Sales Heat Up in Southwest Florida’s Luxury Market

First quarter sales reports are in and sales are up in Southwest Florida’s luxury home market. A combination of a chilling winter season in the Midwest and Northeast, a recovering stock market, and a return of consumer confidence is motivating buyers to make real estate purchases.

"While the luxury real estate market softened over the past few years, buyers are making decisions, and Naples is one of those places the affluent flock," said Karl Case, a professor emeritus in economics at Wellesley College, who has been visiting Naples for over fifty years.

Leading the resurgence in sales of properties over $1 million is Premier Sotheby’s International Realty. The firm sold 37 residences priced at $1 million or more this year through March 31 for more than $153 million, a gain of 19 percent over the same period in 2010. Premier closed an additional 50 sales of homes priced between $2 million and $3 million, an increase of 69 percent, according to Tarradatum, a third party research firm that analyzes data in the local multiple listing service.

Premier Sotheby’s International Realty agents brokered some of the largest sales year-to-date. Premier represented both the seller and buyer in a $12.5 million Port Royal sale, and successfully represented the sellers in a $6 million Gulf front Old Naples sale and a $7.7 million Park Shore sale.

National media has taken note of the real estate sales spike in the Naples luxury home market, especially when contrasted with other vacation home markets across the country. As Premier Sotheby’s International Realty holds the dominant market share of sales over $1 million, journalists from Fortune, Bloomberg Businessweek and The Wall Street Journal have been inquiring about Premier’s success secrets.

"Premier’s success in the first quarter of 2011 is directly attributable to having the best sales associates and a comprehensive local, national and international marketing strategy," said Judy Green, President and CEO of Premier Sotheby’s International Realty.

In addition to a robust local advertising plan, every property listed by Premier also benefits from exposure on SothebysRealty.com, the world’s most visited luxury real estate website, and over 300 additional real estate websites, including wsj.com and nytimes.com. Properties listed at $1.5 million or more are also presented in every Sotheby’s International Realty office and Sotheby’s auction house throughout the world through a proprietary Gallery technology. This unique marketing system provides face-to-face exposure in over 350 office locations in 66 countries.

The winning combination of local expertise and impressive global exposure has allowed Premier Sotheby’s International Realty to remain the market share leader during the first quarter in many of Southwest Florida’s most desirable and competitive communities, including Port Royal, Aqualina Shores, Old Naples, Park Shore, Moorings, Vanderbilt Beach and Bonita Bay.

Premier Sotheby’s International Realty, formerly Premier Properties of Southwest Florida, joined the Sotheby’s International Realty® network in 2010. The company remains a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Laguna Companies and operates from eight offices throughout Southwest Florida. Learn more at PremierSothebysRealty.com.
Visit one of The Lutgert Companies’ award-winning shopping destinations!

The Village
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For the ultimate waterfront dining and shopping experience, The Village on Venetian Bay in Park Shore has been a favorite for vacationers and locals for over 20 years. Enjoy fresh seafood, steaks, pizza, pasta and sandwiches; browse exclusive boutique shops with one-of-a-kind merchandise.

Join us on the first Thursday of every month from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. as The Village presents Village Nights—a fun-filled evening of live musical entertainment and cookouts.

MerCato
9123 Strada Place, Suite 7125
Naples, FL 34108
239.594.9400
MerCatoNaples.com

Celebrate North Naples’ newest destination for shopping, dining and living, all in one place. Dine on fresh-from-the-Gulf seafood. Go International with Italian, Asian, pub-grub or Jewish-style deli food. From computers to culinary accessories, boutique eyewear to the latest swimwear, MerCato has it covered. Find home goods, clothes for the whole family, contemporary jewelry and more.

Don't miss First Fridays—a monthly street party with live music and special offerings.

The Promenade
26811 South Bay Drive
Bonita Springs, FL 34134
239.261.6100
PromenadeShops.com

Discover a distinguished array of merchants that offer the highest quality fashions for men and women. Unique gifts, sparkling jewelry and designer watches, in addition to fine china, crystals and everything for a dream bridal registry. From Hawaiian-fusion cuisine to Northern Italian. The Promenade serves tasty dining options. Enjoy spirits at Veda Lounge.

Artist Studios and Art Walk are monthly events providing interaction between artists and visitors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sidewalk Sale
Thursday, April 21
Friday, April 22
Saturday, April 23
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

It’s that time of year when you can enjoy a season of savings! Save the waterfront setting while strolling around the outdoor tables adorned with top-quality merchandise at discounted prices. Enjoy complimentary live entertainment throughout the weekend with Run & Jean Duo, Ron Ruze, Mixed Emotions, Jim Tucker, Stacey Alison Duo, Keith Atkins and more.

First Fridays Concert Series
Friday, May 6
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Stroll our main street, listen to the sounds of live music throughout MerCato, peruse the exceptional collection of shops, grab a casual bite or revel in a live dining experience.

C’mon Family Program
Saturday, May 7
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Join the Golisano Children’s Museum of Naples educational series—C’mon Clinis—to figure out how much different sized dogs eat, learn what it takes to be a responsible pet parent and then make a unique pet puppet. Located next to Gigi’s Children’s Boutique. Call 239.514.0084 for more information.

First Fridays Concert Series
Friday, June 3
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Stroll our main street, listen to the sounds of live music throughout MerCato, peruse the exceptional collection of shops, grab a casual bite or revel in a live dining experience.

First Fridays Concert Series
Friday, July 1
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Stroll our main street, listen to the sounds of live music throughout MerCato, peruse the exceptional collection of shops, grab a casual bite or revel in a live dining experience.

Artist Studios
Every Monday through Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Every Thursday
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy artists featured throughout The Promenade painting, creating pottery and jewelry, drawing and exhibiting their art. Call 239.495.8898 for more information.

Farmers Market
Every Saturday through May 7
7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Over 60 vendors offering a variety of local produce, seafood, fresh cut flowers, orchids, baked goods and more.

Art & Dance
Thursday, April 14
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join us on the second Thursday of each month for a fantastic collection of art and an instructional dance program at 6:30 p.m.

Arts Worldwide
Saturday, April 16
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join us and share in the excitement of visual and performing arts experiences. Cultures from around the world will be featured.

Art Walk
Thursday, April 28
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join us on the last Thursday of each month for an evening of art and entertainment.
AFTER SHORT SALES AND FORECLOSURES, BANKS ARE GOING AFTER DEFICIENCIES

PURCHASE PRICE
$300,000
- SHORT SALE PRICE
$130,000
= WHAT THE BANK CAN COLLECT
$150,000

For those who carried out short sales or lost their homes to foreclosure in recent years, banks that were once their partners could potentially become their predators. Hundreds of cases have appeared on the books just since the beginning of 2010 in Collier, Lee and Charlotte counties. Lee in particular — once the epicenter of recessionary foreclosures and short sales in Florida and the United States — now leads the pack in a new trend that could have dire consequences for some. More than 100,000 homeowners in the three coastal counties have lost their homes to foreclosure alone in the four short years since the recession.

Neighborhood Health Clinic celebrates 12 years

By Chuck Curry
Special to Florida Weekly

From its birth in 1999 in the kitchen of Dr. Bill and Nancy Lascheid's home to its own building and a $1 million-plus annual budget, the Neighborhood Health Clinic marked its 12th anniversary on April 12. The clinic serves working people — about 12,000 to date — who have acute, episodic or chronic illness and who do not have health care benefits. It accepts no government assistance and has been fueled by contributions from a cross-section of the Naples and Southwest Florida community. Clinic volunteers have donated about $2 million in services to date. Eight full-time employees support the efforts of volunteer doctors, nurses and non-medical personnel. More than 200 Collier County residents are seen in a typical week, with patient hours on Monday and Thursday evenings and alternate Saturday mornings. Health care at the clinic includes examinations, basic laboratory functions, and so on.
COMMENTARY

Have they no b---ns?

(Note: The Florida House of Representatives was recently thrown into a tizzy when one of its members, Rep. Rick Scott) without referencing body parts? This set me to wondering: Is it possible to write a column discussing body parts? This might have resulted in a rash of attacks and censorship.

Well, I’d say this flap over the word “u-----” has hedged the Florida House of Representatives’ collective r---- in the proverbial wringer. This controversy has become a national story and made our Legislature — and by extension our state — the b--- of countless jokes. Consider this: The group that can’t bring itself to outlaw sex between humans and animals is nonetheless out-

raged by the mere mention of a woman’s u-----. Whoa, I’ll bet Freud would have had a field day with that.

What’s the big deal, anyway? It’s not as if Rep. Randolph delivered a heartfelt ode to the v-----. Nor did he rhapsodize longingly about bodacious t-t-s. Can you imagine the chaos if he had gotten really riled and screamed “p---?” at the top of his l----? I dare say such an assault on the virgin e---- of our lawmakers might have resulted in a rash of b---- attacks and c------l hemorrhages.

These elected b---d cases are known principally as an assemblage of shameless grifters whose sweaty p---s stay greasy from the huge contributions they wrest from heavily financed special interests. Now, this hidebound congress, composed mostly of Neanderthal Republicans and Tea Party diehards, has become the self-appointed arbiter of what constitutes proper pub
discourse.

The rationale for banning u----- was that it might have damaged the tender psyches of teenage pages. What a load of hypocritical bunk. This band of bandits is more interested in giving these continuing legislative insults to the public gallery who might have been offended.

The speaker believes it is important for all members to be... respectful to vis-

itors and guests, particularly the young pages and messengers,” said a spokes-

woman for clueless House Speaker Dean Cannon, who yet again demonstrated that he doesn’t know whether to scratch his watch or wind his c----.

We have come to expect so little from our leaders in Tallahassee that it would seem damn near impossible for them to disappoint us further. But they do. We’ve known all along that they lack the b---s to do anything that even remotely accurses to the commonplace. (I do realize, by the way, that legislators who sport those pesky u------, do not come equipped with t-------, so the point is figurative, not literal). Still, these continuing legislative insults to our intelligence are multiplying at a rate that astounds even the most jaded observer.

Speaking of insulting our intelligence, how about that pain-in-the-n---? Rick Scott? He does so regularly and with scandalous ease. According to at least one poll, Mr. Scott is now the least popular governor in the United States. Didn’t take long, did it?

I’m a little concerned about our gover-

nor, though. He’s always tended toward the cadaverous, but he now really looks rough around the edges. With those sunken c----, darting e--s, fluttery, nerv-

ous h---- and assorted tics, he radi-

ates the emaciated energy of a crack-

b--- gone too long without a score. Not that I’m suggesting the governor uses drugs. From what I understand, he takes exquisite care of his b---, which is wonderful since that means he probably won’t become disabled anytime soon and therefore won’t face the devastation that awaits the poor and afflicted who are the primary targets of his draconian budget cuts.

On the other hand, the governor sus-

pects everyone else of being higher than Ben Franklin’s kite — hence his insistence on regular drug testing for state employees. Coincidentally, it doesn’t hurt that this slimy bit of politi-
cal theater plays well with his crazy base. I offer a counterproposal: Gov. Scott should be required to take IQ tests at regular intervals, with the results posted on his official website.

While we’re at it, let’s randomly yank those numb-o---s in the House and Senate off the floor and have them blow into a Breathalyzer. I’d love to know how much hooch is flowing through the v----s of these “statesmen” as they legislate Florida back into the Dark Ages. If these jokers are governing under the influ-
ence, maybe we can sober ‘em up and get them to act rationally. But if they are by their very nature inherently l--d, stupid and mendacious, then we will just have to ride it out.

Trust me on one thing: The Great U----- Controversy of 2011 will fade. But another bit of mean-spirited stupidity will emerge soon from this Legislature. You can bet your sweet a---- on that. ■

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Dr. Jamie E. Weaver, DPM

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One Guantanamo trial that will be held in New York

On the same day President Barack Obama finalized his incandescent bulb re-election campaign, his attorney general, Eric Holder, announced that key suspects in the 9/11 attacks would not be tried in federal court, but through controversial military commissions at Guantanamo. Holder blamed members of Congress for the delay and imposed restrictions blocking the administration from bringing any Guantanamo Bay AFA members from the United States. Nevertheless, one Guantanamo case will be tried in New York. No, not the trial of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any of his alleged co-conspirators. This week, the New York State Supreme Court will hear the case against Dr. John Leso, a psychologist who is accused of participating in torture at the Gitmo prison camp that Obama pledged, and failed, to close.

The case was brought by the New York Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA) on behalf of Dr. Steven Reisner. Reisner, a New York psychologist and adviser to Physicians for Human Rights, is at the center of a growing group of psychologists campaigning against the participation of psychologists in the U.S. government’s interrogation programs, which they say amounts to torture. Unlike the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the largest group of psychologists in the world, has refused to implement a resolution passed by its membership barring APA members from participating in interrogations at sites where international law or the Geneva Conventions are being violated. Reisner, a child of Holocaust survivors, is running for president of the APA, in part to force it to comply with the resolution.

