from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 22, at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. Honored guests will include José Antonio Pérez, the provost of the University of Havana; Lynn Hixon-Holley; Collier County’s first female attorney and judge; and Mary Ellen Hawkins, the first woman elected to represent District 89 in the Florida Legislature.

For more information and reservations, call 231-5774.

Women’s bar association honors two Collier County pioneers

Naples Philharmonic joins orchestras across the country in food drive

The Naples Philharmonic Orchestra teams up with orchestras across the country for Orchestras Feeding America, a national food drive sponsored by the League of American Orchestras to encourage food donations nationwide. The local effort will benefit the Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida.

The orchestra will collect canned goods and non-perishable items from March 23-28, during Pops #3, “Favorite Melodies: Classic to Celtic” at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. Donations will be accepted at each performance; those who donate a concert ticket but would still like to participate can drop off canned goods in the lobby at the Phil any day between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Last year, with more than 250 orchestras representing all 50 states, Orchestras Feeding America collected more than 200,000 pounds of food for local communities.

Foods most needed are dry soup, rice, powdered canned milk, macaroni and cheese, cereal, peanut butter, beans, canned fruits and vegetables, tuna, canned meats, stew, soup, pasta and fruit juices. Food that cannot be accepted are anything in a glass jar or bottle, unlabeled or dented cans, any opened or resealed packages, perishable foods, homemade foods, expired products, monetary donations, clothing, diapers or other non-food items.

“Favorite Melodies: Classic to Celtic” features the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly. The “Classic” first half of the program will feature familiar hits as “Thanks for the Memory,” Gershwin’s “Lullaby,” an Irving Berlin overture and “America the Beautiful.” The “Celtic” second half will include “O Danny Boy,” “Lord of the Dance,” traditional Irish songs and Scottish dance tunes.

Performing with the orchestra will be renowned tenor Benjamin Brecher. The concerts take place at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, March 23-26, and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 27-28. For ticket information, call 597-1900 or visit www.thephil.org.

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Republican women will hear from author

Political thriller author Karma Bodman (“Checkmate,” “Final Finesse” and “ Gambit”), former senior director of the National Security Council under President Ronald Reagan, will be the guest speaker when the Women’s Republican Club of Naples Federated Inc. meets on Friday, March 12, at the Country Club of Naples. Social hour begins at 11:30 a.m., and luncheon and the program begin at noon. Cost is $30. For reservations, call Pat Wagner at 598-9032. For more information about the club, call 566-8138.

Zonta fashion show will help PACE girls

The Zonta Club of Naples will hold its Spring Fashion Show and Fundraiser for PACE Center for Girls, Immokalee, and the Naples Teenage Parenting Program at 11 a.m. Friday, March 26, at The Strand Country Club. Tickets are $80. For more information and reservations, call 598-9028.

Italian comedy, arts and crafts on tap

The Naples Italian American Club presents an evening of comedic skits, one act performed in English and then in Italian, by the Kairos Italy Theater of New York on Sunday, March 14. Doors open at 4 p.m. A traditional Feast of St. Joseph dinner will be served at 5 p.m., followed by the show at 6:30 p.m.

Led by Laura Caparrotti, the Kairos Italy Theater is dedicated to creating a cultural network to support and increase the knowledge of Italy in the United States. Ms. Caparrotti wrote and stars in the skit titled “ABC, L’Italiano s’impara Così (How to Learn Italian in One Hour).” As the despotic teacher-diva Miss Margherita, she delivers an unforgettable lesson in the language, culture, art and tradition of Italy by exploring the stereotypes for which the country is known around the world: Amore (love), Buono (good, as in Italian food) and Citta’ (cities, including Italian dialects).

Cost is $25 for NIAC members and $35 for non-members. For reservations or more information, call 577-5210.

Also coming up is the Seventh Annual Naples Italian-American Arts & Crafts Festival set for Wednesday and Thursday, March 17-18. In addition to art and handmade crafts by more than 100 artisans, the festival will have a feast of homemade Italian specialties for sale, including ziti marinara, eggplant rollatino, chicken cacciatore, meatballs, hot and sweet sausages, tossed green salad and zeppoli pastries.

Admission is free both days. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 17 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 18. All proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Southwest Florida.

Carve out time for Bonita Wood Carvers show

Experienced and novice woodcarvers will exhibit their work and demonstrate various techniques at the annual Bonita Wood Carvers Exhibit from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at the Estero Community & Recreation Center, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd. Admission and parking are free.

Attendees will be able to view carvings from recent competitions as well as completed projects and carvings in progress. Wood carving supplies and equipment will be available for purchase.

The Bonita Wood Carvers meet on Wednesday afternoons throughout the year at the Estero Community & Recreation Center. For more information, call Chet Frye at 826-5388.

Ikebana artists plan annual exhibit

The Naples Chapter of Ikebana International holds its annual exhibition of arrangements using live flowers on Friday and Saturday, March 12-13, at Moorings Presbyterian Church. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 12 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 13. The show will feature nearly 100 designs from three different schools of Ikebana, all following the theme of Hanabi Matsu (Fire Flower Festival). Diane Leone will give a formal demonstration at 1 p.m. Friday, March 12; informal demonstrations will take place and the ginza (market) for Ikebana items will be open throughout both days of the exhibition (sorry, no credit cards). Admission is $5 (children admitted free). For more information, call Stephanie English at 390-2881 or visit www.Ikebananaples.com.
Champion sailor will address local club

Champion sailor Bob Billingham will share his unique perspective on America’s Cup and Olympic action at the Gulf Coast Sailing Club’s next regular meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, at Hampton Harbor Yacht Club. Members and guests are welcome.

Mr. Billingham, who has won both an America’s Cup and an Olympic medal, will provide an insider’s view on the recent America’s Cup contest in Spain. In his sixth term as a member of the U.S. Olympic Sailing Committee, he serves a member of U.S. Sailing’s nominating and governance committees, and he leads two sailing foundations. He is president of the St. Francis Yacht Club Foundation and CEO of AmericaOne, both of which support Olympic campaigns, disabled sailing organizations and community sailing programs.

For more information about the Gulf Coast Sailing Club, call Commodore Jim Gunderson at 261-2222 or visit www.GulfCoastSailingClub.org.

Get ready, get set to Race for the Cure

The 2010 Susan G. Komen Southwest Florida Race for the Cure takes place Saturday, March 13, at Coconut Point in Estero. More than 8,100 people participated in last year’s race and raised more than $894,000. The local Komen affiliate provides grants to nonprofit organizations that provide education, screening, treatment and support for breast cancer patients in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties. Seventy-five percent of net proceeds from Race for the Cure stays in Southwest Florida; 25 percent goes toward national research programs.

Individual and team registration is available online at www.komenswfl.org. For more information, visit the Web site or call 498-0016.

Everblades evening benefits Autism Speaks

Join the Florida Everblades for a fun family night that benefits Autism Speaks. For every ticket sold, Autism Speaks will receive $8 to help fund research into the causes, prevention and treatments for autism. The game pitting the Everblades against the South Carolina Stingrays starts at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 19.

Tickets are $15. Contact Elly Hagen at 994-3927 or hagenemem@gmail.com.

Walk for AIDS at Cambier Park

The Island Coast AIDS Network holds the fifth annual Southwest Florida AIDS Walk on Saturday, April 3, at Cambier Park. The walk is open to everyone, and participants can choose between a 5K run or a one-mile stroll. Four-legged friends are also welcome to participate.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. with the walk/run starting at 10 a.m. A $25 registration fee includes a T-shirt and favors from sponsors and area merchants. For more information, call Mitch Haley at 337-2399, ext. 211, or e-mail mahaley@icinanow.org.

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Women of all angling abilities can learn or fine-tune their fishing skills at the Ladies, Let’s Go Fishing! seminar March 19-21 at the Naples Harbour Yacht Club. Hotel accommodations are available at the nearby Lemon Tree Inn.

Held in conjunction with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the seminar kicks off with networking and happy hour from 6-8 p.m. Friday, March 19, at the Naples Harbour Yacht Club. The classroom portion starts at 8 a.m. Saturday, March 20. Topics include rod and reel basics, inshore, offshore-bottom and fly-fishing. Hands-on fishing stations include conservation techniques, spin casting, net casting, landing and releasing, trailer backing, fly casting, knot tying, gaffing grapefruits, boat handling and reeling against pressure. Participants have the option to practice their newly learned skills from either a bay/back-country or group boat, followed by a fillet demonstration on Sunday, March 21.

The series is held in conjunction with the FWC through the Sport Fish Restoration Program with major partners Ranger, BoatUS Angler Insurance, Gulfstream International Airlines, Minn Kota, Hummingbird and Magic Tilt Trailers.

Regular registration is $25 up to a week before the event and $45 for walk-ins and the week of the event. Registration includes instruction, use of equipment, networking reception, silent auction, meals, goody bags and more. The Sunday fishing adventure with tackle and bait provided is an additional cost.

For reservations and more information, call (888) 800-5366, e-mail innmanager@lemontreeinn.com or visit www.lemontreeinn.com. For more information about the seminar, visit www.ladiesletsgofishing.com.

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COURTESY PHOTO
Despite the chill and some downpours, the Great Venetian Duck Race made a big splash with young and old alike who braved the elements to raise money for the Children’s Museum of Naples on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Helen Catlin / Florida Weekly

THE GREAT VENETIAN DUCK RACE

Joe Cox, executive director of C’mon, holds up the winning duck.

Magnus Joslin sporting his great duck tattoo

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The von Liebig Art Center is accepting registration for children ages 4-14 to learn the “art” of enjoying summer break during its 12th annual ARTScool program. With more than 40 classes in painting, drawing, sculpture, clay modeling, photography and much more, all taught by professional artists, ARTScool sessions will run June 14-Aug. 13 at the center in downtown Naples. Highlights include: Go Fly a Kite, Under the Big Top, Marvelous Mosaics, Digital Photography, Sunsets and Sandcastles (uses real sand and sea shells), Wild Things (art based on exotic animals) and Enviro Art: Florida Fish, Fish and Birds and Mammals.

Classes are held from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday; half and full-day sessions are offered, plus a supervised lunch hour (lunch not provided) that includes playtime in Cambier Park.

A late summer exhibition features work by all students, and a closing reception on Aug. 15 brings together students, their families and instructors to celebrate the creativity of the young artists. Select pieces go on view at Naples City Hall from August through January.

Each half-day class is $180 for Naples Art Association members and $225 for non-members. Financial assistance and talent-based scholarships for students ages 9-14 are available, the deadline to apply is April 30.

For a full list of classes, visit www.naplesart.org. Summer 2010 ARTScool sponsors include the Barron Collier Jr. Foundation, Whole Foods Market and Literary Council of Collier County. Additional sponsors include the Collier Foundation, Whole Foods Market and sponsors include the Barron Collier Jr. Foundation, Whole Foods Market and Literary Council of Collier County. Additional sponsors include the Collier Foundation, Whole Foods Market and Literary Council of Collier County. Additional sponsors include the Collier Regional Park. Representatives from Parks and Recreation.

Collier County has first-ever Summer Camp Expo

Collier County Parks and Recreation hosts its inaugural Summer Camp Expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 20, in the exhibit hall at North Collier Regional Park. Representatives from numerous summer programs will be on hand with registration information and details.

The expo is an effort to help parents have an easier time of making a summer camp choice, especially since so many groups host camps with different activities and themes, says Shari Ferguson, regional manager for Collier County Parks and Recreation.

Every agency competes to attract campers, and not every camp fits every child. Some vendors offer lower cost- ing camps and partial day programs, while others have full-length sessions that include field trips and lunch. Several agencies also offer therapeutic programs for special needs campers.

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Fundraisers pave the way for St. Patrick’s Day Parade

The 32nd annual Naples St. Patrick’s Day Parade takes place Saturday, March 13, beginning at 9:30 a.m. with the 17th annual flag raising at the Dock at Cayton Cove. The parade will commence at 11 a.m. and follow its traditional route through Old Naples. This year’s theme, “A Salute to the Irish in America,” will honor the estimated 35.4 million Americans who claim Irish ancestry. Grand marshal is Jack Dempsey, who has been the official St. Patrick in the city’s parade for 15 years. “It is appropriate that we dedicate this year’s parade to the Irish in America and to Jack Dempsey, his wife, children and grandchildren, who reflect all that is good in America today,” says Jim McEvoy, retired Naples fire chief and the new chairman of the parade. Mr. McEvoy expects nearly 40,000 people will turn out to celebrate Irish heritage and culture in America. He assumed the chairman’s role when John Finnegan stepped down after running the parade for 10 years. “Our parade this year promises to be better than ever,” Mr. McEvoy says, “with many years in the restaurant business, Mr. Dempsey is no stranger to accolades for his dedication to things Irish, including being named Irishman of the Year by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division Three.”

Tickets for both parade fundraisers are available by calling 436-0050 or visiting www.stpatricksparadenaples.com.

McCabe’s Irish Pub is hosting two St. Patrick’s Day celebrations this year. The first will take place Saturday, March 13, in conjunction with Naples St. Patrick’s Day Parade. McCabe’s offers prime seating for the parade, along with a selection of the finest import ales, stouts, whiskies and brews. After the parade, McCabe’s will continue the party with live entertainment, featuring Irish and American performers, a traditional menu of Irish favorites, and several outdoor bars available until 6 p.m. The second celebration is on St. Patrick’s Day, Wednesday, March 17, when McCabe’s hosts an all-day Irish extravaganza. The pub will open at 9:30 a.m. and will serve favorites from the Emerald Isle, such as Irish stew and corned beef and cabbage. Reuben sandwiches, chicken pot pie, hamburgers and hotdogs will also be on the menu. Guests can “Shamrock-n-Roll” until midnight to the tunes of Irish, Michael Angelo, West of Galway, Jerry Pellegrino and more. For more information, call The Inn on Fifth at 403-8777.

Ave Maria celebrates a touch of the Irish

Ave Maria celebrates the Wearing of the Green with fun for the entire family from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 6, in the Ave Maria Town Center. In addition to traditional Irish food and drink, the program will offer the West of Galway Irish band performing from noon to 2 p.m. A golf cart parade also will be part of the festivities, and activities for kids will include a craft tent, bounce house, gladiator joust and face painting. Admission is free, and ample parking is available behind the Town Center buildings. Ave Maria is the intersection of Oil Well and Camp Keais Roads in eastern Collier County. The main entrance, on Oil Well and Camp Keais Roads in eastern Collier County, leads to the community’s sales center. For more information, call 262-2606 or visit www.avemaria.com.
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  - STK: LA5108

- **MSRP**: $41,695
- **Sam’s Disc**: $3,146
- **Lincoln Rebate**: $1,500

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**NEW 2010 LINCOLN MKZ SPORT**

- **White Platinum Over Steel Gray Leather, Heated and Cooled Seats, Split-Wing Grille, And With The Complete Sport Package This Is Sport Wrapped In Luxury**

  - VIN: 3LABJ43780
  - STK: INC

- **MSRP**: $43,635
- **Sam’s Disc**: $2,858
- **Lincoln Rebate**: $3,500

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**NEW 2010 LINCOLN MKX SPORT**


  - VIN: 3LABJ58620
  - STK: INC

- **MSRP**: $40,083
- **Sam’s Disc**: $2,858
- **Lincoln Rebate**: $3,500

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**NEW 2010 LINCOLN MKX PREMIER**


  - VIN: 3LABJ15780
  - STK: INC

- **MSRP**: $40,083
- **Sam’s Disc**: $2,858
- **Lincoln Rebate**: $3,500

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AZ/DX Plan Headquarters Pin# Assistance Onsite
The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge and other conservation organizations kick off a month of Save the Panther activities at the Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens on Saturday, March 6. It’s a free zoo admission day for Collier County residents.

Events throughout the month will culminate in the state’s official Save the Panther Day on March 20 being celebrated at Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. The day at the Zoo provides an opportunity to meet panther experts and get a first-hand look at what’s being done to save the Florida state animal as to learn how to best live together with them. Zoo guests can get involved with panther efforts by joining the Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge. They can also meet representatives from the CREW Land and Water Trust, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Big Cypress National Preserve, Collier County Sea Turtle Protection Program and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Larry Richardson will answer questions during “Meet the Biologist” presentations at noon and 2 p.m. at the Zoo’s Panther Glade habitat. Created in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation, the Panther Glade features large glass panels that allow guests to have a close look at the animal. Mr. Richardson has served as biologist at Florida Panther Refuge since it opened in 1989.

Other events planned as part of Save the Panther activities include:

- **Friday, March 12, 6-9 p.m.** — Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge "Claw for the Paws" at Rookeyry Bay, Wine and cheese reception, silent auction, book signing and panther capture team. For tickets and more information, call 353-8442, ext. 229, before March 5.
- **Saturday, March 13, 9 a.m.-noon** — Photography workshop led by biologist Larry Richardson at the Florida Panther Refuge. Explore our wild places. Photographic techniques taught at various stations. Swamp walk optional. RSVP March 9-22 at 353-8442, ext. 229.
- **Monday, March 15, 1-4 p.m.** — Swamp walk at the Fakahatchee with Mike Owen. Explore the "Amazon of Southwest Florida" with Mr. Owen as he shares his passion for the Fakahatchee and opens your senses to a whole new world. RSVP required by calling 353-8442, ext. 229.
- **Tuesday, March 16, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** — Panther presentation led by Lisa Hamilton at Naples Preserve. The talk is followed by a free lunch. RSVP required by calling 261-4290 or e-mailing PreserveCaptains@aol.com.
- **Wednesday, March 17, 8:30-5 p.m.** — Naples Preserve hosts Discovery Club with the Rangers afterschool program. Kids ages 6-10 will enjoy a special panther activity day. RSVP required by calling 261-4290 or e-mailing PreserveCaptains@aol.com.
- **Wednesday, March 17, 1-10 p.m.** — Party for the Panthers celebrating St. Patrick’s Day at Cathy O’Clarke’s Irish Pub on Marco Island. Advance tickets available for $5. Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge. Call 353-8442, ext. 229, or e-mail lisa_andrews@nps.gov.
- **Thursday, March 18, 9 a.m.-noon** — Biking Bear Island at Big Cypress National Preserve. Rangers from Big Cypress take visitors out to explore a nature trail. Reserve your spot by calling Lisa Andrews at 642-5472 or e-mailing lisa_andrews@nps.gov.
- **Saturday, March 20, 8 a.m.-noon** — Everglades bike rides are a benefit for River of Grass Greenway. Challenge yourself with cycling trips available from 8 miles up to 82 miles with support. Registration details online at www.evergladesgreen.org/egsladridel03.htm.
- **Saturday, March 20, 8 a.m.-noon** — Save the Panther Day at the Florida Panther Refuge. Open house, swamp buggy rides, nature talks and trail walks, guided plant ID hikes, orchid swamp walks and guided bird watching hikes as well as exhibits, guest speakers and a hot dog lunch. RSVP March 9-19. Space is limited. Sign up by calling 353-8442, ext. 229.
- **Sunday, March 28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** — Panther Prowl Poker Run. Come prowl for the panthers with the Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge. This 116-mile ride is for motorcycles and cars. Call Lisa at 642-5472.

For more information about Save the Panther activities, visit www.floridapanther.org.
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‘Jersey Boys’ star has a local connection
Great aunt always knew he would be a star

BY KELLY MERRITT
Special To Florida Weekly

“...I told him he would be a star,” Rose Abbood says about her great nephew, Joseph Leo Bwarie. Those words would turn out to be a prophecy for the singer who plays Frankie Valli in the national touring production of the blockbuster show “Jersey Boys.”

Aside from delivering hit performances to sold-out audiences night after night at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers through March 7, however, Mr. Bwarie’s top priority on this leg of the tour is visiting with his Great Aunt Rose at her home in Naples. Mrs. Abbood also has three children who live in Naples.

When he was a student at Emerson College in Boston, Mr. Bwarie often took the train to Mrs. Abbood’s house in the country on weekends.

“Aunt Rose is my grandmother’s sister, one of seven children and 88 years old, but you’d never know it,” he says about the person who taught him and his brother the “Hustle” in a backyard dance lesson when they were kids.

“Aunt Rose called me Gene Kelly, and my brother John was Fred Astaire,” he adds. “Aunt Rose was Isadora Duncan — and although we didn’t know who Isadora was, if Aunt Rose wanted to be her we knew she must have been great.”

The first time Mrs. Abbood saw her great nephew as Frankie Valli in “Jersey Boys,” she says, “I just started crying. I remembered all the songs, remembering singing them myself when I was young. We had good times in those days, when you didn’t need too much money and just got together to have fun.”

Mr. Bwarie boasts that his Aunt Rose can sing the songs from “Jersey Boys” right along with her grandchildren.

“That’s the power of ‘Jersey Boys’ and Mr. Bwarie’s delivery of the lead character, Mr. Valli. The young actor says he understands and remembers simpler times when family was the tie that binds, and he interprets the ‘Jersey Boys’ story as the high and low points of being committed to important relationships.

“If I think if you’re going to step into the arena of performing or the arts and you have a strong family relationship, you’ll be on more solid ground,” he says. “Including the elder generation in the scope of a family strengthens the whole family.”

Mr. Bwarie never expected “Jersey Boys” to bring him even closer to his already close-knit family, but he says it has done just that. His large family is spread out nationwide, with several family members living in or near the many cities “Jersey Boys” plays.

Mrs. Abbood and Mr. Bwarie both believe today’s technology does more to separate family members than keep them close. Both also believe in the power of the arts to bring families closer together.

“All theater and the arts are so special, because for those two hours, people put all distractions aside,” Mr. Bwarie says. “They’re engaged in the story being told, and the side effect is engaging with the people they went with.”

Mr. Bwarie has performed on the Academy Awards and the Tony Awards, and he originated the role of Chachi in “Happy Days: A New Musical.” Other credits include “The Princess Diaries 2,” “Race to Witch Mountain” and “Valentine’s Day.”

A member of Los Angeles’ award-winning Troubadour Theater Company, he also co-wrote and directed a series of original musicals produced by Garry Marshall’s Falcon Theatre.

