POLITICAL SPECTACLE

THE LOW-DOWN ON FLORIDA’S GAUDY ELECTION SEASON

BY BILL CORNWELL
bcornwell@floridaweekly.com

Rick Scott wants to be your governor.
Mr. Scott (yes, we’re talking about the Naples-based Rick Scott who was mixed up in all that unpleasantness involving Medicare and Medicaid fraud when he ran Columbia/HCA, the giant health care conglomerate) really, really, really wants to be your governor, and he is spending millions and millions of his very own dollars to accomplish that goal.

Mr. Scott, you see, is a Man of Action. He doesn’t devote a lot time to making speeches and traveling around the state kissing babies, schmoozing potential voters and setting forth his positions on issues both great and small. No, sir, Rick Scott bypasses that stuff and writes checks drawn from his own bank.

Phone survey will help measure interest in additional Zoo land

BY PAMELA V. KROL
Special to Florida Weekly

This fall Collier County residents might get the opportunity to vote on whether or not they want to increase the size of The Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens by 50 percent, by acquiring land that has recently become available adjacent to the current zoo campus.

The neighboring 22-acre parcel was purchased by Caribbean Ventures LLC in 2004, at the same time local residents elected to tax themselves to pay for the Zoo’s current land and save the landmark attraction from the threat of redevelopment.

Caribbean Ventures had planned a 400-unit retirement community on the parcel it purchased; the economic downturn, however, led the company to scrap those plans and put the land back on the market.

“The property’s availability provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for residents to expand the size of their zoo,”

Phone survey will help measure interest in additional Zoo land

THE NAPLES ZOO / COURTESY PHOTO

Curious creatures at The Naples Zoo might be getting more space to swing, run and play.

Imagine Solutions

Conference videos are being made available to the public online. A11

‘Sex and the City2’
See who primped for the premiere, and more summer fun. C23-25

Fill ‘er up
Lower gas prices are good news for motorists. B1

Diana’s gowns
Nearly 21,000 people so far have seen "Dresses of Inspiration” at The von Liebig Art Center. C1

When you need to know... count on 2 first
Natural lessons numbers one and two

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If you knew you could change the future

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If you knew you could change your future and the way you age would you? Do you look at people around town bent over, on a walker or even limping sideways and think “Man I hope my future holds.

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CALL 513-9004.

So they want you to pay another tax here in Collier County.
And why? Is it because George III is on the throne, and the colonists shouldfolk over the bucks?
Is it because the socialists have taken control of government, and everybody is required to pay for somebody, as long as it’s somebody else?

Is it because Chicken Little is the head of government and the sky is falling?
No. They want residents to pay a new tax because life is a zoo — in this case, a very good one known as The Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens. And it’s our very own.

Or at least the land under it is ours.
Collier residents by widespread agreement taxed themselves, bought it and leased it back to the Zoo about six years ago, when the place was about to fold.
And now it’s a vital enterprise, a wonder worth it, just as we did a few years ago.

For this to happen, residents must again agree to let local government tax them. We’d buy the land, lease it back to the private enterprise and watch the zoo get bigger and better.

Imagine more opportunities to see the wild wonders of the animal world up close, conveniently inhabited by muscular enclosures — the kind that allow you to side up to the beasts without being eaten. Or without having to track them for days across the savanna, or pursue them into the bush, like Francis Macomber, the Ernest Hemingway character.

He had a short happy life, remember. I’ve always believed it could have been a long life if Mr. Macomber had just had the Naples Zoo in his backyard. Even Mr. Hemingway might have liked that, although he wouldn’t have been allowed to shoot the animals.

But never mind him. What about us?
If a few hundred residents just Say Yes to the telephone poll, then the issue will go on the ballot later this year, and everybody can help decide if another Zoo tax is worth it, just as we did a few years ago.

Some of the county commissioners are against this approach, apparently (see our front-page story on the issue this week).
Could the money be raised from private sources, like the new and beautiful Naples Botanical Garden has done, they ask? Is this the time to levy a higher tax, since foreclosures abound and many people are struggling just to make the mortgage?

To me, those questions are beside the point. They don’t pertain to this issue.
Here’s why.
For one thing, the land is for sale now, and raising the millions required to buy it from private sources would take years.

For another thing, a tax, according to David Tetzlaff — the very organized, very determined, very capable, very responsible and very knowledgeable executive director of the Zoo — would cost residents and business owners $3 or $4 per year for every $100,000 of property value they hold. So a person with a house valued at $500,000 would pay about $20 per year for the privilege of a larger Zoo. And he or she would pay that for about 20 years, which would amount to $400, in this rough scenario.

Such a tax would not affect those who have lost their homes, because they no longer pay tax on those properties. And such a tax would not force anyone owning property in current Neapolitan America into starvation, or property loss or some other terrible burden — not at $3 or $4 a year per $200,000 of something they own.

So the naysayers strike me as humorless at best, and downright stingy at worst.
Stingy, by the way, is not what attracts so many extraordi-

nate Neapolitan jewels come with the support of two species of non-stingy philanthropist: the private one and the public one, known as a taxpayer.

Naples is not stingy. That’s why the sun rises here. Let’s go with our character and our heritage.
Let’s add another jewel to the crown. Let’s vote to spend a few extra dollars a year to support the Zoo — and then let’s watch the sun of Naples become, again, man and woman in the parts.

It’s now or never, for a bigger zoo.
Which brings us to Natural Lesson Number Two: Seize the Day (or the Prey, if you’re a Zoo animal)… or Lose It.

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Save Social Security

Say it isn’t so, Mr. President. You surely are not going to make a deal with Republicans to cut Social Security benefits, are you? We will lose.

Here’s word from The Nation magazine: “The President intends to offer Social Security as a sacrificial lamb to entice conservative deficit hawks into a grand bipartisan compromise in which Democrats agree to cut Social Security benefits while Republicans accede to significant tax increases to reduce government red ink.”

The grand compromise would form the crux of the recommendations by the new bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform that was set up to find ways to reduce the federal budget deficit.

Commission co-chairs are former Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., and Erskine Bowles, a former chief of staff in the Clinton White House. The panel’s recommendations are scheduled to be announced in December, safely after the November elections.

A recommendation requires a minimum of 14 votes among the commissioners.

If President Barack Obama agrees to ask Congress to cut Social Security benefits, it would amount to a sellout by a president of the same Democratic Party that embraced Franklin D. Roosevelt, the father of Social Security, back in 1935.

Social Security is not a charity. It is a trust fund created by contributions and payroll taxes. The money will be there for the disabled. It’s a retirement savings plan — not a handout.

Get American troops out of wars where we got us into, based on wrong information. In the light of his BP experience, one Inconceivable ineptitude” in responding to Hurricane Katrina, a larger and more rapid-

President Obama can sound analytic and relatively calm — but only to a critical distance between himself and his own team. Sometimes he referred to his own administration as “they” and “the current administration.” As if his role is only to grade the blue books and offer constructive criticism.

In the light of his BP experience, one hopes President Obama regrets his slam of President Bush for his “unconscionable ineptitude” in responding to Hurricane Katrina, a larger and more rapid-

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In the history of the United States, only one musician has ever been commissioned by an American president to be the official pianist of the White House. George Manos was just 18 years old when he received his first assignment as a newly enlisted cadet in the Marine Corps: to play the piano for President Harry Truman and his guests on a 10-day cruise up the Potomac.

"I was both thrilled and terrified," remembers Mr. Manos, now 83 years old and living in a Naples retirement home. "Mr. Truman was such a big, important person, but that ended up being one of the most wonderful experiences of my life."

Following the cruise, the president invited Mr. Manos to return with him to Washington and serve as the official White House musician. "Mr. Truman requested me to remain on call directly outside his office and to play for him at various times through-out the workday," Mr. Manos says. The president "didn't want to be entertained, per se," he adds. "He simply wanted the president 'didn't want to be entertained, per se,' he adds. "He simply wanted music... Sometimes he would come out the workday," Mr. Manos says. The president "didn't want to be entertained, per se," he adds. "He simply wanted ‘Music was a wonderful and exciting career for me,’ says Mr. Manos, who traveled around the world as a musician, composer and conductor all of his life. Although his heavy touring schedule prevented him from settling down with a wife and having children of his own, he says his life was filled with interesting people and exciting adventures."

Among his many professional accomplishments, he has performed at famed classical music venues around the world, including the Bethlehem Bach Festival in Bethle- hem, Pa., and the Tanglewood Music Festival in Boston. He's also the founder of the beloved Killarney Bach Festival in Ireland.

In addition, Mr. Manos was the music director of the National Gallery of Art, and served as conductor of the National Gallery Symphony Orchestra in the nation's capital. He describes his time there as uniquely rewarding. "While serving at the National Gallery, I was in the position to nurture and bring into prominence some of the best young musicians from around the world. It was always very gratifying to watch a new musician grow in ability and renown."

It was while working as conductor at the National Gallery that Mr. Manos first came to Naples. "I came to meet with Greek composer Soterios Vlahoupoulos and to listen to some of his music, which was quite wonderful," he says. On that first visit, Mr. Manos fell in love with Naples and decided to build a second house here.

Among the many artists Mr. Manos worked with during his tenure as music director at the National Gallery was Jorge Mester, who today serves as music director for the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra. Despite the many renowned venues that have hosted Mr. Manos, he has never played or conducted at the Phil. When asked why not, he replies, "I have never been asked. We musicians have our own code. We go where we are invited. I would love to perform at the Phil."

Mr. Manos has chronicled his life and his extraordinary musical career in a book titled "The President's Pianist." "Music gave me a wonderful life," he says. "I would like to be young again so I could do it all over."
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accounts (to the tune of $5 million, by most estimates) and news- papers and television stations to pay for what seems to be an endless stream of advertisements promoting the propo- sites of RSN. We desperately need Mr. Scott to be our governor, whether we realize it or not. He has hisfail- ings — most importantly, a lack of substance and a substantive, focused message,Apparent- ly, the only message that he has is a “man of the people” theme. Mr. Scott's re- cord, both of which provide abundant evi- dence that he is not the man for the job.

Scott has been campaigning like a crazy for governor for many months. Mr. McCollum has dropped 26 points in the Mason-Dixon poll since Mr. Scott came onto the scene.

The biggest change in the race over the past six weeks has been the emer- gence of Scott," Brad Coker, a Mason- Dixon pollster, told the Miami Herald. “Backed by a large television advertis- ing campaign to introduce himself to the state, Scott has gained just 14 points of McCollum’s... (whose) lead over Scott doesn’t look impressive given the massive disparity in television correspondence as a Republican office holder.”

Not only is McCollum now floating in the field at 46 percent, but he is down to 2 percent at Columbia/HCA with monotonous reg- ularity, but even Alex Sink, Florida’s chief financial officer, has mentioned that Scott has never been fully detailed. Mr. Scott, who used at Columbia/HCA, we’ll have to ask the public record, both of which provide abundant material.

Nuncia plays little role in Mr. Scott’s bid, and he has certainly never met a bromide he doesn’t like. According to his website, he has been married 38 years (to his high school sweetheart), and he and his wife have two grown daughters. He is 56 or 57 years old, depending on the source. He is relig- ious, we are informed via his website. “Rick is a Christian, and he has attended church every Sunday.”

Mr. Scott’s early history is Horatio Alger-style stuff. Born of modest means to working-class parents, he was raised in Kansas City, Mo. He is a Navy veteran who served as an enlisted radar opera- tor during the Vietnam War. He attended the University of Missouri-Kansas City managing doughnut shops en route to his degree in business adminis- tration. He went on to receive a law degree from Southern Methodist Uni- versity and then landed a job with one of Dallas’ largest law firms and specialized in health care mergers and acquisitions. He now lives in a corpora- te takeover guy.

In 1987, using his life’s savings of $250,000, Mr. Scott teamed with Fort Worth, Texas, wheeler-dealer and cor- porate raider Richard Rainwater to found Columbia/HCA. It seemed to be a great idea, perhaps still is, as nobody strikes a gusher they can’t flood the airwaves — a la Mr. Scott — to fuel the bidding. Mr. Crist's departure came after he used at Columbia/HCA, we’ll have to ask the public record, both of which provide abundant material.

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The psychologist/ordained Southern Baptist preacher who so enthralled Dr. Rekers had traveled to Europe in the company of one Jo-vanni Roman, a young man whose services he had procured through something called rentboy.com. Dr. Rekers insisted that Jo-vanni did nothing more than tote luggage during the European wing ding. Mr. Roman, however, said he gave the doctor “sexual massages” and provided other personal services that you would not presume to be favored by anti-gay crusaders.

Mr. McCollum was understandably chagrined at the revelations, and he insisted he would have looked elsewhere for support for Israel, Medicare and Social Security quite seriously. And Miami, well, what can you say about the sprawling polyglot that is equal parts Havana, Bogota, Port-au-Prince and Tel Aviv? Florida politics wasn’t always this complex and mystifying. There was a simpler time back when Ed Ball (the gimlet-eyed money man who administered the $2 billion Alfred I. duPont Testamentary Trust in Florida from 1936 to 1981 and as a result over-saw and controlled more land, more timber, more paper mills, more rail-roads and more money than anyone in the state) pretty much decided who would and would not hold statewide office. To secure Mr. Ball’s endorsement and financial backing, office seekers trooped hat in hand to the Jacksonville hotel suite that he called home and from which he presided like a potentate. Political supplicants were expected to kiss the great man’s ring — or any part of the anatomy designated by the feisty financier — if they wanted his blessing, which was absolutely essential to any serious candidate.

Still, we now have reached the stage where an unknown business executive with a less-than-pristine reputation can dive into his overflowing bank account where an unknown business executive with a less-than-pristine reputation can and may he rest in peace or something close to a statesman. Perhaps that is progress.

Regardless, that old rascal Ed Ball, may he rest in peace or something close to, would be absolutely, positively mor-tified by it all. And who could blame him?