John Francis Leso is a U.S. Army major, formerly chief of the clinical psychology service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. He was discharged from the military to CJT, Dr. Leso “led the first Behavioral Science Consultation Team (BSCCT) at the Combined Task Force from June 2002 to March 2003” where he “co-authored an interrogation policy memorandum that incorporated illegal techniques adapted from methods used by the Japanese and North Korean governments against U.S. prisoners of war.”

The case was filed as a complaint with the New York state agency that governs licenses of psychologists, the New York Office of Professional Discipline, asking for an investigation and appropriate disciplinary action. He took this route, Reisner says, because he, unlike professionals, does not have protection under the APA’s jurisdiction if he is accused of violating their code of ethics.

The OPD declined to investigate, so Reisner is seeking a court order to force the agency to do so.

Maj. Leso recommended three categories of information psychologists at Guantanamo, depending on the prisoners’ ability to resist. “Category III” included “daily use of 20 hour interrogations; the use of techniques associated with the use of scenarios designed to convince the detainee he might experience a painful or fatal outcome; non-injurious physical consequences; removal of clothing; and exposure to cold weather or water until such time as the detainee began to shiver.”

L eso is alleged to have participated in the interrogation of Mohamed al-Qahtani, a young man captured in Afghanistan and referred to as the “20th hijacker.” The interrogator admits that he was so harsh that his charges were dropped. He is represented by the Center for Constitutional Rights, which said in response to Holder’s announcement: “The Obama administration all but admitted political failure today as it announced it won’t try to extradite defendants before the deeply flawed military commission system rather than in Article III civil courts as originally planned. … In the same breath that the U.S. is calling for the rule of law in the Middle East, it is subverting it at home.”

The roll call of U.S. officials implicated in torture is long, yet not one of them has been held accountable: George W. Bush, Donald Rumsfeld, John Ashcroft, Alberto Gonzales, psychologists Col. Larry James and John Leso, among others. As an Arab Spring is celebrated around the world, we should turn off the light bulb and celebrate an American Spring as well, one in which we are not afraid to use our judicial system, whether trying accused terrorists or torturers.
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Law enforcement trains to distinguish autism from aggression

April is Autism Awareness Month

This is the third in a four-part series presented by Florida Weekly that looks into the different aspects of dealing with autism.

BY EDEN AUTISM SERVICES FLORIDA

Special to Florida Weekly

Law enforcement agencies throughout Southwest Florida have adopted a proactive approach to dealing with people with mental illnesses and disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder. Our region’s sheriffs and police chiefs are taking the initiative to train patrol officers in autism spectrum disorder. Our average search time with ASD is seven times more likely than intoxication. The person with ASD has wandered off — a problem addressed by the Project Lifesaver unit can pick up the signal from up to seven miles away. Of the 13 Collier County residents who wear the bracelets, half have autism, according to Angela Larson, supervisor of victim and senior advocacy. A partnership with the Pilot Club of Naples and its annual 5K run help defray some of the costs to the families. “The bracelets provide peace of mind,” Ms. Larson says. “When someone wanders off, time is of the essence. Our average search time with these bracelets is only 30 minutes.”

The sensitivity and proactive approach demonstrated by the CCSO and other local agencies is precisely why police incidents are few and far between. Many of these skills can also be practiced by members of the general public when facing a situation they don’t initially understand.

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NAPLES PRINCESS

Easter Sunday, April 24th, 2011

Enjoy an Early Easter Dinner Cruise 1:00 - 3:00pm or a Sunset Cruise 6:30 - 8:30pm

Both cruises are $58.95* per adult • $27.95* per child 3-11

*price does not include port charge, tax or gratuity

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Join us aboard the...
Conservancy of Southwest Florida hosts its 2011 Earth Day Festival from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 16, at the Conservancy Nature Center, 1450 Merrithue Drive. The free event will have an organic farmers market, environmental exhibits, children's carnival activities, educational presentations, live entertainment and guest speakers.

“Our Earth Day Festival has become quite a community tradition,” says Andrew McElwaine, Conservancy president and CEO. “Our hope is to entertain and educate guests on the importance of protecting our water, land and wildlife and the role they can play to ensure our paradise is here for the next generations.”

Due to continuing renovations at the Nature Center, no on-site parking is available. Free parking and shuttle service will be available at the southwest corner of Goodlette-Frank Road and Fifth Avenue South, across from Bayfront.

The first 100 people arriving via shuttle will receive a festival T-shirt compliments of presenting sponsor Fifth Third Bank. Additional support for the festival comes from Amerivest Realty.

Family-friendly puppet shows and programs featuring live animals and nature photography will run on the hour beginning at 10 a.m. Electric boat cruises will run hourly beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The lineup of special programs includes:

■ 10 a.m. - Puppet show featuring the American alligator
■ 11 a.m. - Sing-along and fun with Rosie Emery of WGCC’s “Curious Kids”
■ Noon - “Raptor Rapture,” featuring a live red-tail hawk.
■ 1 p.m. - Charlie Sobczak, author of “The Living Gulf Coast”
■ 2 p.m. - Tips from nature photographer Gordon Campbell
■ 3 p.m. - “Rambunctious Reptiles,” featuring live turtles, baby alligator and snakes

The Conservancy will be closed Friday, April 15, as staff and volunteers set up for the Earth Day Festival. For more information, call 262-0304 or visit www.conservancy.org.

Conservancy celebrates Earth Day

The author of “The Living Gulf Coast,” Charlie Sobczak, will speak at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16, as part of the Conservancy Earth Day Festival.
began in 2007, and many could be subjected to pursuit by banks or lenders who get a judge’s permission. The same is true for homeowners forced into short-selling their homes.

The sums lenders seek could range from small to large. It’s already happened to Melone Cadet, a Naples resident who borrowed money from Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union in Fort Myers, and bought a home in Lee County in 2006, the records show.

The bank foreclosed on the home last year, and then on Jan. 21 this year convinced a judge it could pursue her for $29,125, including principal, interest and late charges.

And it might happen to Hope and Andrew Armbrust, who bought a home for $29,000 in 2006, lost it in foreclosure to the bank in 2009 still owing $195,297, and could now be on the hook for $429,257 — but only if the bank decides to seek a “deficiency judgment.”

Like Ms. Cadet, the Armbrust’s lender is Suncoast, which is listed in a number of deficiency actions in Southwest Florida.

Suncoast sold the Armbrust home on 69th Street West in Lehigh Acres for $175,000 in 2006. With three bedrooms, two bathrooms and about 1,700 square feet, it’s currently valued at about $105,000 by the Lee property appraiser.

The Armbrusts would not talk about recouping some of this money if, when they lost their house, they were able to keep the property.

In each case, a lender can potentially claim a creditor — the person who borrowed money for a house, and who is now paying the mortgage and the interest.

The bank or its agents then have 10 days to file a deficiency judgment — to come after a creditor for the difference between the amount the home sold for and the amount the lender lent. The real estate market has been down, and have gone for a fraction of the price.

“The market has been glutted for a long time,” said Charlie Green, Lee County clerk of courts.

“We started keeping track of this about two years ago,” says Charlie Green, Lee County clerk of courts.

“I thought the banks would be quicker to take this up, but they haven’t been. I don’t think banks, though, can logically walk away from deficiency judgments. They owe it to their stockholders to pursue debt.”

And in Lee, in particular, they’re beginning to follow that logic.

Although some counties such as Charlotte don’t keep track of deficiency judgments per se, and some have far fewer than Lee (Collier records 36 deficiency judgments between Jan. 1, 2010 and April 2011), Lee is beginning to see a significant swell, with 272 listed for 2010 and 42 for the first two months of this year.

A senior vice president of loss and risk mitigation at Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union, Jim Simon, explained in comments to the Tampa Tribune that Suncoast pursues hundreds of deficiency judgments because it owes that effort to roughly 500,000 members.

“We’re coming up on five years since the recession began, and I’m starting to see more of these deficiencies now. So a lot of creditors must have had it on their tickle systems.

“In the past, a lot of banks didn’t even pursue discrepancies after foreclosures.”

Not now, it seems.

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“We’re not looking to put (hom- owners) in financial hardship, but we owe it to the rest of our members to collect as much as possible,” he said. “Prior to 2008 we never had a deficiency on a foreclosure. It’s really being driven by what’s happened to real estate values.”

Chris Black, a lawyer and the owner of Winged Foot Title Company serv- ing clients in Collier, Lee and Charles- lotte counties, represents neither a lender nor a buyer when he does title work on a home. Since he opened the business in 2007 just as the recession was heating up, his company began to specialize in short sales, which were abundant in the distressed market. And in Lee, in particular, they’re beginning to follow that logic.

“We’re starting to see more of these deficiencies now. So a lot of creditors must have had it on their tickle systems.

“In the past, a lot of banks didn’t even pursue discrepancies after foreclosures.”

Not now, it seems. But in the Wilson’s case, “Mrs. Gilbert said, “They don’t do any modifications. The attorneys may have their marching orders, but the banker is doing what the client is telling them.”

That policy might have cost the Williams.

“We watched our net worth go from about $600,000 or more to maybe $200,000 while we were waiting for phone calls from the bank,” Mrs. Wilson recalls.

But locally, Suncoast offered to lower the interest rate and accept a lower monthly payment for six months.

But the bank failed to tell the Wil- sons that if they agreed to the offer and could make the payments, they might get a second six-month relief form, which would lower the interest-rate loan if they had proved for a year that they could meet those payments.

So the Williams turned it down, and only later discovered they might have been able to stay in their house if the offer had been made up front and in full.

A deposition taken in July from a Suncoast official, identified as Mrs. Jacqueline Gilbert, vice president of loss and risk mitigation at Suncoast Federal Credit Union, notes that Sun- coast has no policy restricting the bank from offering a modified mortgage modific- ations before delinquency or default on a loan.

Referring to the Wilson’s case, “Mrs. Gil- bert stated there was no indication from her review of the file that Sun- coast ever responded to the request for modification, either in writing or
Dress for Success launches in Naples

Dress for Success SW Florida celebrates its launch in Naples with a VIP Black & White party from 5-9 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at the Naples Bay Resort Hotel. Donna Nose, president of White House | Black Market and president of the board of directors of Dress for Success SW Florida, will be the guest of honor. The evening will include a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, entertainment, black and white attire and gifts for each guest.

Dress for Success supports unemployed women in Collier and Lee counties by providing professional attire, a network of support and career development tools to help women thrive in work and life. The program recently celebrated its one-year anniversary in Fort Myers. There are more than 100 Dress for Success serving women in seven counties. Since its start in 1997, Dress for Success has helped more than 500,000 women work toward self-sufficiency.

The Southwest Florida offices and boutique are in Pinebrook Plaza next to Bell Tower Shops in Fort Myers. A Naples satellite location is planned. Tickets to the Black & White launch party are $60. For more information, call 689-4992, e-mail swflorida@dressforsuccess.org or visit www.DressForSuccess.org/swflorida.

Fashion, beauty event will benefit Wishing Well

Nordstrom at Waterside Shops presents Passion for Fashion & Beauty to benefit The Wishing Well Foundation on Saturday, April 16. The event begins at 9 a.m. and includes an informal fashion presentation featuring the must-have looks for spring, the latest advances in permanent makeup and laser therapy for spider veins and cellulite, plus complimentary makeovers, refreshments, raffle prizes and a silent auction.

Admission is $20. Space is limited, and reservations are required. Call 211-0977. The Wishing Well Foundation grants wishes for children with life-threatening illnesses and provides comfort and support for families. Money raised locally stays in Lee and Collier counties.

C’mon to pirate day for the children’s museum

An afternoon of family fun in Cambier Park will benefit the Golisano Children’s Museum of Naples from 2-5 p.m. Saturday, April 30. Pirates in the Park will consist of several pirate-themed, family-friendly activities. C’mon will conduct hands-on workshops in making an eye patch, hat and sword. From a dance party and Buccaneer Run, a giant inflatable obstacle course, to Pirate Pete’s Bounce House and a bungee trampoline, it promises to be an action-packed adventure. The kids’ costume contest will begin at 3 p.m.

For more information, call C’mon at 524-0084 or visit www.cmon.org.
Passover delivers message of freedom to all

BY ELLA NAYOR
enayor@floridaweekly.com

“Passover affirms the great truth that liberty is the inalienable right of every human being.”

— Morris Joseph

Well, it’s that time of the year again when grocery stores are filled with Easter treats and Passover foods. And depending what faith you are will depend on which aisle you choose to visit.

The point is we are choosing with our free will. For the majority of us, freedom is like a second skin; we have it, live it and hardly think much about it.

But imagine not being able to pick up the box of matzoh or carton of crème-filled chocolate eggs. Freedom from oppression is part of our American experience. But for many today it is still the stuff of dreams. And for those lucky enough to be free, that right exists because of the hard-won battles of others.