Mr. Bwarie opened “Jersey Boys” in Las Vegas before going on tour with the show. For information about tickets to the final performances of “Jersey Boys” at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers, call 458-8449 or visit www.bbbannpah.com.
hematology, oncology and pulmonology to Collier County, as well as dedicated pediatric specialists in occupational therapy, speech therapy and audiology.

Hospital officials are beginning the design phase of the clinic and hope to be open in early fall of 2010.

The clinic will see all children, no matter what their socioeconomic status, and is meant to complement the Chronic Medical Services clinic that has provided services to children with special needs in Collier county for a number of years. The CMS clinic, however, is only for families who qualify for services.

“We see this clinic as an extension to complement the wonderful CMS services that are already being provided,” Dr. Jacuone says. “This clinic will be for children who don’t qualify for CMS, and that’s why we chose a site on Immokalee Road near the CMS clinic. The proximity is there for a reason, for our families and doctors who are accustomed to coming there.”

Up next in the process to bring the pediatric specialty clinic to Naples and Collier County is the second annual Rockabye Collier fundraiser Saturday, March 6, in and around the pavilion at Waterside Shops (see related story, this page).

Unleash your inner rock star at the second annual Rockabye Collier to benefit the Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida from 7-11 p.m. Saturday, March 6. The evening of classic rock ‘n’ roll in and around the pavilion at Watersides Shops will feature performances by the artists of Circus Sarasota, “Dinner by the bite” served by several area restaurants, a Pinnacle vodka martini bar, raffle prizes and a live auction.

Admission is $850 per person, and raffle tickets are $500 each. All proceeds benefit The Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida’s new pediatic outpatient clinic slated to open in the fall of 2010 on Immokalee Road.

Rockabye Collier sponsors are: Circus Sarasota, Fifth Third Bank, Florida Weekly, Naples Illustrated, Norman Love Confections, Stock Development, WAVV 101 and Waterside Shops. Food sponsors are: BrickTop’s, Brio Tuscan Grill, California Pizza Kitchen, Haagen Dazs, McCormick & Schmick’s, Starbucks, Carolina Catering and Pinnacle Vodka.

Donors to the silent auction and raffle are: Amanda Jaron Fine Jewelry, Circus Sarasota, East Indies Trading Company, The Garden District, Hamilton Harbor Yacht Club, Naples Illustrated, Nordstrom, Salvatore Ferragamo, Tiffany & Co., Norman Love Confections, Waterside Shops, All American Dance Studio, Bala Vinyasa Yoga, Bangles & Baubles, BrickTop’s, Christotle, Beach House of Naples, Dock at Crayton Cove, Edward Beiner Eyewear, Gucci, Palm Beach Gardens Mall, MAC Cosmetics-Nordstrom, Saks Fifth Avenue, St. John and Vilbrequin. The event’s “Shop and Share” sponsor is J.Crew, which will donate 10 percent of all sales on Saturday, March 6, to The Children’s Hospital of SWF.

For more information at Rockabye Collier, call 261-6800.

Airport passengers down slightly in January

During January, 78,779 passengers traveled through Southwest Florida International Airport, a decrease of 0.1 percent compared to January 2009.

The traffic leader in January was AirTran with 126,855 passengers traveling to and from Fort Myers. Rounding out the top five airlines were JetBlue (90,714), Northwest (84,487), Delta (80,743) and Southwest (72,279).

Southwest Florida International Airport had 8,397 aircraft movements (takeoffs and landings), an increase of 0.2 percent compared to January 2009. In addition, more than 2.6 million pounds of air freight moved through Southwest Florida International Airport in January.

Southwest Florida International Airport served more than 7.4 million passengers in 2009 and is one of the top 50 U.S. airports for passenger traffic. No ad valorem (property) taxes are used for airport operation or construction. For more information, log onto www.flylcpa.com.
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From the care of premature infants to emergency services and life-saving treatments, The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida is here for our region's children. Whether it's a complex piece of equipment or a simple explanation, the staff has the unique advantage over other area hospitals armed with the tools and training needed to treat the smallest members of our community. The pediatric cancer program has expertly offered specialized care without the burden of families having to travel distances at some of life's most difficult turns.

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

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HEALTHY LIVING

Cancer survivors are at the core of every Relay For Life

What does one do when delivered with a cancer diagnosis? “Fight back, be positive, be proactive and be educated in your own health care,” says Kathleen Coppola.

This year’s chairperson for the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Naples and a twotime cancer survivor, Ms. Coppola’s story begins more than six years ago, when she was diagnosed with bladder cancer. “I knew that in order to manage this fight I needed to stay trained and get involved,” she says.

The Naples relay takes place Friday and Saturday, April 16-17, at Gulfview Middle School. Most of the volunteers on the organizing committee are cancer survivors or caregivers. Their shared passion for patient safety is ferocious. Their time is never-ending. Their passion is inspiring and contagious.

Team development chairperson Amber Grider, the mother of a 2-year-old, was diagnosed with brain cancer more than five ago. Her desire to help came when she attended a Relay For Life “just to walk a lap,” not really knowing what to expect. That one lap turned into many laps, then a personal team of friends and family, and now to an important job on the relay committee. She set up an office in her home and devotes several hours a day to organizing the 100-plus teams that will participate in this year’s event.

What does the relay a passion for some many? “Because without the money raised for research, I would not be here today,” claims Rosalie Seigel, event vicechair. “I have a cancer that relies on clinical trials. The American Cancer Society is a large resource of the dollars granted to research. That makes a huge difference in my treatment.”

A scene from the 2008 Relay For Life of Naples

In observance of World Glaucoma Day, the Naples Lions Club will conduct free vision screenings.

In observance of World Glaucoma Day, the Naples Lions Club will conduct free glaucoma, pressure and vision screenings, as well as field vision testing, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 12, at Lighthouse of Collier headquarters, 457 Bayfront Place.

Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness, but blindness from glaucoma can be prevented by annual eye examinations, early diagnosis and treatment.

The mission of Lighthouse of Collier is to promote the development, implementation and ongoing evaluation of programs of independent education and independence and enhance the quality of life for the blind, visually impaired and their caregivers. For more information, call 430-3934 or visit www.lighthouseofcollier.org.

Marco Pediatrics welcomes new physician

Dr. Patricia Contreras has joined the staff at Collier Health Services/Marco Island Pediatrics. She previously was at the CHS/FSU Immokalee Health Care Center at the Isabel Collier Read Medical Campus in Immokalee. CHS is a non-profit organization that has 12 locations in Collier County and that also staffs the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile. Last year CHS offices cared for more than 60,000 children in Collier County, nearly 70 percent of who were children. CHS/Marco Island Pediatrics is at 404 Heathwood Drive.

Anchor Health welcomes new family doctor

Dr. Richard Gould has joined Anchor Health Centers as a board-certified family medicine physician. Dr. Gould’s practice is at the Edison Village Building, 8860 Sierra Meadows Blvd., and is not associated with Lehigh Regional-Collier Boulevard. He was an attending family practice physician with Lehigh Regional Medical Center and prior to that was an attending physician for urgent care at the Health System of Victoria Cottrell-Neil Clinics in Topoke, Kan.

Originally from London, England, he earned his bachelor’s degree in biochemistry at the University of Illinois Chicago and his Doctor of Medicine at Rush Medical College in Chicago.

Established in 1997, Anchor Health Centers is a physician-owned group of more than 90 health care providers offering a wide range of primary care services. For more information, call 239-694-9400.

Continuing education is an important part of health care

The best health care providers are those who are constantly learning. At NCH, we value continuing education as a way to ensure that our patients will do well. In that context, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Peter Pronovost of Johns Hopkins Medical School, who recently shared his passion for patient safety with an audience of NCH caregivers. Also joining us was Dr. Paul Pronovost, the Johns Hopkins’ William Osler Professor of Medicine and Director of Medicine, and Michael Armstrong, chairman of the board of Johns Hopkins. Dr. Pronovost, a medical doctor as well as a Ph.D., is noted for his groundbreaking work on preventing catheter-related bloodstream infections, which kill as many as 60,000 patients every year in the U.S. In the first year of his pilot program using a simple checklist and teamwork for medical staff, about 30,000 (and $500 million) were saved in Michigan hospitals. Other states, including Florida, are now using his techniques. Dr. Tracy King, NCH’s key contact, and I participate in Florida Hospital Association’s ongoing assimilation of these kinds of best practices.

At his NCH talk, Dr. Pronovost was very much “preaching to the choir.” He recounted the tragic death of a 3-year-old Hopkins patient a decade ago, highlighting the same goals we encourage at NCH: collaboration versus competition, interdependence versus independence, and results versus effort.

He related conversations among Hopkins physicians, nurses and all the front-line caregivers involved in patient care. He stressed the importance of individual units asking the key questions: What is the most likely way the next patient will be hurt? And most important, how can we prevent this? Many fine medical institutions, including NCH, have emulated Johns Hopkins’ evolving focus on patient safety and quality of care. When there is a problem — an incident — we ask: What happened? Why did it happen? How can we reduce the risk? And finally: How do we know we reduced the risk?

Sobering statistics concerning preventable deaths have motivated us for a decade, and we continue to embrace our goals of demonstrated quality, operational efficiency and fiscal responsibility.

Like Johns Hopkins, at NCH we recognize that improving patient safety and quality is a continuous journey. Measuring progress, defining quality, assessing process versus outcomes must be ongoing. And knowing where we are going — having a goal, — keeps us focused and humble as we work to improve.

It’s gratifying that NCH has been recognized many times over the last five years by independent agencies for delivering quality health care; most recently, two weeks ago, for having the best health patient outcomes among the 67 counties in Florida, based on mortality and morbidity.

New at the foundation

Key to supporting our mission of delivering the finest quality health care is the work of our NCH Foundation, which last week welcomed Jim Martin as chief development officer. Mr. Martin has had 28 years of leadership experience, mostly with large health care institutions. We thank Connie Dillon for leading the foundation through this transition and working closely with Jim to continue our mission. Although Ms. Dillon, Mr. Martin, like all of us, are committed to the constant improvement of NCH, in a continuous journey to deliver unpretentious safety and quality to our patients.

— Dr. Allen Weiss is president and CEO of the NCH Healthcare System.
care and specialty care services. With more than 15 locations throughout Collier County and most recently in Bonita Springs, physicians at Anchor Health Centers are also affiliated with Massachusettst General Hospital in Boston. For more information, call 403-6308 or visit www.AnchorHealthCenters.com.

Screenings for autism at Miromar

The Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida and Ronald McDonald House Charities of SWF conduct free autism spectrum disorder screenings every month for toddlers 18 months to age 5. The screenings are courtesy of The Children’s Hospital’s neurosciences center under the guidance of pediatric neurologist Jose Colon and pediatric psychiatrist Marianne Krouk, D.O. Physician referrals are not required. Early diagnosis and early intensive behavioral intervention can make a difference in development of children on the autism spectrum and for their families. The next screening will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, March 5, in Miromar Outlets by the lakeside playground. To schedule a screening, call 985-3608.

Information and guidance for cancer patients

Dealing with cancer is difficult, but the American Cancer Society is here to help. Newly-diagnosed patients can access free resources, information and guidance 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call (800) 227-2345 or visit www.cancer.org. ACS provides accurate, unbiased information about cancer to patients, caregivers and family. Patients can receive a New Patient Packet with customized information related to their cancer diagnosis. ACS also provides free support services to help patients navigate the day-to-day challenges of cancer. Services include:

• Assistance with transportation to and from cancer treatment
• Confidence-restoring sessions that help women look their best while going through radiation and/or chemotherapy
• Treatment-related lodging assistance
• Referrals to community and national resources

The ACS is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy and service.

Bridgeport has nursing scholarships

Bridgeport Home Health Care is offering two nursing school scholarships of $3,000 each one to a non-employee of Bridgeport Home Health Care who resides in Collier or Lee county, and one to a current employee of Bridgeport Home Health Care.

Scholarship application packets are available by calling Bridgeport Home Health Care at 344-7420. Completed applications are due by May 15.

For maximum wellness, North Naples welcomes a Max-Wellness retail store

Max-Wellness has opened in the Gateway Shoppes at North Bay in North Naples. CEO Michael Feuer co-founded OfficeMax and grew the company to 1,000 stores before selling it in 2003. He has lived in Bay Colony for the past five years, commuting to Max-Wellness headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio, as needed.

“The country is in the midst of a lifestyle evolution with more than 100 million Americans over the age of 50,” Mr. Feuer says. “These baby boomers are dedicated to living a healthier, more active lifestyle than their parents did.”

Max-Wellness provides what retail officials call “quality-of-life products,” including heart health and skin care products, organic vitamins and supplements and mobility products, some of which are not readily available in typical drug and general merchandise stores.

Store associates, or wellness advocates, have extensive classroom training and additional computerized support from Max-Answers. Without guesswork, the handheld Max-Answers technology tablet can recommend a solution or product to address a consumer’s specific wellness issue or question.

The store has a “Wellness Answers To Go” educational area with literature and an interactive Max-Answers touch screen information station for on-site access to health and wellness information like alternative remedies, drug-nutrient interactions and tips. Wellness advocates can also provide information on wellness trends. And for customers with sensitive health problems, including sexual wellness and incontinence, the Max-Wellness store has a private area called One2One Wellness, where customers can speak confidentially with a wellness advocate.

“Most retail experiences are not created from the customer’s perspective and viewed through their eyes,” says Mr. Feuer. “An inviting and interactive retail atmosphere will help customers feel more comfortable and empowered to seek solutions.”

The vitamins and supplements section of the store has organic daily essentials, including minerals and dietary items, while orthopedic and mobility sections offer footwear, durable medical equipment, wheelchairs and electric scooters. For more information about Max-Wellness, visit www.max-wellness.com.
Naples Coast Guard Auxiliary plans 12th annual Port City Day

Flotilla 99 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in Naples holds its 12th annual Port City Day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 6, at City Dock in Crayton Cove. The Coast Guard Station at Fort Myers Beach will have some of its vessels available for guided tours for the public. A fly-over by a Coast Guard C-130 and an air-to-sea simulated rescue demonstration with a helicopter and crew from Clearwater Air Station will take place in Naples Bay in front of City Dock.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary will set up a booth on City Dock for vessel exams, recruitment, general information on safe boating and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 83 station 1099 Ninth St. S. will have an open house throughout the day. All activities are free.

In other Flotilla 93 news:

• A chart navigation course takes place from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, March 17-18, at the station. Cost is $20 per person, including charts.

• A three-night GPS course takes place from 7-9 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, March 22, 23 and 25, also at the Ninth Street South station. Cost is $50, including a textbook and the use of a Garmin handheld for the course’s duration.

For more information, call Bob Adu- bato, Flotilla staff officer-public affairs, at 293-7034 or 304-6292.

Programs provide starting point for Everglades expeditions

Big Cypress Marketplace presents It’s Our Nature, a series of programs for nature lovers in partnership with Big Cypress National Preserve. With four national parks and preserves in its backyard (Rookery Bay, Ten Thousand Islands, Big Cypress, and Everglades) and three state parks and preserves (Collier-Seminole, Picayune Strand and Fakahatchee Strand), the marketplace serves as a hub for exploration of the Everglades environs. The proximity to this fragile and complex ecosystem provides the inspiration for the series, which can prepare nature-lovers for actual wilderness expeditions. Here are the programs:

• Friday, March 5: “Among the Cypress: Northern Hardwoods in Big Cypress Swamp.” Retirees are not the only northerners who have learned to love the heat and humidity of south Florida. In this program, Ranger Gar- rick Landsberg discusses several temperate flowering hardwood trees found in northern states that are also native to the Big Cypress Swamp.

• Friday, April 2: “Barred to the Swamp: The Relationship between the Barred Owl and the Big Cypress Swamp.” Ranger Justin Mercer presents an in-depth look at one of the animals that calls Big Cypress home.

Presentations run from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The marketplace is at the intersection of U.S. 41 and Basik Road in Naples. The series is free but space is limited. Reser-
vations can be made by calling 774-1690 or by visiting www.BigCypressMarket- Place.com.

Friends of Rookery Bay’s “March Membership Madness” campaign takes place through March 31, and automatically marks by March 31, and automatically.

The ninth annual Port City Day will take place through March 31. Simply purchase a membership application (downloadable from the Web site) post-
marked by March 31, and automatically marks by March 31, and automatically

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GUIDED DAYTIME CANOE TRIPS

Take place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Paddle through a mangrove wonderland along the Blackwater River and listen to a park ranger tell stories about the Seminoles’ survival. These trips are fun for ages 6 and older; cost is $25 per person.

GUIDED NIGHT HIKES

Take place from 7:30-9:30 p.m. March 10 and 13. These walking adventures are ideal for ages 6 and older; cost is $10 per person.

Those who want to discover Collier-Seminole State Park on their own can explore the park’s 11 miles of hiking trails from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Enjoy picnicking, birding, fishing, camping, a boat ramp, and the historic “walking dredge” that was used to build the Tamiami Trail.

Entrance to the park is at 20200 U.S. 41, eight miles east of Highway 951. Reservations are required for the guided hikes and canoe trips. Call 394-3397 for more information.

Guided day and moonlight canoe trips and hikes provide an array of photo opportunities at Collier-Seminole State Park. Experienced guides know where to look and are eager to point out plants and animals that those less familiar with the territory most likely would miss.

Here’s what’s coming up:

➤ **Guided daytime canoe trips** take place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Paddle through a mangrove wonderland along the Blackwater River and listen to a park ranger tell stories about the Seminoles’ survival. These trips are fun for ages 6 and older; cost is $25 per person.

➤ **Guided moonlight paddles** take place from 7:30-10 p.m. March 27 and 29. Join a park naturalist and discover the changes nighttime brings along the Blackwater River. These trips are great for ages 12 and older; cost is $30 per person.

➤ **Guided night hikes** take place from 7:30-9:30 p.m. March 10 and 13. These walking adventures are ideal for ages 6 and older; cost is $10 per person.

Those who want to discover Collier-Seminole State Park on their own can explore the park’s 11 miles of hiking trails from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Enjoy picnicking, birding, fishing, camping, a boat ramp, and the historic “walking dredge” that was used to build the Tamiami Trail.

Entrance to the park is at 20200 U.S. 41, eight miles east of Highway 951. Reservations are required for the guided hikes and canoe trips. Call 394-3397 for more information.
PET TALES

Kitten season doesn't have to be tragic: Spay and neuter now

BY DR. MARTY BECKER & GINA SPADAFORI

Universal Uclick

We're on the verge of kitten season now, which means we'll soon be getting questions about feline pregnancy from people who often had no idea they'd be midway to pets who are often not much more than kittens themselves.

Typical questions include: How long does a cat's pregnancy last? (On average, 66 days.) Do I need to help my pregnant cat give birth? (Yes, usually by leaving her alone.) How do I know if she's close to delivering? (Watch for enlarged nipples and the secretion of a tiny amount of milk.)

The question we're asked least often is: How soon after my cat gives birth can she be spayed? (As soon as the babies are weaned — the most important of all: How soon after the cat's pregnancy starts to be about her alone.) How do I know if she's close to delivering? (Watch for enlarged nipples and the secretion of a tiny amount of milk.)

Studies show that 80 percent of the cats and dogs in the United States and Canada are spayed or neutered. If your cat is not among them, here are a few facts to consider:

• A neutered tomcat is less likely to roam, less likely to fight (and less likely to cost you money to patch him up), and less likely to spray urine to mark his territory. He's more likely to live longer, because the cat who's looking for a mate is really looking for trouble. If a cat doesn't get him, infectious disease (spread by fighting or mating) or cancer may.

• A spayed female is a more attentive and loving pet, because her energy isn't constantly directed toward finding a mate. (Cats are in heat nearly all the time until they become pregnant.) If you spay your cat, you protect her from some cancers, infections and from sexually transmitted infectious diseases.

“Spaying” and “neutering” are the everyday terms for the surgical sterilization of a pet. Neutering — or altering — is also used to describe both procedures. The technical terms for the two operations are “ovariohysterectomy,” for the female, and “castration,” for the male — which pretty much explains why “spaying” and “neutering” are the preferred terms.

Although these procedures are common, many people don't understand what's involved. Spaying is the removal of the female's entire reproductive system: The uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries are taken out through an incision in the abdomen. Some veterinarians use stitches that have to be removed in about 10 days’ time, while others use those that are absorbed into the body. Recovery is fast, taking just a few days, during which you should limit your cat's activities — no jumping or boisterous play.

In neutering, the cat's testicles are removed through incisions in the scrotum, the pouch holding the testicles. These incisions are generally left unstitched in this relatively minor procedure. Post-operative care normally involves keeping the incisions clean and dry. Some veterinarians recommend keeping the cat inside for a day or two, while others advise keeping him inside for a week. Some veterinary offices recommend giving the cat a bag of ice to help with any pain or discomfort.

The uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries are taken out through an incision in the abdomen. Some veterinarians use stitches that have to be removed in about 10 days’ time, while others use those that are absorbed into the body. Recovery is fast, taking just a few days, during which you should limit your cat's activities — no jumping or boisterous play.

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To adopt a pet

Collier County Domestic Animal Services is at 7610 Davis Blvd. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Adoptions begin at 11 a.m. and are processed through closing time. Adoption fees are $60 for cats and $85 for dogs and include spay/neuter surgery, a bag of pet food, pet's license and a micro-chip. Call 252-PETS (7787) or visit DAS online to search for a lost pet or find a new pet at www.colkerrpets.com.
MUSINGS

Nothing for me

Have you ever wondered why there is something rather than nothing? Perhaps stating the question this way prohibits unfolding of the inquiry. It seems, rather, that the coming into existence of something depends upon a receptive, empty context, a matrix of possibility, of no-thing, a space from out of which might come an emerging possible. In a cosmic marriage, some and no things embrace. They are entwined, immersed in a dynamic play, a potent narrative begging for a fleshing out and fleshing in.

I am struggling with the limits of words here. It seems that the no-thing word is too fatalistic, too devoid. And it seems that the some-thing word is too concrete, too static. What can I say? I feel lame, without a leg to stand on.

Then I remember a narrative rising like something out of my stymied nothing. The story goes like this: There was a legless man living in a mountain village. The story goes like this: There was a legless man living in a mountain village. Propped up on the edge of a cliff, a legless man. The story goes like this: There was a legless man living in a mountain village. The story goes like this: There was a legless man living in a mountain village.