After all, Rick Scott wants to be your governor.
Synchronicity is a principle, according to psychiatrist Carl Jung, that explains experiences of two or more seemingly unrelated events as complex psychological creations, subject to both conscious and subconscious influences, that together create a meaningful moment.

Dr. Jung’s notion of synchronicity — this causal principle linking events by their coincidence in time — sends “ratio-nal souls” into a frenzy to explain why such a moment of, oh, let’s say, a hummingbird flying into a room, stopping by a photograph of your mother and then flying out again, holds no meaning, that it simply happened.

I guess this debate could be compared to the iconic beer commercial that proposed, “Tastes great, less filling” — it depends upon the “drinker.” By that I mean you can drink in the experience as “nothing,” or you can drink in the experience as “something.” Either way, you as the “drinker” add your own meaning (or lack thereof) to the situation.

While I was searching for a photograph of Benjamin Parks recently, I had the pleasure of meeting his Jane, inside the only Virginia brick building on Fifth Avenue South. Our encounter led to a moment of synchronicity. Or did it?

**Synchronistic moments**

Mr. Parks’ widow, who retired recently after 50 years as a real estate broker, relayed several stories as she guided me on an office tour. She told me she and her husband were the first couple to be married at Trinity by the Cove in Port Royal. She also share this colorful memory about Doris Reynolds’ first day on the job at the Chamber of Commerce:

Ms. Reynolds, a successful writer from St. Petersburg, came to Naples for the job of “secretary” at the chamber. She showed up for work dressed very professionally in the dress code of the day — suit, high heels and hose. She arrived, however, only to discover the door to the chamber was locked. A woman rarely stopped from her mission, she simply jimmied the latch on the left window, threw in her purse, hoisted herself up, legs flaying for that extra momentum, and fell through the window, ready to get down to the business of the day. (I imagine the first order of business would be to take off those hose.)

As Mrs. Parks relayed the story, her respect for Ms. Reynolds was readily apparent.

When we talked about Lavern Gaynor’s role in advancing local history, Mrs. Parks recalled a story that is relevant to a current issue regarding the Naples Pier.

“My late husband was the city attorney when Hurricane Donna struck in September 1960, she said. “He came home one day to tell me that Lester Norris (Ms. Gaynor’s father) had called him to say he wanted to pay to have the pier repaired as he did not want the cost to be added to the tax roll. Mr. Norris pressed to get a formal commitment from city council to never charge residents to go onto the pier.”

She went on to say that while her husband was not able to make that kind of commitment, he would bear witness and as a gentleman’s handshake, these two extraordinary community stewards sealed an arrangement allowing the beloved pier to serve as a gathering place for everyone in the community — and to stand as a testament that Naples could be rebuilt.

The week before I met Mrs. Parks, the city council voted down an agenda item to charge people a fee for access to the pier. The day Mrs. Parks relayed this story, Ms. Gaynor was to go in for surgery the following afternoon. Acting as a conduit, I rushed to tell her the story; she smiled and said, “Finally, now I know.”

Normally, my encounter with Mrs. Parks would be just another moment in time. But as I felt the fatigue of season’s end and fretted about looming uncertainties due to the country’s economic reset and the dreadful gulf oil spill — and as I considered the “what ifs” as my dear friend faced surgery — I realized my time with Mrs. Parks was something more.

An event in 1964 between two respect-ed men who knew (dare I say felt) the community’s sense of loss regarding a damaged landmark had provided a meaningful link to 2010. Mrs. Parks had connected a moment from the past to the present for two people, herself and Ms. Gaynor, who held the memory as something more.

So is this synchronicity or not? Since the “drinker” of the experience has the choice to add his own meaning, (just as you are doing right now), I can only vouch what it meant to me. Not only that, I can’t get the image of Ms. Reynolds’ flaying legs out of my mind’s eye!
Imagine Solutions debuts online videos of speakers

Southwest Florida leaders paid top dollar earlier this year to hear from some of the world’s greatest thinkers at the inaugural Imagine Solutions conference. Now, their presentations are available online, for free.

The Searching for Solutions Institute premiered the conference to an audience of 300 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts this past February. Fifty-plus world-class speakers addressed critical issues facing the region and offered promising ideas and possible solutions. With the goal of giving everyone on-demand access to the world’s most inspiring voices, SFSI’s website, www.ImagineSolutionsConference.com, now features presentations videotaped from the conference. The Institute premiered the conference highlights and a slide show of more than 100 photos.

“Our site offers free knowledge and inspiration from the world’s most thought-provoking thinkers on topics ranging from education to health, the economy, environment and energy,” said Lynne Groth, executive director of the institute. “By making our speaker presentations available to the public, we are creating a community that connects thinkers and doers. If you have an idea, we want to hear from you.”

Eight new topics for the 2011 Imagine Solutions conference scheduled for March 21-22 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort are highlighted on the Imagine Solutions site. For more information, call 239-4226.

Meet the candidates at Politics in the Park

Politics in the Park starts at 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 23, at the Naples Hilton. The free event features a meet and greet with the candidates plus a straw vote election for the Collier County Commission Districts 2 and 4 seats.

The supervisor of elections will be on hand to help register voters for the Aug. 24 primary and the Nov. 2 general election. To learn more about the candidates, visit www.cooliervotes.com.

For more information about Politics in the Park, call the CBIA at 436-6100.

Temple Shalom welcomes Rabbi Miller

Rabbi James Perman will pass the Torah to Rabbi Adam Miller during a service beginning at 8 p.m. Friday, June 25, at Temple Shalom. Rabbi Miller, previously of Temple Beth Am in Framingham, Mass., takes over officially on July 1, when Rabbi Perman, senior rabbi of Temple Shalom for 17 years, assumes emeritus status.

In addition to having a new rabbinic presence on the pulpit, Temple Shalom also welcomes a new voice, Cantor Donna Azu, who is recent graduate of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Blue Mass honors fire, police, EMS workers

Blue Mass, a service honoring emergency workers, starts at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 17, at St. Ann Catholic Church at Third Street South and Ninth Avenue South. Area police and fire departments have been invited.

The tradition of Blue Mass started in 1934 in Washington, D.C., to honor police officers, fire department members and later EMS personnel and to show appreciation for their services. The observance has since spread throughout the United States.

Father Michael Vannicola, parish administrator at St. Ann, will celebrate the mass during which the names of fallen officers will be read. Non-Catholics are welcome to attend the mass and/or a reception that will follow at 7:15 p.m. in the St. Ann Jubilee Center. Erin’s Isle restaurant will cater the reception, and drawings for door prizes will be held.

Last year, 350 people attended the service.

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HEALTHY LIVING

STRAIGHT TALK

A peek at what the future holds for health care

Mr. Gingrich noted that entrenched industries, institutions and individuals, even successful ones, have the most to lose and consequently are the most resistant to change. The health-care industry is one such resistant industry, having grown to consume more than 17 percent of the gross domestic product. But the name of the game today and for the decades to come is efficiency, not generosity over the decades has allowed us to care for everyone with demonstrable quality. We are productive and efficient, but we cannot afford to let our guard down.

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says John Garrison, a Southwest Florida field director for the Trust for Public Land, the nonprofit land conservation organization that facilitated the county’s purchase of the Zoo’s 43 acres—a measure approved by 73 percent of voters. “It is the only land contiguous to the Zoo,” Mr. Garrison adds. “Once it’s gone, there will be no way of expanding.”

But purchasing the property would require a new tax, something not everyone approves of.

“Expanding the Zoo would be great, but I think this is the wrong time to ask taxpayers for more money,” says Collier County Commission Chairman Tom Henning. “Many people are hurting right now. Foreclosures are up and people are out of work. This is not the time to increase costs.”

Commissioner Donna Fiala disagrees. “Missing this opportunity would be shortsighted,” she says. “We have all been putting ourselves on the back for making the right decision and saving the Zoo in 2004. That tax was paid off early, and now we’re all enjoying the benefits.”

Commissioner Frank Halas has asked if fundraising might be an option to pay for the land, but TPL and Zoo officials have indicated this solution is not feasible.

The amount of the proposed assessment per household has not yet been determined. “That cost would be based on the land’s purchase price,” says Mr. Garrison, adding that once significant interest in the project is determined, TPL will initiate an independent appraisal to determine the value for the land. Based on a 20-year model, a tax of roughly $2-$4 per household for every $800,000 of assessed value is likely.

Naples Mayor Bill Barnett supports the expansion and calls the issue “a no-brainer.”

“I think we have to consider future generations, just as our Naples forefathers did for us,” the mayor says. “The Zoo is very good for business in this town. It’s good for residents. It brings in more money. Many people are hurting right now. Foreclosures are up and people are out of work. This is not the time to increase costs.”

Tom Henning, Collier County commission chairman

Mr. Tetzlaff clarifies that the 2004 assessment was used solely for the purchase of land and did not fund zoo attractions or daily operations.

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last year, and 90,000 of those visitors were children under the age of 12, says Executive Director David Tetzlaff.

Mr. Tetzlaff clarifies that the 2004 assessment was used solely for the purchase of land and did not fund zoo attractions or daily operations.

To thank the Collier County citizens for their support, the Zoo extends a 50 percent discount for membership to residents and also offers free admission to residents on the first Saturday of every month. Last year, 36,000 Collier residents and 24,000 other guests visited the zoo at no charge on one of the 12 free days or as part of other promotions.

“The Zoo is for everyone. We want everybody to be able to enjoy it,” Mr. Tetzlaff says, adding that the proposed additional acreage would allow the facility to expand amenities and add new attractions to engage the public and ultimately increase visitor numbers.

“We want to know what the public wants, which is the reason we requested the poll—ing,” he says. “I would love to see a bigger, better zoo — but just as before, the final decision will be up to the voters.”

The County Commission has approved a plan for TPL to conduct phone surveys of roughly 400 residents to gauge public opinion on the issue. If the results are positive, TPL will work with the county to draft a referendum for inclusion on the November election ballot.

Since the public purchase of the existing Zoo land, membership and attendance are up, according to Zoo officials. Roughly 300,000 people visited the zoo in 2004. That tax was paid off early, and now we’re all enjoying the benefits.”

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PET TALES

Avoiding risk

Teach your children to be safe around dogs

BY DR. MARTY BECKER & GINA SPADAFORI
Universal Ustick

When we see a news story about a dog attacking a child, we quickly look for the reason behind the tragedy. It’s usually there, if you know what you’re looking for. And no, what we’re talking about isn’t a reference to the dog’s being identified — or just as often, misidentified — as a “pit bull.”

What we’re looking for — and usually find — are the indicators that the situation was already well on the way to being dangerous when the attack happened. Typically, the dog was young, male and unneutered. He was also unsocialized, usually a backyard dog with little to no interaction with the family. Even more likely, the dog was in effect trained to defend his turf by being kept full-time on a chain or in a small kennel run.

“He never gave us any problem before!” says the owner of the dog, who really didn’t know the animal because he was little more than a lawn ornament or the living equivalent of a burglar alarm sign. Or maybe the owners will grudgingly admit to a bite now and then — but “nothing serious.” Again, more warning signs ignored.

Is there a dog like this in your neighborhood — or in your own yard? If it’s the latter, you have to make sure your children know how to behave around dogs to protect them from attack.

Here’s what every child should know:

• Never approach a loose dog, even if he seems friendly. Dogs who are confined in yards, and especially those on chains, should also be avoided. Many are very serious about protecting their turf. If the dog is with his owner, children should always ask permission before petting, and then begin by offering the back of the hand for a sniff. Further, they should pat the dog on the neck or chest. The dog may interpret a pat from above as a gesture of dominance. Teach your children to avoid fast or jerky movements around dogs, since these may trigger predatory behavior.

• Be a tree when a dog approaches, standing straight with feet together, fists under the neck and elbows into the chest. Teach your children to make no eye contact, since some dogs view eye contact as a challenge.

Running is a normal response to danger, but it’s the worst possible thing to do around a dog, because it triggers the animal’s instinct to chase and bite. Many dogs will just sniff and leave. Teach your children to stay still until the animal walks away, and then back away slowly from the area.

• Feed the dog a jacket or backpack if attacked, or use a bike to block the dog. These strategies may keep an attacking dog’s teeth from connecting with flesh.

• Act like a log if knocked down face down, legs together, curled into a ball with fists covering the back of the hand and forearms over the ears. This position protects vital areas and can keep an attack from turning fatal. Role-play these lessons with your child until they are ingrained. They may save your child’s life.

• Discuss safe behavior with your children and role-play how to approach dogs, when not to approach, and what to do if confronted or attacked.

To be fair, dogs aren’t the biggest risk that children face growing up. Organized sports, for example, are 10 times more likely to result in a child’s trip to the emergency room than are dogs.

But why take a chance? With summer here and children out and about more than the rest of the year, you need to make sure they know the risks and what to do. You can help protect your child from a dog bite, and it’s always worth the time to do so. And sometimes the place to start is in your own family, with a dog who needs your attention now. □
MUSINGS

Hugger-mugger

"Once upon a time, in some out of the way corner of that universe which is dispersed into numberless twinkling solar systems, there was a star upon which clever beasts invented knowing. That was the most arrogant and mendacious minute of world history, but nevertheless, it was only a minute."
— Friedrich Nietzsche, On Truth and Lies

It is very hard to remember anything worth remembering. Remembering that which might bring new understanding into the present experience is cunning available only to those already seriously bound for waking. This kind of knowing is the skill of a mind full of potential, of a heart wide open, of a being gushing with the freedom and inexhaustibility of a fountain. Usually we remember what we knew they were there. Those blind from birth whose retinas are surgically corrected are not immediately given vision of tables and chairs. They must learn to see these things which only slowly emerge out of a tangle of raw sensory data. Those fitted with hearing aids must, in similar fashion, construct language and meaning out of sound bits.