Passover remains a symbol of freedom triumphing over oppression. This annual spring holiday, though typically celebrated and observed by Jewish people, is a reminder of freedom for all. Moses, who had been summoned by God to help free the Jews, besieged the Egyptian rulers to let them go. But Passover asks more of us than just celebrate freedom. It asks us to be kind to each other and remember those less fortunate. Area chabad, synagogues and Jewish centers are collecting money and pricey Kosher for Passover food for the needy. Having enough to eat and togetherness are central tenets in the Jewish faith. Places like Jewish Family Services of Lee County are collecting and distributing “Seder in a Box” to the needy, said Dr. Jaclynn Faffer, executive director of Jewish Family Services.

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This year Passover will begin on the evening of April 18. Many observing the Passover seders are bustling about the grocery stores in the evening of April 18. Many observing the Passover seders are bustling about the grocery stores in the eight-day period of time.

According to the Passover seder, the awareness of the ancient Jews’ journey from bondage to freedom, matzoh, macaroons, bitter herbs are, of course, symbolic for the Passover seder. People are searching for matzoh, macaroons, bitter herbs, gefilte fish and other Passover foods for the Seder nights. The Seder nights are a time to celebrate freedom for all.

In remembering the plight and ultimate redemption of the Jews, Passover is a time to celebrate freedom for all.

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This is at the crux of the Jews’ struggle from about 400 years of bondage from the Egyptian pharaohs thousands of years ago. As the story goes, the Jews were enslaved by the Egyptians and forced to till under their tyranny. The Jews decided they had enough being enslaved and decided to leave and be free. Moses, who had been summoned by God to help free the Jews, besieged the Egyptian rulers to let them go. But Passover is not just a reminder of freedom for us. It is like a second skin; we have it, live it and hardly think much about it.

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In remembering the plight and ultimate redemption of the Jews, Passover is a time to celebrate freedom for all.

Every Jew is commanded every year to be as if he was rescued from Egypt.” said Rabbi Jeremy Barras of Temple Beth EI in Fort Myers. Rabbi Barras said we essentially celebrate God rescuing us and delivering us to truth.

But Passover asks more of us than just celebrate freedom. It asks us to be kind to each other and remember those less fortunate. Area chabad, synagogues and Jewish centers are collecting money and pricey Kosher for Passover food for the needy. Having enough to eat and togetherness are central tenets in the Jewish faith. Places like Jewish Family Services of Lee County are collecting and distributing “Seder in a Box” to the needy, said Dr. Jaclynn Faffer, executive director of Jewish Family Services.

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But the sense of camaraderie and community felt at the Seder table is what makes a really old story relevant today.

“Ethiopian Jews talk about people being oppressed in Darfur.” said Rabbi Miller. But Passover asks more of us than just celebrate freedom. It asks us to be kind to each other and remember those less fortunate. Area chabad, synagogues and Jewish centers are collecting money and pricey Kosher for Passover food for the needy. Having enough to eat and togetherness are central tenets in the Jewish faith. Places like Jewish Family Services of Lee County are collecting and distributing “Seder in a Box” to the needy, said Dr. Jaclynn Faffer, executive director of Jewish Family Services.

But the sense of camaraderie and community felt at the Seder table is what makes a really old story relevant today. "It really sends a strong message of freedom," said Rabbi Solomon Agin of Temple Shalom in Port Charlotte. ■
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Humanistic Havurah will hold Passover seder

The Humanistic Jewish Havurah of Southwest Florida, a new affiliate of the Society for Humanistic Judaism, will celebrate Passover with a Humanistic seder on Tuesday, April 19, at the Bonita Bay Club in Bonita Springs.

Humanistic Judaism interprets Jewish experience in rational terms, rather than as the will of a supernatural being. For Humanistic Jews, Passover is a time to celebrate the modern, as well as the ancient, quest for freedom.

Havurah members gather monthly for potluck Shabbat celebrations and are planning the first Humanistic Jewish commemoration of Yom Kippur in Southwest Florida for next October. An adult learning is also in the planning stages.

For reservations for the humanistic seder, call Cynthia Cook at 495-8197 or e-mail CynthiaECook@aol.com.

For more information about the Humanistic Jewish Havurah of Southwest Florida, call Paula Creed at 495-8484 or e-mail prcreed@prodigy.net.

Jewish Congregation of Marco Island welcomes all to traditional seder

The Sisterhood of the Jewish Congregation of Marco Island invites islanders and visitors to celebrate Passover with a traditional seder beginning at 6 p.m. Monday, April 18, at JCMI, 991 Winterberry Drive on Marco.

Rabbi Edward Maline and cantorial soloist Hari Jacobsen will lead the reading of the Haggadah, and each table will be set with the traditional holiday food and drink, from the matzah and bitter herbs to the roasted lamb bone, charoset and wine.

Cost is $45 for adult members of the congregation and $15 for children ages 4-12; nonmembers pay $55 for adults and $20 for children.

Dinner on the first and third Monday is always a kosher hot dog and sides; the JCMI Bingo Committee serves a special sandwich on the second and fourth Monday.

No B-I-N-G-O at JCMI on Passover

With the exception of Passover on April 18, bingo takes place every Monday evening through May 2 at the Jewish Congregation of Marco Island.

Dinner on the first and third Monday is always a kosher hot dog and sides; the JCMI Bingo Committee serves a special sandwich on the second and fourth Monday.

For more information, call 642-0800.

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need for a clinic. “There was a time when he might have been a patient here,” says Mrs. Lascheid, who 12 years later still puts on a lab coat to lend a hand and help patients on clinic days as she “works the floor.”

“It’s my juice,” she says.

In much the same way, Nancy Davis has volunteered at the clinic since 2006, spending every Tuesday and Friday doing data entry of patient information called doctors’ “progress notes” into computers. “Volunteering at the clinic is addictive,” says Ms. Davis, a three-time cancer survivor.

With the ongoing support of more than 700 volunteers — 358 non-medical workers, 91 physicians and an additional 122 physicians who offer clinic patients treatment at their offices on a referral basis, 107 nurses, 40 dentists and 13 dental hygienists — the Neighborhood Health Clinic looks forward to marking another anniversary in 2012.

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**LEAGUE CLUB AWARDS GRANTS TO 25 NONPROFITS**

For the 25th consecutive year, The League Club has distributed grants to nonprofit causes in Collier and Lee counties. At its annual meeting on April 8, the club awarded $189,250 in grants from its Community Trust Fund to 25 area agencies.

“The needs are great and the decisions are tough that our grants review committee must make,” Mary Beth Johns, club president, said when the grants were announced. “We are grateful to our business underwriters, our Circle of Friends donors, our members and the community patrons who attend our fundraising events for their generous financial support that makes these grants possible.”

Since 1986, The League Club has distributed more than $2,300,000 to local nonprofits. This year’s recipients are:

- AMIkids Big Cypress, $10,000
- Baby Basics of Collier County, $3,000
- Cancer Alliance of Naples, $10,000
- Children’s Advocacy Center of Collier County, $5,000
- Children’s Network of SWFL, $5,000
- Collier Health Services, $7,500
- Community Cooperative Ministries Inc., $10,150
- David Lawrence Center, $10,000
- Eden Autism Services, $10,000
- The Education Foundation of Collier County, $30,000
- First Book-Collier, $7,200
- Good Wheels, $5,000
- Grace Place for Children & Families, $8,600
- Guadalupe Center of Immokalee, $8,000
- Harry Chapin Food Bank, $10,000
- Literacy Volunteers of Collier County, $5,000
- NAMI of Collier County, $3,500
- Naples Equestrian Challenge, $5,000
- Neighborhood Health Clinic, $6,500
- The Shelter for Abused Women & Children, $5,000
- St. Matthew’s House, $10,000
- Voices for Kids of SWFL, $5,000
- Youth Haven, $9,800

The League Club is an organization of women strengthening communities through fellowship, education, volunteerism and philanthropy. Members are current or former members of The Association of Junior Leagues International. For more information, visit www.theleagueclub.org.

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Naples Orchestra and Chorus continues its Holy Week tradition

For the 17th year, the Naples Orchestra and Chorus will present “The Seven Last Words of Christ” in local churches during Easter week. Performances are set for:

- 7 p.m. Palm Sunday, April 17, at Wesley United Methodist Church, 550 S. Barfield Drive on Marco Island.
- 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, at St. William Catholic Church, 750 Seagate Drive in Naples.
- 2 p.m. Good Friday, April 22, at Moorings Presbyterian Church, 791 Harbour Drive in Naples.

Robert Herrema, NOC conductor and music director, first played “The Seven Last Words of Christ” as a high school senior, for his church. He conducted the entire cantata as a college student. “I have made it an annual ritual during Holy Week to sit down, with score in hand, to listen to a recording,” of the works, he says, adding, “It is a privilege to conduct these pieces with such a wonderful and dedicated group of community musicians.”

The Holy Week tradition for the NOC started 17 years ago with one perfor-
75 voices from Ave Maria to sing ‘Music of the Passion’

The Ave Maria University Choirs, under the direction of Timothy McDonnell, present “Music of the Passion” beginning at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 17, at Moorings Presbyterian Church, 79 Harbour Drive.

The AMU Chamber Choir, the university’s 24-member elite choral ensemble, will offer an extended scene from J.S. Bach’s “Johannes-Passion,” juxtaposing moments of elegance and poignancy with those more vigorous. Of the two surviving Passions by Bach, the “Johannes-Passion” moves more quickly, but is also the more anguished.

The full forces of the combined AMU Choirs, 75 voices strong, will present the multi-movement “Stabat mater” of Josef Rheinberger. Smaller gems by Zelenka, Schütz, Byrd, Rameau and others combine with these great works in a powerful and profound musical program.

Lynn Kraehling will accompany the choirs at the pipe organ. Dr. McDonnell will share conducting responsibilities with Rebecca Ostermann.

Tickets are $15 and will be available at the door or in advance by calling the Ave Maria Bookstore at 304-7032.

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The Children’s Hospital Specialty Clinic provides medical care and rehabilitation for children from birth to age 20. All of the physicians and therapists at the clinic have completed extensive training in a specific area of children’s medical care, including:

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- Nephrology
- Endocrinology
- General Surgery
- Rehabilitation

The Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida is the only accredited children’s hospital between Tampa and Miami. With the addition of the Pediatric Specialty Clinic, care is closer than ever for the children of Collier County.

The Lee Memorial Health System Foundation has launched a capital campaign to build America’s newest children’s hospital—a 148-bed facility adjacent to HealthPark Medical Center. To learn more, call The Foundation at 239-343-6950.
ON THE LINKS

Hit the courses for some good causes

Here are some charity golf tournaments coming up around Naples and Collier County:

■ **The Gulf Coast High School girls’ golf team** holds its first benefit tournament Saturday, April 30, at Vineyard Country Club with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The entry fee of $100 per golfer includes lunch and a silent auction. Hole sponsorships are $125. For more information, call Dennis Hemberger at 404-0110 or Tom Metzger at 353-0505.

■ **The 13th annual Golf Challenge for the Parkinson Association of Southwest Florida** takes place Saturday, April 30, at The Club at Bonita Bay East. Albert Bentley, a graduate of Immokalee High School and a former running back with the Indianapolis Colts and the Pittsburgh Steelers, will participate. Registration is $250 per golfer or $800 for a foursome. For more information, call 417-3465.

■ **The sixth annual Royal Palm Academy Golf Classic** tees off with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Monday, May 2, at the Golf Club of the Everglades. A box lunch at noon and post-tournament cocktails, dinner and an awards ceremony are included in registration of $200 per person. Participation is limited to 120 golfers. Sponsorship opportunities are available, and donations are welcome for the silent auction and raffle drawings. For more information, call Nancy Dagher at 641-9070 or the school at 594-9888.

■ **Literacy Volunteers of Collier County** holds its annual four-person scramble for men’s, women’s and mixed teams beginning with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 7, at The Club at Mediterra. Registration is $150 and includes breakfast, boxed lunch and refreshments during the scorecard party. For more information, call 262-4448 or e-mail info@collierliteracy.org.

■ **The Harry Chapin Food Bank Classic** tees off at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 18, at Grandezza Country Club. Registration is $125 per person. To donate silent auction items, contact event chair JoAnna Bradshaw at 405-7266 or bradshawjoa@comcast.net. To register for the tournament, contact Chris Robinson at 334-7067, ext. 137, or chrisrobinson@harrychapinfoodbank.com.

■ **The Collier Building Industry Association and Hill, Barth & King** host a tournament Friday, May 20, at The Quarry. A putting contest, long drive contest and 50/50 raffle are part of the event. Admission includes cart and green fees, three mulligans, 10 raffle tickets, three drinks on the course and lunch following the tournament. For registration or more information, call 486-0100 or visit www.cbia.net.