In my perversity, I find myself most interested in the horse. It is he who is the cogent force. It is he who bestows power to compel. It is he who is the emergence of the telling, of the sound of narrative.

When was the equine falling? At what time did he emerge into the newly possible? I can see his mother in foal, pregnant, he in her belly, falling and re-falling in the oceans of her inner salty sea.

I feel him there, even his beginnings beginning deep seated and complete, momentous and profound. In this in-tune saline frolic, at the base of his nasal cavity, there began to develop the VNO, the vomeronasal organ. Through extremely sensitive sensory neurons, pheromones would pass into the VNO depths. These are chemical messengers that carry information between individuals of the same species. Knowing this in the saline depths, I can almost casually intone, “Nothing for me.”

Knowing this in the saline depths, I can almost casually intone, “Nothing for me.” And I know that you smell it in your breath. Y ou sense my surrender out of the human genome. Out of the genome, into the wind, nothing at all: Do you hear me calling? When would a creature of substance have another such opportunity to pass into the ever possible? When would a missing link ever be able to hook up like this, making nothing out of something at all?

Knowing this in the saline depths, I can almost casually intone, “Nothing for me.” And I know that you smell it in your ceased breath. You sense my surrender because it is your own. Sharing that is some-thing.

Horses in the presence of interesting scent perform the flehmen response. They curl back their lips in a grimace, pulling the scent in. For a moment breathing ceases.

And so in this moment suspended, the sexual state is assessed. Is it time to make something out of nothing? Many scientific genetic studies have been done to assess the presence of VNO in humans. Some say that they have found evidence of human genes that function to instruct the creation of VNO, but that these genes in the human context do not function. Some researchers call these genes pseudogenes, junk DNA, that are on the last stop of a journey leading them defunct, out of the human genome.

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— Rx is the FloridaWeekly muse who hopes to inspire profound mutiny in all those who care to read. Our Rx may be wearing a pirate cloak of invisibility, but emanating from within this shadow is hope that readers will feel free to respond. Who knows: You may even inspire the muse. Make contact if you dare.
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For anyone who tries working from home, there are two inviolable rules: One, you have to find the right employer or manager. And two, you have to find the right vocation.

The frame of mind of the U.S. consumer is an important factor in gauging the level of consumption of goods and services by the American population.

Consumer spending accounts for approximately 70 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States. It is the sum total of all the expenditures made in the U.S. economy. This excludes cash transactions that are not reported or recorded.

Consumer levels have not always been at the 70 percent level. During World War II, consumer spending was 50 percent of the U.S. GDP. Today’s consumption at 70 percent of GDP is the highest among all the developed countries. Consumer spending in the past 15 years has been largely fueled by abundance of credit, little self-restraint, and the availability of cheap imports or declines in the cost of technological products that made purchases easier and easier to justify. A lot of consumer spending is discretionary: spent on things which are not needed or that are not utilitarian in purpose. This truism for Americans is not so for developing countries. There, spending is predominantly for items critically needed or core to daily living.

Possibly the best measure of consumer sentiment is the Consumer Confidence Index, which is issued monthly by The Conference Board, an independent economic research group. The Federal Reserve and all international central bankers as well as all businesses — domestic and international — closely watch this number. China, for example, values the U.S. consumer as the major buyer of its products. If the American consumer is not perky, it has ramifications for Chinese factory orders and
Striving to provide sustainable investment strategies

BY ALYSIA SHIVERS
Special to Florida Weekly

In his personal life, there’s nothing Andrew Hill enjoys more than fishing. “It’s my number one hobby,” he says. It’s rare these days, though, to find Mr. Hill out on Naples’ backwaters trying to land a snook; his time right now is consumed with getting his new business off the ground.

Andrew Hill Investment Advisors Inc., which opened its doors in January, was established to help individuals and small employers grow and develop solutions for a financially sound future, two things Mr. Hill has been passionate about since he was a young accounting student at Canisius College in New York.

His career choice stemmed from no apparent influences from family or friends. No one in his immediate family, which includes two older sisters, is in an investment-related field, so he’s unsure where he gets his love of numbers.

Competition, though, was a big part of his upbringing, and he honed his skills during years of playing ice hockey. And though he did entertain the idea of becoming a professional hockey player, ice hockey was not actually his first sport of choice. “I liked football, but mom didn’t want me to play, claiming it was too rough. She wanted me to do hockey instead, which is kind of funny,” he laughs.

Hockey was fun, but it was the competition that ultimately taught Mr. Hill how to be the best in his chosen field. “Competition is very important in the financial world,” he notes. In fact, he was all prepared to jump into the financial world, “I had an address and a key,” he says. “I came down here to see what was happening.”

At the time, he was a 27-year-old licensed certified public accountant who, after talking himself up at a happy hour, landed a job offer. He knew that Miami or Tampa probably made more sense in his line of work, but here he is almost 20 years later, happy that he never left. “It was somewhat of an accident that I ended up here, but I always did appreciate the warmer weather, even though I grew up in much colder climates,” he says.

Naples ended up being kind to Mr. Hill, even giving him the confidence to start his own investment firm in the 1990s. Then a major political shift made it difficult for independents to compete as banks acquired the small guys and industries consolidat-ed. He joined Fifth Third Bank as a senior portfolio manager overseeing $230 million in client assets. Then he served as senior portfolio manager for Comerica Wealth and Institutional Management.

But the world has changed once again. The advantage has reverted back to the independents, making conditions just right for Andrew Hill Investment Advisors, a firm he runs with partner Jennifer Figurerelli. Together they provide more than investment management. They consider themselves a financial concierge service helping clients with income taxes, analyzing insurance coverage and even reconciling bank accounts. They will even go so far as to investigate which bank and what types of accounts will best serve their clients.

“We go above and beyond the normal advisory firm,” Mr. Hill says.

Crucial to the firm’s mission is its goal to provide sustainable and socially responsible investment strategies for its clients. “Those companies who focus on social and environmental aspects have shown to have a more successful stock performance,” he explains. “Lead-ers in sustainability have a competitive advantage.”

For example, Mr. Hill believes strong in Cree, a company that’s leading the revolution in LED lighting which uses one-third less power of traditional lighting. He believes it’s just a matter of weeding out companies who don’t have good business practices.

But this isn’t something he confines to work hours. Mr. Hill has been an active member of the Conservancy of South-west Florida for 10 years and currently serves as vice chairman on its board of directors. “Naples is so dependent on natural resources,” he says. “Without preserving those we do not have eco-nomic opportunity.”

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HOME OFFICE

From page 1

I don’t do that, because I won’t ever shut out my children. I’ve told them what my father once told me: “I don’t care if Jesus Christ himself shows up for a meeting. If you have to talk to me, he can wait because you come first.”

What do I do after delivering that line? I explain the situation to them. Please don’t interrupt me if I’m on the phone unless it’s an emergency. And if I’m writing, take the noise outside. Often they do, but it’s not a perfect work situation, at least not at my house.

Frequently I work on the weekends when my hard-working office wife, Amy Bennett Williams, a writer for The News-Press, is not at her corporate office 20 miles from here. As a mother and an entertainer of boys she’s a magician, which means I can work uninter-
terred.

Second: Visitors

Amy and I avoid a lot of formal socializing, but we have frequent visi-
tors. And we have a rule for those who don’t call, or solicitors of one stripe or another: If the gate’s open, come in. But only if the gate’s open. (Unlike others, people selling me religions, meat, a new roof or an asphalt driveway quickie will either get a cool or a hostile reception from me.)

If you live in a place frequented by visitors and friends, then your life is rich. But you can get a gate, and tell them that if it’s shut, you’re ‘otherwise occupied.’ I like employing that phrase, because it implies all sorts of delicious things that often aren’t the case in the pedestrian moment.

Third: Domestic duties

No question about it, domestic duties can become tyrants. From the light bulb that needs replacing to the laundry that needs doing to the mower that needs fixing to the grocer-
ries that need buying to the fence wire that needs tightening to the deck that needs painting, they can reach out and grab you.

Sure, you have to pick the kids up from school, and pay attention to them, right then.

As for the rest? You control them. You work and perk, work and perk, work and perk. By that I mean you break up the deeply concen-
trated efforts less frequently, but with bigger things.

Fourth: Food

Unlike at the office, and especially if your spouse is an extraordinary chef whose leftovers should be tabled in a gourmet restaurant, eating while you’re working can become a dangerous habit. The refrigerator hums quietly but insis-
tently in the next room all day long — and not to itself.

“Roger, come here for a moment,” mine says. “Roger, the chicken’s on the second shelf, the rest of the Stilton is in the box, and remember the ratatouille she made?”

Yes, I remember. I think I’ll step outside now and study the umbrella of live oaks that canopy the house, for a moment. I might do some push-ups. Push-ups make the best short work-
break I know.

Fifth: Regular hours

Forget it. That doesn’t mean work all the time — you can’t learn unless you want an intervention.

“Roger, we’ve brought you here because you’re a workaholic and we love you and want you to get help. You need to join WA. Workaholics Anony-
mous.”

(Roger, later: “Hi, My name’s Roger and I’m a Workaholic.” Room full of fidgeting, depressed-looking people, all together: “HI ROGER.”)

To avoid that, you have to find the hours you’re most comfortable with, and then be willing to compromise occasionally.

I like to work early, and sometimes I get to.

But if not? I work later, or just plain late. And is that worth it?

I get to.

Sometime, occasionally.

Together: “Hi Roger.”

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But if not? I work later, or just plain late. And is that worth it?

I get to.
Belle Lago in Estero and Firano at Naples.

experience in Southwest Florida communi-

West Division, with responsibility for both

struction manager for Toll Brothers Florida

Mr. Pauly is a Florida-licensed general

president for Chinese Drywall Experts, a

Williams University in Montreal, Quebec.

his bachelor’s degree at Sir George Wil-

British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C., and

College of Health and Human Services at

Director of the School of Social Work at the

Director of the School of Social Work at Louisiana

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, dean

Resort and Hospitality Management and

Bank of Naples in 2007 as credit officer and

Ms. Mummert is responsible for the review

department manager at Bank of Naples.

ed to assistant vice president and credit

manager for The Conservancy of Southwest Florida, manager of donor

relations for The Nature Conservancy in

associate director of development at Fordham University.

Keith Callaghan has been named direc-
tor of annual giving for the Florida Gulf

Coast University Foundation. Mr. Cal-
laghan fills the vacancy created when for-

mer director Linda Guerrene became direc-
tor of donor relations for WGCC Public Media. He will manage four annual giving

campaigns — for alumni, parents, friends, and employees — as well as steward the

university’s premier annual giving pro-

gram, The President’s Society. Before join-
ing FGCU, Mr. Callaghan served as direc-
tor of development for The Conservancy

of Southwest Florida.

Health Care

Samira Beckwith has achieved recer-
cification as a fellow from the American
n College of Healthcare Executives,
signifying her success in meeting high

standards of professional development

and excellence as a health care executive.

ACHE is an interna-
tional professional society of more than

80,000 healthcare leaders. Mr. Beckwith

is president and CEO of HopeHealthCare

Services, which provides hospice care to

people with complex needs related to life-

changing illness. Hope serves people in a

10,000-square-mile area throughout

Southwest and mid-Florida.

Construction

Thad Pauly has been named production

chief for Chinese Drywall Experts, a

Naples-based company specializing in cor-

panies and procedures, portfolio manage-

ment.

As director of the Community Services

Center, he was properties manager for Lake

Country Club. The quality of

services, overseeing an annual landscape

aperture of the YMCA’s pro-

for the Florida District of KeyBank. Prior

to that, he spent more than 20 years in

and chief operating officer of Ty. Prior

to that, he spent more than 10 years in

emsannouncing the appointment of

Forresty Resource

Manager, president of sales, marketing

and store operations.

He will be responsible for direct sales, market-

ing and retail store operations including

oversight of staff, sales administration,

purchasing, advertising and public rela-

tions.

Olinger originally joined For-

estry Resources in 1997 as vice president

of the company’s Landscape Supply.

He went on to become director of land-

scape operations with WCI Communi-

ties, overseeing an annual landscape

budget exceeding $25 million.

Cuisine

Chef Lisa Fidler has joined the culi-

nary team at Fort Myers’ The Fly-

ing Pig Catering as executive chef.

Forrest the executive sous chef at Robb

& Stucky Catering in Bonita Springs,

she has more than 25 years expe-

rience as an executive chef and executive

pastry chef. She also owned her own

private chef/catering company in the

Boston area.

Professional Sports

Paul Healey has been named assis-

tant coach of the Florida Everblades for

the remainder of the 2009-10 season.

Mr. Healey has played in 13 games with

the hockey team this season since signing

with the club in mid-December.

Property Management

Scott Whes has been named execu-
tive director of Big Cypress Market-

place, an 80,000-square-foot shopping

and entertainment venue on U.S. 41

East/Tamiami Trail. The announcement

was made by Gerry McHale, receiver for

Beaverglen Development, owner of the

property.

Mr. Whes has been named to the board of direc-
tors of the Harry Chapin Food Bank of

Southwest Florida. Ms. Myers is assistant

vice president and relationship manager

for the Florida District of KeyBank. Prior

to joining KeyBank in 2008, she worked as

a private banker and relationship man-

ager for Fifth Third Bank in Cincinnati,

Ohio. Ms. Bellisle is senior vice president

for Oswald, Tripp and Company Inc.

Shad White, a reg-

istered client associ-

ate with The Moran Asset Management

Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, has been

named to the board of directors of the

YMCA of the Palms, Naples Chapter.

Last year, the chapter delivered more than

$2.2 million in free, subsidized or sponsored

programs to more than 25,000 children,

individuals and families, ensuring the

availability of the YMCA’s pro-

grams and services to those most in need.

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HURRICANE PROTECTION?

Why do more homeowners choose Haywood Shutters for

HURRICANE PROTECTION?
Fool's School

Retirement Tips

Most of us will have to rely mainly on ourselves for our retirements — pensions are shrinking, Social Security won’t be enough, and 401(k)s might not be enough, either. Here are some tips.

First, save up as much as you can. If you sock away all your money in your salary will make a huge difference in your finances in the unlikely (but still possible!) event that your employer goes belly-up.

Second, considermaxing out your 401(k) to achieve the greatest long-term growth. That doesn’t just mean contributing enough to get the maximum company match. Saving 10 percent or, better still, 15 percent of your salary will make a huge difference in the wealth you can amass over time.

Third, tend to your investment selections. If you sock away all your money in conservative investments, it won’t grow very quickly. If you’re close to retirement, you probably want that sort of safety. But if you’ve got decades to go until your golden years, you might take on a bit more risk in exchange for the chance of better returns.

Fourth, don’t cash out of your 401(k) when you change jobs. You’ll lose a hefty chunk of any payout to taxes, for one thing. (Some employers let you roll the power of compounded growth, the loss of a relatively small amount now could blow a hole in your future returns. Instead, talk to your new and old employers’ IR department about rolling your old 401(k) into a new one, or transferring it to IRA.

Finally, make the most of IRAs, too. A Roth IRA will let you withdraw your investments in retirement completely tax free — that can make a big difference.

For clear and concise retirement advice, along with stock and fund recommendations and model portfolios, take advantage of a free trial of our Rule Your Retirement newsletter at www.ruleyourretirement.com.

Name That Company

Headquartered near Dallas on a 13-story pink granite building, it was launched in 1963 with $5,000. I’m a premier direct seller of skin care products and cosmetics, with annual sales topping $2 billion. My independent sales force is composed of more than 2 million people in more than 35 nations. My founder used the Golden Rule as her guiding philosophy and encouraged employees and customers to prioritize their lives: God first, family second, career third. She worked? Submit to My Smartest Investment.

Fool’s Take

Textron Refocuses

From one perspective, Textron (NYSE: TXT), the maker of Bell helicopters and Cessna business jets, is not a bad-looking business. According to its 2009 earnings report, it generated $500 million in manufacturing free cash flow last year.

Textron accomplished this in the face of the fiercest recession in recent memory, one that hobbled sales in its industrial segments and shrank growth by more than 40 percent of Cessna’s revenue stream. Despite these obstacles, Textron still managed to turn a profit.

For defense industry investors, the Textron Systems division holds special attraction as the home base for the Shadow, a premier direct seller of skin care products and cosmetics, with annual sales topping $2 billion. My independent sales force is composed of more than 2 million people in more than 35 nations. My founder used the Golden Rule as her guiding philosophy and encouraged employees and customers to prioritize their lives: God first, family second, career third. She worked? Submit to My Smartest Investment.

The Foolish Dividend

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BUSINESS MEETINGS

➤ Professional Writing Services holds a social networking and business consultation class from 10 a.m. to noon every Saturday at Starbucks, 960 Immokalee Road. The class focuses on how to increase sales volume using Facebook and LinkedIn. Cost is $25 per person, with a $5 one-time fee for the WiFi at Starbucks unless you already have one. Attendance is limited to 15. Reservations can be made by calling (407) 738-8445 or e-mailing profwriting-services@yahoo.com.

➤ The next CBIA Remodelers Council dinner meeting takes place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4, at Das’ Tiki, 2900 S. Horseshoe Drive. Cost is $20 for CBIA members ($15 for Remodelers Council members who register online). Call 436-6100 or visit www.cbia.net.

➤ The Naples chapter of Gulf Coast Venture Forum meets from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, March 11, in the members club room at Tiburon Golf Course. The meeting is sponsored by TIB Bank. For more information, call Tim Cartwright at 262-6300.

➤ The Southwest Florida Small Business Resource Network presents a program about the latest rules and regulations for small businesses from two banking experts from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, March 18 at Embassy Suites Hotel in Estero. Hosts for the evening are SBRN members Barbara Melvin, vice president/business relations manager for Wachovia Bank, and Loretta Mathuschek, vice president of business development for Florida First Capital Finance Corporation. Cost is $15 for SBRN members and $20 for others. Register online at www.sbsceminars.org. Deadline for registration is Tuesday, March 16.


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**Start the recovery off right with checklist**

Being a small business owner has never been for the faint of heart, but the last two years have been especially difficult. In fact, more businesses declared bankruptcy in the first nine months of 2009 than in all of 2008. With a slowly improving economy, small business owners have something new to consider: their next step.

“Tires and oil changes are not as trendy as they used to be,” says John Ashbury, head of Regions Bank’s business banking. “It’s about determining the right next step — whether it’s growth, succession or stabilization. There is always an opportunity.”

### Business owners collaborate on campaign

The Naples Community Redevelopment Agency and Paradise Advertising & Marketing Marketing Inc. recently launched the Downtown Flavors campaign to highlight the boutiques, restaurants, hotels and more in the downtown Naples area. In its first week, the campaign generated more than 10,000 visitors to a new Web site.

Business owners that may otherwise consider themselves competitors collaborated to lead the marketing campaign. The group sought help from the Naples City Council and received $50,000 for the campaign from CRA funds. “In this new economy, businesses that were once competitors are recognizing the value in joining forces for the greater good,” City Councilman Gary Price says.

Downtown Flavors showcases the dining, shopping and hospitality options the CRA district has to offer. Targeting residents and visitors in Lee and Collier counties, the campaign consolidates and highlights all the information needed for finding the right event or offer that will draw them to the area.

The campaign kicked off with a collaborative Web site, www.DowntownFlavors.com, that provides visitors concise, menu-structured and frequently updated information on all of the events, offers and promotions in the area. The three-month campaign is supported with radio, print and online advertising, as well as e-mail blasts, public relations and other marketing elements. The campaign implements an integrated approach combining elements of social marketing, public relations and traditional marketing. The effort includes the use of Twitter and other social networking tools to provide users with the most updated information at all times.

“It is more important than ever that we all work together for the benefit of our economy,” says Cedar Hames, president of Paradise Advertising & Marketing. “It’s a pleasure to be supporting such an all-star collaboration between the city of Naples and its business owners. It makes good sense for everyone involved.”

“It’s our goal to assure that Naples is represented as a destination of choice for both local residents and visitors,” he adds. “We expect to see even more positive results in the coming months, and certainly a significant increase in the area’s tourism and economy.”
Small biz lending stimulus runs dry

Program extension awaits Senate approval

Money ran out last week for the government’s popular small business loan program that increased federal loan guarantees and reduced borrowing costs. Funding for the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 through the Small Business Administration was expected to last until the end of February. This doesn’t mean that loans will cease to be available to small businesses, but for now, the SBA said, those that need money will have to accept the relatively less-favorable terms of traditional SBA loans.

The loan guarantees and the reduced fees had a significant impact. By guaranteeing 90 percent of the loan (rather than the usual 75 percent), the SBA reduced lenders’ risks, making them more willing to lend money at more favorable rates and on less strict terms. But for those small-business owners holding out hope for the better deal under the Recovery Act system, there are two options. Sometimes money that gets earmarked for a small business loan is not disbursed. If that happens, those Recovery Act funds return to the pot, and those who are in the Recovery Loan Queue have first dibs. The SBA restarted the Recovery Loan Queue on Monday, according to Ms. Mills.

The better option to hope for is action on Capitol Hill. The House passed an extension of the Recovery Act allocating additional funds in December, but the bill is stalled in the Senate. Meanwhile, President Obama’s $3 billion program for small business lending is also awaiting congressional approval. If Congress does extend and fund the Recovery Loan program, those in the queue will be first in line. Small businesses can watch the queue online.

MONEY

From page 1

export levels. The CCI calculation is based on 5,000 responses to questions about the present and future economic expectations. It takes into account business conditions now versus the next six months, employment conditions now versus the next six months, and total family income for the next six months. It permits the “average Joe” to differentiate between feelings about the current economy from the future. These answers form a composite, the CCI itself, and time-dimensioned categories.

Let’s see what the index said recently. The February CCI was reported to be 46.0, down from 56.5 in January. The Present Situation Index decreased to 19.4 from 25.2. The Expectations Index declined to 63.8 from 77.3 last month. (A change of 5 percent or more is considered to be statistically important; not just static in the data.) Even more importantly, you can drive a truck through the difference between people’s feelings about the present situation and their expectations. Consumers really expect economic improvement even though the peak in federal bailout money has been spent.