The blue sky peeking out above rain forest canopy entanglement is not seen out of sound bits. Those fitted with hearing aids open their world to the unseen. In the quiet of night the dissectors turned into dreams. Jean Piaget, biologist, philosopher, and psychologist, wrote about the memory he had of the attempt kidnapping and a bicycle accident at age 9. After this he suffered epileptic seizures. A surgery ablating his hippocampus was successful in eliminating his seizures. But he also developed severe memory loss. He could no longer successfully create new long-term memories. He also lost many memories of the time before the surgery.

Are we so very different? Do we have something that H.M. lost? Our memories are, after all, constructed in accordance with present needs, desires, influences. Then in the quiet of night already shadowy day events are turned into dreams. Henry Gustav Molaison, had a bicycle accident at age 9. After this he suffered epileptic seizures. A surgery ablating his hippocampus was successful in eliminating his seizures. But he also developed severe memory loss. He could no longer successfully create new long-term memories. He also lost many memories of the time before the surgery.

The H.M. of scientific literary fame, Henry Gustav Molaison, had a bicycle accident at age 9. After this he suffered epileptic seizures. A surgery ablating his hippocampus was successful in eliminating his seizures. But he also developed severe memory loss. He could no longer successfully create new long-term memories. He also lost many memories of the time before the surgery. He had completely clear memory of the illegal autopsies opened those cadavers to see only undifferentiated bloody meat masses. Organs would only emerge much later when the dissectors knew they were there. Those blind from birth whose retinas are surgically corrected are not immediately given vision of tables and chairs. They must learn to see these things which only slowly emerge out of a tangle of raw sensory data. Those fitted with hearing aids must, in similar fashion, construct language and meaning out of sound bits.

It is all trompe l’oeil. We know and we remember whitened sepulchers full of facts. There are only interpretations. He also said: “I am not a man. I am dynomite.” But the magician wiggles his fingers in the visual periphery and sings of the shiny things there. And we look, seeing exactly what we knew we would.

— Rx is the Florida Weekly 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.

On Truth and Lies

A. Miller's seven plus or minus two bits of 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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Less pain at the pump?

Cheaper gas could spur local travel

BY EVAN WILLIAMS
ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

Gas prices were supposed to inch up to the $3 per gallon mark this summer, but instead are taking a dip. The lower prices are partially attributed to a European debt crisis, which led to predictions of less demand for oil. They could also be due to less interest in buying and trading oil stocks, as other areas of the U.S. economy grow stronger.

The cost for a gallon of regular unleaded is expected to drop to near $2.60 by mid-June, says the website www.FloridaStateGasPrices.com. That comes to $39 for a 15-gallon tank, rather than the expected $45. The difference could put some extra shine on the local tourism industry.

Officials as well as people at the pump seem cheerful, if somewhat ambivalent, about the lower prices.

"Every little bit helps, right?" said Eddie Ferguson as he pumped a tank-full of regular unleaded for $2.73 per gallon at a 7-Eleven. That was about 20 cents less than a month ago, and the lowest price on gas since March.

Even when prices rose to $4 per gallon in 2008, said Jack Wert, executive director of the Naples-Marco Island and Everglades Convention & Visitors Bureau, it had little effect on whether people made the trip from “one-tank gas markets” that make up the largest group of summer tourists. Those markets include Fort Lauderdale, Miami, West Palm Beach, Tampa, Orlando and St. Petersburg.

But the lower priced gas couldn’t hurt. “When gas prices do get higher it may not discourage people from coming, but they might adjust downwardly their overall expenditures,” Mr. Wert said.

German tourists — who tend to visit Florida over the summer months, when flights are less expensive — might also be encouraged to visit more Southwest Florida destinations as part of their travels.

“They tend to do a multi-city sort of loop: fly into Orlando and Miami and kind of make a loop around the state,” said Tamara Pigott, director of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau. “There’s a chance some of the beaches in South Florida, given attractive gas prices, may become more attractive.”

Pine Island resident Linda Blue said the price of gas would make a difference in the number of short trips she takes this summer. “It’s when you get a full tank that you notice the difference,” she said.

A man wearing hunting gear at a Circle K in Fort Myers filled up three plastic gas jugs on the back of his pickup truck. He squinted suspiciously when asked about his feelings on the lower gas prices.

“I’m not filling up my tank,” he said mysteriously, turning away.

Maybe he was stockpiling the cheaper gas for an end-of-days scenario? Who knows?

Perplexing investment questions

Q. Which European country is well positioned?
A. Among the larger countries in the European Union, Germany is the strongest but it has the “drag” of the EU problems and the Euro currency issue. It has large net exports and none of the other debt/deficit problems characterizing the PIIG countries but it does have some bank exposure to the sovereign debt of the PIIG countries. It also has an aging population, often termed negative demographics.

The German government bond market has acted well and the German stock market has had relatively less damage than other EU or international equity markets.

Not part of the EU, but easily ranked as a strong European country, is Turkey. The once ugly duckling is looking more and more like a swan. The country turned the corner on government deficits and has stopped borrowing from the IMF. It is a low-cost yet quality producer and it is in a net export position. Long shunned by the EU for admission, Turkey now benefits from this rejection, as it never gave up its currency. It can set its own monetary and fiscal policies — unlike Greece.

Importantly, it has positive demographics: 70 percent of its population is under the age of 35. Their young are consuming and expanding the economy beyond just exporting.

The Turkish stocks trade at only three times cash flow — a very low multiple. In the game of relative performance, Turkey might fare relatively better than its European counterparts.

Q. Why is corporate debt trading on par with U.S. government debt? It used to be that high quality corporate
Brian Rist, owner and CEO of Storm Smart Industries, received the Corporate Leadership Award for 2010 at the 24th annual Florida Governor’s Hurricane Conference. The conference brings together professionals, volunteers, government employees and elected officials who deal with emergency management issues.

**Board Appointments**

- Rev. John Anderson and Christine Ross have joined the Community Advisory Board for The Terraces at Bonita Springs, a senior living community planned for Bonita Springs. Rev. Anderson is the pastor at Bay Presbyterian Church; Ms. Ross is president and CEO of the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce. They join 10 community leaders and future residents of The Terraces who serve on the board.

- Newly elected officers of the Gulf Coast Venture Forum are: Tim Cartwright, president; Susi Winchell, vice president; Kevin Carmichael, secretary; and John Slusar, treasurer. In addition to Mr. Cartwright and Ms. Winchell, board members recently elected are: Bill Hagman, Fred Klaucke, Tammie Ross, John Slusar, Kevin Carmichael, secretaries; and John Slusar, treasurer.

- Newly elected directors to the board of directors for TIB Financial Corp., holding company for TIB Bank National, have joined the Community Advisory Board for The Terraces at Bonita Springs, a senior living community planned for Bonita Springs.

- Nancy Kerns has joined the Great Lakes Regional Office of Wells Fargo Advisors, Inc., as a financial advisor for more than 26 years, Mr. Edwards is a frequent industry speaker. In 2010, he is scheduled to address financial professionals at forums organized by Wells Fargo Advisors in Atlanta, Chicago, San Diego, Dallas, Washington, D.C., and New York City on investing for retirement assets in a post-crisis world.

- Classic Chamber Concerts has elected the following officers for the term beginning May 1: Helen Noble, president; Donald Shapiro, immediate past president; Alan Harris, vice president; Delores Sorey, vice president; Haddie Lichthaler, treasurer; and Leonard Stagoski, secretary. New directors are Hyonjia Lee Abrams, Mary Baron, Jeannette Boucher, Yvonne Brandt, Andrea Clark Brown, Judy Castel-Cruz, Marlan Dolan, Robert Hicks, Ann Jacobson, David J. Kasper, Frank Klapperich, Merlin Lichthaler, Barbara Vaccaro Lounsbury, Michael Mendelson, Gaul Rothenberg, Harriet Schley, Joanne Smallwood, Roz Travis and Myra Williams.

- Michael Hayes, general manager of the Robb & Stucky Patio showroom in Bonita Springs, has been named to the editorial advisory board of Casual Living Magazine, a business trade publication reaching retailers and buyers in the furniture marketplace.

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So, in the short run, U.S. government bonds paid a lot more than U.S. government debt. At recently this was a true statement but a recent flight to U.S. governments has somewhat changed this. Generally speaking, debt issues with the same coupon, maturity and call features etc., will trade at different yields based on credit perception. (As we all know, credit ratings can be a bit off the mark.) To the extent that U.S. “govies” are trading at close to par with high-quality U.S. corporates, the market suggestion is that the credit quality is the same. Say what? Yes, although the U.S. government has the ultimate ability to tax citizens and businesses to pay for its debts, the reality is that the debt loads can get too great to be borne by the private sector. This is contrasted with corporations having positive cash flow to not only make interest payments but to also retire the debt.

In the countries with sovereign debt problems, the PIIGS, the corporate debt actually trades better than government debt. How can that be? If the government needs money, wouldn’t it just tax the corporations and therefore their credit worthiness be greatly diminished? True, they might face more taxes, but the markets assume default by a government before assuming the government will take the last dollar of corporate earnings to pay government bills.

In periods of international financial crisis, money seeks the most liquid and safest haven. Since the recent interest rate peak in April, the U.S. government bonds have been on a tear — just folks getting out of the European currency fluctuations just like a lot of happen very quickly — causing large the unwinding of the trade can often “run away” over a long period of time and also huge in size. The trade is “put on” over a long period of time and the currency expected to appreciate or the yen carry is borrowing in the yen from banks in Japan because rates are so low there — the long bond trades for x percent. (The U.S. dollar carry is borrowing in U.S. dollars — either from U.S. banks or Euro banks loaning in dollars, also at very low rates.) Now what is done with the money? It is put in markets/currencies that are appreciating. The loan proceeds in yen are converted into another currency expected to appreciate or an asset in a different currency is purchased. If the loan rate is fixed, then the risk on the trade is whether the currency alone or alternative investment bought into another currency appreciates relative to the yen.

And even though the market for the yen and U.S. dollars are huge and liquid, theses carry trades are also huge in size. The trade is “put on” over a long period of time and the unwinding of the trade can often happen very quickly — causing large currency fluctuations just like a lot of people slowly walking into the movies but, in panic, all trying to squeeze through the emergency exit.

— Jeanette Rohn Showalter is a Southwest Florida-based chartered financial analyst, considered to be the highest designation for investment professionals.
GAS

Watch for falling prices

The website www.FloridaState-GasPrices.com says the cost of a borrower gallon should drop another 10 or 12 cents before it levels out in mid-June. Last week, the site reported average retail gasoline prices in Florida fell about 4 cents per gallon to $2.65.

That left the prices nearly 25 cents per gallon lower than a month ago, but still 8 cents higher than they were one year ago.

Even so, that’s still a lot better than shelling out an excruciating $4 and up, as was the case during summer 2008. Remembering those prices, Mr. Ferguson at the 7-Eleven emitted a low moan of displeasure.

“It’s great that it’s going down,” he said, “especially because I’ve gotta drive the kids back and forth to school, the wife back and forth to work.”

Lower cost but still fewer travelers?

In spite of the lower cost, AAA, which tracks gas prices, predicted there would be fewer travelers in Southwest Florida over Memorial Day weekend than last year. (It’s too early to know if that turned out to be true or not.) AAA predicted a decrease in Memorial Day weekend traffic last year as well, which turned out not to be true.

“A lot of people decided at the last minute, ‘Well, I’m going to travel anyway,’” said David Tojero, Southwest Florida AAA executive for AAA. “Hopefully, that’s not to be true.

“The prediction was because of our relatively high unemployment rate and overall struggling economy. Nationwide, a growing economy and lower prices led AAA to predict a 5 percent increase in travel over the recent holiday weekend, the first time in five years it had predicted an increase on those days.

“People in Southwest Florida are traveling more than they were this time last year,” Mr. Tojero said. “They’re cruising. They’re going to the attractions. With that said, unemployment is still high, and there’s still a lot of uncertainty in the marketplace.”

And lower gas prices might also reflect a stronger U.S. economy in general, Mr. Tojero added.

“When the value of the dollar is very good, we see the prices go down,” he said. “When it’s very bad, we see the prices go up. When the economy is weak, people tend to put their money into the commodities, into the oils and the golds. As it improves, more people are going to some of the other stock. So as the economy continues to improve, we should see the price of gas continue to come down.”

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in the know

>> Your gas at a glance (Regular unleaded prices for regular as of June 6):

National Average
Current: $2.73
Week ago: $2.92

Fort Myers-Cape Coral
Current: $2.73
Yesterday: $2.74
Week ago: $2.79
Month ago: $2.92
Year ago: $2.58

Highest recorded average price, July 2008: $4.06

Bradenton-Sarasota-Venice
Current: $2.66
Yesterday: $2.66
Week ago: $2.70
Month ago: $2.93
Year ago: $2.58

Miami
Current: $2.77
Yesterday: $2.76
Week ago: $2.80
Month ago: $2.97
Year ago: $2.65

Orlando
Current: $2.61
Yesterday: $2.61
Week ago: $2.65
Month ago: $2.87
Year ago: $2.52

— Source: AAA

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Is Merck a Buy?

Mercer's (NYSE:MRK) integration of Schering-Plough and its strong pipeline of drugs in development appear to be going smoothly, with Merck recently reporting a 7 percent increase in first-quarter revenue. Like any drug maker, Merck is dependent on regulators approving its drugs. In large measure, those sales and the associated revenues are dependent on the delay of generics entering the marketplace. In the case of Merck, as well as its competitors such as Enron, Delta Airlines, Lehman Brothers, Chrysler, Kmart, General Motors, Polaroid, Dow Corning, and Winn-Dixie would file for bankruptcy, but they did, wiping out shareholder wealth.

If you're going to invest in stocks, learn a lot about the stock market first, such as via mother Lynch's books. Level 3 Communications is still kicking, and opinions are mixed as to its potential. Read about it at caps.fool.com/Ticker/ULTV.aspx.