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Kae Ferber, M.D.
Julie Diaz, FNP-BC

**Lab Services**
James Faremouth, D.O.

**Radiology**
Hit the courses for some good causes

Here are some charity golf tournaments coming up around Naples and Collier County:

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You can walk, run or ride for ICAN

The Island Coast AIDS Network is expanding the annual Southwest Florida AIDS Walk for ICAN to include a certified 5K run and a 100-mile bicycle ride. Everything starts and finishes at Cambier Park on Saturday, April 16. The event is open to everyone, and four-legged friends on leashes are also welcome to participate.

Registration and pledges can be made online at www.icanswfl.org. For more information, call Mitch Haley at 357-2394, ext. 211, or e-mail mhaley@icanswfl.org.

**Get moving for Immokalee literacy organization**

The Immokalee Run & Ride for Literacy, a benefit for the Jump Start Family Literacy Academy, takes place Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17.

A 5K race and 1-mile fun run are on the agenda for Saturday; bike rides of 15, 30 and 62 miles will set out on Sunday. All events begin and end at the Farm Worker Village in Immokalee.

For registration or more information, call Dee Siemianowski the Jump Start Family Literacy Academy at at 657-2398 or visit www.immokaleerunsandrides.com.

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**Off-road course is new part of Everglades Ride**

Cyclists in great shape can sign up for the Everglades Ride to benefit the Everglades River of Grass Greenway on Sunday, April 17. Courses of 16, 23, 50, 62 and 82 miles will start and finish at McLeod Park in Everglades City. SAG vehicles will be along for support, and lunch will be provided by Havana Café.

New to the event this year is a 27-mile “bumpy ride,” with half of the course off-road in the Fakahatchee Strand. A local guide will accompany riders.

Parallel to U.S. 41/Tamiami Trail, the River of Grass Greenway will be a hard-surfaced 12- to 14-foot-wide corridor separated from the highway and suitable for non-motorized activities such as bicycling, walking, bird-watching, photography and fishing. The goal of the ROGG is to extend from Krome Avenue at the eastern edge of Everglades National Park near Miami to the outskirts of Naples/Marco Island (western terminus to be determined), with a three-mile spur to Everglades City in the middle.

For more information, call Michelle Avola at the Naples Pathways Coalition, 810-9949, or visit www.evergladesrogg.org.

**GET MOVING**

**GET MOVING**

**GET MOVING**

**GET MOVING**

**GET MOVING**

**GET MOVING**
GET MOVING

Hop aboard a paddleboard for Special Olympics

The second annual Stand-Up Paddleboard Luau Races to benefit Special Olympics Collier County takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 21, at Bayfront Marketplace and marina.

Five SUP division races will take place along the picturesque waterfront as follows: 10 a.m., boys ages 10-16; 11 a.m., girls ages 10-16; noon, women’s open; 1 p.m., men’s open, and 3 p.m., Special Olympics Athletes Race, in which the top 10 finishers will compete with a Special Olympics athlete atop their board.


The $25 registration fee will go to Special Olympics Collier County. For more information, call 370-6577 or visit www.noodlescafe.com.

Turtle Trot 5K coming to Lovers Key

Friends of Lovers Key are setting the pace for the Turtle Trot 5K coming up Saturday, April 30. Runners and walkers trek over a hard-packed shell path along the Black Island Trail, climb a 38-foot-high Calusa Indian mound and cross two bridges as they race toward the finish line at the beach. Breakfast and awards are presented at the Lovers Key pavilion.

Registration is $25 by April 23 and $30 thereafter. Sponsors include Whole Foods, Angel Animal Hospital and Sweet Tomatoes. Register online at www.FriendsOfLoversKey.com.

For more information, call 463-4588.
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Located just minutes from the beach, The Strada at Mercato combines chic living with the relaxed atmosphere of Naples. Residents will enjoy the privacy of their own amenity level complete with pool, clubhouse, fitness center and more. Downstairs, residents can take advantage of a wealth of upscale shopping and dining opportunities, and a luxury movie theater is just footsteps away.

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Beautiful butterflies were released to sunny skies (although many alighted on an arm or finger or nose before flitting away) at Cambier Park during Avow Hospice’s sixth annual remembrance celebration on April 10.

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At 60,000 wild acres in eastern Collier and Lee counties, the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed is an ecologically important mix of marshes, pine flatwoods, pop ash sloughs and oak hammocks that provide critical water purification, aquifer recharge and natural flood protection for the region.

It is the subject of a WGCU-TV documentary, “CREW: Keepers of the Watershed,” that premieres at 9 p.m. Thursday, April 21, as part of WGCU Public Media’s series titled “Water – The Lifeblood of Southwest Florida.” CREW is about 18 miles east of I-75 off Corkscrew Road. Its importance was realized after the National Audubon Society established Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in 1954. To protect the sanctuary’s virgin cypress swamp from degradation by the encroachment of development, the South Florida Water Management District initiated an ambitious land acquisition project in the early 1980s. Before long, a unique consortium of environmentalists, government agencies, landowners, developers and private citizens had come together to manage the CREW Land & Water Trust.

While school field trips and adventure campsers seek out the wilderness for environmental education and primal experience on terra firma, two of the region’s most productive water storage resources — the Sandstone and Tamiami aquifers — remain protected underground.

"CREW: Keepers of the Watershed" was written, produced and narrated by Rod Clarke. It is the first part of a two-part series exploring CREW, with the second part set to premiere in June.
HEALTHY LIVING

TO YOUR HEALTH

Free program about link between mind and body

The Mental Health Association of Southwest Florida presents “Mind & Body: How the Systems Influence Each Other” from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, in Tofield Auditorium at NCH downtown.

The free program for the general public and health care professionals will be presented by Dr. Robert Alfonso Jr. Mental health professionals will receive one CEU provided by MHASWFL; medical professionals will receive one CEU provided by NCH.

Registration begins at 12:30, and lunch will be provided. For more information, call the MHASWFL at 261-5405 or visit www.mhasonf.org.

Dance class and support group for Parkinson’s patients

The Parkinson Association of Southwest Florida provides several regular programs and services for those who have Parkinson’s disease and their caregivers.

■ Free dance classes: 1 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday at Fleischmann Park.

■ Support group meetings: 1 p.m. every Tuesday at Bentley Village; 10:30 a.m. every Thursday at PASPH headquarters, 2950 Tamiami Trail N. Free and open to the public.

For more information, call 417-3465.

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Y

MCA

MCAs around the country are celebrating Healthy Kids Day on Saturday, April 16. Locally, the YMCA of the Palms in Naples and the Greater Marco Island YMCA invite children and parents to make a “play date” and visit their facilities to have some fun and learn about healthy habits that can ensure they grow and thrive.

Activities are free and open to all from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Naples and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Marco. In addition to games, bounce houses and arts and crafts, there will be giveaways about the YMCA’s Healthy Family Home initiative, a resource of information, tips and tools to support parents and families in their efforts to practice the art and science of healthy living.

“We know that parents struggle to find the time to incorporate more active play and healthier habits into their kids’ daily routine,” says Jennifer Bristow, health and fitness coordinator at the Marco Y. “Doing so doesn’t have to require extra money or resources. It’s as simple as making a play date with your kids with just two key requirements: Be active and have fun.” Healthy Kids Day on Marco will feature swimming and water games, make-your-own fruit kabobs, track and field events and a seed planting station. The Greater Marco Island Police, Fire and EMS departments have equipment on display and will hand out safety information. The Collier County Chapter of the American Red Cross will distribute literature as well.

For information about Healthy Kids Day on Marco, call 394-3144, ext. 222, or visit www.marcoslandymca.org. For more about activities in Naples, call 597-3348 or visit www.ymcapalms.org.

STRAIGHT TALK

Hand washing: So simple, so important in a hospital setting

I
t might be among the most common of commonsense things to do, but washing our hands is essential if we are to be superior health care providers. And “Because We Care” (our new campaign slogan), we are recommitted to making hand hygiene a No. 1 priority at NCH.

According to the respected Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, hand hygiene is the most important strategy to prevent the transmission of germs in any environment, and particularly in hospitals.

Thus, we chose hand hygiene as our focus going forward to align ourselves with the Joint Commission’s National Patient Safety program. The 2011 Provactive Risk Assessment will engage us in hand hygiene compliance initiatives because this simple technique lies at the heart of decreasing hospital-acquired infections.

R.N. Kathleen Kohut, our director of infection prevention, recognizes avoiding an infection is always preferable for our patients. The Infection Prevention Department utilizes strict measurable outcomes to monitor all infection prevention efforts, including washing our hands.

Recently, I watched R.N. Cheryl Bul-laro on the 5 South Rehab Unit washing her hands for what seemed to me to be a long time. Then she reminded me that proper technique takes about 30 seconds with both soap and water. To make sure she takes enough time, she told me she sings the alphabet song to herself as she washes.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is a time-saver and can be found next to almost every doorway in the clinical areas. At NCH, it will soon be replaced by a new foam product.

Experienced 5 South charge nurse Mindy Henderson said she advises new nurses taking the nursing certification exam that if one of the question choices is to first wash your hands, that is most likely the correct answer.

We recently launched our new “Got Foam?” campaign logo, held prize drawings and nominated three colleagues as NCH Hand Hygiene Heroes: Mother & Baby R.N. May Robinson, North Naples ER physician Dr. Carolyn Walters and cardiovascular radiologic technologist Linda Carvin.

Having fun is all part of serving our patients well.

One nurse who is definitely “having fun” is 5 South LFN, Jennifer Miller, whose distinctive fashion statement of brightly colored scrub pants has proved a big hit with patients and colleagues.

Here’s what’s on Ms. Miller’s colleagues’ minds.

Sue Graziano, wrote to me: “[Jen- nifer’s] scrub wear kind of goes with our uniform. She’ll even sing the alphabet song to herself as she washes.”

Teach your youngsters some of the games that were your favorites as a kid. Remember freeze tag, jump rope, Simon Says and freeze tag?

5. Play outside: Even if it’s just in the backyard, get everyone moving by throwing a football, kicking a soccer ball or shooting some hoops.

Make a family play date

Here are free suggestions from the YMCA to help families get active.

1. Schedule a game night: Play games with the kids that incorporate physical activity, such as charades.

2. Dance: Burn your favorite party music and dance. Make it even more fun with a contest for the best moves.

3. Go for a spin: Grab your helmets and discover a new bike path or park for an afternoon of bicycling or bike riding.

4. Channel your inner child: Teach your youngsters some of the games that were your favorites as a kid. Remember hopscotch, jump rope, Simon Says and freeze tag?

5. Play outside: Even if it’s just in the backyard, get everyone moving by throwing a football, kicking a soccer ball or shooting some hoops.
Construction begins on psychiatric hospital

Much needed comprehensive and compassionate care for people with behavioral health problems in Southwest Florida became one step closer to reality on Monday, April 4, with a groundbreaking ceremony for Park Royal Psychiatric Hospital.

Scheduled for completion in February 2012, Park Royal Hospital will be licensed for 76 inpatient beds and include several outpatient programs for adults ages 18 and older. A special focus will be on geriatric services for Southwest Florida’s aging population.

The 72,200-square-foot hospital will be on the campus of HealthPark Medical Center in south Lee County.

Park Royal Hospital’s parent company has been partnering with Lee Memorial Health System in operating the Senior Behavioral Health Center at Lee Memorial Hospital, a 15-bed psychiatric unit for geriatric patients.

“The fact that the unit is consistently full points to the demand for services for the elderly,” says Jim Harper, president of Park Royal Hospital. “We are humbled to be at this significant event as the result of many other community leaders who understood the need and trusted our ability to help bring this hospital here.”

Park Royal also operates the Intensive Outpatient Behavioral Health Center for patients requiring intensive follow-up services and the Outpatient Behavioral Health Center for those requiring less intense services.

“Park Royal has proven to be a dynamic partner in providing behavioral health services in Southwest Florida,” says Jim Nathan, president and CEO of Lee Memorial Health System. “We are very pleased they will be at the helm as we take the next step in providing services with the completion of Park Royal Hospital.”

Naples Grande Golf Club invites you to come Explore Golf, Beach, Pool, Spa, Fitness, Tennis & Dining. Join Now & Pay No Due’s Until October 2011.

The Softec HD is the newest cataract replacement lens available, from the most experienced ophthalmology team in S.W. Florida.

It is designed to be the World’s Most Accurate Lens and is three times more precise, to more closely match your vision needs. And best of all, it is covered by Medicare and most insurance plans.
Older pets in need of homes will be at Bentley Village adoption day

Vi at Bentley Village hosts Senior Pet Adoption Day on Tuesday, April 19, to raise awareness about the increasing need to find homes for older pets. Representatives from the Humane Society of Naples will attend and bring older dogs and cats available for adoption from the shelter.