Lynn Franco, director of the Conference Board Consumer Research Center said: “Consumer Confidence, which had been improving over the past few months, declined sharply in February. Concerns about current business conditions and the job market pushed the Consumer Confidence Index down to its lowest level in 27 years (February 1983, 175). Consumers’ short-term outlook also took a turn for the worse, with fewer consumers anticipating an improvement in business.

The 46.0 peak in the CCI in 2000, which coincided with the dot-com bubble. Since then, the interim peak was in 2007—also a peak in the U.S. stock market.

Another look at consumer confidence comes from the University of Michigan index. The MCSI has many similarities to the CCI but it focuses on consumers’ general perception of their financial condition. The statistical base is frequently smaller (with a minimum of 50 phone calls). Interestingly, their take on the economy in February is not so dreary. While there was a downturn in their February report but not anywhere as dramatic as the CCI index.

You might be surprised that the consumer sentiment indices are weaker even though GDP for the fourth quarter of 2009 was strong: 6.3 percent nominal and 59 percent inflation adjusted. The problem for the consumer is that he is not feeling the recovery in terms of income growth, personal financial condition, or availability of jobs and job security. The past year saw new home sales drop to record lows; home prices fall again; housing inventory (in terms of months of supply) rise again and bank lending fall in the sharpest decline since 1942.

The Federal Reserve, which sets monetary policy, has to read the economic tea leaves of this major downturn. With consumer spending representing 70 percent of the economy, this downturn may not turn out as dramatic as the CCI index.

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

‘Your World… Discovered’ for The Immokalee Foundation
The fourth annual Travel Showcase presented by Preferred Travel of Naples at Club Pelican Bay

Danna Kriser, Jay Markel and Beth Liss
Phil and Ruth Jason
Steve Williams, Alan Matthews and Mary Alice Armstrong

Mayor Bill Barnett, Murray Hendel and Rosalee Bogoj
Sheriff Kevin Rambosk, Jack Nortman, Murray and Pauline Hendel, Ursula and Kurt Pfahl

Beth Tikvah honors Murray and Pauline Hendel

Bruce and Bridgett Yamron, Ursula Phahl and Reg Buxton

Orlando and Mayela Rosales, Tony Hernandez and Esther Alvarez

Don O’Neill and Wilma Boyd with students who benefit from programs of The Immokalee Foundation.

We take more society and 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 www.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 networking photos. Include the names of everyone in the picture. E-mail them to society@floridaweekly.com.
NETWORKING

George W. and Jeb Bush with Jim Angle at Naples Town Hall
Distinguished Speaker Series at the Naples Grande

Jeb Bush, John and Penny Barr, George W. Bush

Jeb Bush, William and Rose Mary Everett, George W. Bush

Bob Edwards, George W. Bush, Terry Edwards

Glenn Hasse, George W. Bush, Kay Hasse

Peter Aron, George W. Bush, Erika Aron

Hank Fishkind at NABOR’s general business meeting

Amy Reinholdt and Arlene Carozza

Debra Wine and Dominic Pallini

Rick and Brenda Fioretti

Joni Albert and Debbie Zvibleman

Linda Loemis and Marsha Rogers

Robyn DeVille and Barbara Barnes-Buchanan

We take more society and 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 www.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 networking photos. Include the names of everyone in the picture. E-mail them to society@floridaweekly.com.
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CGC 1513647

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   Single Family Homes
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   (877) 321-9642

2. Valencia Golf & Country Club | From the $170s
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   Single Family Homes
   (239) 354-0243

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*Must present coupon. Prices, plans, availability and incentives are subject to change without notice. Up to $5,000 in allowable closing costs available to qualified buyers who close on a D.R. Horton home in the community displayed on the flyer and who finance their purchase through Seller’s Preferred Lenders. Buyers must qualify for a loan and close by 3/30/10 to receive closing cost contribution. This advertisement must be presented to a D.R. Horton Sales Representative at time of execution of Purchase Agreement. May not be combined with other offers. Please consult a D.R. Horton Sales Representative for details. CGC 1513647
A "Buyer Meets Seller" real estate convention takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 14, and again Sunday, March 28, in the clubhouse at The Strand Country Club, giving buyers and sellers the opportunity to gather and do business in one place.

The convention will feature extensive listings of foreclosures, short sales, bank-owned properties, properties currently priced under appraised value, developer closeout inventories and other properties for sale by owner. Everything needed to close a sale will be provided at the convention.

For buyers, in addition to having access to numerous properties in one place, the convention will make the home-viewing process easier and faster. All of the homes for sale are on a power point presentation that will play continuously throughout the convention.

Homeowners looking to sell are invited to have their home listed and have it available to buyers and sellers who wish to buy. Anyone planning to make a purchase must be bank-approved or must already have a signed contract.

A "Buyer Meets Seller" real estate convention is scheduled for Sunday, March 7. Early registration is recommended, as space is limited. To be in attendance and available to agents and home inspectors will also be provided at the convention. All sellers and buyers who wish to attend must be registered before Sunday, March 7. Early registration is recommended, as space is limited. To register, e-mail USAMrktgGroup@FloridaHomeRealty.com or call 239-293-7269.

The Strand Country Club is at 5840 Strand Blvd., off Immokalee Road, immediately west of Interstate 75.

**Convention sessions bring buyers, sellers together**

**BY JAMES YORK**

Florida Home Realty

**Stock Development posts strong sales numbers**

**SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY**

Stock Development sales numbers for the first six weeks of 2010 show 40 new home contracts executed at Lely Resort in Naples, Paseo in Fort Myers and Vivante in Port Charlotte.

CEO Brian Stock reports the company’s new home sales volume was $14.3 million and sales were spread evenly across all types of residences. Stock Development’s communities offer a diversity of new homes, from flats and townhomes to single-family homes and custom-built estate homes. More than 100 floor plans are available.

The strong sales numbers come on the heels of numerous honors. Both Lely Resort and Paseo won 2009 Community of the Year. Stock Development and Stock Construction received 36 Sand Dollar Awards from the Collier Building Industry Association for their work at Lely Resort. In addition to the Community of the Year honors, there were four clubhouse and pool awards, three residential design awards and two interior design awards. Stock received 11 Pinnacle Awards from the Lee Building Industry Association. Capping the honors was the Builder of the Year award for Stock Construction from CBIA.

Mr. Stock attributes the companies’ continued strength to long-term planning. “We have ongoing new home construction across a wide variety of home styles so that inventory is available for homebuyers who want to move in immediately,” he said. “Having more than 100 homes in permitting or under construction sets us apart in this market.”

More than 50 furnished models are open in Stock’s three Southwest Florida communities.

At Lely Resort, a total of 11 neighborhoods of flats, townhomes, coach homes, twin villas, single-family homes and estate homes are offered with prices beginning in the $580,000s. And at Vivante, homes are priced from $343,990.

Stock Development headquarters are at 2647 Professional Circle in Naples. For more information, visit www.stockdevelopment.com.

**Towering over Bonita Bay, Tavira model design is naturally inspired**

**A DESIGN SCHEME of earth, water and sky creates serene moods throughout the 3,517 square feet of living area in Tavira model design.**

The Players Club at Lely Resort

**By Special To Florida Weekly**

A design scheme of earth, water and sky creates serene moods throughout the 3,517 square feet of living area in Tavira model design. Subtle greens, slate blues and fawn tones are blended with textured walls and appointments to harmonize with the environs.

Adjacent to Estero Bay Park, the 26-story Tavira tower enjoys sweeping views of preserve, Estero Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. The furnished and decorated private elevator foyer leads to the home’s double-door entry, which opens onto a hallway that showcases artwork. Two full-length mirrored panels with custom glass shelving and a unique curved bench create a sense of motion.

Ahead is the formal living room with fireplace, and adjacent media room with flat-screen television and custom shelving. While the rooms are open to one another, they are visually distinct by use of color and ceiling and wall treatments.

**The living room in the new Tavira model**

**SEE TAVIRA, B20 ▶**

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**A GUIDE TO THE NAPLES REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY**

WEEK OF MARCH 4-10, 2010

| B13 |
REAL ESTATE NEWSMAKERS

Sonya Shaheen has been named Sales Associate of the Year for 2009 at Grey Oaks Realty. A member of the Grey Oaks team since 1999, she belongs to the National Association of Realtors, the Naples Area Board of Realtors and the Collier Building Industry Association's Sales and Marketing Council. This is the fourth consecutive year she has received the Sales Associate of the Year Award. Grey Oaks Realty is the exclusive sales and marketing representative of Grey Oaks Country Club.

Kimberly Darr has joined Downing-Frye Realty Inc. as a sales associate. Originally from Perrysburg, Ohio, Ms. Darr has more than five years of real estate experience in Southwest Florida. She specializes in representing buyers in Bay Colony, Miromar Lakes and Park Shore. She belongs to the Naples Area Board of Realtors and the Florida and National associations of Realtors.

Arlene Carozza has joined Downing-Frye Realty Inc. as corporate trainer to provide consultation and training to the firm’s agents. Originally from Jamestown, N.Y., Ms. Carozza has 33 years of real estate experience in Florida and before that worked as a teacher in Long Island, N.Y., New York City and Baltimore. She belongs to the Naples Area Board of Realtors and the Florida and National associations of Realtors.

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3765 MONTREUX LN #103 OPEN 1-4 PM FRIDAY, MARCH 5TH
## AVAILABLE NOW

### The Estates
- Elegant 5 Bedroom home • Situated on 2 balconies with exceptional landscaping • Master suite with kitchen • Deep moldings, crown moldings and large walk-in closets
- Price: $4,295,000

### Miramar
- Mediterranean home in a former model • Upgraded cabinets and flooring • 2 fireplaces, elevator, wine room, Butler’s pantry, loft, wet bar and central vac.
- 6 bedrooms plus study & 4 and 1 half baths
- Price: $2,295,000 furnished

### Banyan Island
- Breathtaking view of lake and Botanical Island • 4 bedrooms, 5.2 baths custom home, large gourmet Kitchen • Outdoor kitchen with fireplace, oversized pool, pool bath
- Price: $3,495,000 furniture neg.

### Isle Royale
- Magnificent 2 story custom home in Isle Royale • 6 plus bedrooms, 7 1/2 baths – Master down • Abundant casual living spaces • 8,384 sq ft A/C.
- Price: $6,499,000 furniture neg.

### The Estates
- Builders personal 4 bedroom 4 full plus 2 1/2 baths Estate Home, possible 5th bedroom upstairs • Southern exposure, 1st floor master suite • Spectacular views of lake to golf course • Shower room in master suite, sun balcony and an expansive lanai/pool area
- Price: $2,449,000

### The Estates
- View to the South, Southwest & Southeast of the Pine golf course! • 3 bedrooms, 4 baths, professionally decorated • Cabana with bath overlooking the tropical pool at Terra Verde
- Price: $795,000 furnished

### Terra Verde
- Mediterranean home is a former model • Upgraded cabinets and flooring • 2 fireplaces, elevator, wine room, Butler’s pantry, loft, wet bar and central vac.
- 6 bedrooms plus study & 4 and 1 half baths
- Price: $2,295,000 furnished

### Avila
- New home overlooking the 13th fairway of The Pine Course • 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, library, family room with gas fireplace, laundry and oversized garage
- Price: $1,725,000 furniture neg.

### Villas of Estuary
- Price Adjusted • Elegant 4 bedroom, 4 bath villa • Florida living at its best • Outdoor living includes pool, spa, fireplace and kitchen with expansive Western exposure golf course view
- Price: $1,725,000 furniture neg.

### Traditions
- 3 bedrooms, 3 and one half baths, Mediterranean style villa • Living areas feature pocketing walls of glass, double crown moldings, and 12-inch baseboards • Neighborhood features Mediterranean fountains, cobblestone brick streets and driveways
- Price: $1,198,500

### Avila
- Mediterranean 3 bedroom villa with private screened outdoor spa • Southern exposure, volume ceilings and close to the clubhouse
- Price: $798,000 furnished

### La Residence
- 2 Story Villa with view of lake and Pine Course 18th hole • Beautifully appointed Kitchen with adjoining family room • Second floor sitting room with balcony and two guest suites • Abundant storage, 2 car garage & golf cart
- Price: $3,599,000

### Terra Verde
- Over looking the 8th hole on the Pine golf course • 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths • European style cabinets and granite counter tops • Family room and living room open to a screened lanai where you will enjoy a view of the 1st fairway of the tropical Palm course
- Price: $767,000 furnished

### The Estates
- Over looking the 8th hole on the Pine golf course • 3 bedrooms, 3 bath plus 2 half baths with several private areas • Relax on a beautiful screened lanai with generous covered areas
- Price: $2,600,000

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Designer shares American ideas in book for Chinese audiences

Designer Kira Krümm recently completed a three-year collaboration with a Shanghai publisher on a book highlighting her work and that of other American interior designers. Serving as the contributing editor of “Modern Interior Design, American Collection,” Ms. Krümm shares examples and tenets of modern American interior design with the people of China. She selected top designers throughout the United States to showcase their different styles of modern American design.

“My goal was to present design styles from classic to contemporary, set in both commercial and residential environments, to illustrate the diverse spectrum of creativity and talent that defines American interior design today,” Ms. Krümm says. The book has been released in China in both English and Chinese by Lexigraphical Publishing Group and is available throughout Shanghai. It features several of Ms. Krümm’s projects in Estero, Naples and Marco Island.

Kira Krümm Interior Design is in the Miromar Design Center in Estero. The firm specializes in luxury private residences. For more information call 992-5586 or visit www.kirakrumm.com.

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TAVIRA
From page 13

with an electric grill, sink, cabinetry and direct western views of the Gulf of Mexico.

The second guest suite with full bath has a private, open terrace looking over preserve, bay and gulf. A den/third bedroom with chocolate brown sofa and built-in library cabinetry looks out over Bonita Bay and is a tucked-away haven for reading or business.

The kitchen features generous cabinetry and a Sub-Zero Wolf appliance package. Adjoining the kitchen is the formal dining area with sights to the horizon through large windows. Direct views of the gulf also are enjoyed from the owner’s quarters, which have access to the screened terrace.

The Lutgert Companies created Tavira with a total of 90 residences. All residents of Tavira enjoy the rooftop deck where the view stretches from Sanibel to Naples and eastward over Bonita Bay.

Downstairs, a deck area with heated pool, individual cabanas, two gas grills, a shared poolside cabana with dual-sided fireplace and seating welcome residents and their guests. A handsomely appointed clubroom with bar and fireplace, theater, billiard room, fitness center, women’s and men’s spa complete with steam room and a massage room are added luxuries. Pets are also welcome.

Tavira L102 is priced at $1,866,800, plus the model package of $350,000. It is open for viewing daily. To view residence L102 and other models, visit the Bonita Bay Sales Center at the entrance to the community.

For more information, call 495-1105 or visit www.BonitaBayHighRises.com.

Premier Properties of Southwest Florida Inc. is the exclusive representative of Tavira at Bonita Bay. The real estate division of The Lutgert Companies, Premier has offices in The Village on Venetian Bay and the Northern Trust Building in Park Shore; Old Naples on Broad Avenue and Fifth Avenue South; in North Naples in Mercato and on Vanderbilt Beach Road across from the Ritz Carlton; on Marco Island at The Esplanade Shoppes and in The Promenade at Bonita Bay.
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End unit, great location.
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Dill Court
Southern exposure lot with newer seawall. Walk water view on city sewer.
$679,000

1617 Bahama
Inland home, beautifully furnished.
3 Bed, 2 Bath.
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Water front with boat dock, furnished.
Great location.
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Pinehurst B-101
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End unit, great location.
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>$900,000
13 • BONITA BAY - ESTANCIA • 403 Bonita Bay Blvd. • $979,000 • Premier Properties • Judy Perry/Linda Perry 261-6161

>$1,000,000
20 • ROYAL HARBOR • 1303 Gulfshore • $1,200,000 • Premier Properties • Isabelle Edwards 656-4080

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21 • VANDERBILT BEACH - VANDERBILT GULF SIDE • 10952 Gulfside Drive • $2,199,000 • Premier Properties • Pat Callis 208-6572

>$3,000,000
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The tradition of ‘Fiddler’

The tradition of ‘Fiddler’ on the Roof continues with the Naples Players at The Sugden

BY NANCY STETSON
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

“Ther! We’ve just broken a tradition,” declares Tyler Bishop. He’s on stage at the Sugden Community Theatre with Bianca Prioletti, rehearsing a scene from “Fiddler on the Roof.” Their characters have just finished dancing with one another, breaking their tiny village’s Jewish tradition of men dancing only with men, and women dancing only with women.

This classic musical, known for its popular song “Tradition,” is full of people clinging to tradition while others spurn it. Not only do Mr. Bishop and Ms. Prioletti’s characters dance together, but they’ve fallen in love and decided to marry, all without the assistance of a matchmaker.

As Tevye (Bob Stachelli), the lead character and the girl’s father, says, “This isn’t the way it’s done.” But later, he reasons: “On one hand, our old ways were new once, weren’t they?”

SEE TRADITION, C4

Fifth Avenue Chamber Orchestra debuts at The Sugden

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Fifth Avenue Chamber Orchestra opens its inaugural season at 8 p.m. Monday, March 8, at the Sugden Community Theatre. Artistic Director William Noll will conduct the orchestra in Vivaldi’s Concerto for two Violins in A Minor. Soloists will be violinists J. Freivogel and Sae Niwa of the Jasper String Quartet, which is in residence this year for Classic Chamber Concerts. All four members of the quartet will act as the principal strings in the orchestra.

The Vivaldi will be followed by the Brandenburg Concerto #5 by J. S. Bach. Concerto #47 in G Major by Mozart, with Russian pianist Maria Nemtsova as soloist. Ms. Nemtsova, whose appearance is sponsored by the Lord William Smith Foundation, will also give a solo recital at the Sugden Community Theatre at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 9.

At 8 p.m. Monday, March 15, the chamber orchestra will perform two works by Mozart: the Overture to “The Marriage of Figaro” and Symphony #35, the “Haffner.” Violinist Mr. Freivogel will appear as soloist in Beethoven’s beautiful Romance in F Major for Violin and Orchestra. The program will conclude with the Naples Players at The Sugden.

SEE ORCHESTRA, C36

WEEK at-a-glance

Mending hearts
See who went to the 10th annual luncheon, and more great to-dos around town. C35, 36 & 37

Bring it on!
Foreigner, the Spinners headline the fourth Naples Music Festival coming to Third Street South. C14

Go ask Alice
Joy Davison will play tart-tongued Alice Roosevelt Longworth at the Phil. C26

Seasoned just right
Florida Weekly’s food critic says Marco’s Sale e Pepe has just enough of all the right things. C39
I’m fascinated by the “missed connection” ads in newspapers and online, the ones written by lonely hearts who let love slip away.

One of my recent favorites on craigslist reads, “You were holding a bunch of Mardi-gras-like purple beads, but as if they were worry beads, wrapped around one hand. I was reading a book on Zen. I had the sense you’d have liked for me to chat with you. Maybe you’re looking here; wondering if I’d come here looking for you too.”

While online classifieds are now the leaders in missed connections, the concept is not new. On her Web site “Advertising for Love,” blogger Pam Epstein collects personal ads printed in newspapers from the mid-19th century to the early 20th century. Among her collection, she has several “I saw you” notices. This one is from the late 1800s:

The gentleman who interested himself for a lady, on Tuesday, about 2 o’clock, in finding a fur store in Maiden lane, will feel grateful and exceedingly obliged if she will permit him to form her acquaintance by any means or through any medium she may prefer. He trusts she will permit him to form her acquaintance. He will be grateful and exceedingly obliged if she will pardon the presumption and address a note to Waldo, Herald office, informing him how he may address her and what are her wishes.

This one is from the same era (the foibles of love are truly timeless):  

Bal d’Opéra — Will the lady who received my white mask and afterwards gave me her address please communicate with me? I lost the Order of Dancing on which her address was written when we went to get a glass of water.

The thrill of the missed connection is even embedded in our popular myths. What is “Cinderella” if not a tale of almost-got-away? If the prince had been of lesser means, perhaps he would have placed an ad in the paper to track down his fleeing princess. Something along the lines of, “You Ran-away barefoot beauty. Me: Charming heir to royal line. I’ve got one glass slipper. Help me find its mate.”

Missed connection ads are steeped in voyeurism; they allow us an intimate peak into the lives of strangers. They document charged moments, when a fleeting encounter sparked enough emotion to launch a quest. Their narratives are compelling and they never guarantee a happy ending — much like the love stories that govern all our lives. Isn’t the real thrill of the missed connection ad that we might find ourselves written into its lines?

On a recent Friday afternoon, I attended a luncheon for foreign correspondents. The crowd mingles before the meal, comparing stories from trips overseas and exchanging business cards. A young man stopped me as I walked past his table.

“What exotic place are you from?” he said in a charming British accent. “What exotic place are you from?” he said in a charming British accent. “Florida.”

Just as we began to chat, someone else pulled me away. I smiled helplessly at the young Englishman and let myself be dragged into the crowd, only realizing when it was too late that we had not exchanged names.

I often wondered what moments warrant a missed connection ad. Perhaps now I know. I’ll have to check craigslist to find out. ■

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“Isn’t the real thrill of the missed connection ad that we might find ourselves written into its lines?”
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Glorious Food, Great Shops & Graceful Byways
From page 1

“What can we do?” he asks. “It’s a new world.”

A new arrangement

In “Fiddler,” a Jewish family — and the small town of Anatevka — hold tightly to tradition, but find change forced upon them.

Putting on “Fiddler on the Roof” is itself somewhat of a tradition for community theaters. The songs are well known, and the show demands a large cast; 38 are in The Naples Players production, including many teens and 20-somethings.

The volunteer actors have been rehearsing since Jan. 11. At this rehearsal, they’re a week away from opening, and all the pieces of the show have to be knitted together. They rehearse on stage nightly for four hours.

It’s “the dance and sing,” Artistic Director Dallas Dunnagan says about this particular rehearsal session. “Our own special version of what’s called the sitzprobe, a German term describing the cast sitting and singing with the orchestra. But we don’t sit. The actors go through all the musical numbers with the orchestra, but they do it moving, as well as listening. You see none of the book scenes,” she says, referring to the spoken dialogue parts of a musical.