Last week's trivia answer

Based in Massachusetts, I'm a world leader in the movie theater industry, operating more than 1,000 screens in the U.S., U.K. and Australia. My shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange. I'm also a partner in the online ticketing service MovieTickets.com, and the parent company of both Viacom and CBS. My brands include a few names you may have heard of: Showcase cinemas, MTV, Comedy Central, TV Land, Logo, VH1, Spike, Nick at Nite, Country Music Television and Paramount Pictures, among others. I encompass about 170 television channels and 430 digital media properties in more than 160 countries around the world.

(Assignment: National Amusements)

Write to Us! Send questions for Ask the Fool, Dumbest (or Smartest) Investments (up to 100 words), and your Trivia entries to Fools@fool.com or via regular mail c/o The Motley Fool. Do you have an embarrassing lesson learned? Send it down to 100 words (or less) to send to The Motley Fool c/o My Dumbest Investment.

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NETWORKING

The third annual Sports Camp Shootout
Golfing for scholarships at The Quarry

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Send us your society and networking photos. Include the names of everyone in the picture. E-mail them to society@FloridaWeekly.com.
NETWORKING

Grand opening of Bonita Bay East

1. George Cardenas, John Fisher, John Patcharzik and Julio Cardenas
2. Tara McKenna, Kevin Stalley, Marty Hall and Jeff Meyers
3. Alan and Jori Richardson, Kevin and Jen Walker
4. Sheri Brezina and M.J. Scarpelli

CBIA Remodelers Council at Blue Kangaroo

Travis Brown and Chris Alley
Dave Moros and Bruce Cohen
Russ Town and Travis Persch
Karl Fry and Chrissi Jackson
Jen Rendon and Brian Wilson
Patty Wedge Ludwig, Trisha Borges, Bayard Horn, Doug Shipp and Susi Reisdorph

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Signs indicate market returning for luxury homes

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

In April, Texas Energy executive Kelsey Warren purchased a Colorado property for $46.5 million. Hot on the heels of this transaction, an unnamed Indonesian buyer contracted in May for a 48,000-square-foot Bel-Air mansion for an amount reported to be close to $50 million.

If the Los Angeles transaction closes, it will bump the Colorado sale to set the newest record for this year's priciest residential transaction. Some brokers speculate that these transactions illustrate a return of the wealthy to the upper-tier housing market.

Laurie Moore-Moore, founder of The Institute for Luxury Home Marketing, reports that, “Institute members from many markets across the country are telling us that buyers at the top of the market are looking again and that many are cash buyers. We believe this anecdotal evidence may herald the return of the very affluent to the national residential market.”

But is this the case in our local market? Institute member Dennis Brando, a luxury home professional with John R. Wood Realtors, reports that the upper-tier market in Naples is experiencing an uptick. “Our local luxury market stood at $4.5 million. Inquiries and showings are up in the $1 million and above market, and that’s a good sign.” What’s more, says Mr. Brando, “Cash buyers are out there again, spending money on great real estate. Season may be over, but buying season seems to be continuing through summer.”

Ms. Moore-Moore says wealthy buyers are reentering the real estate market. “In the recent economic downturn, the wealthy experienced substantial drops in their portfolios and felt the uncertainty of global economic conditions,” she says. “As a result, the luxury market shrank across all product and service categories, including housing. In addition, many wealthy converted investments to cash and have been watching and waiting on the investment sidelines. ‘Today, many are looking at U.S. home values and deciding to buy another residence as both a lifestyle decision and a portfolio play. Although the current turmoil in global economies is a wild card that could change things, we think the luxury home buyer is re-entering many markets and shopping for fabulous homes as smart investments.'”

April sales at La Piazza condos at Ave Maria top $2.5 million

Seven condominium residences with a value of approximately $2.5 million were sold during April in La Piazza, the town center of Ave Maria in eastern Collier County. The residences ranged from $250,000 for a two-bedroom, two-bath home to $385,000 for a three-bedroom, three-bath home.

The Residences at La Piazza consist of second- and third-floor luxury condominiums in a series of European-style buildings encircling the Oratory. Six floor plans are available in two- and three-bedroom flats that range from 1,200 square feet to more than 1,700 square feet of living space. Most have balconies or terraces with town center views; covered parking and secured entrances are included. Residents of La Piazza enjoy the concept of Main Street living, with the convenience of easy access to the town center’s Publix, restaurants, shops, medical facilities and services.

The April transactions bring the total condominium sales in the community to 46 of the 70 available residences. There are 14 two-bedroom and 12 three-bedroom residences remaining, priced from $250,000 to $395,000.

For more information on the Residences at La Piazza, contact Joanna Fish at 465-1498 or jfish@avemariarealty.net. The Town of Ave Maria is a 4,000-acre development. The main entrance is on Oil Well Road, 20 miles east of I-75 on Immokalee Road. At its build-out, the community will include 11,000 residences in its 4,000 acres. For more information, visit www.avemaria.com or call 262-2690.

Real estate school opens classroom in Naples

Larson Educational Services of Fort Myers has expanded to Naples. The family-owned professional education company focuses on licensing and continuing education courses for real estate sales associates, real estate brokers, mortgage brokers, mortgage loan originators and community association managers.

The business is owned by brothers David and Brad Larson, and management is overseen by their father, Rick Larson. The Larsons opened their original location at Royal Palm Square in Fort Myers in November 2008 and have seen rapid growth in market share, which led to the opening of the new location in Naples.

“We’re three years ahead of schedule,” says General Manager Brad Larson. “Our original business plan had us opening in Naples in 2011, but our integration into the Southwest Florida marketplace has happened faster than our conservative expectations.”

The school has a team of nine instructors. Larson Educational Services (RDB Ventures LLC) is an affiliated business member of the Naples Area Board of Realtors, Bonita Springs Estero Association of Realtors, the Realtor Association of Greater Fort Myers and the Beach, and the Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte-North Port Association of Realtors.

The new classroom is at 3073 Horseshoe Drive S., Suite 114. For more information, call 344-7510 or visit www.LarsonEd.com.
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REAL ESTATE NEWSMAKERS

➤ Mike Doyle has joined LandQwest Commercial as an investment specialist in the analysis of office, retail and industrial properties and vacant land. A Fort Myers native, Mr. Doyle has worked as an advisor in commercial real estate since 2004. He is a Certified Commercial Investment Member, a past president of the Commercial Investment Professionals, a member of the Real Estate Investment Society and a past board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Florida. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Florida and an MBA from Florida State University.

➤ Tim Cranch has joined Downing-Frye Realty Inc. as a sales associate. Originally from Northern Virginia, Mr. Cranch has more than 20 years of real estate experience in Virginia and Florida. He previously worked as a custom home builder. He graduated from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., with a bachelor’s degree in hotel administration. He belongs to the Naples Area, Florida and National associations of Realtors.

➤ John R. Wood Inc., Realtors welcomes the following agents: Mary Cox, Kevin Pelitera and Gigi Ricciardi to the Uptown office; Arlene Fishman to the Old Naples office; and Roberta Forrest to the Bonita Springs office.

➤ Linda and Jeff Schmidt were named Sales Associates of the Month in April at Weichert, Realtors – On the Gulf. The couple joined the company in 2007 and earned top honors for most transactions, listings and under contract.

➤ Barbara Barr was Top Producing Agent for May at Weichert, Realtors – On the Gulf. Ms. Barr joined the Naples office last year, transferring from a Weichert office in New Jersey. The main portion of her business is with closed lead network buyers.

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• Experienced, Friendly Support Staff
• Private Desk Space and Offices Available
• Professional, Clean, Contemporary Office
• Short Sale, Foreclosure and REO Listings
• Prime Mid-Naples Location in Mission Square
Batteries Plus has leased 1,400 square feet of space in Pelican Village at 24830 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite 2000, Bonita Springs, from Crandall Commercial Group LLC. Bill Young of CB Richard Ellis, Fort Myers/Naples negotiated the transaction.

Comalex has purchased a 5,700-square-foot apartment building on 1.3 acres at 3230 Thomasson Drive from TM Real Estate Group LLC for $200,000. Jonathan Richards of CB Richard Ellis, Fort Myers/Naples brokered the transaction.

Hueritas Classic Restaurant LLC has leased 1,631 square feet of restaurant space at Gateway Shoppes at U.S. 41 and Wiggins Pass Road in North Naples from Benderon Properties Inc. Brett Burger of Benderon Properties represented the landlord. Carlos Acosta of Grubh & Ellis | 1st Commercial represented the tenant.

Marco Island Brewing Corp. has leased 5,408 square feet of space in the Marco Town Center on North Collier Boulevard in Marco Island from Equity One. Doug Olson of LandQuest Commercial negotiated the transaction. The Marco Island Brewing Corp., the first microbrewery in Collier County, will anchor the "lifestyle" side of the Plaza.

The Weidenmiller Law Firm has leased 1,500 square feet of office space at 350 Tamiami Trail N., #603, from Executive Development Corp. Patrick Fraley of Investment Properties Corp. negotiated the transaction.

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**REAL ESTATE BRIEFS**

**Improvements complete at Wing South Airpark**

Wing South Airpark, the only residential fly-in community in Naples, boasts a newly repaved, 4,400-foot lighted runway, taxiway and tie-down lot. The 59-owner community has 38 homes and 21 lots. Owners have approximately 45 aircraft including biplanes, helicopters, aerobatic planes and twin-engine turbo props. A number of planes are under construction in hangars. Ardaman & Associates Inc., a regional engineering firm with local offices, provided the engineering for the project. Aja Paving, which recently completed the widening of I-75 between Naples and Fort Myers, completed construction of the new taxiway and the repaving.

Collier County recently approved a PUD for free oversized lots along the runway at Wing South Airpark off Rattlesnake Hammock Road. These lots are currently for sale. For more information, call Catherine Fay at 403-4838.

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**Let the experts help spice up your home life**

Robb & Stucky Interiors presents free design seminars in the showroom at 2777 Tamiami Trail N. Call 261-3969 or visit www.RobbStucky.com to reserve a seat. Here’s what’s coming up:

- **11 a.m. Thursday, June 17**: Design consultant Fred Bondina and American Leather representative Scott Crawford discuss selecting and caring for leather pieces for the home.
- **11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 24**: Gather your floor plans, blueprints, fabrics, color swatches, photos and questions and join members of the Robb & Stucky design team for a complimentary consultation.

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**Miromar Design Center has free seminars**

The public is invited to the following free events and seminars at Miromar Design Center:

- **2 p.m. Saturday, June 12**: “Prepare for Hurricane Season” – The Professional Organizers Association of Southwest Florida partners with Storm Smart Industries for this seminar about what you need in your hurricane kit, how to prepare your home, pets and important papers and where to turn for information if a storm threatens our coast.
- **2 p.m. Saturday, June 19**: “Color Speaks” – Color specialist and award-winning broadcaster Libby Marx teaches the meaning of colors in our world today.
- **2 p.m. Saturday, June 26**: “Broken Color Decorative Faux Finishing Demonstration” – Decorative artist Arthur Morehead of Art-Faux Designs Inc. will demonstrate a glaze-free technique called broken color and will also introduce a metallic paint into the technique to show the versatility of this faux finish.

Miromar Design Center is on Corkscrew Road in Estero across from Miromar Outlets. For more information, call 800-911 or visit www.MiromarDesignCenter.com.

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**STOP BY TO VIEW THESE AND OTHER PROPERTIES**

**VILLAGE WALK VANDERBILT BEACH LOCATION**

- **285, 286, 28A, 2-Car Garage Capri Villa with EXTENDED living space of 1680 under air, tile in living areas, NEW A/C unit, 2 new 20” tile, Granite, new carpet in bedrooms, Electric Hurricane Shutters and screen lanai with lake views, $379,900, Owner Agent.
- **292, 29A, 2-Car Garage Capri Villa with LITTENED living space of 1680 under air, tile in living areas, NEW A/C unit, new 20” tile, Granite, new carpet in bedrooms, Electric Hurricane Shutters and screen lanai with lake views, $379,900, Owner Agent.
- **LIVE NOV** 392, 2.5A, 2-Car Garage Capri Villa with 2/2, 1140 living area at 1000 under air, NEW A/C unit, private pool, pool and premium views of lake and bridge, GREAT BUY!, $249,900.
- **Heavenly Home** Nicely upgraded 2/2, 1,500 living area, tile throughout, private pool & lake views, electric hurricane shutters, new A/C unit, $199,900.
- **Pristine Home** Nicely upgraded 2/2, 1,500 living area, tile throughout, new A/C unit, garage, private pool & lake views, electric hurricane shutters, new A/C unit, PRISTINE CONDITION!, $325,000.
- **3BR, 2BA, Single Family, Tile in entire home, Accordion Hurricane shutters, private heated POOL w/lake views!**, Nicely upgraded 4BR,3.5BA, extensive crown mouldings and trim work, built-in entertainment center, fireplace, Tile throughout, screened lanai with lake views, GREAT BUY!, $435,000, Visual Tour Available!
- **2 Bedroom/2Bath/2-car home ready for new owner - Call for more details!**

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**ISLANDWALK VANDERBILT BEACH LOCATION**

- **285, 286, 28A, 2-Car Garage Capri Villa with EXTENDED living space of 1680 under air, tile in living areas, NEW A/C unit, 2 new 20” tile, Granite, new carpet in bedrooms, Electric Hurricane Shutters and screen lanai with lake views, $379,900, Owner Agent.
- **Prestige Conditions!** 392, 2.5A, Single Family, Tile in living area, pool lanai, private pool, built-in entertainment center, private POOL with lake views, ELECTRIC HURRICANE shutters, NEW A/C unit, and more Asking $414,500 Virtual Tour Available!
- **292, 29A, 2-Car Garage Capri Villa with LITTENED living space of 1680 under air, tile in living areas, NEW A/C unit, new 20” tile, Granite, new carpet in bedrooms, Electric Hurricane Shutters and screen lanai with lake views, $379,900, Owner Agent.