"Quite often, senior pets make the very best pets. They have been trained and socialized, understand house rules and the importance of getting along with everyone, and have the self-confidence and control that comes with maturity," says Stephen Wright of HSN. "Unlike a puppy or kitten, a senior pet's personality doesn't change with age; it stays the same as the day you adopted it," he adds. "Senior pets might sleep a little more than when they were kids, but they can still be active and vibrant."

Typically, senior pets are more difficult to adopt out because of misconceptions about older animals.

Vi at Bentley Village in North Naples is "a very pet friendly community, so partnering with the humane society for this event makes perfect sense," says Marjorie Johnson, community relations director for the retirement community.

HSN promotes the adoption of senior pets, in particular senior cats, by offering free adoptions. All senior cats are neutered, current on their vaccinations and micro-chipped — plus, they come with 30 days of pet health insurance.

Bentley Village resident Sandra Turner adopted Iris, a senior dog, and is an advocate for senior pet adoption. "She adopted us rather than us adopting her," she says about the ease of Iris' transition to her new home.

At Senior Pet Adoption Day, Bentley Village residents and guests are welcome to get acquainted with older pets available for adoption from HSN. They are also encouraged to drop off food or monetary donations, learn about volunteer opportunities or attend the poolside cookout.

The event is open to the general public. Space is limited, however, and reservations are required. Call 597-4221.

Free online brochure explains options for unwanted exotic pets

BY TOM NORDLIE
University of Florida

Pet owners sometimes release unwanted exotic animals into the wild, considering it an act of kindness. But Florida's environment and economy pay a hefty price if these creatures thrive and reproduce. Introduced species can eat native animals and plants, damage property, pose human health risks and require costly management efforts.

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences has a free brochure that describes humane, responsible alternatives for people with pets they can't manage or no longer want. Titled "Options for Unwanted Exotic Pets," it's available online at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ww353.

"A lot of folks might not be aware that they have options, or that help is available," says author Steve Johnson, an associate professor in UF's wildlife ecology and conservation department. "We're hoping to change that."

The brochure outlines several options for pet owners. They include learning more about caring for the animal, finding a new home for it, returning it to the seller and contacting government or volunteer agencies.

The brochure also lists several websites that provide graphically indexed directories of pet rescue groups, animal shelters, exotic pet veterinarians, animal sanctuaries that can provide referrals, advice or possibly a new home. It also has a link to listings for "pet amnesty days" where the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission accepts exotic animals and attempts to place them with new owners.

In Florida, releasing non-native animals is prohibited by law. Mr. Johnson adds, "What's more, it's inhumane — pets from other parts of the world could die from starvation or exposure in Florida's outdoors."

The species that become established are the exceptions, he says, though Florida currently hosts breeding populations of about 140 non-native vertebrate species.
PET TALES

On the move
Loss of mobility no longer a death sentence for pets

BY DR. ROBIN DOWNING
Special to Florida Weekly

When Frankie was hit by a car on the streets of Denver, two vertebrae in his mid-back were shattered, and his spinal cord was crushed. At that moment he became a permanent paraplegic, never to walk normally again. In times past, he would have been euthanized.

Fortunately for Frankie — and for other pets with special needs — times have changed. No longer are mobility issues an impediment to an excellent quality of life. In fact, dogs and cats — and even unusual pets such as rabbits and ferrets — can be fitted for assistive devices that allow them to sustain the activities they’ve become accustomed to. Pet owners can be taught how to manage their pets’ bodily functions. And the pets themselves can easily be taught to accept the use of the various assistive devices that are currently available.

Mobility challenges come in many guises:

The pet may be too weak to walk. It is critical to get as complete a diagnosis as possible from the pet’s veterinarian because some pets are weak from pain. Once the pain is managed appropriately, Next, examine the pet’s life-style and activities up to the time of the mobility issue. This is where creative thinking becomes important.

If, for instance, a dog is used to walking or running every day with his owner and then develops the progressive weakness of degenerative myelopathy, a “walking wheelchair” is a great choice. The walking wheelchair design allows a dog to continue to use his rear legs without having to support his full weight, thus delaying the progression of the weakness. Once the weakness has progressed to paralysis of the rear limbs, the walking/running activity can be maintained simply by suspending the feet so they do not drag on the ground. Wheelchairs that support all four legs are also available, as are wheelchairs custom-built for animals that have lost limbs or were born without limbs.

Slings allow pets to be supported in a simple fashion that also allows the pet owner to maintain good ergonomics. And a sling allows the pet to move himself rather than simply being carried around, thus sustaining part of his personal independence. There are now custom braces and prosthetic devices available for pets. If a limb has a joint injury that cannot be repaired, a brace may replace the action of the damaged joint, thus restoring mobility. Likewise, if part of a foot or leg has been amputated, removable prosthetics can be manufactured to serve in their stead.

Fortunately, when four legs aren’t enough, pets have many options for sustaining and maintaining their active lifestyles. Adaptation to a mobility-limiting condition is restricted only by our imaginations as pet owners. Times have changed for the better, and our beloved animal companions are the beneficiaries.

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take; Every move you make... Every claim you stake....”

— Sting and The Police

“I’m looking over a four leaf clover that 
I overlooked before. One leaf is sun-
shine, the second is rain. Third is the 
roses that grow in the lane. No need

— Mort Dixon

“...and with all! bright wings.”

— Gerard Manley Hopkins

“What a world...What a world...”

— Wicked Witch of West Oz

Negation is often this first glimmering 
of an emerging reality. “I never thought 
of that.” Then formerly and formally 
some non-existent is a foregone conclu-
sion, becoming foremost in mind. Some 
since declares the one remaining....

— Mort Dixon

But is it really so simple?

We are advised to stay put, to be still.
Like a man, a single man, in Mercury retrograde. From March 30 until April 23, it will seem as if Mer-
cury has stopped and reversed direc-
tion. We are cautioned not to begin new 
projects or venture into new territory. We are advised to stay put, to be still. Only write.

But it’s not just Mercury. All the 
planets seem to switch direction. Until Copernicus negated the notion of the 
earth as center of the universe people 
believed that what seemed to be hap-
pening, the visually given, was real. 

Now we are certain that the reality is 
that planets perpetually orbit in the 
same direction. Even if it doesn’t look 
that way.

And what about this pirate’s orbit? After all, Rx, R with a tail stroke, is 
the astrological symbol for retrograde planetary movement. It is also an abbre-
viation for medical prescription, recipe, 
and the responses in missals. All this 
comes from the Latin imperative mean-
ing “to take.” We are taking it in.

Retro might have a negative connota-
tion, a sense of degenerating into the 
past, of being old-fashioned and back-
tward. Taking might also be criticized. But it is really so simple?

In logic, there is a notion 
called vacuous truth. This is 
an assertion that something is 
true of all members of an 
empty set. It is a truth that is 
devoid of content.

Yet, even here there can 
be a problem. Suppose we 
say that all pink elephants are carnivores. That is vacuo-
ously true, since there are no pink elephants. Whatever we 
say about them is true like 
this. But what if we say that 
all pink elephants are herbi-
vores? That is also vacuously 
true. Does one vacuous truth 
make another lie?

Never mind all this and 
that. Listen: At the end of a 
path there is a most amaz-
ishing and wonderful garden. 
In that garden is a Greek 
column. It is Doric, Ionic and 
Corinthian. And in having all 
these features, it is also of 
another order not yet named. Behind 
this column, you are standing. Your wings are white and your eyes 
are flashing. You are beautiful beyond 
words or measure. And because of 
your position behind, you cannot see 
me. But I have plain view of your being 
hidden.

As I look, transcendently transfixed, 
the planet stops. Orbit shifts. A new 
view emerges. Are you looking at me?

What a world; what a world.

RX@floridaweekly.com

Musings

Via negativa

 cornerstonedecor.com

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at Half the Cost of New Cabinets!

No Deposit Required.

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Saturday, April 16, 10am-4pm

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Cornerstone fits your needs by offering flexibility to our customers...from a designer custom kitchen to refacing existing kitchen cabinets or a beautiful upgraded countertop, we offer it...with experience, quick turnaround and competitive pricing.

What is Refacing?

• Your old doors are removed and replaced with new doors.
• All of the existing cabinetry is laminated to match your new door selection.
• Old hinges and door hardware are replaced with new.

We Offer Choice and Versatility and a LIFETIME Warranty on all Products that WE Manufacture!

Cornerstone fits your needs by offering flexibility to our customers...from a designer custom kitchen to refacing existing kitchen cabinets or a beautiful upgraded countertop, we offer it...with experience, quick turnaround and competitive pricing.

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-Peter Fisfis
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BY BILL CORNWELL
bcornwell@floridaweekly.com

Imagine Solutions
A gathering of great minds, and more networking events. B7 & B8

Learn the lingo
The Motley Fool presents an investment vocabulary primer. B8

Buyer’s choices
WCI Design Studio makes one-stop shopping possible. B11

Florida Weekly launches free iPad app
Extra, extra, read all about the iPad app. The site allows readers to view pages in the same format in which they appear in the print version.

“I am really excited to bring this platform to our customers,” said Pason Gaddis, publisher of Florida Weekly. “Leading forecasters are predicting this to be the year of the tablet, with over 250 million estimated to be sold worldwide. Knowing this, our management team began developing this app three months ago to meet growing reader and advertiser needs.”

The current version of the app, which can be downloaded for free at the iTunes app store, is a basic conversion of the paper’s print product to digital. The app will be developed further, to allow readers greater interaction with advertisers for instance. “With our next update, we plan to have more reader and ad interactivity, including the ability to touch ads and visit the customer’s website directly from within the app,” Mr. Gaddis said. “This adds a whole new dimension to what a print ad can do for them in a digital space. Now, not only will our customers have their ad in thousands of community newstands, but worldwide.”

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY
Extra, extra, read all about it… on Florida Weekly’s free iPad app. All the in-depth news, arts, business, and real estate coverage found in the paper at newsstands is available on the app in its entirety. The site allows readers to view pages in the same format in which they appear in the print version.

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In car sales and commercials, Billy Fuccillo’s volume is as big as he claims
Bulls and bubbles are very much on experienced investors’ minds as the world ourse, the tech stock, a U.S. housing and an international credit bubble. In such time, we have had a past 11 years. In such time, we have had a happen again is to deny the reality of the investor’s portfolio and on any country’s economy. They are going down.

To say bubbles don’t exist or won’t ever occur is good but, upon bursting, a huge shift in the investor and the economy. They are not uncommon for a market that has seen meaningful appreciation for many years to take on a parabolic rise in prices in the last stages of its bull run. An example of a bull turning into a bubble is NASDAQ, which saw much appreciation in the 1990s and in the 3½ years prior to its peak in 2000, rose an astounding 2½ times. Bubbles burst; they always burst. And as in the case of NASDAQ, it gave back its 3½-year appreciation in the ensuing 2½ years. Fast money up; faster money lost going down.

Bull markets are viewed as positive for the investor and the economy. They are manageable; they do not necessarily create distortions or dislocations within an economy. On the other hand, asset or investment bubbles can have huge impacts on any investor’s portfolio and on any country’s economic well-being. A huge positive shift is good but, upon bursting, a huge shift toward the negative is bad.

To say bubbles don’t exist or won’t ever happen again is to deny the reality of the past 11 years. In such time, we have had a tech stock, a U.S. housing and an international credit bubble. Bulls and bubbles are very much on experienced investors’ minds as the world is awash with fiat currencies (especially the U.S. dollar) and people are searching for a safe haven other than U.S. cash equivalents. There is constant and increasing speculation that the U.S. dollar will lose its reserve currency status. In that case, investors want to be holding assets that do not devalue with the dollar and that might well include foreign equities, U.S. bonds, commodities and non-U.S. currencies.

Investment bubbles offer huge money-making and losing opportunities. In its last stages of meteoric rise, the curve is often hyperbolic but is followed by a vertical free fall. Obviously, the investment dream is to have bought the asset at a low point and sell at the high and, even better, to sell short at the high just before the bubble bursts. Investment fairy tales are made of such things. But participation in portions of the rise and shorting for portions of the decline might be better strategies.

Sometimes it’s hard to perceive a bubble until after the bursting. For instance, the U.S. housing bubble seemed to benefit all; all seemed to be participating: almost all became believers. Houses were the American dream; perceived as a safe asset class; and mortgage financing requirements were thought to safeguard against speculation. Are investment advice and prepared for bubbles? Do they easily discern between bulls and bubbles? Do they employ money management techniques to prevent disastrous consequences of a burst bubble? Best I can recall, there was no such finance course in my MBA program; there were loads of classes about how markets drive out excesses, both over or under valuations, but nothing about how to handle portfolios when they enter “irrational exuberance,” Alan Greenspan’s description of the tech bubble before it burst. Devotees of “A Random Walk Down Wall Street” and its efficient market theory understand how bull markets can exist but might find it very hard to factor bubbles into their efficient pricing theories. When a market is efficient, (the only thing that is good but) bizarrely incorrect valuations really don’t happen. But, in fact, in the past 11 years, the world has seen two massive bubbles in the US and one colossal international bubble (credit individual, municipal and country credit bubbles). How is an investment bubble made? (1) Something fundamental happens that causes diminished supply or increased demand (or both) for an asset; (2) the price of the asset moves upward; (3) investors/speculators put more money into the asset; (4) the asset’s increased liquidity and transparency in pricing allows banks to finance more easily and willingly. Somewhere along this continuum, the bull market starts to look more akin to a mania. So, (5) the cycle continues on and on until the underlying fundamentals have stopped being relevant and the asset begins to trade based solely on its capital appreciation possibilities. And then ba-boom! The bust.