On the following two nights, the cast will go through light and sound cues — exhausting, painstaking rehearsals.

Then, a dress rehearsal.

The costumes are rentals from the Theatre Development Fund. At one point during the “dance and sing,” Designers/Costume Shop Supervisor Dot Aschmoody, a blue tape measure hanging around her neck, comes downstairs from the costume shop to talk with director Dawn Lebrecht Fornara. Ms. Aschmoody will alter and tweak the costumes before opening night.

On stage, the cast goes through the songs, from opening to closing numbers, progressing in fits and starts. There are solos, duets and big ensemble numbers. There are love songs, a wedding song, a Sabbath prayer, a comic nightmare. It’s the first time they’re rehearsing on stage accompanied by the 10-piece orchestra.

The men of the show are full beards they’ve been growing since the summer. “Most of the older characters came with auditions with beards,” says Ms. Fornara. “That was in December. We said, ‘Do not shave and do not cut your hair!’”

The actors are dressed an odd hybrid of modern and traditional clothing, as if early 20th century Russia has met 21st century America. Some are wearing baggy shorts with dance shoes. Mai Puccio, who plays Tevye’s wife, Golde, wears a gray Patriots sweatshirt paired with an ankle-length patterned skirt.

Tevye has a fishing cap. The two, sitting side-by-side in a small bed for the dream sequence number, make an odd couple.

Director’s notes

Ms. Fornara and her husband, Musical Director Charles Fornara, have been urged The Naples Players to do “Fiddler” for a quite some time. “We’re both very passionate about the show,” she says. “We love the show.”

When Ms. Dunnagan first tried to obtain the rights to the musical, she couldn’t, because a national tour with Topol (who played Tevye in the original 1971 movie) was under way. No theater could get the rights while the show was touring the U.S.

When The Naples Players finally got the green light, Ms. Dunnagan asked Ms. Fornara if she’d direct the show. A professional dancer, choreographer and actor, Ms. Fornara has choreographed many of the Players’ previous musicals and directed last season’s highly popular KidZAct version of “Thoroughly Modern Millie.”

“I was nervous about doing it,” she admits about taking on “Fiddler” as the director. “But everyone said, ‘Just do it! You’re ready!’

In the process, she has learned that directing is a lot like choreographing. “When I choreograph, I take it from a dancing standpoint,” she says, “I try to make a scene out of every dance I do.”

What she has found more difficult, however, is juggling the logistics, the scheduling. But she enjoys creating a show and motivating the cast and crew to do their best.

She has high standards, and the actors push themselves to meet them.

Ms. Fornara has directed some of the actors in “Fiddler” in various KidZAct productions and is proud to see them now, acting on the main stage in an adult production.

“It’s a lot of fun and a lot of work, a lot of blood, sweat and tears,” she says. “At this point, I have to let go and be a cheerleader for them. I’m really proud of their work.”

The entire production, she says, “is coming together really well.”

While the lead characters are critical for the production, Ms. Fornara believes the ensemble is the most important part of a musical.

It’s “the ensemble that sets the whole show up,” she says. “Without them, it’s like having New York City without the people in it. It wouldn’t be New York City. It’s the people who make it exciting.” In “Fiddler,” she adds, “You have 25 people in a scene, and they have to be seen and feeling the same thing. You have to show the community, and the circle and the pride and the love of their faith. (It’s about) this tight circle and their relationships.”

The warm fuzzies

And of course, everyone knows the music, written by Jerry Bock with lyrics by Sheldon Harnick and including “If I Were a Rich Man,” “Tradition,” “Sunrise, Sunset.”

“It’s one of my favorite musicals,” says Mr. Fornara, who also directs the orchestra in a new arrangement of the old favorite.

When she agreed to direct the show, the first thing Ms. Fornara and her husband did was listen to the musical’s soundtrack. “I put the CD on and listened to it, and got chills with ‘Tradition,’” she says. “‘Sabbath Prayer’ is my favorite. It made me cry.”

Even though she went to Catholic high school, she says, the music speaks to her. The message and the emotions are universal.

“It has a warmth and a heart,” she says. “It gives you the warm fuzzies.”

Tickets might be tough to come by

Many performances of “Fiddler on the Roof” already are sold out. Some performances still have tickets available, however, and sometimes tickets are returned or exchanged, making them available for other patrons.

On the day of the performance only, if a performance is sold-out, patrons can place their name on a wait-list beginning at 6 p.m. Wait-list requests must be made in person at the Box Office and accompanied by cash or check in payment.

The Naples Players suggest that wait-list patrons then enjoy Fifth Avenue South and return to the Box Office 10 minutes prior to show time. If the head usher is able to seat any wait-list patrons, they will be escorted into the theater; if no seats are available, their cash or check will be returned immediately. Two to six wait-list patrons frequently can be seated.

The Box Office at 707 Fifth Avenue S. is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday–Friday and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. It is also open two hours before each performance.

For more information, call 263-7990 or visit www.naplesplayers.org.
Sully & Sophia's Irish-Italian Comedy Wedding - By Dar- 
ylene Franklin Productions at Big Cypress 
Marketplace at noon on March 6. $42, 
includes lunch, 779-3690 or www.BigCy 

Bill W. and Dr. Bob - By the Prather 
Entertainment Group at Edison 
State College, 7007 Lely Cultural 
way, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and 
Sunday, March 5-7; and 2 p.m. Saturday 
Reservations: 278-4422.

Relatively Speaking - By the 
Marco Players March 12-28, with 
previews March 9-11. www.TheMarco- 
Players.com.

Little House on the Prairie - The 
Musical Broadway - At the Naples 
Philharmonic Center for the Arts March 
9-14. 597-1900.

Beau Jest - By the Gulfshore 
Playhouse at the Norris Center through 
March 7. (866) 811-4111 or www.gulf- 
shoreplayhouse.org.

Jersey Boys: The story 
of Frankie Valli & The Four 
Seasons - At the Barbara B. Mann 
Performing Arts Hall through March 7. 
481-4849.

Fiddler on the Roof - By the 
Naples Players at the Sugden Commu- 
nity Theatre March 3-April 3. 263-7990.

On Golden Pond - By the 
Marco Players through March 14. 

Rachmaninoff to Ravel - 
By the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra 
March 4-7, 597-9100.

Thursday, March 4

Village Nights - Enjoy music 
and shopping from 6-9 p.m. at The Vil- 
lage on Venetian Bay, 403-2204.

Fury Greens - The Off The Hook 
Comedy Club presents Gary Gulman 
tonight through Sunday. General admis- 
sion: $20 per person. 389-6900.

Irish Shindig - Village on Ven- 
etian Bay hosts a St. Patrick's Day cel- 
boration with Irish fare for sale from 
5:30-9 p.m. 261-6100.

Art Evening - Rosen Gallery 
and Studios presents "A Taste of Raku" 
Art Evening from 6-9 p.m. Enjoy an extraor- 
dinary pottery-filled evening of glazing, 
socializing and firing. $43 per person. 
821-0653 for reservations.

Thursdays on Third - Enjoy 
live music and free entertainment along 
with shopping and dining every Thurs- 
day evening between November and 
May on Third Street South. www.third- 
streetsouth.com.

Quiz Night - The English Pub 
hosts Quiz Night at 8:30 p.m. 779-3727, 
naplesenglishpub.com.

Friday, March 5

Happy Hour - Season kicks into 
gear from 5-7 p.m. with the start of the 
Spring Series at the Naples Botanical 
Garden as Frontline Bluegrass Band 
takes the "stage" to perform live for lis- 
teners as they lounge in the Garden. 
Regular admission is $4.95-$9.95; mem- 
bers are free. www.naplesgarden.org.

German Fest - The German 
American Club is sponsoring a German 
Music Festival at St. Katherine Greek 
Orthodox Church, with doors opening 
at 5 p.m. $25 for members; $30 for non- 
members. 774-1852.

Outdoor Opera - Opera Naples 
presents "The Magic Flute" at 7:30 p.m. 
tonight and Saturday at the Cambier 
Park band shell on 8th Street South. 
544-7464.

Live Music - Mercato's First 
Friday Concert features two bands and 
benefits Neighbors helping Neighbors 
from 6-10 p.m.

Miniatures Exhibit - The Art 
League of Bonita Springs hosts A Pastel 
& Small Works Exhibition and Open 
House from 6-8 p.m. The exhibition 
remains on display through March 18. 
www.artcenterbonita.org or 495-9989.

Art Opening - 10th Street Design 
Group members Peggy Oberlin Interi- 
ors, Leufvenius Designs, Linda Burke 
Interiors and TEC Construction and 
Development host a reception marking 
the opening of an exhibit by photo- 
graphic artist Kevin Caffrey from 5-7 
p.m. at 141 10th Street South. 354-9878.

Irish Tunes - The 70 voices of 
the Paradise Coastmen barber shop 
chorus celebrate Irish songs by American 
composers at its annual shows at 7 p.m. 
tonight and Saturday at North Naples 
United Methodist Church, 6000 Good- 
lette Road. 352-6366 or Paradisecoast- 
men@comcast.net.

Free Concert - Jimmy Black- 
wood and the Blackwood Brothers 
Quartet give a free concert at Marco 
Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. Love 
offering accepted, 875 West Elkcam 
Circle, Marco Island. 394-8186 or marco- 
church.com.

Weekend Concerts - Gulf 
Coast Town Center offers its free Week- 
end Concert Series in Market Plaza 
from 7-9 p.m. Tonight: Classic hits by 
the Kappo Kings. 267-0783 or gulfcoast- 
towncenter.com.

Saturday, March 6

Outdoor Concert - The Acous- 
tic Music Society of Southwest Florida 
presest a free concert featuring Phil 
Ledbetter, Richard Bennett, Jarrod 
Walker and Jimmy Little from 4-7 p.m. 
at the Restaurant Piazza at Miromar 
Outlets. 948-5384.

Elvis Tribute - The Philhar-
Admission $6. 947-2753.
Bonita Elks Club, 3231 Coconut Road.
presents four bands, Skeeterland Band, tic Music Society of Southwest Florida
Arts Festival at the Mercato Lifestyle
yahoo.com.
Books-A-Million at Mercado from 1:30-5
2411.
March Music Festival with a “Music of
Myers Greyhound Track kicks off its
10 a.m.-5 p.m. March 13 and 14 at the Promenade
at Bonita Bay. Ranked among the top
art festivals in the nation, this juried
cluded a display of two art
national and international artists
Bonita Springs presents Affairs of the
better and Richard Bennett will be con-
today and Sunday. 403-2204.
March 13 and 14 at the Promenade
at Bonita Bay. Ranked among the top
art festivals in the nation, this juried
event brings the artworks of 208
national and international artists to
Bluegrass Concert - Front-line Bluegrass performs from 7-11 p.m.
March 12 at Bayshore Landing with special surprise guests. $5 cover. www.
bayshorelanding.ning.com.
Ikebana Exhibit - Ikebana International holds its Annual Exhibit
March 12-13 at Moorings Presbyterian Church. Enjoy a dazzling display of
Japanese flower arrangements using live
flowers from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. $5 for adults;
children are free. www.ikebananaples.
com or 390-2881.
Bluegrass Artist - Jon Garon & Friends perform on Park Street, March 15 at
the Norris Center. $30. 213-3038.
Museum Event - Enjoy coffee with the Curator at 10 a.m. March 13 at
the Patty & Jay Baker Naples Museum of Art with Michael Cultice. He will be
your guide through the exhibitions marking the museum’s 10th anniversary season. Afterward, adjourn to the Dome for coffee and conversation. 597-2900 or www.
thephill.org.
The Drifters - The Estero High School Jazz Band opens for The Drifters at 7 p.m. March 13 at the school auditorium. Enjoy the legendary rockers as they perform hits like “Save the Last Dance for Me.” Proceeds benefit the EHS Music Program. $30 reserved seats; $45 VIP. 405-1663.
Many Genres - Musicians John Wheat, Jon Garon, Mark Kreitzer, Mike Blauacci and Leslie Weidenhammer perform from 7-10 p.m. March 13 at the Norris Center, 795 18th Ave. South. Enjoy everything from bluegrass to jazz.
Woodcarving Show - Wood carvers exhibit their carvings and demonstrate carving techniques at the annual Woodcarving Exhibit from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. March 13, at the Estero Community & Recreation Center, 9200 Corkscrew Pines Blvd. Free. The Bonita Wood Carvers meet weekly throughout the year on Wednesday afternoons at the Estero Community & Recreation Center. Instruction is available for beginners and advanced carvers enhance their skills during the regular club sessions. 826-5388.
St. Paddy’s Day - McCabe’s Irish Pub celebrates Patrick’s Day twice. The pub hosts two St. Patrick’s Day celebrations: March 13, in conjunction with Naples’ St. Patrick’s Day Parade and March 17, when McCabe’s hosts an all-day Irish extravaganza starting at 9:30 a.m. McCabe’s Irish Pub is located at The Inn on Fifth, 699 Fifth Avenue South. 888-403-8778.
The Concert - Trinity by the Cove features the Virtuoso Piano, a recital by
Victor Rosenbaum, at 4 p.m. March 14, 262-6581.
Send calendar listings to events@floridaweekly.com.
THEATER REVIEW

Broadway Palm meets challenge of ‘The King and I’

Nancy STETSON
nancy@floridaweekly.com

Even the best relationships between man and woman have their bumpy spots. Add cultural differences to the mix, and the road can grow especially rough.

That’s the scenario for Anna and the King of Siam, the two titular characters of “The King and I” (playing at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre through April 10).

But there are a couple more twists. There’s a power difference. Anna is a governor from Wales and the king is … well, king. He sees her as his subject and expects her to grovel before him. She doesn’t quite see the situation as he does and refuses to bow to him; it’s priceless.

And though others can see it, the two haven’t even acknowledged to themselves that they’ve fallen in love.

All this, plus the lyrical songs of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, and you can understand why this Tony Award-winning musical has been pleasing audiences for 60 years, spawning a 1956 film and multiple revivals on Broadway and in London.

The current production playing at the Broadway Palm is, quite simply, one of the best musicals I’ve seen on its stage. It’s thoroughly charming and romantic, in the best sense of the word.

Anna (Amanda Morgan) is sunny and optimistic, but fiercely stubborn. She’s polite, but holds her own with the king, seeing him as an equal. It’s extremely challenging for an actor to play “good,” without appearing bland or overly saccharine, but Ms. Morgan succeeds.

Galloway Stevens, as the King of Siam, is just as suited to his role, which is also tricky to play. I’ve seen other productions where the king is too arrogant and sinister, and it’s difficult to care for him at all.

But director Brian Enzman has his actors hit exactly the right tone. The chemistry between the two is delicious.

The rest of the cast also puts in strong performances.

There’s a subplot: Lun Tha (Jose Sanpedro) in love with Tuptim (YoonJeong Seong) who’s been given to the king as a gift from the Prince of Burma. Though their characters are secretly in love, the two throw off no sparks when they’re together on stage. But that’s all forgiven when they open their mouths to sing. Ms. Seong has a more operatic voice, which she displays in “My Lord and Master.” But she and Mr. Sanpedro have two duets (“We Kiss in the Shadow” and “I Have Dreamed”), and Mr. Sanpedro’s voice is a pleasure to listen to.

Kevin Schuring puts in a strong performance as The Kralahome, the king’s stern right-hand man, and Ya Han Chang is stately and wise as Lady Thiang, the king’s first wife.

Nick Hambruch and Derek Wu split the responsibility of portraying Prince Chulalongkorn, the king’s young son on the cusp of puberty, who will succeed his father on the throne. Spencer Barney and Christian Koller share the role of Anna’s son, Louis.

Yes, the many young princes and princesses who toddle out during “The March of the Siamese Children” are adorable, but wisely, the director doesn’t focus on them. And you don’t overdose on cuteness during “Getting to Know You.”

This musical contains a show within it: a Siamese interpretation of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” performed in traditional eastern style. The cultural differences make the interpretation both humorous and intriguing. (For example, they refer to Simon Legree as Simon of Legree, of the kingdom of Kentucky. And Buddha also plays a role in the play.)

This fascinating dance, choreographed by Amy Marie McCleary, is very moving. The women performing are quite taken with this story of escaping slaves, especially Tuptim.

And the king himself admires Abraham Lincoln, but doesn’t recognize that he treats his subjects like slaves. “The King and I” is filled with rich, exotic costumes and sets. It is a truly magical show.

Sometimes, in the past, the Broadway Palm has seemed to cut corners creatively, casting people who are good enough, but not knock-out talented. Shows have been pleasant, but failed to wow.

“The King and I” reaches to be more than just another middle-of-the-road production, and it succeeds. And when Anna and the King finally find themselves in each other’s arms, singing and dancing to “Shall We Dance?” there is an exuberance, an undeniable glee… which is exactly how this entire production makes you feel.
GIVING

Mentors make a difference in their own lives as well as in those of Immokalee students

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Alex Gavin, a freshman at Immokalee High School, never considered going to college. But with the help of The Immokalee Foundation and a volunteer mentor who meets with Alex once a week, he is determined to become a college graduate.

Since 1991, the foundation has been committed to shaping Immokalee’s future by empowering its children through education. One of its most successful programs includes the Immokalee chapter of Take Stock in Children. Since 2001, the foundation has matched mentors with qualified seventh-, eighth- and ninth-grade students from Immokalee Middle School and Immokalee High School.

“More than 80 community volunteers from Lee and Collier counties currently mentor students in Immokalee,” says Liz Allbritten, director of programs for The Immokalee Foundation. “But we need more.

The Immokalee Foundation has additional funding to send qualified students to college, but lacks enough mentors.”

“These children are our future,” Ms. Allbritten says. “Mentoring can change the course of their lives.”

A mentor meets with a student once a week throughout the school year and helps them establish strong personal and educational goals. If the student meets those standards, he or she earns a scholarship to any Florida state college, university or vocational school.

Ninth-grader Jesus Velazco was recently inducted into the Take Stock in Children mentoring program along with 23 other students. “We are only given a few chances like this in life,” he says.

The odds are excellent that Jesus will graduate from high school and attend college. Last year 100 percent of the students inducted into the Immokalee program graduated from high school and continued their post-secondary education.

“That statistic is phenomenal when you consider more than 70 percent of adults in Immokalee lack a high school education and about half of the high school students drop out,” Ms. Allbritten says.

Take Stock participant Gaelle Colas graduated top of her class at Immokalee High School and now is a freshman at Smith College in Massachusetts.

“In Immokalee, our parents work so hard, but they can’t always afford to send us to college,” Ms. Colas says. She is just one of many success stories. Immokalee students are attending colleges including Michigan State University, The Citadel, University of Florida, Edison State College and Florida Gulf Coast University.

Kerby Henry, 16, a sophomore at Immokalee High School, is going to college. So is Johnnie Gonzales, 18, and dozens of other students because a community member cared enough to become a mentor.

“You can make a difference,” Ms. Allbritten says. “You can help send a child to college and change his or her future forever.”

What it takes to mentor

These are some of the qualifications to become a mentor for one school year in The Immokalee Foundation’s Take Stock in Children program:

• Resident of Collier or Lee counties for at least two years
• Belief in the importance of an education
• Interest in making a difference in the life of a student

These are the terms of appointment:

• Complete program application and clear a background screening
• Attend new mentor orientation and participate in quarterly training
• Meet once per week for 45 minutes with your student on campus, during school hours, through the school year
• Support student at school-sponsored events with parent/guardian permission
• Communicate regularly with Take Stock program director and student advocate

And these are the benefits:

• Helping a student develop new skills for academic and personal success
• The satisfaction of knowing you made a difference in the world

Numerous resources are available to mentors, including:

• A program director and student advocate, employed by The Immokalee Foundation
• Guidance counselors at each school
• In addition, a training program and a mentor discussion group will be provided along with a comprehensive mentor handbook.

For more information about becoming a mentor in the Immokalee Foundation’s Take Stock in Children program, contact Beth Colman at 200-9228 or e-mail beth.colman@immokaleefoundation.org.

For more information about The Immokalee Foundation, e-mail info@immokaleefoundation.org or visit www.immokaleefoundation.org.

Let’s talk.

Sometimes a cry for help never makes a sound. When you see a child with signs of depression, anger or substance abuse, please help them take the first step to recovery. Call the David Lawrence Center. The only thing they have to lose is the pain. 239.455.8500.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

1 4 6 7 9 3 8 5 2
2 3 8 9 7 4 5 6 1
6 1 9 5 3 2 4 7 8
5 7 4 6 8 1 9 2 3
7 5 3 8 4 9 2 1 5
4 2 5 1 6 7 3 8 9
8 9 1 3 2 5 6 4 7
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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6 8 10 12 14 16

17 11 9 7 5 3

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PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your ability to make needed changes may still need to do some solid reassessing early in the week before you can close that sensitive situation. A new job-related opportunity could present itself later in the week.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Disappointed about something that didn't go your way? Cheer up. Look at the reasons it happened, and you could find a valuable lesson about what to do (or not do) the next time.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's a good time to do some reassessing and goals — even how you considered redressing your bathroom. The point is to be open to change if change can improve things.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Take some time to learn who is the right person for personal goals and discuss your ideas with for your new project. Also, reserve time to prepare for an upcoming family event.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Dealing with a demanding situation, as you recently did, could drain much of your own emotional reserves. Take time to relax and indulge yourself in some well-earned pampering.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The regal Lion might feel that she or he is above emotional displays. But showing your feelings can be liberating for you, and reassuring for someone who has been waiting for you to do so.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) An emotionally needy person might make more demands than you can cope with. Best to ask for some breathing space NOW, before resentment sets in and makes communication difficult.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) An unexpected state of mind signals could cause serious schedule setbacks. Best to focus on straightening everything out as soon as possible and get everyone back on track.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Be aware that someone in the workplace could try to use a disagreement against you. If so, be prepared to offer your side of the story with the facts to back you up.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) An unexpected challenge to a previous decision can be unsettling. But your reservoir of self-confidence — plus your loyal supporters — should help carry the day for you. Good luck.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) While the idea of making some sort of major move in the near future continues to interest you, don’t overlook a new possibility that could be emerging closer to home.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Be careful not to base an upcoming decision on gossip or anything you might hear if it can’t meet provable standards. That’s true regardless of whom the source might be.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are extraordinarily sensitive to people’s feelings, and you’re always ready to offer comfort if necessary.