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**Savings so great, we’re keeping them under our hat!**

2 DAYS ONLY!

Visit any model in our Southwest Florida communities on June 12th & 13th for specials!
OPPORTUNITY ISN’T JUST KNOCKING...
IT’S KICKING IN THE DOOR.

Just south of Bonita Beach Road on Bonita Grande. 6289 Burnham Rd., Naples, Florida.

HOMESITES WITH UNBELIEVABLE VIEWS
Although your dream home plans are still in the making, the unprecedented pricing and developer incentives on homesites are too good to pass up.

28704 La Caille Drive
1 story, 3 bedrooms plus den, 3.5 baths, pool. Brand new and professionally decorated. Lake and golf views. 3,139 sq. ft. under air, 4,731 sq. ft. total area. (Floorplans from $985,000)

Priced at $1,335,000

28970 Somers Drive
4 bedrooms plus study, 4 full baths, 1 half bath, 3-car and 2-car garages. Spacious screened lanai, pool, summer kitchen and fireplace. Golf view. 5,917 sq. ft. under air, 8,956 sq. ft. total area.

Priced at $3,800,000

6053 Sunnyslope Drive
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3-car garage. Covered lanai and outdoor kitchen. Pool. Unfurnished. 4,060 sq. ft. under air, 6,123 sq. ft. total area.

Priced at $1,990,000

Excellence has an Address.

Quail West Golf & Country Club is offered by Quail West Realty, LLC., a licensed real estate broker. Prices, features and availability subject to change without notice.

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Just south of Bonita Beach Road on Bonita Grande. 6289 Burnham Rd., Naples, Florida.
Dresses Divine

A COMMONER VISITS THE ROYAL GOWNS

BY NANCY STETSON
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

WHEN SOMEONE DIES, HER PERSONAL THINGS—even items as mundane as a pair of slippers or a hairbrush—take on a different emotional hue. And items once owned by celebrities — whether a car driven, a jacket worn or a guitar pick flung from a concert stage — are always sought after by fans and collectors.

But when something is one and the same — personal property of a celebrity who's now departed — its power and appeal are compounded.

So it's no wonder the current exhibit at The von Liebig Art Center possesses a certain magical draw; more than 20,000 people have gone to see “Princess Diana: Dresses of Inspiration.”

SEE DIANA, C4 ►

School’s out, but Renaissance Academy classes continue

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Renaissance Academy of Florida Gulf Coast University presents the following programs in Naples and Bonita Springs this month:

• 1-4 p.m. Sunday, June 13, at the FGCU Naples Center, 1000 Fifth Ave. S.: Join John Guerra for a screening and discussion of “The Taste of Others,” a French film that's a fresh comedy about the attraction of opposites. Admission is $4 for Renaissance Academy members and $5 for others.

• 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, June 16, at Bentley Village: An analysis of “Symphonie Fantastique,” one of the great works that defined 19th century romanticism. Few people understand how much life and art can imitate one another until they understand the full story of opium, love, waltzing, murder and execution behind this Hector Berlioz masterpiece. Presented by Lee Silvan. $20 for members, $25 for others.

• 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, June 22, at the Naples Center: “Drilling for Oil in the Gulf,” a debate and discussion moderated by Ken O’Leary. $15 for members, $20 for others.

SEE ACADEMY, C20 ▶

WEEK at-a-glance

And the winner is…

Arts writer Nancy Stetson bestows her annual (and somewhat skewed) entertainment awards. C8 ►

Coming next season

Subscriptions selling fast for Classic Chamber Concerts’ small-orchestra programs. C3 ►

A monster thriller

Book reviewer Phil Jason welcomes James Swain’s latest in paperback. C13 ▶

Mail-order wines

Jim McCracken chimes in on proposed legislation that would affect shipping. C26 ▶
Oscar Wilde tells us that it is better to be beautiful than to be good, but it is better to be good than to be ugly. And what of brains? Is it better to be smart than good-looking, or does beauty come before intelligence?

We often slander men for being connoisseurs of female attractiveness but miserly consumers of the less physical sides of a woman: her wit, her personality, her capacity for conversation. So much so, in fact, that a popular aphorism runs, “The average woman would rather have beauty than brains, because the average man can see better than he can think.” Of course, one must wonder if men are alone in this behavior. Why should only one gender get to have all the fun?

I must confess, I once tried out my own trophy boyfriend. He had one of those aggressively masculine names, the kind that ends in –er and sounds like it should belong to a model in an Abercrombie & Fitch catalogue. Trapper or Parker or Hunter. He was tanned all over and had blond hair that fell glistening under a sheen of tanning oil, his lighted hair out of his eyes.

Hunter was unmistakably gorgeous, the green waters of the Gulf lapping down at me. Sometimes he used Nair.

“Do you have a headband I can borrow?” she said, with her perfectly straight and sandydays@floridaweekly.com

ArtisHENDERSON
sandydays@floridaweekly.com

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Seven evenings of chamber music on tap for Classic Chamber Concerts

The secret of success for Classic Chamber Concerts lies in performing gems in the small-orchestra genre. This past season, the Jasper String Quartet appeared as artists in residence, and Maestro William Noll forged the Fifth Avenue Chamber Orchestra to perform with them through programs of Vivaldi, Bach, Mozart and Schubert. In 2010-2011 the quartet will perform in several CCC programs. All concerts take place on Monday evenings at the Sugden Community Theatre. A limited number of subscriptions are still available; single tickets are not on sale yet.

Season ticket holders will be able to compare and contrast works for quintet, quartet and trio as the season progresses. The season begins Dec. 6, with Tchaikovsky’s Serenade for C Major as part of the program titled “The Art of the Quintet” with the Jasper String Quartet.

On Jan. 17, Ilya Itin returns as pianist for Classic Chamber Concerts at P.O. Box 7854, Naples, FL 34101, or visit www.ClassicChamberConcerts.org.

On Jan. 18, Mr. Itin will perform a Bach and Mozart triple piano concerto. The pianists will work with the Fifth Avenue Chamber Orchestra and the Jasper String Quartet.

On Feb. 1, Ravel’s Piano Trio and Dvorak’s set of six short works known collectively as the Dumky Trio are on the program when two members of the Jasper quartet team up with Mr. Itin for “The Art of the Trio.”

For “Three Pianists” on March 7, guest artists sponsored by the Lord William Smith Foundation will perform the Bach and Mozart triple piano concertos and the Poulenc Double Concerto. The pianists will work with the Fifth Avenue Chamber Orchestra and the Jasper String Quartet.

For the season’s finale on March 14, the Fifth Avenue Chamber Orchestra and the Jasper String Quartet will perform Mozart’s Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550 and the Beethoven Symphony No. 4.

For information about season subscriptions, call 434-8505, write to Classic Chamber Concerts at P.O. Box 7854, Naples, FL 34101, or visit www.ClassicChamberConcerts.org.

On the program will be the children’s classic, “Peter and the Wolf,” with CCC Maestro William Noll narrating.

Ravel’s Quartet and Beethoven’s Quartet No. 13 in C Sharp minor will be the showpieces in “The Art of the Quartet” with the Jasper String Quartet on Jan. 24.

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Dine like, well, royalty at “Dine Like Royalty” at Shula’s Steakhouse on Sunday, June 27. The six-course wine dinner will benefit Bosom Buddies, the NCH Mammary Fund, and The von Liebig Art Center Scholarship Fund.

Special guests will be Darren McGrady, former senior chef at Buckingham palace and the late Princess Diana’s personal chef; Suzanne King, owner of seven of the princess’ gowns, six of which are on display at The von Liebig; and Richard Dalton, the princess’ hairdresser.

Hosts for the evening are O’Bella magazine and Marrianna Foggins of Coldwell Banker. A champagne reception begins at 6 p.m. Tickets are $50 per person or $225 for VIP seating with one of the guests of honor. For reservations or more information, call 991-2999.

Darren McGrady, former senior chef at Buckingham Palace, will be at the June 25 “Dine Like Royalty” fundraiser at Shula’s.

Eat like a king at Hilton Naples

America. They accept you for what you are, not who you are.”

Compare that to a letter Charles wrote to a former naval commander: “I do pray that the business rapidly provides you with the means of returning to London. I hope that you will be able to put a cheap bag on the emotion. Thankfully, I was wrong. What moved me more was the oversized photo of the thousands of bouquets left by mourners in front of Kensington Palace in the days after her death.

I was struck by the mountain of flowers on the street, representing an outpouring of love for “The People’s Princess.” I was also moved by words Prince William spoke in an interview with the London Daily Mail in 2009, after he became a Royal Patron of Britain’s Child Bereavement

People’s Princess

Princess Diana: Dresses of Inspiration is more than just a showing of dresses. It reminds us of the person Diana was.

First, there’s the quintessential fairytale story of a beautiful young woman marrying her prince. Soon after, she gives him— as her duties dictate, according to a plaque in the exhibit— “an heir and a spare.”

But then there’s the all-too-familiar story of a broken relationship, of the husband cheated on her with public humility. She is followed by a very moving story of a woman discovering herself and standing on her own two feet. Empowered, she used her fame and influence for good. Think of her as the antithesis of any of the Real Housewives of Orange County/New York/New Jersey/Atlanta/any city.)

There are photos of Diana holding hands with Mother Teresa, who called her “my daughter.” There’s the quote from a doctor at the Jakarta Leprosy Association: “She died much more than she had to. She needed only have shaken the hands and moved on, but she sat on the beds and listened.”

And during a time when President Reagan wouldn’t even mention AIDS, Diana was visiting AIDS patients and helping raise funds for awareness and research.

She also became involved in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and was mentioned by name when the campaign received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997.

Acceptance and compassion

Another placard quotes Diana’s feelings about the United States: “I love the princess’ gowns, six of which are on display at The von Liebig; and Richard Dalton, the princess’ hairdresser.

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EARLY DINNER SPECIAL

Dine in air conditioned comfort while enjoying the beautiful passing scene on Estero Bay.

The perfect way to spend a relaxing afternoon surrounded by nature’s tranquility.

4.30pm to 6.30pm daily

1 Bottle of wine
2 persons
3 courses

} $40.00

Choose from 4 appetizers, 4 entrees and 2 desserts.

4761 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach, Fl 33931
(Mid-island behind Publix)
Ph: (239) 463-FOOD (3663) www.BayfrontBistro.com
WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

This week’s theater

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie – by TheatreZone at the ArtsTREK Community School of Naples, June 10-13. (888) 966-3352.

Beyond Therapy – By FGCU Theatre Lab June 16-20. 590-7268.

I Love My Wife – by TheatreZone at the ArtsTREK Community School of Naples, June 10-13. (888) 966-3352.

Improv – Naples City Improv performs a dinner show at Fred’s Diner starting at 6:30 p.m. June 19, July 10 and 24 and Aug. 7 and 23. 2700 Immokalee Road. Reservations: 431-7928.

Tea-A-Ria – By the Orpheus Players at Fred’s Diner June 13 and 20. Enjoy a light-hearted comedy with ‘40s era cocktails and Italian entrees. 2700 Immokalee Road. 431-7928.

Footloose – At Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, Fort Myers, June 10-Aug. 7. 278-4422 or www.BroadwayPalm.com.

boom – At Theatre Conspiracy in Fort Myers through June 12. 936-3239.

Thursday, June 10

Evening on Fifth – Stroll the street, shop, dine or enjoy a cocktail while listening to live bands from 7-10 p.m. on the sidewalks of Fifth Avenue South. 435-3742 or e-mail lisa@naples-chamber.org.

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

Quiz Night – The English Pub hosts Quiz Night beginning at 8:30 p.m. 775-8225 or e-mail phils@naplesenglishpub.com.

Friday, June 11

Art Reception – The Art League of Bonita Springs hosts an opening reception for its “Summer Solstice” exhibit from 6-8 p.m. at the Center for the Arts, 2400 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs, 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

Pickin’ and Grinnin’ – Listen to the bluegrass sounds of Monroe Station from 7-10 p.m. at Bayshore Landing Cafe, 2727 Bayshore Drive. Free. RSVP to 417-2218.

2D/3D – The Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers holds the opening reception for its 24th annual 2D/3D All Florida Juried Exhibition from 5-7:30 p.m. The exhibit runs through Aug. 7. www.ArtinLee.org.

Dance Time – Dance Artistry 2010 starts at 6:30 p.m. at Golden Gate High School, 2925 Twin Lakes Way. $17 for adults, $15 for children. 498-3555.

Saturday, June 12

Art and Coffee – Naples Museum of Art hosts Coffee with the Curator beginning at 10 a.m. Curator Michael Culver lead a tour through the exhibitions marking the museum’s 10th anniversary season. Afterward, adjourn to the Dome for coffee and conversation, 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

Acoustic Rock – SmallerFolk Advisory plays from 8-11 p.m. at Bayshore Landing Cafe, 2727 Bayshore Drive. 5. 417-2218.

All That Jazz – The Naples Jazzmasters perform from 2-4 p.m. every Saturday through the summer at the Norris Community Center, 231-3058.

Music Under the Stars – Golf Coast Town Center presents classic hits by Mike Imbasciani from 8-10 p.m. in Market Plaza. Free. 267-0783 or gulfcoasttowncenter.com.

Sunday, June 13

Foreign Film – FGCU’s Renaissance Academy presents summer foreign films from 1-4 p.m. every other Sunday at the Naples Center, 1011 Fifth Ave. $6 admission is $4 for RA members and $5 for others. Today: “The Taste of Thai” for the 37th or www.naplesenglishpub.com.
WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Others: 425-3272 or e-mail jguerra@fgcu.edu.

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

Monday, June 14

Sweat the Small Stuff – The Pub at Mercato has Trivia Night every Monday at 7:30 p.m. 594-9400.