What bubbles are out there right now? Gold, you say? Very possibly not. As a percentage of the world’s investment portfolios holdings, gold is currently .6 percent; the peak percentage was in 1968 at 4.8 percent. Gold is being considered as a currency of first resort. Gold might well be in the incipient stages of a dramatically longer bull market.

Commodities? Per Jim Rogers, a world-wide recognized commodity professional, food commodity prices have a long way yet to run. Food is in short supply; the mania is not being fabricated when people in third world countries are rioting in the streets for food and protesting its high prices.

What about equities? They’re up 70 percent from their low, sure, but many international and domestic managers view equities as a way to hedge against what they perceive to be strong inflation around the bend. What is an investor to do? First, be well exposed to all asset classes, beyond equities and fixed income. And before you label an asset class as a bubble, take a moment to consider if it really is a secular bull market.

Second, use money management techniques to protect your gains in bubble assets. A simplistic and well served rule is “Cut your losses and let your profits run.” There is a substantial risk of loss in trading commodity futures, options and over-the-counter foreign currency products. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

— Jeannette Rohn Showalter is a Bonita Springs-based Certified Financial Analyst.
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“Acclaimed as the chosen website for Naples’ most exclusive properties.”

GALLEON DRIVE
Two and one half Port Royal lots overlooking Bay with multiple building opportunities. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $14,995,000

GALLEON DRIVE
From the engaging driveway entrance, through the interior of this masterpiece of comfortable elegance, one holds a panorama without equal. One immediately recognizes that a striking clarity of conception was turned into a remarkable reality. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $14,900,000

GORDON DRIVE
This exceptional South Naples beachfront residence is the personification of the much admired and beloved individual who commissioned its construction. The home is finished with engaging attention to detail. $14,000,000

RUM ROW
Marvelous waterfront estate with over 5,500 square feet of living space. With architecture in the Bermudian tradition and breathtaking views over Bay at the beach, this magnificent estate offers the rare opportunity for elegant entertaining and luxurious family living. Quick access to the Gulf, Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $13,100,000

NELSON’S WALK
Sensational views from this stunning residence situated on two Port Royal lots with expansive water frontage. Beautiful Southern exposure facing the confluence of Naples Bay and the picturesque inland waterways leading to Biscayne Bay and the pristine coastal shorelines. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $12,990,000

NELSON’S WALK
Absolutely magnificent environmental views of Naples Bay. Two and one-half planted Port Royal lots with approximately 509 feet frontage on the water. Properties may be purchased separately. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $12,500,000

SPYGGLASS LANE

CUTLASS LANE
Perhaps, the finest waterfront property in all of Naples. Designed by architect Jerry De Gennaro and built by Newbury North Associates. A perfect combination of New England and Old Florida style architecture. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $10,800,000

RUM ROW
With captivating long water views of Galleon Cove, this beautiful Costa del Sol architectural masterpiece captures the essence of Florida indoor-outdoor lifestyle. Located on one and one-half Port Royal lots, this five-bedroom home is designed for gracious water views. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $6,850,000

SPYGGLASS LANE
The minimalist design of this well-conceived home encourages a soothing tranquility and contemporary comfort. Expansive long water views, with remarkable privacy. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $6,750,000

RUM ROW
A classically beautiful residence with intricate detail and marvellous millwork. A very rare example of creative architecture designed to be lived in and enjoyed while taking full advantage of the remarkable wide water views of Galleon Cove. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $5,950,000

LANTERN LANE
Beautifully conceived living space overlooking the natural habitat of Eastern Lake. Designed by the well-known Naples firm of Hentschel Hajar, Architects, Inc. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $5,950,000

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Professional advisors invited to conference

The Community Foundation of Collier County invites professional advisors in Collier and Lee counties to a conference about charitable planning from 7:45 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 10, at the Hilton Naples.


The foundation will seek continuing professional development grant from the Community Foundation of Collier County, 649-5000, or e-mail sbarton@cfcollier.org.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops about business plans and ethics

SCORE Naples and the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce present the following workshops:

■ How to Write a Business Plan: Part 1, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 16; Part 2, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 30 – This workshop is designed to give owners and decision makers for start-ups, early stage and existing companies an understanding of the critical elements of an effective business plan. Cost is $35.

■ Business Ethics: 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21 – This workshop will examine how to resolve ethical dilemmas and establish and maintain a culture emphasizing strong ethical leadership. Cost is $30.

Both workshops will take place in the Leadership Collier conference room at chamber headquarters. To register, visit www.napleschamber.org/events.

ON THE MOVE

Mr. Sierra lived in Queens, N.Y., for many years before relocating to Florida six years ago.

Awards & Recognition

Collier County Clerk of Courts Dwight Brock announces that the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court has been recognized as a Family-Friendly Business by the Naples Alliance for Children. The award is made to organizations in Collier County that find ways to help employees balance the needs of their families with the demands of their jobs.

Board Appointments

Michael Benson, CEO of Insurance Management Consultants LLC, has been named chair- man of the board of trustees of the David Lawrence Founda- tion. Mr. Benson has more than 30 years of professional experience in the wealth transfer planning marketplace and has earned designa- tions as both a Chartered Life Under
writer and Chartered Financial Consul- tant. He worked extensively with more than 50 charitable organizations as the founder and chairman of Planned Giv- ing Systems, the firm that evolved into Insurance Management Consultants. Mr. Benson joined the David Lawrence Foundation board of trustees in 2010.

Shannon Chesser has been named vice president of sales and operations for Events, Responsibly! Inc. She will assist brides, committee chairs and associa- tions with creating socially responsible, eco-friendly events of every size and budget. A lifelong resi- dent of Southwest Florida, Ms. Chesser is a graduate of Leadership Collier and The Leadership Institute. She has pro- duced hundreds of events and tradeshows in the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Iceland. In 1998 she produced the “Return to the Road Tour,” a cross-country brand event to launch the 1998 Corvette convi- rentible.
KINGS TOWN DRIVE
Dramatic views over Treasure Cove from this architectural masterpiece designed by renowned architect facade. Elegant, yet comfortable, tropical living. Port Royal Club membership eligibility.
$5,950,000

FORT CHARLES DRIVE
Spectacular long water view estate. Close to the Port Royal Club. Expansive lot and one-half creates a large building envelope along Morgan’s Cove. Port Royal Club membership eligibility.
$5,900,000

SANCERRE - UNIT 401
The turquoise Gulf waters, the exuberant palms, and the fresh white sand merge in the mind’s eye with the soft palette of interior finishes. Effortless living with available concierge services.
$4,290,000

SANCERRE - UNIT 702
As soon as one steps from the elevator into the residence’s private lobby, the dramatic design and penchant for detail is immediately inspirational. Working with both abundant natural light and specially engineered lighting, the residence comes alive with wide planked bamboo flooring and custom Bartel wooden doors.
$3,950,000

OLD NAPLES
Enter this professionally decorated residence and you will feel transported to a tropical oasis of quintessential relaxation and warmth. Enjoy alfresco dining on the sun-drenched patio, complete with private pool and grill area.
$2,695,000

AQUALANE SHORES
A gracious Aquamarine Shores waterfront home situated with long views down both Aquaz Cove and Ibis Cove. This magnificently finished home is light and cheery with a well-appointed kitchen serving formal and informal dining areas inside and out.
$2,450,000

OLD NAPLES
Perhaps, the most pastoral location in Naples, Florida. A secluded building opportunity with a panoramic view over one of Naples most iconic lks. The most romantic setting to build a house that will be inspirational, thought provoking, and at the same time calming and pleasurable. $2,595,000

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:
239.357.6628 OR VISIT www.CAMPBELLPREBISH.com
television set to simmer down, with a round fired from a .357 Magnum probably because he no longer could tolerate the sight of Robert Goulet. Billy Fuccillo is the knife in your psyche in that very same way.

When first subjected to his Kia commercials, I was rendered speechless. It was merely an initial, intense salvo of publicity and that this Car Salesman from upstate New York would boldly strike into the shadows. No one, I assumed, could maintain such a sustained barrage of cheese advertising for long.

Day after day, almost as though on a continuing loop, Billy and his fetching blonde sidekick (identified only as “Caroline”) showed up on my television screen, pleading, cajoling and beseeching to buy me a Kia. My own automobile offered no sanctuary, either, as Mr. Fuccillo’s radio ads screamed from every station and radiated over the breadth of Southwest Florida.

But some strange thing happened along the way. The more I was exposed to Mr. Fuccillo’s onslaught, the more I began to appreciate, and dare I say, even enjoy the over-the-top audacity of that quirky little 30-second bits of insanity, which are shot on location at his Cape Coral dealership.

What would he say next? (My favorite assertion to date is that Kia is “the car of the other world.”)

Would he and Caroline ever change their clothes? Would Billy truly lose it and flame out on camera?

In a bizarre way, Mr. Fuccillo’s belittling presence became a comforting constant in my life. I began to speculate about how outrageous the next offering might be. Soon, I was thinking in terms of a scale on a one to 10. Little by little, I found myself drawn into the weird world of Billy Fuccillo.

Many times, Mr. Fuccillo is pictured in his commercials on the telephone, supposedly in the process of berating some stoned banker who is providing affordable financing for one of his downtrodden but deserving customers. But may be he banter is about how many cars he has and how many he needs to sell, as Caroline attempts to get in a word during his high-decibel tirade.

If you live anywhere in Southwest Florida and have access to a television set or a radio, you surely are acquaint ed with Mr. Fuccillo. If you happen to be from New York, then you know him from way back, for that is the center of his automotive empire, and he has flooded the airwaves there for years. He played football as a reserve tight end at Syracuse University, where he earned a degree in 1978 in (guess what?) marketing (his professors — like Dr. Frankenstein — must wonder what they taught him to do on an unsuspecting world). He secured a job as a car salesmen not long after leaving school.

In 1989, he cobbled together enough cash and financing to open a Dodge dealership in N.Y. The home base for Fuccillo Automotive Group, From that unremarkable beginning, his business has grown at an exponential pace. The company today employs about 1,500 people. The foundation of his automotive empire is his aggressive, in-your-face style of promotion.

Mr. Fuccillo, who late last year opened his dealership in Cape Coral, is a bullying, banana-nosed pitch man who concludes his commercials with his trademark promise that everything at his place of business is “HUUUUUGE!”

The Saturn dealership had folded when General Motors discontinued the line. While setting up the business here, he had reached a home run deal with Kia of Cape Coral, the true Billy Fuccillo style, he then ran a promotional contest in New York in which the grand prize was a new automobile and the Cape Coral home. There were more than 10,000 contest entries, and the winner was a schoolteacher in Syracuse. The three-bedroom home and automobile were said to be valued at about $500,000.

Everything in a big way

As one would surmise from his commercials, Mr. Fuccillo is not about doing things small. Everything is “HUUUUUGE!”

He’s also fast to rat race, and keeps a small staff of well-trained professionals. He also is an unabashed gourmand, which is evident from his girth. Indeed, in many of his commercials he waxes longingly about his favorite restaurants in Southwest Florida. In one spot, he notes that he must be careful about entering Blue Martini, which he says entraps him like a spider and would allow more of his corporate staff to travel with him. The Falcon 2000 costs $32.5 million, according to Mr. Fuccillo, and the thirteenth makes the asking price sound like a bargain.

Mr. Fuccillo readily acknowledges that his style of salesmanship is not for everyone. “I want to get a taste of the antipathy that he provokes, peruses the comments on Facebook’s ‘Billy Fuccillo’ page and the written and verbal darts thrown at Mr. Fuccillo. ‘I’d rather buy a car from Charles Manson.

74)

‘Someone, anyone, just please punch him in the face.’

‘His damn commercials almost every 10 minutes?’

‘Can’t the man just lose his voice for good?’

‘He is a huge annoyance.’

‘I cringe when I see these commercials.’

‘He is disgusting.’

Mr. Fuccillo said he was unaware of this Facebook page, and frankly, couldn’t care less if they were there. ‘I can’t even turn on a computer,’ he said. ‘What do I know about Facebook?’

Besides, why should he give two hoots in hell? As he put it: ‘Maybe they don’t love me, but the zeroes still keep adding up in my checkbook.’