By Linda Thistle

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.

Your Way to Key West

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BORN THIS WEEK:

EXTRAORDINARILY SENSITIVE TO PEOPLE’S FEELINGS, AND YOU’RE ALWAYS READY TO OFFER COMFORT IF NECESSARY.

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Puzzle Difficulty this week:

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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- Moderate
- Challenging
- Expert

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Depart from Marco Island at Rose Marco River Marina
UPCOMING KEY WEST EVENTS

03/06: ConchShell Blowing Contest
03/06: 8th Annual Rotary Club of Key West Boat Show
03/07: "Piano Men" by the Key West Pops Orchestra
03/07: Cuban Cultural Exposition & Hot Havana Nights
LATEST FILMS

‘Cop Out’

Is it worth $10? No

“Cop Out” challenges new depths of terrible and holds up pretty well amongst the worst, most gravely awful movies you can remember. That includes you, “Love Guru.”

Although Bruce “Hudson Hawk” Willis has been “Bonfire of the Vanities” bad before, the failure of this unfunny comedy isn’t his fault. In fact, his tough-guy Jimmy is the only one who looks like he belongs in a buddy cop movie. No, the blame mostly goes to Tracy Morgan, who plays Jimmy’s partner Paul as a whiny, petulant baby who you will want to punch in the face every time he speaks.

This is the first movie Kevin Smith (“Clerks”) has directed that he hasn’t also written, and at no point is the script sharp, clever, funny, witty, amusing, inspired or original. It does, however, have exchanges that sound like fourth graders on a schoolyard.

Paul: Can I put the cherry on top of the cake?
Jimmy: No.
Paul: You just made me sad.
Jimmy: No.

Paul telling a bad dialogue, written by Robb and Mark Cullen, isn’t Morgan’s alone. When Jimmy and Paul tell a burglar (Seann William Scott) they’ve just arrest-ed to “shut up,” the burglar responds by saying “Hey, you shut up” and then repeats everything Paul says as Paul is saying it. This particularly brilliant sequence ends with a knock-knock joke.

There’s also a foul-mouthed 11-year-old, a drug lord with the authentically Mexican name of Poh Boy (Guillermo Díaz), a kidnapped hostess (Ana de la Reguera), rival cop partners (Adam Brody and Kevin Pollak) who serve no purpose, and the stereotypical police captain (Sean Cullen) without a soul. Thank goodness for Susie Essman, who humorously comes across as a badass housewife who foils a robbery that Jimmy and Paul fail to prevent.

And then there are the odd subplots, with Paul believing his wife (Rashida Jones) is cheating on him (can’t blame her) and Jimmy needing money to pay for his daughter’s (“Michelle Trachtenberg”) wedding. None of it comes together with any clarity, precision or reason. What’s more, the extensive foul language and “R” rating don’t fit the intended lighthearted tone, meaning everything feels off from the beginning.

I noticed I’ve come to the end without discussing the plot. There’s really no need. What is painfully and sadly obvious is that even if I personally hated Willis, Morgan and Smith, I wouldn’t be able to make up a review that’s this scathing (I don’t, for the record, and I’m actually a fan of Willis and Smith, which makes this even more disappointing). What a disaster.

— Dan Hudak is the chairman of the Florida Film Critics Circle and a national-ly syndicated film critic. You can e-mail him at dan@hudakonhollywood.com and read more of his work at www.hudakonhollywood.com.

CAPSULES

REVIEWS BY DAN HUDAK

www.hudakonhollywood.com

Shutter Island ★★★½
(Leonardo DiCaprio, Ben Kingsley, Patrick Wilson) In 1954 off the coast of Boston, two federal marshals (DiCaprio and Mark Ruffalo) are sent to a hospital for the criminally insane to investigate the disappearance of Rachel (Emily Mortimer), an inmate who murdered her three children. Director Martin Scorsese (“The Departed” does a great job of creating an eerie mood and atmosphere, but the story is a bit too complex for its own good. Kudos to Mr. DiCaprio and the accomplished cast for fine performances all around. Based on the novel by Dennis Lehane (“Mystic River”). Rated R.

Valentine’s Day ★★★
(Ashton Kutcher, Jennifer Garner, Juli Roberts) Love is lost, found, hated and embraced in this comedy/drama of intertwining stories set on Valentine’s Day in Los Angeles. It’s trying to be “Love Actually” for Valentine’s Day, but it’s not funny, charming nor cute enough to fulfill its purpose. Rated PG-13.

From Paris With Love ★★★½
(John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Kasia Smutniak) In Paris, an ambassador’s assistant (Meyers) helps an unconven-tional American spy (Travolta) stop a drug ring, then a terrorist cell. The story is utter nonsense, but the action is good fun and Mr. Travolta is a real treat. Rated R.
**BOOKS**

What’s up, Doc? Randy Wayne White does it again with his 17th Doc Ford mystery novel


**BY PHILIP J. JASON**  Special to Florida Weekly

Over the course of 16 previous Doc Ford novels, Randy Wayne White has built an enormous following, far beyond his initial Florida fandom. He has given depth and shading to his attractive marine biologist hero, and he has etched a layered jumping-off point — the Dinkin’s Bay Marina on Sanibel, near where Ford’s lab-office-residence sits.

Mr. White has developed a community of Doc Ford associates: women at once smitten and independent, lovers of life on the water, carousers, losers and Old Florida originals. He has blessed us with Mr. Ford’s alter-ego, the beanpole hippy-philosopher, Tomlinson. He has brushed in a background of mysterious covert operations. He has taken us into the nooks and crannies of the swampy accessible property in their attempt to enjoy some safe sport diving.

As they bring their diving gear and other equipment to the edge of the lake, their mysterious and shifting sub-surface boundaries are depleted as light fails, the time and the time of the main events seem identical. Mere hours, We are limited to the lake, its mysterious and shifting sub-surface boundaries and its immediate surroundings. We cringe as light fails, oxygen tanks are depleted and frightening sounds intrude.

Mr. White manages the unfolding of his braided plot with stunning effect. He adds to the intensity by shifting perspective. Some chapters suffocate us with underwater intrigue, others focus on the ex-cons and their machinations. Doc narrates the scenes he is part of, while an outside narrator presents scenes in which he does not appear. When a pinnacle of suspense is reached in one thread of the story, the author sets it aside to follow another thread.

Along the way, Mr. White gives painless lessons in geology, evolution and technology. Readers learn about karst technology. Readers learn about karst and shifting sub-surface boundaries from the age of dinosaurs.

“Deep Shadow” is a satisfying thriller with a bizarre setting, unsettling predators both human and nonhuman, and a trio of unconventional yet admirable characters who face their fears and learn to value one another in spite of their differences.

**COURTESY PHOTO**  Randy Wayne White

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The Fourth Naples Music Festival is just around the corner. This year’s event will once again bring some great award-winning talent to downtown Naples on Sunday, March 21. From 5-10 p.m., Third Street South will groove and rock to the classic sounds of the Spinners, Foreigner and Naples’ very own Powerhouse from 5-10 p.m.

More than 30 years after forming, Foreigner’s music resonates across generations and the globe thanks to an impressive run of 14 Top 20 hits and album sales exceeding 70 million. The band’s Classic favorites include “Cold as Ice,” “Jukebox Hero,” “Urgent” and “Hot Blooded.”

Presented by PNC Bank, the festival is a benefit for the Garden of Hope and Courage, the 2.5-acre healing garden on the downtown campus of the NCH Healthcare System. Heading into its fourth edition (the festival takes place every two years), the Naples Music Festival has drawn acts such as the Pointer Sisters, Cheap Trick, the Gin Blossoms and the Commodores.

Throughout the years, the Spinners have acquired 12 gold records with hits on top of both Pop and R&B charts as well as six Grammy nominations. Hit singles include “Rubberband Man,” “Could It Be I’m Falling In Love” and “Working My Way Back to You.”

With specialty VIP tickets and general admission tickets available, the event offers a fun-filled Sunday for the entire family. There are food and beverage vendors, merchandise, a great raffle package including 10 tickets to see Bon Jovi at the Bank Atlantic Center in April and so much more, all to benefit the garden. Tickets available for the event include general admission ($40 in advance/$50 the day of) and VIP admission ($350 per person), which includes a special dinner and drink menu at participating Third Street South restaurants (Campiello, Tommy Bahama, Sea Salt, Handsome Harry’s and Ridgway Bar & Grill), the concert and more.

To purchase advance general admission tickets, go online to www.ticketmaster.com or visit the following locations:
- NCH Whitaker Wellness Center, 2330 Immokalee Road; 596-9200
- NCH Dr. John N. Briggs Wellness Center, 399 Ninth Street N.; 436-6770
- Germain Arena Box Office, 11000 Everblades Parkway, Estero; 948-7825

For VIP tickets, call 434-6697.

Coming soon to Third Street South: The 2010 Naples Music Festival

**What:** The Naples Music Festival featuring Foreigner, the Spinners and Powerhouse

**When:** 5-10 p.m. Sunday, March 21

**Where:** Third Street South

**Tickets:** General admission $40 in advance and $50 day of; VIP $350 per person

**Information:** www.naplesmusicfestival.org

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The Gulf Coast Big Band celebrates its 20th year of free concerts in Cambier Park at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 14. “We’ll be swinging to tunes like ‘Take the A Train’ and ‘It Don’t Mean a Thing if it Ain’t got that Swing,’ and warming the soul with ballads like ‘Sky Lark,’ conductor William ‘Doc’ Tietze promises. “Of course, in the spirit of St. Patrick’s Day, we’ll also play ‘Danny Boy,’” he says.

The band’s free monthly Sunday afternoon performances have been enjoyed by audiences in the thousands at Cambier Park. Under the direction of Mr. Tietze, the musicians play favorite big band sounds of the golden era of swing by such greats as Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Glen Miller.

An IRS charitable organization, the band has received donations exceeding $75,000 over the years, which it has awarded as scholarships to Collier County high school students seeking to advance their musical skills.

For more information, call Barry Smith at 732-0683 or e-mail tbonessmit-ty933@aol.com.

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**ORCHESTRA**

From page 1 with the Symphony #5 of Franz Schubert.

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**Gulf Coast Big Band celebrates a milestone**

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Barbershoppers will sing to the “Red, White and… Green’

The 70 voices of the Paradise Coastmen barber shop chorus will celebrate Irish songs by American composers at its annual shows Friday and Saturday, March 5-6, at North Naples United Methodist Church.

Under director Steve Jamison, the a cappella group will perform such favorites as “Irish Blessing,” “That’s an Irish Lullaby” and “Mother Machree,” all to fit the theme of Red, White and… Green. Chairman of the show is Mike Joynt.

Guest quartet for the evening is reigning champion of the Barbershop Harmony Society’s Northeastern District, Our Town. Known for its big sound and rock 'n' roll, and a cappella group will perform such favorites as “Irish Blessing,” “That’s an Irish Lullaby” and “Mother Machree,” all to fit the theme of Red, White and… Green. Chairman of the show is Mike Joynt.

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Our Favorite Things’ concert blends opera, jazz and dance

Stu Shelton and Rebecca Richardson present “Our Favorite Things,” a concert featuring jazz, opera and dance, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 16. The performance will take place in Moss Hall at Moorings Presbyterian Church of Naples, 791 Harbour Drive.

The program includes the contrasting genres of classical and jazz, featuring performances by some of Naples’ finest jazz and classical musicians.

The first half of the event will be devoted to the classical genre, with arias and art songs by Bach, Rossini, Mozart, Puccini, Caccini, Chopin, and Donizetti, sung by Ms. Richardson and her young protégé, Toni-Ann Singh, accompanied by Robin Shuford-Frank on the piano.

There will be cameo performances by Bob Zottola (trumpet) and The Naples Academy of Ballet.

The second half of the program will feature Naples’ finest jazz musicians, with Stu Shelton on piano, Bob Zottola on trumpet and flugelhorn, Dan Heck on guitar and bass, Patricia Dean on drums and vocals, and Ms. Richardson, jazz vocalist.

This program will also serve as the CD release event for Ms. Richardson’s album, “Stirred, Not Shaken.”

Complimentary refreshments will be served at intermission. Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit naplesjazz.com or call 354-1817.

Jimmy Blackwood and the Blackwood Brothers Quartet will give a free concert at Marco Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. Friday, March 5. Members of the Blackwood family have been singing gospel music for more than 75 years. Their Marco Island appearance is the third of Marco Presbyterian Church’s “Music for the Soul” concert series. The season’s final concert will be Billy Dean and Dawn at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 14. Love offerings will be received at both concerts. The church is at 875 West Elckam Circle, Marco Island. For more information, call 394-8186 or visit www.marcochurch.com.
Naples International Film Festival Oscar party will celebrate ‘The Cove’

Naples International Film Festival board members and friends are having an Oscar party and everyone’s invited to help celebrate the nomination of “The Cove,” the feature film of the inaugural NIFF, for Best Documentary.

The fun begins at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 7, at Absinthe in the Colle- lection at Vanderbilt. The Academy Awards show will be projected for all to see as supporters enjoy a three-course meal and cheer on Louie Psihoyos, director of “The Cove.”

At the opening night of NIFF last November, Mr. Psihoyos was amazed by the support for his film as evidenced by the crowd of more than 1,100 people at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. “Kudos to the NIFF team,” he said.

“Something wonderful starts with a small group of people daring to take steps to achieve what once only resided in a dream.” That same philosophy went into creating “The Cove,” which documents the slaughter of dolphins by local fishermen in a hidden cove in the whaling town of Taiji, Japan. Taiji is the main source of dolphins captured for entertainment around the world and one of several regional areas in Japan where dolphin meat has traditionally been consumed.

NIFF board members say they expect “The Cove” to win the Oscar. Tickets to the party at Absinthe are $800 per person. Proceeds will benefit NIFF.

For more information about NIFF, visit www.naplesfilmfest.com.

Orchestra and Chorus presents a concert of Mozart and more

The Naples Orchestra and Chorus, conducted by Robert Dale Herrema, presents two Mozart masterworks — the Symphony No. 40 and the Coronation Mass — during the first part of a concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 14, at Golden Gate High School. Soloists are Dori Smith, Suzanne Keen, Robert Beane and Bill Jones. Following intermission, the music switches from the vibrant 18th century sounds of Mozart’s Vienna to stirring American patriotic favorites.

Admission is free. A goodwill offering will be taken. For more information, call 455-2912 or 348-0938.

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TheatreZone delivers a one-man ‘Beast’ to G&L Theatre

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

David Garrison stars as Tony Award-winning theatrical producer David Merrick in TheatreZone’s world premiere of “The Beast of Broadway,” opening Thursday, March 4, at G&L Theatre on the campus of Community School of Naples. Performances are at 8 p.m. March 4-6 and 10-13, and at 2 p.m. March 6, 7 and 14.

TheatreZone Artistic Director Mark Danni conceived the idea for the one-man play as a vehicle for Hal Linden in TheatreZone’s world premiere of “The Abominable Showman,” a biography “for the stage.”

As Mr. Linden’s replacement, Mr. Garrison “is an ideal choice to play Merrick — a study in darkness with his tailored suits, sleek black hair, mustache, sardonic wit and low, insinuating voice,” Mr. Danni says.

“David Merrick went out of his way to resemble a villain out of Victorian melodrama,” he adds. “When Al Hirschfeld drew a particularly unflattering caricature of him as a Grinch-like Santa Claus, Mr. Merrick reproduced it on his annual Christmas card.” Although audiences at “The Beast of Broadway” might recognize Mr. Garrison as Steve Rhoades on television’s “Married with Children,” the actor has spent his life in the theater. An accomplished Broadway actor, he most recently performed as the Wizard of Oz in “Wicked.”


The play opens on April 25, 1980, with a scene from Mr. Merrick’s somewhat less-than-benign manipulation at the opening of “42nd Street.”

Gower Champion, the musical’s director and choreographer, had died early the day of the opening, at age 59, of a rare blood cancer. But Mr. Merrick kept the news secret so he could announce it from the stage at the curtain call, to the screams and tears of a devastated cast and first-night audience. While the show’s notoriety and success were assured, an ugly aftertaste lingered.

About the beast

Recipient of eight Tony Awards from nearly 100 Broadway shows in a career that spanned six decades, Mr. Merrick was admired, feared, detested and respected — but never ignored.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Mo., David Margulois graduated from Central High in 1930 and received a law degree from St. Louis University in 1937. With his sights on Broadway, he moved to New York in 1940 and changed his name to David Merrick. Building upon the success of 1954’s “Fanny,” he became the dominant Broadway producer of his era with hits such as “Gypsy,” “Hello, Dolly!” and the aforementioned “42nd Street.”

About TheatreZone

TheatreZone is a nonprofit organization created by Mr. Danni and his wife, actress/choreographer Karen Molinar. The two share a vision and a passion to bringing the “Lost Treasures of Broadway and World Premieres” to Southwest Florida. TheatreZone employs professional actors who are members of the Actors Equity. All performances take place in the intimate, 250-seat G&L Theatre at Community School of Naples.

The final two 2010 season productions are Lee Roy Reams in concert with “Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance,” April 22-25, and “I Love My Wife,” June 10-20. For more information, call (888) 966-3352 or visit the Theatre Box Office between noon and 2 p.m. every Wednesday, or visit www.theatrezone-florida.com.
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Monday - Saturday 10 - 6 • Sunday 11 - 5

Have a Seat at the third annual fundraiser for the Museum of Art

A fundraiser featuring some of the leading artists in Southwest Florida returns to the Philharmonic Center for the Arts at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 21. “Have a Seat III... Fabulous Fabrics Raffle & Auction,” is presented by the Friends of Art at the Patty & Jay Baker Naples Museum of Art.

Area artists will create imprimaturs on five Butterfly Chairs, five classic director's chairs and 13 umbrellas. Fifteen artists will create works on silk, suitable for wearing or framing to hang on your wall.

Raffle tickets are $50 and will be limited to 300. Ticket-holders will be able to choose the object of their choice when their raffle ticket is drawn. Patrons will have a one-in-14 chance of taking home a unique chair, umbrella or fabric that is not only practical but can be displayed as a work of art.

Sponsor tickets are $1,000, which includes two tickets for the raffle and a tax deduction of $700. Patron tickets are $500, which includes two tickets for the raffle and a tax deduction of $200.

The participating artists are:
- Liz Ary
- Joanne Benoit
- Steven Beyer
- Jane Borchers
- Romero Britto
- Andre Browne
- Aida Bukovica
- Ali Clift
- Pat Collins
- Carolyn Connors
- Ted deClercq
- Juan Diaz
- Ruth Dwyer
- Pat Flock
- Gail Geary
- Muffy Clark Gill
- Jonathan Green
- Natalie Guess
- Bonny Hawley
- Gabriela Helesicova
- Sandra Jackoboice
- Mally Khorasantchi
- Betsy Ross Koller
- Pat Kunicich
- Jo-Ann Lizio
- Suzanne Luker
- Danny Morgan
- Laura Mostaghel
- Alan Pimentel
- Louis Salvati
- Cori Scheft
- Beth Schroeder
- Anne Shreve
- Janis Siegel
- Donna Spadafora
- Michael St. Amand
- Joseph Swenarton
- Terri Wegman
- Kim Williss
- Jackie Zorn

In addition to the raffle, there will be a special auction featuring the following works: three scarves designed by Jonathan Green; one scarf designed by Romero Britto; a wall hanging created especially for this event by Bonny Hawley; a framed Rozome batik on hand-woven silk, titled “Everglades Sunset” by Natalie Guess; and a cloth painting by Ali Clift, created exclusively for this event.

Proceeds benefit the Naples Museum of Art’s lectures, exhibitions, educational programs and endowment.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Jane Borchers at 254-2776.

Vergina’s chefs prepare world-class, Italian inspired cuisine sure to please traditionalists, as well as those looking for that unique selection.

3 Course Dinner with a Glass of Wine $24.95
Served 4:00-6:00pm
Salad, Entree & Dessert

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Served 4:00-6:00pm • Salad, Entrée & Dessert
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Served 11:30am till 6:00pm
DAILY DINNER SPECIALS
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LIQUOR PROMOTIONS AT THE BAR
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Bonita Bay • Promenade
Monday - Saturday 10 - 6 • Sunday 11 - 5
The 15th annual Artists’ Studio Tour, presented by the Friends of Art at the Patty and Jay Baker Naples Museum of Art, will feature local and Caribbean artists. The tour takes place over two days — from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, March 7, and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, March 8.

Participating artists are:
• Four Caribbean artists mentored by Jonathan Green: Juan Diaz from Colombia; Jean Daniel Dornevil from Haiti; Johanne Benoit, who is of Haitian heritage; and Reynier Llanes from Cuba.
• Brian Brace, whose custom-made furniture upholds the traditions of furniture art, while also being functional and pleasing to the eye. His chairs, tables, desks and other works are meticulously crafted, with the understanding that they’ll be passed along to future generations.
• Gareth Rockcliffe, whose soulful landscape photography blends beauty and emotion to create a distinctive world that is both familiar and surprising.
• John Long, whose complex sculptural mixed-media pieces include paintings, assemblages and large and medium-scale sculpture.
• Holly Manneck, whose imaginative mixed-media art is inspired by the colors and textures of the Caribbean, where she lived for many years.
• Sue Boydston, whose muse is water and whose abstract narrative paintings are influenced by streams, ponds, rivers and seas.

Tickets for the Artists’ Studio Tour are $40 for Sunday (includes refreshments) and $50 for Monday (includes lunch). A patron’s ticket is $100 for either day with special recognition given to these contributors. Carpooling is encouraged, as are comfortable walking shoes.

To purchase tickets, call 597-1900 or 254-2776.
The seventh annual Art League Center for the Arts Marco Artists’ Studios Tour kicks off Friday, March 12, with coffee hour and registration from 8:45-9:45 a.m. at the Lauritzen/Rush Galleries, where the Gift Shop of Original Arts & Crafts & Art Supplies will be open.

Next up will be visits to four private artist studios and a special presentation during lunch at the Hilton Marco Beach Resort & Spa.