Tuesday, June 15

Free Film – Gulf Coast Town Center hosts Cinema Under the Stars beginning at 8:30 p.m. in the Market Plaza courtyard. Tonight: “Planet 51.”

Team Trivia – Boston Beer Garden holds Team Trivia competition at 9 p.m. every Tuesday. 296 Immokalee Rd. 996-2337.

Wednesday, June 16

History Tour – The Naples Historical Society leads walking tours of the historic downtown district beginning at 10 a.m. at Palm Cottage. Requested donations are $5 adults, $5 children. Reservations required. 261-8164.

Over The Top – Signatures at Mercato invites customers to enjoy champagne and other goodies while checking out the latest in summer tops at the boutique from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 254-5800.

Summer Wine School – Learn the basics of wine from 5:50-7 p.m. at Sea Salt on Third Street South. Summer Wine School continues on Wednesdays, July 21 (The World of Whites), Aug. 11 (Racy Reds) and continue at the Hollywood 20-Naples for photos with the movie characters before show time at 1 p.m. Tickets are $15 at www.naplesfilmfest.com.

GoldienFest - Golden Retriever of Southwest Florida hosts GoldenFest, a block party-style event celebrating golden retrievers, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 19 at Ruff’n It Doggy Day Care in Bonita Springs. 369-0415 or www.grswf.org.

Send calendar listings to events@floridaweekly.com.

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To Clay Jenkinson, who channeled the late Pulitzer Prize-winning John Steinbeck on stage at BIG ARTS on Sanibel. Not only did Mr. Jenkinson portray the Iaconic writer, but then he proceeded to answer questions from the audience in character! And to Will Stuts, who portrayed the terminally brooding Edgar Allan Poe in an erie performance at Theatre Conspiracy.

Best Antidote to Christmas Cuteness

“The Santaland Diaries” at the Florida Rep Studio Theatre, starring Jason Parrish, reminded you of everything you hate about the holiday season and balanced fake Christmas cheer with Christmas sneer.

The Tuna Again?

To The Naples Players, who presented a production of “Greater Tuna” this spring, a show that’s played in the area more than a few times over the years.

The Best Mash-Up

Another tie. To “Spring Awakening” at the Barbara B. Mann, which sets modern music and choreography to a 19th-century German play. Amazingly, it works.

And to The Naples Players for placing Oscar Wilde’s “The Importance of Being Earnest” in bright, open, modern sets, though the characters wore period costumes.

Stripper of the Year

I doubt it will ever happen, but if actor Jason Parrish of Florida Rep ever needs to fall back on a day job, he might want to consider go-go dancing, or being a Calvin Klein underwear model. During this past season he: did a mock strip-tease, showing off Christmas-decorated boxes while chang- ing into an elf outfit (“The Santaland Diaries”), slid out of bed naked and wrapped a bedsheets around himself (“Relatively Speaking”) and, as Eve, wrapped a bedsheet around himself, hid naked behind a strategically placed pillow (“The Big Bang”).

The Wanna Be on Stage?

Yet another tie.

To “Spring Awakening,” at the Barbara B. Mann, where audience members could sit right on stage, almost in the action itself.

And to “Xanadu” at the Phil, which had audience members seated on stage as if they were Greek gods watching the action. From time to time, certain actors would join them and even offer them popcorn and soda.

The ZZ Top

To Jere Cherryholmes, patriarch (and stand-up bass player) of bluegrass group Cherryholmes, which played at the Phil. Unfortunately, he’s trimmed his beard and only looks like a member of ZZ Top in photos now.

The Best Humorous Speaker

Writers aren’t known for being sparkling speakers, but two guest novel- ists knocked our socks off this season. So this one’s another tie.

Carl Hiaasen, speaking at BIG ARTS in November, proved he’s as funny in person as he is on a page. And Lisa Scottoline, another New York Times best-selling novelist, had an audience laughing at her witty and self-deprecating comments when she gave the keynote note address at the Southwest Florida Reading Festival in March.

The Smash It Like The Who

In “Opus,” a dramatic play about the soap opera dramas of a string quartet, actor Tom Nowicki grabs a priceless violin and smashes it to bits, like Pete Townshend destroying his guitar. The action shocked audiences every night — and Florida Rep had to purchase or make enough violins so there was one to destroy at every performance. That’s 30-some violins.

The Dolt

To all the dolts who pull out a cell phone or Blackberry during a show, to either check their e-mails or text someone. It’s inconsiderate and it’s highly distracting. Yes, you ruin the performance for all the people sitting near you and behind you. If you can’t stay unconnected for two or three hours, just stay home.
Ask your investment advisor about converting to a Roth IRA

BY KIM CICCArellI KANTor
Special to Florida Weekly

Quite the buzzword today, Roth IRAs came about due to the efforts of the late Sen. William Roth of Delaware. Decisions about converting an existing retirement plan are top of mind for many people in 2010. Exceptions to the rules could prove to be showcase potentially one of the best tax-favored vehicles for:

1. Supplementing your lifestyle at retirement, and/or
2. Providing the legacy you hope your family or friends can inherit with little to no income tax consequences.

Unlike a traditional IRA, Roth IRA earnings may grow, and qualified earnings are withdrawn tax-free while contributions are made with after-tax dollars. This treatment for withdrawals, of course, cannot be guaranteed, as tax laws can change. (Social security was initially established as a tax-free benefit, remember?).

Intriguing is that there is no required distribution. Roth IRA withdrawals are always voluntary for the owner and required for a beneficiary(s).

Your income, age and tax filing status determine if a Roth is available to you. The rules cover both contributory and Roth conversion opportunities beginning January 2010 through December 2010, and were signed into law by President George Bush (The Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005). The restrictions for Roth rollover conversions were eliminated, allowing more individuals the option of converting existing retirement funds.

1. Conversions to a Roth can come from a traditional IRA, SEP IRA or SIMPLE IRA (after two years of participation), an Eligible Rollover Distribution from your retirement plan (for example, a 40k or 40b plan) or an EROD from a retirement plan for which you are beneficiary.

2. Non-spouse beneficiaries can also convert a direct rollover for an inherited employer plan, if permitted under the plan.

3. Taxes on a conversion are as if you received a distribution from an IRA plan, with one important difference: The 10 percent early withdrawal tax does not apply, even if you are under the age of 59½. Taxes should be paid with assets outside of the Roth. Taxable income may be fully reportable in 2010, or half in 2011 and half in 2012, requiring careful planning on your end.

4. Eligibility for tax- and penalty-free withdrawals is most important. First, a seasoning period of five years must occur; and second, a justification must exist (retirement, disability or a first-time homebuyer). The simplest justification is reaching age 59½.

5. With a Roth, taxes are paid on the dollars contributed. Growth is tax-free, helping you to develop future cash flow with no income tax considerations. Contributions are withdrawn first, unlike traditional IRAs that are prorated.

How this works:

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How to proceed:

1. Ask yourself and review with your advisor:
   - When will you need the money, if ever?
   - Do you have the money outside your retirement plan to pay the taxes if converting?
   - What will the tax rate be for you, and ultimately for your heirs, if legacy planning is a deciding factor?

2. If you convert your IRA, and the investment climate has not been favorable, you may undo the conversion or “re-characterize” by the due date of your income tax return filing, including extensions. These are complex rules and should be coordinated with your advisor.

3. The decision you make for Roth planning will be determined by what you consider your “now,” “later” and “never” money.

   a. You are pre-retirement age and consider these funds “later” or “never” money, then conversion could be a positive move for you and your heirs, negating the required distribution when you turn 70½.

   b. If you are in your 70s or 80s, and particularly if you have a taxable estate, then a partial or full conversion would allow you to leverage the value of the gift you leave.

   c. If you have retirement assets, ask your advisor to review your tax, cash flow needs and estate planning to determine whether a Roth conversion or contributory plan is a tool you should incorporate.

   The material discussed is meant for general illustration and/or informational purposes only, and is not intended to be a substitute for individualized tax, legal or investment planning advice. — Kim Ciccarelli Kantor, president of Ciccarelli Advisory Services Inc., is a member of the Community Foundation of Collier County’s Professional Advisors Council. The foundation manages more than 400 funds established by charitable individuals and organizations and offers donor advised funds. For more information, call 649-5000 or visit www.cfcollier.org.
FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES

**HOROSCOPES**

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** You might be tempted to accept the well-meaning offer of a friend to act as an intermediary in a dispute. But you know best what it’s about, and you can handle the challenge. Good luck.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Entertainment can play an important role this week. Enjoy some well-earned diversion with people you care about. Something especially wonderful might come from this well-spent time.

**LEO (July 23 to August 22)** Catsnaps and playtime are in order for Leo and Leonas who need to take some time off from their hectic schedules to restore their energies and rebuild their mental muscles. Have fun.

**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** Virgins will need to keep an open mind this week about choices that seem improbable. A closer study might well reveal possibilities that might have been overlooked. Stay with it.

**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** A disappointing outcome of a well-intentioned effort should be seen as a lesson in how to do it right the next time. Note all your changes and have your new plan set up by week’s end.

**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** Travel plans might need readjusting because of changes in the costs previously agreed to. Deal with the problem as quickly as possible to minimize any delays that might result.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** Your honest approach to an unsettling experience draws admiration from others. Use their positive feedback to build support for your program to introduce needed changes.

**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** Travel is strong in your aspect this week, and so is nostalgia! You might want to consider planning a trip to a place that holds some very special meaning for you. Bon voyage.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** A job-related situation could provide an opportunity you hadn’t considered before. Look it over carefully and see where and how you can tailor it to fit your needs.

**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** Showing strength as well as sympathy helps you deal with a difficult personal matter. It also helps you set an example for others when it’s their turn to get involved in the situation.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** If you’ve kept on hold for a long time finally could be greenlighted. But in typical Aries form, you’ll need to be sure that everything is in place before you hit the “start” button.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** Others might urge you to act more quickly on your ideas. But you’d be wise to follow your Bovine instincts and get more facts to bolster your position when you finally present it.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a way of making people feel comfortable without losing one whit of your own dignity in the process.

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**GEMINI PUZZLE**

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.

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Puzzle Difficulty this week: * Moderate  ** Challenging  *** Expert

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According to the press notes, "Greek" was a waiter who was a huge fan of Aldous Snow in "Get Him to the Greek," a raucous comedy that takes place after the story in "Forgetting Sarah Marshall." (But it isn’t a sequel. More on that later.)

Aaron (Jonah Hill) is ambitious, which is good, but also naïve, which is bad. After his record company boss (Sean "P. Diddy" Combs) green lights Aaron’s idea to have Snow (Russell Brand) put on a concert, Aaron has 72 hours to fly to London and bring Snow back to the Greek Theatre in L.A. Seems simple enough.

The problem is Snow is going through a tough breakup with his beloved Jack (Rose Byrne) and is in no condition to perform. All Snow wants to do is party, ingest all kinds of substances and have lots of meaningless sex. Given that Aaron has always idolized him, it’s not hard for Aaron to be duped into a role, he gave in and changed the name to Aldous Snow in the script.

Further, "Get Him to the Greek" completely stands on its own, as you certainly do not have to have seen "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" in order to enjoy this. And if you like crass, immature guy humor that only occasionally takes things too far, enjoy it you will.

— Dan Hudak is the chairman of the Florida Film Critics Circle and a nationally syndicated film critic. Read more of his work at www.hudakonline.com.

‘Get Him to the Greek’

Is it worth? Yes

Ah, to party like a rock star. Chicks fall all over you. Drugs take you to a different place, even if you’re standing still. Drinking until you can drink no more. What fun. What chaos.

And what a headache for nice guy Aaron Green, who’s forced to keep up with Aldous Snow in "Get Him to the Greek," a raucous comedy that takes place after the story in “Forgetting Sarah Marshall.” (But it isn’t a sequel. More on that later.)

Aaron has always idolized him, it’s not hard for Aaron to be duped into a different name. But when Mr. Stoller realized he was writing Snow, and learned Mr. Brand would play the role, he gave in and changed the name to Aldous Snow in the script.

So why not let Mr. Hill be Matthew the waiter again? The unclear reason given was that Matthew was “too broad” a character to sustain a whole movie. Whatever that means. Thankfully, this casting/character situation is only a distraction if you allow it to be, and there’s no good reason for you to do that.

Writer/director Nicholas Stoller’s movie plays out like a series of sketches as Aaron moves Aldous from one point to the next. For the most part, the vignettes are funny, but some scenes try a bit too hard — heroin at half the place after the story in “Forgetting Sarah Marshall.” (But it isn’t a sequel. More on that later.)

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LATEST FILMS

‘Get Him to the Greek’

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BY ROY RAMSEY
Special to the Florida Weekly

The Road

One

Their endless argument was escalating into a danger zone when the left front tire blew out, sending them careening into a ditch across the country road. Pitch black, silence, a drip — radiator? gas tank? — emptiness surrounding their bitterness.

Unhurt, she finally whispered, “Should we go for help?”

The tire safety belt his head had hit the steering wheel. His slow fingers felt no blood on his face, only sweat. His voice echoed into the night, “Yeah, I guess so.”

The car was dead. They were alive. What now?

Two

Their worthless mission only accumu- lated grief and frustrations to their endless worries. The broken washer, unpaid bills and now the unexpected pregnancy.

“What now?”

“No. Absolutely not!” His father-in-law was adamant in his refusal to help.

“Who would want to go for help?”

“Absolutely not!” His father-in-law was adamant in his refusal to help.

“Are you sure?”

“Who would want to go for help?”

“Absolutely not!” His father-in-law was adamant in his refusal to help.

“Are you sure?”

“Who would want to go for help?”

By then they were broke anyway.

“Absolutely not!” His father-in-law was adamant in his refusal to help.

“Are you sure?”