Still, even Mr. Fuccillo’s own mother bitches when he yells at her on air. ‘She mutes me,’ he admitted in his interview with The Business Review. ‘When I’m doing the commercials, it seems to be beside the point and, in the end, almost irrelevant. They draw attention and you remember me — which, after all, is the principal point of any advertising.

When first subjected to his Kia commercials, he was rendered speechless. It was merely an initial, intense salvo of publicity and that this Car Salesman from upstate New York would boldly strike into the shadows. No one, I assumed, could maintain such a sustained barrage of cheese advertising for long.

As with any cult figure, devoted followers and haters alike almost every aspect of the man and his advertising. The identity of “Caroline” has been the subject of much speculation. Some suspect she was his daughter or his niece or perhaps something else. “I’ve called Billy’s office and left messages” page. The following answer is none of the above.

In one online posting, a writer at the Atlantic noted that “newsflash: that newspaper’s “latest fixation” was Caro line’s identity. The writer doggedly pursued the mystery.

“Ye called Billy’s office and left two messages over the past three weeks,” she wrote. “Mr. Fuccillo hasn’t hooed back.”

Undeterred, the writer eventually identified Caroline through a talent agency and reported that her full name is Caroline Renfro, and she has a background as a professional spokesperson.

Mr. Fuccillo apparently spotted her doing commercials for a Kia dealership in North Carolina.

No. 1 in the country

Just three months after its opening, Mr. Fuccillo’s Cape Coral Kia dealership ranks No. 1 in sales among Kia’s 730 dealerships nationwide. According to Mr. Fuccillo, “We sold 5,877 new cars last month,” which almost doubled the number sold by Kia’s second-leading dealership, located in Glendale, Arizona.

Things are going so swimmingly, in fact, that last week Mr. Fuccillo closed the grand opening and placed a sign out front that his 100 or so employees to “go have some fun with their families. They have worked 12 to 14 hour days without a break; they deserved it.”

Mr. Fuccillo did not bother to inform Kia of this development, however, and during the hiatus, the company attempted to deliver a shipment of automobiles to the dealership, which was locked down tight when the trucks rolled up.

Mr. Fuccillo (in Atlanta) called me and wanted to know what was going on,” Mr. Fuccillo said jovially. “I told him that they had placed down 120 days to give my people some time off. They thought I was crazy, and I’m not sure they were really happy. But what are you going to do to the guy who sells more of your cars than anyone else?”

It seems safe to assume that Billy Fuccillo will not be leaving Southwest Florida anytime soon. That, of course, means more commercials (lots more commercials). And more repartee with Caroline. And, as always, whatever he does, he does in a way that will — if not on screen or off — will be “HUUUUUGE!”

So brace yourself, and if you are among the legion drooling about the distraction by Mr. Fuccillo’s catherwal ing, here’s some advice: Familiarize yourself with the “mute” button on your remote, and should you own a .357 Magnum, please store it under lock and key. The place for removed from your television set. ■
NETWORKING

The 2011 Imagine Solutions Conference

1. Wilson Bradshaw, John Little, Scott Lutgert and Alan Korest
2. Maureen Terence, Sandy Silvewell, Denise Cobb, Vicki Stephan and Constance Jones
3. Alan Horton in the Wave 2 concept car
4. Alan Korest and Dolly Roberts

We take more society and networking photos at area events than we can fit in the newspaper. So, if you think we missed you or one of your friends, go to www.floridaweekly.com and view the photo albums from the many events we cover. You can purchase any of the photos too.

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

APRIL 18TH
TAX DAY
relief

Buy one, get one more for just 1¢.

At McDonald's®, we know you can use a little relief at tax time. That’s why, on April 18th, when you buy one Quarter Pounder® with Cheese or Big Mac® at the regular price, you get one more of the same for just a penny.
The Motley Fool Take

Cisco gives birth

Cisco Systems (Nasdaq: CSCO) has announced its first-ever cash dividend $0.06 to shareholders of record on April 15. When paid on May 4, it will add roughly $1 a share to investors' accounts.

That translates to an annual dividend yield of about 1.4 percent at the recent share price. At $25 billion in market value and $8 billion shares outstanding, it will cost Cisco about $1.3 billion per year, but will save almost 15 percent of its free cash flow for stock buybacks.

Considering that Cisco already spent some $9 billion over the last 12 months to buy back shares, that makes the dividend a nice little bite out of the buyback program. If I'm the CEO of Cisco, I'd be quite content to return to investors the shares they've been allowing management to buy back. I'm the world's top chemical company, and with some 100,000 employees and 385 production sites globally, I specialize in pharmaceuticals, construction chemicals, petrochemicals, agricultural solutions, and many more. Who am I?

Answer: Bayer & Noble

Write to Us! Send questions to Ask the Fool: Dumbest (or Smartest) Investments (up to 100 words), and your trivia entries to FoolPro@Fool.com or via regular mail to c/o My Dumbest Investment. Got one that worked? Submit to My Smartest Investment. If we print yours, you'll win a Fool's cap!

The Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce holds its 11th annual Island Business Expo on Thurs- day, April 21. To reserve a spot as a vendor, contact Vicki Williams at 231-6051 or via e-mail ktd@ntrs.com.

The Collier County Business Association holds its “Real Estate Snap- shot: Season at a Glance” industry panel at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at Old Naples Country Club, 11010 Collier Blvd., Naples. Tickets are $20 for members, $25 for others. Sign up at www.napleschamber.org.

Cisco is a global provider of networking equipment, software, and consulting services. It is headquartered in San Jose, California, and is one of the world's largest technology companies. The company's current yield isn't big enough to justify buying the stock, according to some analysts.

The Motley Fool Fool School

Defining terms

Cost basis: The price at which an asset is purchased, typically the price paid for the asset. It is used to calculate gains or losses when the asset is sold.

Derivative: A financial contract whose value is derived from the value of another security, such as stocks, bonds, commodities, or future contracts. Derivatives are used for hedging and speculation.

Free cash flow: The cash that's left over after everything — bills from suppliers, salaries for employees, interest on any holiday cash, new equipment to expand the business — is accounted for. Theoretically, free cash flow is the amount of cash a business could issue to shareholders in the form of a dividend check.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): The total value of all goods and services produced within a country in a given time period.

No-load fund: A mutual fund that does not charge sales commissions.

Securities: A fancy name for shares of stock, bonds, or any kind of financial asset that can be traded.

Seasoned investor: An investor with extensive experience in the financial markets.

Ask the Fool Paper profits

What are “unrealized gains”? L.H., Shenshado, Iowa

When you sell an investment, you generally want to realize a gain or loss. If, however, you buy stock in Roadrunner Industries (ticker: BEEEP) at $25 per share and then sell it a few years later at $36, you've realized a gain of $11 per share (less commission costs).

Meanwhile, perhaps you bought shares of Acme Explosives Co. (ticker: EBOOM) at $45 a share and they're now at $55. If you haven't sold any stock, you've got a paper gain (or “paper profit”) of $10 per share. It's your profit in theory only: Since you haven't actually sold the stock, you haven't actually realized the gain.

What do chief financial officers do? G.S., Keene, N.H.

A company's chief financial officer (CFO) is generally the individual who is responsible for managing the company's financial affairs. This includes ensuring that the company's assets are accounted for, and that the company is meeting its financial goals.

The CFO is also responsible for communicating the company's financial condition to stakeholders, such as investors, creditors, and employees. This includes preparing and distributing financial statements, such as income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow statements.

Finally, the CFO has ultimate accountability for maintaining the books and records of the company, ensuring that the company's assets are protected.

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

The Motley Fool Dumbest (or Smartest) Investment for December

Don’t wait

I purchased a company at $0.25 per share when it debuted on the market via an IPO (initial public offering). It’s now around $0.03, and I’m thinking of liquidating my shares before I lose money. Is it a good idea to purchase additional shares now to correct my original entry into this stock? I feel stupid for having bought into this. Help!

R.D., online

The Fool Responds: First off, stocks trading for less than 5¢ or so per share are usually easily manipulated to fleece naive investors. People think that they’re bargains due to their seemingly low prices, but even at 10 cents per share, they may be wildly overvalued. That $0.03 price might look cheap now, but since you wrote us, the stock has fallen pretty much to $0. It’s a common instinct to want to make a loss in a bad stock by either waiting for a turnaround or by buying more shares at a lower price. Don’t do that. Ask yourself what’s the matter with the stock and try to make up the loss in a different, better stock. Focus on quality.

Do you have an embarrassing lesson learned the hard way? Boil it down to 100 words (or less) and send it to The Motley Fool c/o My Dumbest Investment. If we print yours, you’ll win a Fool’s cap!

What’s the real story behind the company’s stock-based compensation expense? I sell roughly 300 million books annually, and try to make up the loss in a different, better stock. Focus on quality.

Cisco's current yield isn't big enough to justify buying the stock, according to some analysts.
The Collier County Medical Society at Kensington Country Club

1. Dr. Howard Freedman and Leonard Ginz
2. DRS. Karen Herrichson and Alan Weiss
3. Anne Beatty and Cindy Roberts
4. Dr. Matly Vavco and Joan Talano
5. DRS. Rebecca Lambert and Jon Sonne
6. Richard Amendola, Amanda Wiesch and Peter Montalbano

Hodges University honors John Fisher III

1. Louis Traina and Lavern Norris Gaynor
2. Debbies and John Sorey
3. Mike Nelson and Jeannette Brock
4. John Fisher III and Terry McMahon
5. Earl Hodges and John Fisher III

The Community Foundation of Collier County awards grants

We take more society and networking photos at area events than we can fit in the newspaper. So, if you think we missed you or one of your friends, go to www.FloridaWeekly.com and view the photo albums from the many events we cover. You can purchase any of the photos too.

Send us your society and networking photos. Include the names of everyone in the picture. E-mail them to society@FloridaWeekly.com.
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WCI Communities debuts one-stop design center

Customers who visit the new WCI Design Studio can see — and touch — the finishing details for their new home. At 24301 Walden Center Drive in Bonita Springs, the home design center is a one-stop destination for buyers to select everything from cabinets, countertops, bath and kitchen fixtures to tile and flooring.

“People who buy in one of our communities visit the design center and make all their selections here instead of driving from one specialty store to another,” says Jason Wyrrick, vice president of purchasing for WCI Communities. “The center offers a variety of designs and material choices — everything our buyers need to make their new home reflect their personalities.” The studio features Moen faucets, Merillat and Masterpiece cabinetry by Masco, Schlage door hardware, terrazzo, international Tile & Stone flooring and Whirlpool appliances.

The WCI Design Studio serves clients who have purchased new in Naples at Tiburon’s newly opened Marquesa Royale and Manchester Square, WCI’s newest community, as well as at Pelican Preserve in Fort Myers. The center’s staff is available by appointment.

WCI Communities’ master-planned lifestyle communities offers traditional single-family and multi-family home choices with prices from the mid-$300,000s to just under $1 million.

WCI adds ClubCorp privileges for members, residents

The golf clubs on ClubCorp’s list are among the best in the United States, Mr. Magnusson says. "We have members already planning trips to play golf in Palm Springs, Myrtle Beach and Pebble Beach. Golfing clubs are in downtown metro areas, he adds.

ClubCorp members who do not live in Southwest Florida now can sample the golf and dining experiences at WCI’s clubs in the region, including Tiburon and Hammock Bay golf clubs in Naples and Pelican Preserve in Fort Myers.

For more information, visit www.WCICommunities.com.

Lot/home package offered in Shadow Wood Preserve

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Southern Bay Homes is offering a lot/home package in Shadow Wood Preserve.

The 90-by-150 foot lot has a golf course view, and the home is Southern Bay’s Jasmine floor plan, with three bedrooms plus den and three baths under 2,534 square feet of air-conditioned living space. The home has a front veranda, a formal dining room and open gourmet kitchen. The great room has pocketing sliders that open to the outdoor living area. Ceilings 12 feet and higher and 8-foot doors are featured throughout. Finishes include custom cabinetry, granite countertops, stone flooring in the main living areas, carpeting in the bedrooms, crown molding and detailed ceiling treatments. The Jasmine package is priced at $665,000.

Shadow Wood Preserve is a 440-acre, gated, master-planned community on the west side of U.S. 41 just south of Alva Road in southern Lee County. The community is bordered by the mangrove-fringed Estero Bay, the Estero Bay Preserve State Park and historic Mullock Creek.

Shadow Wood Preserve features an 18-hole championship golf course, The Preserve, designed by Arthur Hills and built according to Audubon International guidelines. The community also has a full-service clubhouse and golf pro shop as well as an exercise room adjacent to the pro shop. A 2.5-acre park along Mullock Creek includes tennis, picnic areas, tot lot, canoe and kayak launch, restrooms and a screened pavilion. Two miles of walking paths and fitness trails provide additional recreational opportunities.