Artists Linda Chambers, Rick Gran- neman, Shirley Piercy and Linda Taffee will open their private studios from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for groups of 12 at a time to visit while the artists create and discuss their media. Works will also be available for purchase. Lunch will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., during which time guests will have the opportunity to make a virtual visit to France as Carol Jonson presents “Giverny: Monet Studio and Gardens.”

This is the seventh year the Center for the Arts has organized the tour; Roberta Bresette is the committee chairman this year. Among other things, the committee organizes car pools for transportation of each group. All visits to the studios are 30 minutes in duration.

The Art League, Marco Island’s Center for the Arts is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting education in and appreciation of the arts.

Reservations for the Artist Studio Tour may be made by calling 394-4221. Tickets are $50 for members and $60 for guests; $20 of the ticket purchase is tax-deductible.

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Renowned landscape painter, art historian and lecturer, teacher and Emmy Award-winning television host David Dunlop will present a free lecture about “Psychology of Perception/Vision, How We Really See” at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4, at the Weatherburn Gallery. The gallery will host a public reception to meet the artist and view his latest work from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, March 5. The show will remain at the gallery until March 23.

Mr. Dunlop’s landscapes of Europe, reminiscent of the romantic Hudson River School, and his innovative paint- ings that employ 23-karat gold leaf on linen, copper and aluminum, have earned him much recognition and a consider- able following. His work and techniques have been the subject of several major features in the New York Times. His teaching skills have been captured in how-to books and on DVDs. And his skills as an art historian and presenter have led to invitations to lecture the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and to hosting the PBS television series, “Landscape through Time with David Dunlop.”

The Weatherburn Gallery is at 452 Bayfront Place, Naples. Reservations are required for Mr. Dunlop’s lecture and can be made by calling 263-8008 or e-mailing rsvp@weatherburn.com.
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Actress/singer Joy Davidson stars in the play "Alice – An Evening with the Tart-Tongued Alice Roosevelt Longworth" in the Daniels Pavilion at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. Performances are at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, and 2 and 7 p.m. Thursday, March 25. A question/answer session with the playwright will follow.

"Alice," directed by Theatre Conspiracy's Producing Artistic Director Bill Taylor, tells the story of Alice Roosevelt Longworth, the colorful daughter of Theodore Roosevelt. The setting is the week of Tricia Nixon's 1971 wedding. Alice Roosevelt Longworth, in her 80s, is being interviewed by an invisible correspondent from The Washington Post. Throughout this captivatingly entertaining play, Alice regales the correspondent with memories of her life in the early years of the 20th century — a life that by Washington standards would be called “wild indeed.”

Ms. Davidson was seen last year at the Phil in "Maria: The life and loves of Maria Callas."

Tickets to "Alice – An Evening with the Tart-Tongued Alice Roosevelt Longworth" are $42.

At 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, the playwright, Kitty Felde, public radio reporter and KPCC-FM's Washington correspondent, presents "Behind the Scenes of Alice," a lecture about her play, "Alice – An Evening with the Tart-Tongued Alice Roosevelt Longworth," in the Toni Stabile Building, located just south of the Philharmonic Center.

In "Behind the Scenes of Alice," part of the Philharmonic Center's Lifelong Learning program, which presents more than 120 adult education classes each season featuring world-renowned teachers and experts in music, dance, art history, painting, opera, photography and more.

For more information or to order tickets, contact Customer Service at 597-1900 or toll-free at (800) 597-1900 or visit www.thephil.org.
Florida Repertory Theatre announces the opening of “Relatively Speaking,” the next play in its 12th season, and one of the funniest ever written by England’s favorite playwright, Alan Ayckbourn.

Opening Friday, March 12, and with discounted previews March 9-11, “Relatively Speaking” is a comedy full of miscommunications, misunderstandings and mistaken identities.

“We’re very excited to bring this play to life,” says Florida Rep producing artistic director and the play’s director, Robert Cacioppo. “From the author of ‘Bedroom Farce’ and ‘Absurd Person Singular,’ this play is the quintessentially mistaken identity comedy. Audiences will love it.”

“Relatively Speaking” is a classic human foibles farce, and the plot is simple: Well, sort of.

Ginny is engaged to Greg (although she’s having an affair with Phillip). Phillip is married to Sheila (but she’s having an affair with Greg, he suspects). Meanwhile Greg thinks Phillip is Ginny’s father (in truth, he was her boss). It sounds complicated because it is. For the characters. In truth, the only people in the room who know what’s going on as the web gets more and more tangled are the people in the audience.

This production features all-star cast of Florida Rep regulars, including Chris Clavelli, Carrie Lund, Jason Parrish and Kim Morgan Dean. Mr. Clavelli and Ms. Lund play Phillip and Sheila, a couple whose 30-year marriage is as stale as the toast and marmalade they eat for breakfast every Sunday. Mr. Clavelli makes his third appearance this season after having been seen in “Opus” and “You Can’t Take It With You.” Ms. Lund was also seen this season in “You Can’t Take It With You” and “Boeing-Boeing.”

As the young lovers Greg and Ginny, Mr. Parrish and Ms. Dean are reunited onstage after playing opposite one another in “Moon Over Buffalo” at the Rep three years ago.

Relatively Speaking” plays March 12-28. Performances are at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2 p.m. on Wednesdays, Sundays and selected Saturdays. There is a special twilight performance at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 14.

Tickets are $42, $38 and $20 and $25, and $20 for previews. Call the box office at 322-4488 or visit Florida Rep online at www.floridarep.org.
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 8 P.M.  
Celtic Thunder: It’s Entertainment!  
The acclaimed group of five Celtic  
male vocalists undertakes a musical  
review that spans six decades, from  
nostalgic classics such as “Standing on  
the Corner” to U2’s “Still Haven’t Found  
What I’m Looking For.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 8:30 P.M.  
Connect! Au Naturel  
Connecting families with area wild-  
life refuges and parks as a response to  
nature-deficit disorder; maintaining a  
Seminole Indian tradition through Chic-  
kee huts; learning and sharing gardening  
expertise through Collier County Exten-  
sion Office’s Master Gardener program;  
and exploring the orchid capital of the  
U.S. Hosted by Jim McLaughlin.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 9 P.M.  
More Funny Ladies of British Comedy  
A showcase of clips from the funniest  
moments created by the great women  
of British comedy.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 7:30 P.M.  
The T.A.M.I. Show: Rock ‘n’ Roll’s  
First Concert Film  
In 1964, “The T.A.M.I. (Teen Age  
Music International) Show” introduced  
rock ‘n soul youth culture to America  
in the first concert movie of the rock  
era. One of the rarest and most sought-  
after performance films from its time,  
the concert featured the Rolling Stones,  
James Brown, Chuck Berry, the Beach  
Boys, Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson  
and the Miracles, the Supremes and  
many other bit-makers

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 8 P.M.  
When Irish Eyes Are Smiling: An  
Irish Parade of Stars  
This nostalgic jour-  
ney back to the 1950s  
and ’60s presents  
long-unseen footage  
of beloved performers  
singing some of the  
greatest songs from  
Ireland. Hosted by Patsy Duke and writ-  
ten by Malachy McCourt.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 8 P.M.  
Taking Control of Diabetes With Dr.  
Neal Bernard  
The nutrition researcher and medical  
doctor reveals groundbreaking research  
and scientifically proven methods for  
turning back the clock on diabetes,  
which affects more than 24 million chil-  
dren and adults in the United States.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 8 P.M.  
Magic Moments: The Best of ’50s Pop  
Phyllis McGuire, Pat Boone and Nick  
Cloney host this nostalgic trip back to  
the 1950s through a mix of live perfor-  
mance and archival footage of classic  
moments from Patti Page, Perry Como,  
Debbie Reynolds, the McGuire Sisters  
and more.
Present this coupon at the Seminole Casino Immokalee Tables to receive your MATCH PLAY.

*You will receive $50 instantly and $50 on your return. Must be at least 21 years old and a Seminole Player's Club member to participate. Valid ID required for redemption. Void for new members only. Cannot be used to make any money dispute. Neither may be used on any rainy weather or limited blackjack tables. Offer valid through 3/31/10. Limit one coupon per person. No cash value, non-transferable and cannot be redeemed for cash or chips. Alteration or unauthorized use voids this offer. Management reserves all rights. Persons who have been trespassed or banned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or those who have opted into the self-exclusion program are prohibited from participating. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1-888-ADMIT-IT.

PRIZE CODE: INWNMP310

Present this coupon to the Seminole Casino Immokalee Player's Club to receive your FREE PLAY.

*You will receive $50 instantly and $50 on your return. Valid for new members only and must be redeemed in person with approved IC. See Player’s Club for complete details. Must be at least 21 years old to participate. Offer valid through 3/31/10. Limit one coupon per person per day. Alteration or unauthorized use voids this offer. Management reserves all rights. Persons who have been trespassed or banned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or those who have opted into the self-exclusion program are prohibited from participating. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1-888-ADMIT-IT. PRIZE CODE: INWNMP310
Great designs are often copied. The china used in the White House by President Lincoln, President Hayes and others was made in sets for White House dinners, and copies with a different back stamp were immediately sold to the public. More copies of these famous sets of china have been made in recent years.

One of the most famous sets of dishes made in the past 300 years is the Swan set created by the Meissen factory in 1735. Each white piece was made with low raised figures of swans and cattails in a lake and a flying crane. The original set had a colored overglaze design only on the rim, a few scattered flowers and Count von Bruhl’s family coat of arms. He was the factory director and ordered the 2,200-piece set for his family’s use. Copies were made in the 18th and 19th centuries. But the copies were not as plain. The raised bird and cattail design was decorated in natural colors so a finished plate looked like a picture. The rim kept the raised pattern, but it was not decorated.

A modern set of the dinnerware is available today, with a new cup and saucer costing $289. A 19th-century cup and saucer with colored decoration auctioned in February for $593. An original set of candlesticks from the 1730s sold last year for more than $19,000.

There will be no complete Swan sets made at Meissen again, because during World War II soldiers used some of the molds for target practice.

Ms. Kovel answers your questions:

Q: Many years ago, I bought a wooden rocking chair at an estate sale. The bottom is stamped “Buffalo Chair Works, Buffalo, N.Y.” Has my rocker grown in value?
A: It’s probably worth more than you paid for it “many years ago,” even when you consider inflation. Today, depending on its condition, it could sell for $600 or more. Buffalo Chair Co. was a subsidiary of Edwin Sikes & Co., a furniture manufacturer established in Buffalo in the mid-19th century. Buffalo Chair Co. was founded in 1875 and went out of business in 1919. So your chair is at least close to 100 years old.

Q: We have a piece that we think is ivory or bone that has a drawing of two big ships, some canoes and other things on the front. On the back it says, “The Whaler Indian off Tahiti.” It is about 7¾ inches long. Can you tell us anything at all about it?
A: The Indian was a whaling ship that operated out of London in the early 1800s. You have a reproduction of a piece of scrimshaw. Scrimshaw is bone, ivory or whale’s teeth carved by sailors and others for entertainment during sailing-ship days. It was made as early as 1800, but there are many reproductions, fakes and modern pieces made on bone, ivory or plastic.

Q: Do you have any information on the Tykie Toy Co.?
A: Tykie toys are Bakelite “crib toys”...
that were made in Piqua, Ohio, from the 1930s until about 1952. The first toys were made by Sarah and Richard Grosvenor for their son, Michael, when he was teething. Michael’s nickname was “Tykie.” The family lived above Richard’s father’s machine shop. Eventually the company had several employees and the toys were sold at Marshall Field’s, Saks and other stores. Various characters were made, including Baby Bunny, Boppy Bear and Eppie Elephant. A children’s book of stories about the Tykie characters was published by the company in 1946.

Q: About 13 years ago, I bought a 73-inch floor lamp from my grandparents’ estate. My grandparents bought it in the late 1960s, but I have no idea how old it was then or what they paid. Cast into the bottom of the lamp base is the phrase “1968 L & L WMC 8884.” Please give me some information about the maker.

A: The initials in the mark stand for “Loevsky & Loevsky White Metal Castings,” a corporation that was in business in Carlstadt, N.J., from about 1937 until at least the 1970s. The lamp was probably new when your grandparents bought it. The first number in the mark, 1968, could be the year it was made. The second number may be a model number.

Q: Do you think beer can collecting will ever come around again? I have many, many cans.

A: Beer can collecting has been strong for a long time among a dedicated group of collectors. In fact, it started just a short time after the first can was made to hold beer. That happened on Jan. 24, 1935, at the G. Krueger Brewing Co. plant in Richmond, Va. The best way to find other collectors is to join a collectors club. Visit the Web sites of the Brewery Collectibles Club of America (BCCA.com) and the American Breweriana Association (AmericanBreweriana.org). Each publishes a magazine for collectors. The record price for a beer can, according to our files, is $19,000 for a 1941 flat-top Clipper Pale Beer can. It sold on eBay in 2002.

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

Go Red for Women to have luncheon

The 2010 Southwest Florida Go Red for Women luncheon and program to raise awareness of heart disease in women takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 19, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point. The American Heart Association event will focus on the necessary steps women need to take to live a longer and heart-healthier life. This is the inaugural event in Southwest Florida; similar luncheons take place all across the country as part of the AHA’s nationwide Go Red for Women campaign.

Keynote speaker Debra Townsend, CEO and president of the International Center for Compassionate Care, will discuss “The Woman Within... Caring for Gentle Hearts.”

The afternoon will also feature heart disease survivors and Circle of Red members as models in the “Go Red in Your Own Fashion” fashion show. Two educational breakout sessions will be offered: “The Take Home Message” presented by Kathy Shierling, and “Invest in Your Life: Balancing Health, Wealth & Family,” sponsored by Regions Bank and Regions Morgan Keegan Trust.

Tickets to the luncheon/fashion show/educational sessions are $125 per person.

The Go Red For Women movement is presented nationally by Macy’s and Merck Inc. Top sponsors of the local luncheon are Corowise, Home-Tech, Lee Memorial Health System, Regions Bank, Regions Morgan Keegan Trust and Miromar Design Center.

For more event information or sponsorship opportunities, contact Jennifer Baggett, Go Red for Women director, at 495-4911 or jennifer.baggett@heart.org.

Dreams come true at Cinderella’s Closet

What’s old is new as Cinderella’s Closet opens for a one-day-only sale from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 25, in a storefront in the Collections at Vanderbilt. Fairy godmothers have filled the closet with new and gently used upscale and designer clothing and accessories. All proceeds will benefit two organizations that are dedicated to strong, healthy and safe children: YMCA of the Palms and the Children’s Advocacy Center of Collier County.

To get a sneak peek into Cinderella’s Closet, there will be a special VIP private shopping event on Tuesday evening, March 23. Tickets are $50 per person.

There is still time to be a part of this exciting event. Cinderella’s Closet is still accepting new and gently used upscale clothing, bags, accessories and shoes.

FREE DESIGN SEMINAR
Monday, March 8th 10:30am
How to Decorate Your Home with the New Colors of 2010
Licensed Interior Designer Peggy Oberlin ASID, LEED AP, GREEN AP
Silk Floral Designer Saundra Riccardelli of Sweetgrass Design
RSVP 239-354-9878

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES OF KEVIN CAFFREY
Artist reception with Wine and Cheese
5:30 - 7:30pm on March 5th
Artist Talk • 4:00 pm on March 11th
The Photographic Image as Art In the Home
RSVP 239-261-8322, or 239-354-9878
Newest ‘Stars’ in the arts to be honored

Five leaders on the local arts and culture scene will receive the 2010 Stars in the Arts award from the United Arts Council of Collier County during a luncheon in their honor Friday, March 26, at the Naples Grande Resort. The honorees are Patty and Jay Baker, Myra Daniels, Harriet Heithaus and Dr. Erich Kunzel (posthumously). Luncheon tickets for $95 per person are still available. Proceeds will benefit UAC education programs. For more information, call 263-8242.

CHS fundraiser focuses on needs of dental clinic

The CHS Healthcare Foundation holds its first “Focus on CHS” fundraiser from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday, March 14, at the Sugden Community Theater. The key feature is the exhibit of photographs by Brynn Brujin, Ed Chappell, Nancy DeNicke and Tim Stamm. Each has chronicled the work of a major CHS Healthcare service: the Marion Fether Clinic and the University of Florida Pediatric Program, both in Immokalee; the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile; and the Florida State University Dental Clinic on the Collier County campus of Edison State College.

In addition to heavy hors d’oeuvres and wines, guests will be treated to music by harpist Laura Lou Roth. A give-to-give auction will also be part of the evening.

CHS Healthcare’s mission is to provide medical and dental care to the underserved in Collier County. The CHS Healthcare Foundation is dedicated to providing funding for this work. Proceeds from “Focus on CHS” will help equip dental suites under construction in Immokalee. Tickets are $100 per person and $250 for patrons. For reservations or more information, call the CHS Healthcare Foundation at 658-3138.

League says the games are on for the Philharmonic

The Naples Philharmonic League will hold a Golf and Mah Jongg Tournament on Monday, March 29, at Collier’s

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**Pasta**

- **Dal Forno (Oven Baked)**
  - Baked Ziti: Penne pasta tossed with meat sauce and cheese then baked
  - Manicotti: Stuffed with fresh cheese, topped with pomodoro sauce
  - Ravioli: Classic ricotta cheese filling topped with meat sauce
  - Eggplant Parmigiana: Fried and baked with pomodoro sauce and mozzarella cheese. Served with spaghetti pasta
  - Fettucine Alfredo: The true Italian classic
  - Lasagna: Our classic recipe with layers of four cheeses topped with meat sauce

**Pollo (Chicken) / Vitello (Veal)**

- **Chicken Parmigiana**: Pan-fried chicken breast baked in pomodoro sauce and mozzarella cheese
- **Chicken Marsala**: Chicken breast sautéed in a mushroom marsala wine sauce. Served with angel hair pasta
- **Chicken Piccata**: Chicken breast sautéed with capers, fresh squeezed lemon and white wine sauce. Served with angel hair pasta
- **Veal Parmigiana**: Pan-fried veal medallions baked with pomodoro sauce and cheese

**Pesce (Seafood)**

- **Shrimp Parmigiana**: Pan-fried shrimp baked with pomodoro sauce and mozzarella cheese. Served with angel hair pasta
- **Shrimp Marinara**: Jumbo white shrimp sautéed with a tangy marinara sauce. Served with linguini
- **Flounder Limone (13.99)**: Fresh flounder dipped in egg and flour, sautéed in white wine and butter sauce. Served with linguini
Reserve of Naples. Proceeds will benefit the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra and its youth music education programs.

Golfers will have a 1 p.m. shotgun start; mah jongg players will compete in the clubhouse after a buffet luncheon at noon. All players will gather at their end of their respective competition for cocktails, dinner and music in the clubhouse.

Glenn Basham, concertmaster of the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra, will play his fiddle with Scott Ritter and his bluegrass band, The Bean Pickers. A 50/50 raffle will be part of the evening’s fun.

Cost for golfers is $185 and for mah jongg players $65. For more information, call the Naples Philharmonic League information line at 254-2777.

Take time for fun to help KIDSCAN, Humane Society

PAWS for a Cause to benefit KIDSCAN and Humane Society Naples takes place Saturday, April 17, at Mercato. KIDSCAN, part of Cancer Alliance of Naples, is raising funds for scholarships to send local teens with cancer to college; Humane Society Naples is raising funds for its building expansion.

The afternoon event will include a promenade of pets and prizes for the biggest, smallest, cutest, best-dressed and best-behaved, best “vocalist” and more. Vendors with pet care products and services will have information available, as will various nonprofits and animal rescue organizations.

Southwest Florida Heart Ball set

The 2010 Southwest Florida “Heart of Gold” Heart Ball for the American Heart Association takes place Saturday, April 24, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa in Bonita Springs. The formal evening, named by Gulfshore Life magazine as the 2009 “Best of the Best Black Tie Event,” includes a gourmet dinner, dancing, silent auction and music by the Bill Allred Orchestra along with The Malones. For event information and sponsorship opportunities, call Jessica Hughes at the American Heart Association, 495-4912.

‘Be who you aren’t’ at masquerade ball

The Collier Spay Neuter Clinic invites patrons and friends to “be who you aren’t” at its Mardi Paws Masquerade Ball from 6-10 p.m. Friday, March 26, at Collier’s Reserve Country Club. Proceeds will support the daily operation of the Collier Spay Neuter Clinic and subsidize the low-cost/no-cost spaying and neutering of dogs and cats in Southwest Florida.

Tickets are $125 per person and include two drinks, hors d’oeuvres and a Louisiana-style buffet dinner, silent auction and dancing. Cocktail attire with masquerade flair is suggested.

For tickets or more information, call 534-7647, e-mail info@collierspayneuter.org, or visit www.collierspayneuter.org.

Wine Tasters raise glasses for charities

The Wine Tasters of Naples are planning Cheers for Charity, the group’s first fundraising gala, from 6-10 p.m. Saturday, March 27, at The Haver Club at Lely Resort. The Hawaiian-themed evening of wine, vodka cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and a silent auction will benefit The Shelter for Abused Women & Children, St. Matthew’s House and Youth Haven. Cost is $75 per person.

The Wine Tasters members hold regular wine tastings at area restaurants and enjoy a monthly dinner at a member’s private home. For more information, call Michele Woodman at (508) 361-9106 or Lorette Clevenger at 254-9439.

SAVE THE DATES
We take more society and 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 www.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 networking photos. Include the names of everyone in the picture. E-mail them to society@floridaweekly.com.