“Who would want to go for help?”
James Swain’s monster of a thriller


REVIEWED BY PHILIP K. JASON

Special to Florida Weekly

THE NIGHT MONSTER

A NOVEL OF SUSPENSE

JAMES SWAIN

Ballantine Books 1999

“James Swain is a highly specialized free-lancer, having accepted a forced resignation from his position as the head of the Broward County Missing Persons Unit. Now, a cold case and a new one merge into what looks like a stream of serial abductions, beginning perhaps five-year intervals between crimes? What is the relationship between the immense abductor and the small man who Jessie had seen taking pictures of her basketball team? Because the new case is high profile — Sara Long’s father is an important official, as well as Sara’s father, are willing to cooperate — though Mr. Long’s eagerness and arrogance often handicap Jack’s efforts. When the investigation leads Jack to an abandonedmental institution named Daybreak and then to a small town about a half-hour east of Dayton where the majority of the people are missing a limb or two, the creepiness factor accelerates.

Mr. Swain has developed a sterling cast of supporting characters. Each is drawn briskly, and each functions efficiently. Among these are his daughter Jessie, Broward County Detective Candy Burrell (who Jack had trained and who now heads the Missing Persons unit), homicide detectives Boone and Weaver, the latter, an ex-convict, is a reliable friend who manages the shabby, and obscure sections of southeast Florida with Jack and his trusty canine companion, Buster, in Jack’s aging Acura Legend. Jack is leading a low-rent life, trying to be a good father, and angling to reconnect with his ex-wife. His missionary zeal for finding missing children gains our sympathy, as do his resilience and straight-ahead style. Reflecting his character’s manner, Mr. Swain exploits a straight-ahead, no frills narrative style. The rhythms of the marching plot are as strong and relentless as Jack Carpenter’s heartbeat. “The Night Monster” is a suspense-drenched winner. — Readers can keep up with Mr. Swain at www.jimswain.com.
Registration opens for Naples art festivals

The Naples Art Association at The von Liebig Art Center announces that online registration at www.juriedartservices.com is now open for five national art festivals taking place in Naples between November 2010 and March 2011. Four of the festivals are held in conjunction with the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Naples Association.

“We are excited to offer local and national artists these opportunities to show and sell their work,” says Festival Director Marianne Megela. “Naples is known as a community with savvy art buyers and patrons who appreciate the quality and variety of works we present at these shows.”

The festivals are:

- The Naples Fall Fine Art & Craft Festival (formerly the Naples Renaissance Fall Art Festival) on Nov. 26-27. The application deadline is Sept. 1.
- The 15th annual Downtown Naples New Year’s Art Fair on Jan. 1-2, 2011 (application deadline Sept. 29).
- The 32nd annual Naples National Art Festival on Feb. 26-27, 2011 (application deadline Nov. 3).
- The second annual Mercato Fine Arts Festival on March 5-6 (application deadline Dec. 1).
- The 23rd annual Downtown Naples Festival of the Arts on March 26-27 (application deadline Dec. 29).

Sponsorship of these events is vital to the continued success of the arts in the Naples area. Potential sponsors as well as artists are invited to call Ms. Megela at 262-6577, ext. 103, or to e-mail her at marianne.megela@naplesart.org. Visit www.juriedartservices.com for complete registration details for the individual festivals.

Call for entries for ‘National Art Encounter’

The Naples Art Association invites all artists in the United States to enter one or two original works in any media for “National Art Encounter 2010.” The fine art and contemporary craft exhibition will be installed throughout The von Liebig Art Center from Sept. 11 to Oct. 30.

The Naples Art Association will present $2,500 in awards to artists selected by exhibition juror and awards judge Denise Gerson, associate director of the Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, and a member of the annual Curator’s Panel sponsored by Art Nexus during Art Basel Miami Beach.

The awards will be announced during the preview reception and awards presentation from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10, at The von Liebig.

There is a $29 entry fee for two works ($22 for Naples Art Association members). The deadline for online entries is July 26. Membership in the Naples Art Association is not required. To enter, go to www.juriedartservices.com and click on “National Art Encounter 2010.”

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Make your reservations before June 10th and receive a special gift from Coach Shula!
Reservations Please Call 239.321.5015
Holiday Hours 12 pm to 10 pm.
Full dinner menu available all day. Lighter fare available in the lounge.

B.R. Cohn Wine Dinner Hosted by Dan Cohn
June 16, 2010 at 6:30 pm $75.00 per person
Reservations Please Call 239.321.5015

Reception
Classic Bruschetta on Toast Point Baguette
B.R. Cohn Sonoma County Chardonnay
Salad
Baby Spinach
Grape Tomatoes, Goat Cheese, Spring Roll Basket, and Shula’s Vinaigrette
B.R. Cohn Chardonnay Sangiacomo
Appetizer
B.B.Q. Shrimp and Blackened Beef Tip Duet
B.R. Cohn Pinot Noir

Entrée
6oz. Premium Black Angus Beef Filet
Rosemary Red Bliss Potatoes, Baby Vegetables, Sauce Béarnaise
B.R Cohn Silver Label Cabernet Sauvignon
Dessert
Mini Chocolate Soufflé
B.R. Cohn “Olive Hill Estates” Cabernet Sauvignon

Wine purchases will be entered into a drawing to win a 3-liter signed bottle from the wine maker: Bruce and Dan Cohn. Reservations please call 239.321.5015.
ART REVIEW

A taste of American masters abounds at the museum

If timing is everything, then the germ of an idea to bring art to the middle class in America could not have been more perfectly planned.

It was 1934, and Americans were slowly beginning to recover from the Depression. Rumors of a great evil in Europe were starting among adults whispering at work and over the dinner table. But middle-class America was filled with hope — hope for better things than their parents had known. Hope for a better standard of living.

And what could better speak to that possibility than to make limited editions of affordably priced fine art available to the masses for the very first time?

Art, which heretofore had mainly been reserved for the wealthy and sold by expensive galleries in New York and Europe, was no longer beyond the average person’s reach. Suddenly, there was a possibility that working class Americans could have a piece of the pie.

A taste of culture in their own homes. American art for Americans.

The prints, limited to 250 of each image to be sold for $5 each, were to be sold in department stores and by subscription.

Most, if not all of the initial artists who listened to brilliant young entrepreneur Reeves Lewenthal’s plan for art by subscription, saw the possibility of regular food on the table for themselves, and a sure-fire way to introduce their talents into the living rooms of ordinary Americans. Mr. Lewenthal’s Associated American Artists would pay $200 per image selected.

It was a deal.

Many of the results are in “Associated American Artists: Art by Subscription” on display at the Naples Museum of Art through Saturday, June 26, when the museum will close for the summer.

The traveling exhibit, courtesy of the Springfield Museum of Art, Springfield, Ohio, is one of those quiet gems that requires immersing yourself in each and every piece to truly appreciate.
The two best-known artists of the bunch—Thomas Hart Benton and Grant Wood—are beautifully represented with Mr. Benton’s “Wreck of the Old ‘97” and Mr. Wood’s “March 1939.” In a small image, Mr. Benton captures mountains of pathos: the doomed locomotive with the broken track ahead; the man vainly trying to forewarn the engineer; the wagon-master frantically pulling on the reins to stop his horses; the woman toppling from the wagon. It’s all there.

Mr. Wood’s classic landscape is beautifully textured, the soft sienna-toned, intricately embellished scene automatically leading the eye slowly up the winding lane, a tiny-figured man on a wagon making his way to the house at the top of the hill.

There is humor as well in this exhibit, principally via William Gropper, best known for his cartoonish, brawling attorneys and legislators. Flailing arms and fat cats abound.

But my pick of the litter, one of the most beautifully textured wood engravings I have ever seen, is by a relative unknown, Asa Chefferty. Titled “In Deep Vermont,” it’s so beautifully executed that I could feel cool of the woods as I marveled at the dimensionality of it. It’s a real treasure.

So how much would these prints have cost had you purchased this collection of them when they were published? $3,750. That’s far, far less than the current value of several single prints in the exhibition.

It’s a wonderful look back in time. Back with each of these images because they were a perfect look back in time. Back in America when religion was central in most of their lives. When the work ethic abounded. Another lifetime ago.

every small image. A study in hundreds of tones of black and white, it consists of lithographs, woodcuts, mezzotints, engravings—75 images by 26 American artists—and occupies half of the museum’s third floor.

There’s not a dog in the bunch. Most of all, you want to spend time with each of these images because they are a perfect look back in time. Back to the ’30s, ’40s, ’50s and ’60s. Back to when America was a very different place. When families, not foreign conglomerates, owned our farms. When people were still connected to the earth, grew their own crops, raised their own chickens, baked their own pies. When religion was central in most of their lives. When the work ethic abounded. Another lifetime ago.
The 20th century brought a new style of furniture. Earlier furniture designers made slight changes in the shape of a leg or the height of a chair-back as they went from Queen Anne to Chippendale to Sheraton to Empire to Victorian to Arts and Crafts. Since the 1950s, chairs made of Lucite, bent plywood or cardboard and with unusual fabrics have been pictured in magazines, movies and TV shows and are being copied for everyday use.

Designers are searching for even more unusual “looks.” Many are odd and often uncomfortable. One designer, Christopher Boyal, began his career as an actor. Then he made jewelry and later a group of miniature chairs meant to be displayed on a shelf. The unusual chairs attracted the attention of designers such as Peter Castiglione, who had been named Peloton Standard Organ Co. The partnership, based in New Jersey, dissolved in about 1882. Peloubet continued in business under other names.

Q: Somewhere I read that cracked china teacups could be saved by boiling them in milk. If this is possible, what grade of milk — whole, half, fat-free — should be used? How long is the boiling process? I’m considering donating a set of china to a charity and two of the cups are cracked.

A: You have a printer’s job case with the plates that were used to typeset ads in newspapers or magazines. Old printer’s boxes make interesting display cases for small collectibles and sell for $10 or more, depending on size. Your Coca-Cola printing plates would be of interest to a Coca-Cola collector, and are worth about $10-$20 each.

Q: I have a pump organ with collapsible legs that has a label that reads “Peloubet, Pelton & Co.” I’ve been told it is a melodeon and was probably made in the late 1800s. Can you tell me if this is correct?

A: Peloubet, Pelton & Co. was formed in 1873 by Louis Chabrier Peloubet and J.M. Pelton when they merged their two musical-instrument manufacturing firms. Peloubet had been making wind instruments since 1836 and small reed organs, called melodeons, since 1849. Pelton’s firm had been named Pelton Standard Organ Co. The partnership, based in New Jersey, dissolved in about 1882. Peloubet continued in business under other names.

Q: I have a shallow divided box with 17 Coca-Cola stamping plates of various sizes. They appear to be brass attached to a solid wood back. I received them in the box and they look like they belong there. The stamps have pictures and writing in reverse. Can they look like they belong there. The stamps that were used to typeset ads for small collectibles and sell for $10 or more, depending on size. Your Coca-Cola stamping plates of various sizes.

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**Academy**

From page 1

• 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, June 22 and 29 and July 6, at the Naples Center: “Know Your Gems and Jewelry,” a class led by Felipe Weingartt. $50 for members, $65 for others.
• 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays, June 22 and 29, July 6 and 13, at the Naples Center: “Write Your Life Story and Memoirs,” a workshop led by James Robison. $85 for members, $100 for others.
• 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 22, at the Steinway Piano Gallery, Bonita Springs: “Change Your Mind to Control Your Weight,” led by Jeanne Berger. $20 for members, $25 for others.
• 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, June 23 and 30 and July 7, at Bentlely Village: “Meditation and Relaxation,” a class led by Nori St. Paul. $50 for members, $65 for others.
• 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, June 23 and 30, at the Naples Center: “Sell on eBay the Right Way!” a class by David Rosenberg. $125 for members, $145 for others.

**Branches United Methodist Church, a place of solace and hope for the residents of Florida City, Fla., for more than 100 years, was recently destroyed by arson. Although the sanctuary and adjoining playground are in ruins, the congregation knows it will rebound.**

**Cornerstone United Methodist Church in Naples hopes local bluegrass musicians will join the effort to raise funds to help the burned-out church rebuild.**

The Naples church at 8200 Immokalee Road is hosting a benefit bluegrass concert from 6-10 p.m. Saturday, June 26, and welcomes all area bluegrass artists to participate. Several bands have committed to participate, but more performers of grassroots bluegrass and acoustic country music are welcome. Individual musicians will be able to join a jam session on stage.

If you or your band would like to perform or if you would like to attend and need more info, contact Robbie Wooster at 348-9977.

There is no admission charge for the concert, but a freewill offering will be accepted and all proceeds will help Branches UMC rebuild.

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**2 is located in 2007 Total Traffic EXPERIM. AUTO COURT LEE, CLELAND, CHARLOTTE, CLAYTON & HRNDEY.**
Slip into your little black dress

The Little Black Dress Club celebrates its first birthday from 6-10 p.m. Friday, June 18, at Aura Bar at the Naples Grande. Members and prospective members are invited to slip into their best LBDs and enjoy the $5 drinks and appetizers menu plus a slice of birthday cake. There will be complimentary valet service. Reservations should be made no later than Friday, June 11, by e-mailing rsvipsignightevents@yahoo.com.

‘Sock It To Me!’ for PACE girls

Take a trip back to the ‘60s when Collection at Vanderbilt hosts a zany benefit for PACE Center for Girls-Collier beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 19.

The “Sock It To Me!” evening will entail comedy skits, the Beatnik Café and the Flower Power VIP Room, the famous wall from Rowan and Martin’s “Laugh In,” groovy music, dancing and more hip happenings. Tickets are $150 per person. For more information, call Jacqueline Buyze at 404-6926 or visit www.pacesockittome.com.

See ‘Toy Story (3)’ with the NIFF

The Naples International Film Festival celebrates the premiere of “Toy Story 3” with Woody, Buzz and the gang on Saturday, June 19.