1. Marlyn Della Porta and Jessica Beers
2. Abby Rimes, Jeffrey Tasker and Chandra Simmons
3. John Spencer, Staci Mack, Vicki Torbush and Luis Otero
4. Christine Devilliers, Mimi Torbush, Savannah Robicheaus, Vicki Torbush and Spencer Robicheaus
5. Roberta McFarland and Mary Anan Shea
6. Shari Bradtmiller, Sharon Julian and Corinne Palmer
7. Suzanne Klym and Libby Julian

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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

Cohen & Grigsby host the Pittsburgh Symphony Quintet
An evening for clients at the Naples Botanical Garden

1. Dr. J.P. and Annette van Dongen with Larry Tamburri
2. Hugh Nevin, Brian Holley and Henry Cohen
3. Susan and Caroline Sikuta, Chuck Cohen, Paul Silver and Eugene Eicher
4. Rich Boerman, Levigne Keilpatrick and Scott Rolf

5. Stefanie Liebowitz, finalist; Jacqui Latham, fourth runner up; Chandra Simmons, third runner up; Blanca Abney, second runner up; Sarah Callahan, Miss Southwest Florida 2010; Kayla Jennings, first runner up; and Kelly Grothick, finalist

Here she is: Miss Southwest Florida

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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

Southwest Florida Wine and Food Fest Beach Party at Miromar Lakes Beach Club

1. Carmen and Bob Stork
2. Angela Smith and Pamela Beckman
3. Lesley O’Quinn and Carolyn Rogers
4. Paul Dover and Patricia Bell
5. Brian and Maureen Schwartz
6. Jack and Muni Reymoldson
7. Ellen and John Sheppard
8. Kellie and Rozanne Steele

9. Kellie Burns
10. Lacey King and Bill O’Meara
11. Canyon Murray, Victor Rivas Rivers and Linda Oberhaus
12. Jay Harrington and Julie Koester
13. Lacey King and Wynnell Schenk
14. Victor Rivas Rivers addresses the crowd
15. Bill O’Meara, Scott and Simone Langford

10th annual Mending Broken Hearts with Hope
A luncheon to benefit the Shelter for Abused Women & Children
Boutique wineries shine at wine and food fest

While the primary reason to go to the Southwest Florida Wine and Food Fest is to raise money for a worthy cause, it also presents a rare opportunity for wine lovers to sample wines they might never encounter without traveling to the regions in which they are produced.

The well-attended auction and tasting event, held last Saturday at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club, raised lots of money for The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, the Edison State College Pediatric Nursing Program and a new Florida Gulf Coast University scholarship for students interested in pursuing careers in pediatric medicine. It also brought together some top-notch wineries.

For those who missed this year’s event, here’s a sampling:

• Ponzi Vineyards, Oregon

Maria Ponzi brought the vineyard’s newest release, Tavolà Pinot Noir 2008, which is soft in the mouth with the aroma and bouquet of red fruits and a touch of spice and ends with a smooth finish. It retails for about $25.

The Cotes de Tablas 2007 is a grenache-based red, with a ruby color, medium body and fruit, with red currant and blueberry, finishing with a touch of licorice. It’s about $25.

The Cotes de Tablas Blanc 2008 is mostly viognier, with aromas of tropical fruits and flavors of tropical fruit, citrus, apricot and peach, with a solid mineral balance. It sells for about $25.

• Peter Lehmann of the Barossa, Australia

At the Peter Lehmann table, guests could sample the winery’s newest wine, Layers 2009, a pleasing blend of five grapes, with a nice floral aroma and citrus, melon and pear flavors leading to a smooth finish. It sells for about $17.

Also available was the Eight Songs Shiraz 2004, which was a deep cherry red with dark fruit flavors and aroma, good structure and spice on the lingering finish. It retails for about $35.

• Tablas Creek Vineyard, Paso Robles, California

Tablas Creek grapes have deep roots in France’s famed Rhone winemaking region.

“The wines we make are all based on grapes grown in the southern Rhone district of France,” says Tommy Oldre, national sales manager. “In Paso Robles we enjoy a Mediterranean climate and the soil is identical to the Rhone district.”

The Cotes de Tablas 2007 is a grenache-based red, with a ruby color, medium body and fruit, with red currant and blueberry, finishing with a touch of licorice. It’s about $25.

The Cotes de Tablas Blanc 2008 is mostly viognier, with aromas of tropical fruits and flavors of tropical fruit, citrus, apricot and peach, with a solid mineral balance. It sells for about $25.

• Nicholson Jones Selection, Napa Valley

Nicholson Jones Napa Cuvee 2006 Mr. Oldre said, “Here we have achieved what we want for all our wines; to have a wonderful crescendo of aroma and flavor travel from the front of the mouth to the back.”

Nicholson Jones Napa Cuvee 2006 has a nice floral and berry aroma with flavors of blueberries, raspberries and plums, smooth tannins and a velvety finish. It’s about $45.

• Alexander Conn Valley Vineyards, Napa Valley

“Wine incorporates a lifestyle,” says winemaker Todd Anderson. “It brings people together who like the same good things, and you can do that even with a $10 bottle of wine.”

Alexander Conn Valley Chardonnay 2007 has a nice floral and peach aroma, with bright flavors of citrus and peach with light acid. It sells for about $45.

• Bodegas Catena Zapata, Argentina

Bodegas Catena Zapata Malbec Mendoza 2007 is a serious wine with raspberry and red plum aroma, dark plum and graphite flavors and a lasting finish. It retails for $25.

“Malbec is the black gold of Argentina,” says Alfredo Bartholomaus, brand ambassador. “And the consumer can get a good bottle of wine for as little as $10.”
Marco’s Sale e Pepe brings northern Italy to the Gulf coast

The Marco Ocean Beach Resort couldn’t have created a more authentic ambiance than exists at Sale e Pepe, its award-winning signature restaurant, if it had imported an entire palazzo from Italy to its gulf-front location.

Well-appointed hardly begins to describe the restaurant and its Renaissance style awash in marble floors, aged stone, stately columns, hand-painted frescoes, Arabesque walls and secluded dining nooks. If the ambiance doesn’t give patrons a feeling of royalty, the service likely will, starting with the valet parking at the entrance to the restaurant.

It’s an interesting dichotomy, a patal- tional presence with a homespun name — Sale e Pepe, although with a more lyrical sound in Italian. The menu items have a similar grand air about them, although when translated have at their heart a certain homesiness as well. Steamed mussels with grilled garlic bread, creamy risotto, and roasted pork chop are all dishes typically served in northern Italian homes.

Showier than the menu is the encyclo- pedic wine list, which comes as a bound book complete with a table of contents. It’s a list to be approached much as you would a fine wine: slowly, sip by sip, so as to fully appreciate its depth and scope. The list has won accolades from Wine Spectator annually since 2006, earning the Best of Award of Excellence honor, a tier up from the Award of Excellence designation.

Selecting just one bottle from that intoxicating list was the hardest deci- sion we had to make, although we finally settled upon the La Spinetta Barbera d’Asti Superiore 2005 ($75), a full-bodied ruby-hued wine with a soft finish.

Our server delivered fresh hot bread, then poured extra virgin olive oil into each of our bread dishes, followed by a dollop of balsamic vinegar.

The menu offers tastes of various parts of Italy, with an emphasis on the Piedmont region in northern Italy, the birthplace of Executive Chef Alberto Varetto. In addition to the well-rounded menu, there were several spe- cialties, which our server also described including the price of each, something that’s rarely done but should be the norm.

The octopus special ($12) featured octopus cooked then chilled overnight, sliced thin and served with potato salad, basil oil and arugula. The octopus was pleasantly chewy, flavorful and well paired with the creamy potato salad, slightly bitter greens and fragrant oil.

Also delicious, if somewhat oversized for an appetizer, was the roasted veal loin and heart of celery topped with tuna sauce and capers ($12). The whisper- thin slices of chilled veal were napped with a light cream sauce with just a hint of tuna, then topped with briny capers and the crisp hearts of celery.

The roasted sea scallops ($13) were large and sweet, made better still by the sweet onion confit and lobster sauce with which they were served.

While the steamed mussels ($10) looked beautiful and smelled wonderful, they were approaching room tem- perature by the time they arrived at the table, indicating they’d been plated first and left to cool off while the scallops cooked. One nice touch was the presentation of a fingerbow complete with cheese-

clad-wrapped lemon after the mussels, which were a touch messy.

We tried two of the nightly entree spe- cials: branzino with mint-scented zuc- chini and whipped potatoes ($34) and pillow-shaped pasta with bolognese sauce and shaved Parmesan cheese ($20).

The fish was much like a sea bass in flakiness and taste. It was moist and mildly seasoned then topped with juli- enned zucchini that was tender but not quite as flavorful as the bolognese. The whipped potatoes were creamy and rich, making an excellent accompaniment to the fish.

Less successful was the beef-stuffed pasta. The beefs had been pureed, pro- ducing a feisty red wine within the pasta pillows but little flavor. Similar treat- ment of butternut squash works fine but beyond the sweetness and color of the beets, there was little to distinguish them. The olive oil, balsamic reduction and herbs were equally delicate, result- ing in a dish that approached bland.

Far more interesting was the creamy asparagus risotto with roasted jumbo shrimp ($24) and the marinated farm- raised chicken breast on porcini mush- room, braised onions and marsala wine sauce ($22). The creamy risotto and plump, juicy shrimp proved an appealing match. Like the shrimp, the chicken possessed good flavor on its own but was enhanced by the savory mushrooms, savory onions and lightly sweet marsala sauce.

We shared desserts of choco- lace house layered with raspberry, muschio and chocolate cake ($10) as well as a lemon tart with wild cherry sorbet ($9). The former was just right and sweet enough, with a deep chocolate fla- vor that married well with the raspberry layer. The lemon tart had a thin meringue topping and a vibrant lemon flavor. The sorbet was equally vivid, with a tart wild cherry flavor and cool, creamy texture. A glass of Barbera d’Asti quart ($20) proved a satisfying counterpoint to the tart and sorbet.

Sale e Pepe was understated but attentive throughout the meal, which one would expect at any time, but particularly on the slow weekend on which we vis- ited.

It came as something of a surprise to re- ceive the subtops after dinner in such a grand Italian venue. Sale e Pepe does a fine job of treating its guests like royalty. It’s a great way to savour a taste of Italy, even if it’s just for one evening. ■

Karen FELDMAN
karenFELDMAN@floridaweekly.com

Dining Calendar


Friday, March 5, 6-9 p.m. Marco: There’s a party in the courtyard at 1410 Pine Ridge Road; 434-1814. Free, California merlot specials available; free, $10, 9101 Strada Place; 552-5100. Reservations required.

Saturday, March 6, 3, 20 and 27, 7-30-8:30 a.m., Third Street South: The weekly farmers market features fresh pro- duce, baked goods, handicrafts and more; behind Tommy Bahama; 434-6333.

Sunday, March 7, 4, p.m., Naples: Italian American Club: The club holds a reverse raffle dance to benefit the group’s charitable and educational programs; $100, 7035 Airport Road North; 997-5280, ext. 3.

Sunday, March 7, 5 p.m., Sea Salt: Wine Dinner. Enjoy a tasting of the top- class wines from the Jarvis Winery in the Napa Valley, along with heavy appetizers; $25, 1410 Pine Ridge Road; 434-1884. Reservations required.

Wednesday, March 10, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Marco: The West Indies Tasting features some of the Caribbean’s finest wines and craft beers; $10, 1186 Third St. South; 434-7258. Reservations required.

If you go

Sale e Pepe, Marco Beach Ocean Resort, 480 S. Col-lier Blvd., Marco Island; 933-1600

Ratings:
Food: ★★★★★★
Service: ★★★★★★
Atmosphere: ★★★★★★

Hours: Dinner is served 4:30-9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 4:30-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Reservations: Accepted
Credit cards: Major cards accepted
Price range: Appetizers, $7-11; entrees, $17-28
 Beverages: Full bar with extensive wine list

Specials: California merlot specials available; free, 1410 Pine Ridge Road; 434-1814. Free, 9101 Strada Place; 552-5100. Reservations required.

Specialties of the house: Beef tenderloin carpaccio with baby arugula, lemon vinaigrette and shaved Parmesan cheese; burrata with organic tomatoes and extra virgin olive oil; baked Portobello mushroom cap with goat cheese and chives; homemade potato gnocchi with sweet gorgonzola cheese and walnuts; homemade lasagna with farm-fresh spinach and sweet pea sauce; roasted marinated pork chop with wild mushrooms and balsamic sauce.

Parking: Complimentary valet parking available.

If you go
On Private Island. 2 Bed 2 bath beautifully decorated cabin on 4.2 Acre Island in the Second floor unit with water view and 1 car garage Ask for 802NA210003699.

Well maintained and constructed home located close to shopping and good schools. Laundry 5 minutes to I-75 and 15 minutes to Fort Myers. Ask for 802NA8014119.

$184,900

Almost new home overlooking a private pond. Ask for 802NA9028326.

$105,900

Open floor plan, Vaulted ceilings, breakfast bar, roof replaced 2008, well system in good condition. Ask for 802NA8001363.

$93,000

This cozy 3 bed 2 bath is a great opportunity for a first time home buyer or investor. Call and make an offer. Ask for 802NA210004890.

$90,000

$135,900

Forever home. 3 bed 2 bath with pool, spa and lanai with view to Golden Gate Park. All appliances and pool equipment in good condition. Ask for 802NA9006484.

$180,000

3 bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage - Par 72 - Clubhouse and dining room, 2 pools and clubhouse. Lighted tennis and shuffleboard court priced to sell! Ask for 802NA9031964.

$107,950

Three bedroom plus den on 1.4 acres with beautiful pool package. ...2.27 acres Ask for 802NA210005084.

$112,900

$109,900

Bank Owned Property. Port of The Islands. Located on Orchid Cove. Second floor unit with water view and 1 car garage Ask for 802NA210008309.

$17,500

$105,900

Foreclosed sale. Beautiful 3 bedroom 2 bath home on private lot in Naples. The original owners of this well maintained and constructed home have methodically and tastefully added upgrades to many of the areas, and well maintained home on large 1.5 acre lot. Ask for 802NA9024251.

$107,000

$184,900

$129,900

Beautiful floor plan. Expansive pool lanai area - Resort style living, pool, tennis. Ask for 802NA210004740.

$274,400

3 bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage - almost new home overlooking a private preserve, community pool and tennis. Ask for 802NA9045474.

$200,000

$90,000

Open floor plan tiled living area, snack bar, roof replaced 2006, well systems 2008, new counters in bathroom. Ask for 802NA2001462.

$147,995

Improved and stunning 3 bed 2 bath Beautifully decorated home overlooking a pond. Ask for 802NA2003774.

$90,000

$90,000

$119,500

$139,900

$107,000

$107,000

$120,000

$24,000

$399,000

$64,900

$75,000

$75,000

$60,000

$60,000

$411,500

$109,000

$107,000
Earlier this year, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) deployed new home buyer tax credit forms and instructions requiring forms that will force taxpayers to file on paper, rather than electronically.

The new home buyer tax credit filing rules are to ward off a repeat of 30,000 taxpayers who fraudulently claimed the credit, according to the U.S. Treasury. Under the new and expanded home buyer tax credit rule, the credit is worth up to $8,000 for first-time home buyers and up to $6,500 for qualifying existing home buyers, in both cases, who buy a primary residence or have one built.

The tax credit is refundable. A credit that is larger than the taxes owed is returned to the taxpayer in the form of a refund.

The home can cost no more than $800,000 and qualifying income is limited to a maximum of $125,000 for single taxpayers and $225,000 for joint taxpayers.

Get the full scoop online from the IRS’ “First-Time Homebuyer Credit” page online.

All taxpayers (first time and move up buyers) seeking a credit or refund, must use the new IRS Form 5405 “First-Time Homebuyer Credit and Repayment of the Credit” (Taxpayers must pay back the credit if they sell the home within three years).

The instructions, which teach taxpayers what documents are required, are available on IRS FORM 5405.

In addition to Form 5405, also include at least one of the following documents:

- A copy of the HUD-1, Settlement Statement, showing all parties’ names and signatures, property address, sales price, and date of purchase.
- For mobile home buyers who don’t get a settlement statement, a copy of the executed retail sales contract showing all parties’ names and signatures, property address, purchase price and date of purchase.
- For new home buyers who don’t get a settlement statement, a copy of the certificate of occupancy showing the owner’s name, property address and date of the certificate.

Existing home owners applying for the $6,500 maximum tax credit must additionally prove they lived in their old home for the required period.

To do so, options are:

- File IRS Form 1098, “Mortgage Interest Statement.” IRS Form 11098 offers the instructions.
- Also, supply mortgage interest statements or property tax records or homeowner’s insurance records.

Again, because some of the documents required are not standard tax forms, taxpayers seeking the credit cannot file electronically.

They can, however, use off-the-shelf tax software or the IRS Free File online software to prepare returns, but they must still print out the return and mail it in with the required documents.

In addition to accuracy and compliance, the only other way to speed up any refund is to request, with the return, that the home buyer tax credit refund be deposited directly into a bank account.

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WHAT A DEAL IN LONGSHORE LAKE!

UNDER CONTRACT!

CHASE.

UNDER THE NEW AND EXPANDED HOME BUYER TAX CREDIT RULE, THE CREDIT IS WORTH UP TO $8,000 FOR FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS AND UP TO $6,500 FOR QUALIFYING EXISTING HOME BUYERS.

WHY CALL ME?

JOIN ME AT OPEN HOUSES

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 7th 1-4 PM

Janet Carter
(239) 621-8067
JanetRCarter@gmail.com

Pam Maher
(239) 877-9521
AgentPam007@gmail.com

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LOVE THE BEACH?? • PELICAN BAY - THE BREAKWATER

VISIT OUR WINDOW!!

We now have a new interactive window that will allow you to view and receive additional information on our company listings. If you like a property that you see you can then input your email address for additional information or to schedule a showing! Isn’t modern technology wonderful?

LONGSHORE LAKE
NAMED “THE COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR” BY
The Community Associations Institute (South Gulf Coast Chapter)

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What’s not to love in Pelican Bay? Enjoy the 2 fabulous Beach Dunes right on the Gulf of Mexico, Equity Golf, Championship Tennis, Hiking, Kayaking, and Fitness & Spa - all within minutes of The Naples Philharmonic, Museum of Art & Waterfront Shops. Relax & Enjoy the Good Life in a spacious 2 bed + huge FR/Den, all up-stated and furnishings are negotiable. Southern Exposure from the Lanai looks out over Lake and Fountain. Best of all there is a 2+ car garage with elevator!!!

CALL FOR INFORMATION ON THIS & OTHER FINE PELICAN BAY PROPERTIES.
SunnyNaples@gmail.com

LOVE THE BEACH?? • PELICAN BAY - THE BREAKWATER

TOUR OF HOMES SUNDAY, MARCH 7TH FROM 1-4 PM

Naples
BEST KEPT SECRET!

Quail Creek Estates

A stunning North Naples Community with ONLY 291 single-family homes surrounded by beautiful Quail Creek Country Club. Each home has a view of one of the TWO 18 hole golf courses and the lots are close to or more than an ACRE! This is a unique community that will NEVER BE DUPLICATED and offers not only golf but exceptional tennis, fitness and fine dining but also security in knowing the Club is uniquely debt-free, member-owned and solid as a rock! Quail Creek Country Club Membership is optional for homeowners, but the convenience of Country Club Living is a LIFESTYLE not to be missed!

We are conveniently located to the Airport, hospitals, shopping and the beach.

Behind Our Gates You will Find...

DEAL, A stunning North Naples Community with ONLY 291 single-family homes surrounded by beautiful Quail Creek Country Club. Each home has a view of one of the TWO 18 hole golf courses and the lots are close to or more than an ACRE! This is a unique community that will NEVER BE DUPLICATED and offers not only golf but exceptional tennis, fitness and fine dining but also security in knowing the Club is uniquely debt-free, member-owned and solid as a rock!

View these listings and more at: www.TiffanyMcQuaid.com

Directions: From I-75, take Immokalee Road 1/2 mile east to Valewood Drive, turn left (North) and follow road to the Gatehouse.

Tiffmcquaid@gmail.com

Welcome!

Tiffany McQuaid
239-287-6308
Follow Me on Twitter.com/Tiffany McQuaid

Visit these listings and more at: www.TiffanyMcQuaid.com

QUAIL CREEK VILLAGE

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QUAIL CREEK VILLAGE

6 HOMES OPEN SUNDAY 1-4 PM
OPEN EVERY THURSDAY THRU MONDAY
From 1-4 PM
Prices Starting at $389,000!
See you there!

THE VILLAGE PEOPLE
Carl Brewer 269-3757 • Don & Sandy Lasch 285-6413
Tiffany McQuaid 287-6308

TOUR OF HOMES SUNDAY, MARCH 7TH FROM 1-4 PM

Naples
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Naples
BEST KEPT SECRET!

Quail Creek Estates

A stunning North Naples Community with ONLY 291 single-family homes surrounded by beautiful Quail Creek Country Club. Each home has a view of one of the TWO 18 hole golf courses and the lots are close to or more than an ACRE! This is a unique community that will NEVER BE DUPLICATED and offers not only golf but exceptional tennis, fitness and fine dining but also security in knowing the Club is uniquely debt-free, member-owned and solid as a rock! Quail Creek Country Club Membership is optional for homeowners, but the convenience of Country Club Living is a LIFESTYLE not to be missed!

We are conveniently located to the Airport, hospitals, shopping and the beach.

Behind Our Gates You will Find...

DEAL, A stunning North Naples Community with ONLY 291 single-family homes surrounded by beautiful Quail Creek Country Club. Each home has a view of one of the TWO 18 hole golf courses and the lots are close to or more than an ACRE! This is a unique community that will NEVER BE DUPLICATED and offers not only golf but exceptional tennis, fitness and fine dining but also security in knowing the Club is uniquely debt-free, member-owned and solid as a rock!

View these listings and more at: www.TiffanyMcQuaid.com

Directions: From I-75, take Immokalee Road 1/2 mile east to Valewood Drive, turn left (North) and follow road to the Gatehouse.

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Welcome!

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Follow Me on Twitter.com/Tiffany McQuaid

Visit these listings and more at: www.TiffanyMcQuaid.com

QUAIL CREEK VILLAGE

6 HOMES OPEN SUNDAY 1-4 PM
OPEN EVERY THURSDAY THRU MONDAY
From 1-4 PM
Prices Starting at $389,000!
See you there!

THE VILLAGE PEOPLE
Carl Brewer 269-3757 • Don & Sandy Lasch 285-6413
Tiffany McQuaid 287-6308
YES! the Levitans sell New Villas
YES! the Levitans sell Resale Homes
YES! the Levitans sell Lots

Right here in Quail West!

Call us NOW to see Quail West!
Office 594-5555 • Direct 269-4700