Buy a ticket for $15 at www.naplesfilmfest.com and take the receipt to Chick-fil-A at 5825 Airport Road for lunch before the show. Lunch begins at 11 a.m. Then head to the Hollywood 20-Naples on Hollywood Boulevard for a photo session with “Toy Story” characters between 12:30 and 1 p.m. The movie promising fun and laughs “to infinity and beyond” begins at 1 p.m.

The second annual Naples International Film Festival is set for Nov. 4-7. Visit the website for information about membership, volunteer and sponsor opportunities.

Red Kettle drive starts in November

The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign for the 2010-11 holiday season kicks off with dinner and an auction at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club on River Point Drive.

Myra Daniels is the honorary chair of the campaign. Chair of the black-tie-optional kick-off event is Jeannette Batten. Tickets are $75 per person. For reservations or information about sponsorships, call Ms. Batten at 659-6185.

Have a heart for Hospital Ball

We don’t have a lot of details yet, but we do have the date and we know that the NCH Hospital Ball on Saturday evening, Oct. 23, at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples, will benefit NCH Cardiology. Co-chairs of the event are Sharon Tresser and Ellen Goetz; auction co-chairs are Stacey Herring and Vicki Tracy; sponsorship chair is Jeanette Simmons. That’s enough information to warrant saving the date until the formal invitation arrives in the mail. For more information, call 436-4511 or e-mail foundation@nchmd.org.

Sea Salt evening will benefit exploited children

Sea Salt on Third Street South is hosting a wine dinner to benefit the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children on Wednesday, Nov. 10. Four wine bars will be set up in the restaurant’s Naples Room, and buffet dinner will be in the Sea Glass Room. Save the date and watch here for details.

SAVE THESE DATES
FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

‘Sex and the City2’ at Silverspot Cinema
A benefit for the Naples International Film Festival

1. Kellie Willey, Patty Campbell, Nancy Dagher, Tambra Wolfe and Nancy Schwerin
2. Kim Wilbrett, Michelle Wardeberg, Megan Homan, Mimy von Schreiner-Valenti, Lisa Pearl, Vanessa Smith, Liz Ross, Kim Caronchi and Kim Claussen
3. Mimy von Schreiner-Valenti and Deborah Weidner
4. Kim Hochman, Stacy Braverman and Mari Treceli
5. Jill Wheeler, Joe-Jo Jennings and Gerianne Puntevold

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Club Royale - Trendsetter club sandwich with both smoked turkey breast and premium ham and more in a toasty all butter croissaint
California Club - A California dream with homemade guacamole and sprouts in the mix

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The Exploration Society at Haskell’s The Wine People

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1. Sharon Downey, far right, presents the Gold Cup to the afternoon winners from ManorCare Lely Palms, left to right: Virginia Smith, Mary Wahl, Marcela Coe, Merle Harris, Louise Staples, Jim Screws, Madeline Williams, Betty Martin, Jane Strange and Lucille Mandaro
2. Betty Bekford
3. Barbara Tracy
4. Cindy Verachich
5. Vivian Calmenson, seated, and Wanda Taylor
6. Annalise Smith with Lydia and Tyler

Anna Marie Varela and Patricia Greiner
Sue Lubieniecki and Kelly Capolino
Terri Dyn Vanroeder, Donna Menendez and Scott Kish

COURTESY PHOTOS
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1. Madeleine Ahrens, Hunter Strohmeyer, Nathan Jones, Jordan Loch, Ryan Jamurri, Juno Rudhom, Andrew Jones and Stephanie Jones
2. Bud Hombeck, Dick Vitale and Joe Carraher
3. Mitch Witter and Dolores Jaamen with Ben, Laura and Alex Witter
4. Jaime Cerón, Luz Cerón and Steven Cerón
5. Kavi Shelar, Bill Bowden, Kristin Tenreiro, Rachel Bowden and Zoe Tenreiro
6. Jeff Mustari, Kathleen Harcourt and Joseph Koval
7. Frank and Terry Scandale with Frankie, Frank, Karina and Rosemarie Mambuca
8. Ryan Dunne and Michael Moscone

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United Art Council hosts the Collier County Arts Forum

Bob Slade and Gary Gibbons  
Brian Holley and Elaine Hamilton  
Jim Rideoutte and Elaine Reed

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Imagine if you could no longer order books, clothing or food online or bid for goods on eBay. Along those lines, a bill that's wending its way through the U.S. House of Representatives could halt online sales of wine and beer.

You'd think Congress would have enough on its plate as it grapples with unemployment, immigration, deficit reduction and terrorism. Yet HR 5034 has made its way into the House Committee on the Judiciary, where it awaits action.

The bill aims to boost state control over alcohol sales and could prevent consumers from buying wine or beer online.

Supporters argue the law would keep tax dollars in state coffers and allow states to control sales, ostensibly curtailting alcoholism and sales to minors. Among its 106 co-sponsors is our own Rep. Connie Mack, R-Florida. Mr. Mack did not respond to a phone call and urged Congress to support HR 5034 in an April 27 news release.

Critics contend the bill protects wholesalers — and their profits — at the expense of consumers and smaller wholesalers — and their profits —at office over a 10-day period.

Larger wineries have wine clubs, says Jerry Greenfield of Fort Myers. "They get twice as much money from direct sales as they can from distributors." The wines shipped directly aren't always costly or rare — just harder to find.

The number of U.S. wineries jumped 500 percent to more than 6,000 in the past 50 years, according to a Wine Institute survey in 2003. U.S. wineries produce more than 10,000 new wines each vintage, and nearly all wineries are small, family-owned and operated. The top 50 largest wineries produce more than 87 percent of U.S. wine, but fewer than 17 percent of U.S. wineries have distributors in all 50 states.

During that same 30-year period, the number of wine wholesalers dropped by more than 75 percent. The 10 largest wholesalers control more than half the U.S. market, according to IMPACT newsletter, a publication for wine industry executives.

William Klauber of Naples has ordered wines online, he says, but "I had never thought about their circumvention of state taxes or even other alcohol-related restrictions. I do believe in free commerce, but would support HR 5034 to eliminate possible abuses." Wines and Spirits Wholesalers of America President and CEO Craig Wolf urged Congress to support HR 5034 in an April 27 news release.

"The bill does not overturn state laws allowing the direct shipment of wine by wineries or retailers," he says. "No provision ... will change the laws on the books that allow for direct shipment of wines from wineries or retailers."

On his website — http://fermentation.typepad.com — Tom Wark, executive of the Specialty Wine Retailers Association, says, "This is the most deceptive of the claims that wholesalers have been making. No, H.R. 5034 does not do this. However, (it) ... gives states the ability to replace current direct shipping privileges with discriminatory bans on out-of-state shippers that could not be challenged in court."

Have your say
Contact:
■ www.freethegrapes.org, a grass-roots organization of wine lovers, wineries and retailers seeking to remove restrictions on purchases directly from wineries and retailers. To comment, click on the link "Defeat HR 5034" under Hot Topics and send a message to your senators and representatives.

To ship or not to ship, that is the question

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THE MERCATO

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If it’s a particular Japanese dish you’ve a yen for, the chances are good that Tokyo Bay offers it.

Order with performance at either the sushi bar or a hibachi table. Have it raw or cooked, Fried or in a big bowl of soup. Dine indoors or in the open-air tiki bar.

So many options can be exhausting. The trick, I think, is to decide ahead of time which form of Japanese fare you fancy. That matters primarily because you must decide whether to settle at a hibachi table, where the chef will cook your food before your eyes — complete with knife tricks and serious flames; at the sushi bar, where the chef will also prepare your order in front of you; or at a standard table, where you may miss the show but gain the opportunity to kick back and converse with your companions.

I generally avoid the hibachi experience unless I’m with a large group that includes children. And, while I enjoy watching sushi chefs painstakingly craft delicate rolls and sushi, I prefer the more relaxed dining style available at the conventional table.

That’s why we chose on a recent trip to Tokyo Bay, finding ourselves at a table not far from the sushi bar, in the relatively dark dining room where the soothing whosha of a vertical fountain added cool comfort on a blazingly hot and humid evening.

A smiling server took our drink and sushi orders, returning first with a bottle of the ubiquitous and oh-so-pleasant Sho Chiku Bai ginjo sake, a light, fruity type but not sweet beverage that’s ideal with sushi. (The list contained a turn of eight cold sakes and six served hot.)

From a relatively lengthy menu of sushi rolls, we sampled tuna and smoked salmon nigiri ($4.95 for two pieces) and two rolls, the spicy salmon ($7.50) and a Miami roll ($12.95). The Miami roll contained a crisp tempura fried shrimp, avocado, crab and a touch of cream cheese within a roll topped with a sweet shrimp and sesame seeds.

We enjoyed the contrasting flavors and textures, using just a touch of wasabi on each and foregoing the soy sauce altogether.

Soup or salad come with all entrees and some come with both. The miso soup had a well-flavored broth but would have benefited from more body than the few bits of tofu and seaweed floating in it. A salad was crisp and cold, but the dressing needed a more assertive ginger flavor.

From the cooked entrees, we tried the yakioba ($8.95) and shrimp flambé ($24.95).

Yakioba, which descends from a Chinese dish resembling lo mein, usually consists of noodles or rice, a protein (pork, chicken, beef or tofu) and a variety of vegetables in a slightly sweet sauce. There’s no rule that specifies which vegetables it should contain, but generally there are peppers, cabbage, carrots and onions. Tokyo Bay’s version had chunks of chicken, a bit of onion and loads of peppers, so much that it overpowered all else. While the red peppers added color, their over-abundance robbed the dish of flavor.

The shrimp flambé was described on the menu as “cooked scampi style,” leading us to think it would be sautéed in a garlicky butter- or oil-based sauce. Instead, it looked just like all the hibachi dishes, with a dark sauce that had little garlic. To prevent such disappointing expectations in future diners, I’d recommend describing it as a hibachi-style dish.

We took a peek into the room where a hibachi chef was preparing dinners for a party of four, all of whom were digging into the first portion of their meals as the chef deftly fried rice on the super-hot grill. It was a small audience, but the show went on nonetheless.

Tokyo Bay offers a wealth of choices and a comfortable setting in which to dine, but the sushi is clearly the culinary star here.

Flavor. Enjoyed the salmon, with its rich smoky flavor. The fish tender and fresh. I particularly liked the smooth slabs of fish atop rectangles of veggie, cheeses, desserts, breads, flowers and many more items along with music; parking area behind Tommy Bahama between Third Street and Gordon Drive.

Friday, June 11, 9 a.m., Ridegway Bar & Grill: Chef Tony Ridgway and staff hold the first of six hands-on summer cooking classes, with this session focusing on basics such as knife skills, sauté techniques, omelets, egg poaching, Blanching and the art of mise en place, plus instruction from Pasture Chef Emily Duncan on seasonal fruit tarts, pate sucree, pastry cream and frangipane; $40, 1003 Third St. S.; 262-5500. Reservations required.

Tuesday, June 15, 5:30-8 p.m., Decanted Wines: Sample wines rated by both Wine Spectator and Wine Advocate and see whose ratings you agree with; $10, 1400 Pine Road Bridge; 434-8814. Reservations required.

Wednesday, June 16, 5 p.m., Roy’s Bonita Springs: The Waiia Hui (wine club) gathers for a monthly tasting of wines from around the world as well as samples of the restaurant’s signature fusion cuisine; $30 to join the club, Promenade on Bonita Bay, 2683 South Bay Drive, Bonita Springs; 498-7697.

Wednesday, June 16, 5:30-8 p.m., Decanted Wines: Taste a variety of red and white wines well suited to barbecues and hot, humid weather; $10, 1400 Pine Road Bridge; 434-8814. Reservations required.

Purchasing a second home is often the dream of a lifetime. But making it the home of your dreams is not always as easy as it sounds.

Recent homebuyers Jan and John of Chicago turned a new “builder white” home into a Mediterranean escape in short order. The task of furnishing and decorating their new home was perhaps a little easier for Jan, who has a bachelor’s degree in interior design and owns a design business in Illinois. We convinced Jan to share some of her design tips with our Florida Weekly readers. We hope you can put Jan’s advice to work to make your Florida home the home of your dreams!

“Having lived in Illinois our entire lives, we wanted a home with a totally different atmosphere. We wanted a place that our grown children would enjoy coming to visit.

A "second" home can inspire you to step out of the box and create a totally different atmosphere from your main home. We wanted our Naples home to be a place away from our normal routine … a place where we truly feel that we’re “away.” We’ve quickly come to appreciate being able to escape the cold and snow, if even for a long weekend. There’s nothing that rejuvenates you faster than warmth and sunshine.

I always let the style of the home lead in the decorating process. Once you choose the style you want to achieve, try to carry the architecture scale and height of the rooms. Warmer, richer toned colors were used for that Mediterranean feel.

The most important thing is to start your decorating process with an idea or theme. Often a favorite accessory, object or piece of artwork can be your inspiration. Let the theme, use of the rooms and the feel you would like to achieve, your home will be a reflection of you. You can turn your house into a home that you will be proud of for years to come.”

Jan and John found their Florida home with the help of Levitan-McQuaid agents Don and Sandy Lasch. Contact them at 239.285.6413 to purchase or rent your dream home. Jan welcomes Florida customers and can be reached at interiordesign@comcast.net.

Foresting changes slight-
ly from the harsh fluorescents in stores to the natural lighting in your homes. Always try to choose colors in natural daylight. Whatever your decorating taste or style, it is your space, your home. By keeping in mind the theme, use of the rooms and the feel you would like to achieve, your home will be a reflection of you. You can turn your house into a home that you will be proud of for years to come.”

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Allow Me to Introduce You to Quail Creek Estates...

A stunning North Naples Community with only 291 Single-Family Homes surrounding beautiful Quail Creek Country Club. Each home has a view of one of the TWO 18 hole golf courses and the lots are close to, or more than an acre. As a homeowner, Quail Creek Country Club Membership is optional, but the convenience of Country Club Living is a lifestyle not to be missed! Quail Creek is member-owned and uniquely

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