For more information, call Southern Bay Homes at 948-3404 or visit www.southernbayhomes.com.
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Olé
from the $180's

Alden Woods
from the $240's

Moorgate Point
from the $300's

Players Cove
from the $320's

Lakoya
$389,990 to over $1 million

Cordoba
from the $410's

Martinique
from the $490's

Covington Place
from the $660's

Classics Estate Homes
from over $1 million

This is it!
Your opportunity to tour our collection of 32 brand new model homes at Lely Resort, winner of Community and Clubhouse of the Year for three years in a row!

Just pick up your model home tour map at our Sales Center, and stroll through the gorgeous designer decorated models of your choice. Join us for music and fun from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at both Olé Village Center and The Players Club & Spa.

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Join us Sunday from 12-4pm at Olé for our Farmer’s Market.
MARCO ISLAND'S PREMIER PROPERTY
From the estates private gated entry to its 293 foot seawall on open gulf waters with western views, this home exudes true quality and
elegance...an architectural masterpiece! This home boasts 11,662 square feet of lavish interior living space which includes travertine
marble floors with exquisite inlay designs and masterful wood craftsmanship throughout. 5 bedrooms suites, 6.3 baths, 4 fireplaces,
elevator, exercise room, billiards room, movie theatre, wine room, sauna, spectacular entrance with 33’ original hand painted domed
ceiling and dual staircase are a few of the many features of this stunning estate home. Relax on the expansive 7300+ multi tiered lanai
and enjoy endless sunsets and majestic views of the Gulf of Mexico. Six balconies provide spectacular views and private, tranquil space.
Moor your yacht along the 255’ dock. Private website available for qualified buyers. Price upon request.

MARINERS PALM HARBOR #405
New construction in highly desirable south end of Marco! Walk to beach, water direct(no bridges) boat slips available! 3bd/3.5ba
with den! over 3200SF under air with 5200SF deck completely around unit! Incredible views! Travertine floors, bamboo floor in
den, state of the art kitchen with granite counters, stainless steel appliances! Outdoor kitchen with granite counters, 2 garage spaces
and BUILDER SAYS SELL! Price slashed to $1,099,000

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Cathy Rogers
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cathy@marcoareaexperts.com

Phil Rogers
239-821-7924
phil@marcoareaexperts.com

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GRANDEZZA $309,000
Immaculate and move in ready 2nd floor 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo overlooking the lake & golf course. This professionally decorated residence is the former Oakwood Model, offered furnished. Built in 2004 w/2 car garage.
Debra Gladchun 239-821-0097

2500 Golf Shore Blvd N, #N-2
MOORINGS $295,000
Priced below assessed value! Fabulous location just across from beach access. This 2BR/2BA condo in a small community has been updated & is turnkey furnished. Community pool overlooks Moorings Bay. Perfect for casual Florida living or vacation getaway.
Larry Bresnahan 239-250-4452

GULFSIDE IN PARK SHORE $679,000
Fabulous view of Gulf & beach from this updated 9th floor condo w/tile throughout, renovated kitchen & baths. Directly on the beach & close to Venetian Village for fine dining & upscale shopping. Gulfside is well managed with social, friendly residents. Turnkey!
Garry Moore 239-404-1770

BANYAN WOODS $344,900
Striking & sparkling 3BR/2BA coach home. First floor unit has a 2 car garage and tile throughout. Lanai has a built in electric grille. Features include eat-in kitchen, walk-in closet & elegant master bath. Convenient to community pool, clubhouse & more.
Judy Price 239-595-5000

VILLA WALK OF BONITA SPRINGS $219,900
One-of-a-kind with only the finest upgrades & appointments. This 2BR/2BA 2 story villa features a gourmet kitchen with granite & marble, crown molding, porcelain tile, granite counter tops in baths & more. Private pool, 2 car garage plus DiVosta quality!
Jean Adams 239-269-4538

DEL MAR CLUB $349,000
Across from the Gulf & Lowdermilk Park Close to downtown! Charming 2BR/2BA 1st floor corner unit overlooking pool & lush landscaping. Tile floors, plantation shutters, new AC & appliances. Small, well maintained complex with onsite manager. Furnished.
Carole DiCupero 239-860-1313

VANDERBILT BEACH $949,000
Gorgeous Sunsets, Breathtaking Views & the Sound of the Surf! Upgraded & meticulously maintained, this 7th floor 2BR 2BA beachfront unit is turnkey furnished and features over thirty five feet of unobstructed views of the Gulf.
Barry Brown 239-598-2257

OLDE NAPLES $999,999
Just a block from the beach on Fifth Avenue South in Olde Naples, this dramatic turnkey furnished villa features 3BRs & a den, 2 1/2 BA, a spacious living area, custom kitchen, private courtyard with pool and a garage.
Barry Brown 239-598-2257

VILLAGE WALK OF BONITA SPRINGS $219,900
One-of-a-kind with only the finest upgrades & appointments. This 2BR/2BA 2 story villa features a gourmet kitchen with granite & marble, crown molding, porcelain tile, granite counter tops in baths & more. Private pool, 2 car garage plus DiVosta quality!
Jean Adams 239-269-4538

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Isn’t it time to get back to the beach? PERMANENTLY!
Prices from $799,000 | All developer residences include a private beach club membership

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**Aqualane Shores**
Rare pie-shaped lot. Approx 135’ of waterfront. Quick access to the Gulf of Mexico. $2,499,000

**Bay Colony**
Luxury high rise beachfront condos. Priced from $2 million +

**Moraya Bay**
Brand new luxury beachfront condos from $2.4 million and up

**Luxury Waterfront**
From $2 million in Park Shore to over $10 million in Port Royal

**The Moorings**
SW Gulf views. Over $300K in renovations. 2,076 sq ft. $1,329,000 in The Moorings.

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**Mediterra**
1.27 acres lot. Golf/lake views. New 5bed/5bath. 10,292 total sq ft. $4,995,000 at Mediterra

**2,873 sq ft.** Rarely occupied 2nd floor coach home. Southwest golf course view. $649,500 at Mediterra

**2,876 sq ft.** Offered furnished. Private preserve views. $599,900 at Mediterra

**2,505 sq ft.** 1st floor 3+den/3 bath coach home with spectacular long lake views. $595,000 at Mediterra

**Possibly the best home site available in Cabreo. 2,875 sq ft 3+Den/3.5bath $679,000 at Mediterra**

**Bay Colony**

**REduced $90K!**
Possibly the best home site available in Cabreo. 2,875 sq ft 3+Den/3.5bath $679,000 at Mediterra

**Build your custom Mediterra home on one of the few remaining lots. From $299,000 to over $1M**

**SOLD**
Built in 2007. 3,925 living sq ft. Private lake views. $1,985,500 at Mediterra

**SOLD**
Brand new. 7,316 total sq ft. 1 acre lot. 4bed/4bath. Offered at $2,750,000 at Mediterra

**REDUCED $90K!**
Possibly the best home site available in Cabreo. 2,875 sq ft 3+Den/3.5bath $679,000 at Mediterra

**Open Sun 1-4**

**Open Sun 1-4**

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BAREFOOT BEACH $10,999,999
Unique 8,000 sq ft home, 5BD/5BA with 2 half-baths, stunning panoramic views of the Gulf
LORETTA YOUNG
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SOUTHPORT $2,495,000
Fabulous views from every room! 4-car garage, 4BD/4.5BA, private dock and pool
DOUG GRANT
239-860-0005

COFFAGE AT BAREFOOT BEACH $2,795,000
Elegant Gulf front spacious 4BR+Den/4BA w/ designer touches throughout
DOUG GRANT
239-860-0005

SOUTHPORT $2,295,000
Incredible and spacious bayfront home, over 6,000 sq ft under air, pool/spa, steps to the beach!
DOUG GRANT
239-860-0005

SOUTHPORT $1,195,000
Bayfront home at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac, Spacious 5BD+Den, 3.5 Baths
DOUG GRANT
239-860-0005

SOUTHPORT $1,349,000
Dynamic 4BD+Den/3BA bayfront pool home, newer boat dock with two lifts
DOUG GRANT
239-860-0005

SOUTHPORT $2,295,000
Incredible and spacious bayfront home, over 6,000 sq ft under air, pool/spa, steps to the beach!
DOUG GRANT
239-860-0005

SOUTHPORT $1,895,000
Charming 4BD/4BA home featuring stunning wide Bay views and Gulf access
DOUG GRANT
239-860-0005

SOUTHPORT $1,695,000
Charming 4BD/4BA home featuring stunning wide Bay views and Gulf access
DOUG GRANT
239-860-0005

SOUTHPORT $1,895,000
Magnificent 4BD+Den, 3.5 baths, 2 master suites, gorgeous views
DOUG GRANT
239-860-0005

BAREFOOT BEACH CLUB $899,000
Fabulous Gulf and bay views 3BR/3BA end unit, 2nd floor
DOUG GRANT
239-860-0005

BAREFOOT BEACH CLUB $1,895,000
261 Barefoot Beach #304 3BR/3BA 3rd Floor
DOUG GRANT
239-860-0005

BAREFOOT BEACH CLUB $1,195,000
265 Barefoot Beach #604 2BR/2BA 6th Floor
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BAREFOOT BEACH CLUB $749,900
262 Barefoot Beach #605 3BR/2BA 6th Floor
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239-860-0005

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### VILLAGE WALK VANDERBILT BEACH LOCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Manor</td>
<td>18 of these beauties were built in Village Walk. 4 plus den, 3 1/2 baths, 3 car, with pool.</td>
<td>$389,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3BR, 2.5 Plus Den</td>
<td>Very upgraded pool home on wide easement lot on quiet street. Not for the bargain hunter, but rather for the quality seeker.</td>
<td>$449,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakmont</td>
<td>3BR, 2.5BA, plus den spacious single family home features open floor plan with upgrades including private heated salt pool with lake views. Accordion Hurricane protection for entire home and much more!</td>
<td>$377,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3BR, 2.5 BA plus den</td>
<td>Beauty has the WOW factor for its views. Outstanding Sunset and wide water views from inside and out! Original owners have taken pride in their seasonal home and it shines throughout.</td>
<td>$375,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicely appointed Oakmont model</td>
<td>Offers 3BR, 2.5BA plus den, tile throughout entire home, built-in entertainment center, and large screen lanai with lake views. Desirable location just steps from all amenities.</td>
<td>$349,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra clean Oakmont with real wood floors, full hurricane protection – “turn key” package available.</td>
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### VILLAGE WALK CONTINUED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luxury 3 BR, 2BA</td>
<td>REGENT patio home. Pristine home offers tile throughout, built-in entertainment center, newer A/C, complete hurricane protection, and screened lanai with lake views. In-ground spa and additional landscaping.</td>
<td>$284,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/2 Extended Capri</td>
<td>with custom Nassau pool and spa, new A/C and appliances. Spotless house in the middle of the community.</td>
<td>$279,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lovely 2BR, 2BA</td>
<td>with open floor plan lives like a single family home. Immaculate home offers tile in living areas, custom heated pool with lake views, hurricane shutters and more!</td>
<td>$269,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Manor</td>
<td>Only 18 of these beauties were built in Village Walk. 4 plus den, 3 1/2 baths, 3 car, with pool.</td>
<td>$389,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OTHER FINE NAPLES LOCATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Hammock</td>
<td>Bundled Golf Course living at its finest! 3 plus den with bright Eastern exposure.</td>
<td>$529,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Hammock</td>
<td>2BR, 2BA</td>
<td>$205,000 SHORT SALE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ISLANDWALK VANDERBILT BEACH LOCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exquisite 4BR, 3.5BA</td>
<td>Features totally renovated kitchen that would be a chef’s dream with custom cabinetry, island, sub Zero refrigerator, top of the line Wolf appliances, granite counter, double ovens and more! The home also boast genuine hardwood floors, renovated master bath, private custom pool, complete hurricane protection and much more!</td>
<td>$549,000 MAKE OFFER TODAY!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Causal Elegance 4BR, 3.5BA</td>
<td>Features both formal living and dining, fireplace, custom moldings, and pool with lake views! Pristine Condition. Furnishings Included! Shows Like New!</td>
<td>$499,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town home</td>
<td>Offers 3BA, 2BA and 2 car-garage! Great light and bright end unit offers freshly painted interior, new carpet, and large screen lanai, FRESH and ready to move right in!!</td>
<td>$239,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AN IDEAL NAPLES ADDRESS
A PRICE THAT MAKES SENSE
IT’S THAT SIMPLE

New Model Open!

Amenities that enhance your life.

Whether you’re grilling with friends or letting the kids romp on the playground, the Clubhouse at Manchester Square complements the way you live. Stay in shape at the state-of-the-art fitness center. When you return home, take a relaxing swim in the pool or hit the court for a pick up basketball game.

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$219,990

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Residences of Pelican Isle, Open House Sunday, April 17 1-4pm

**Pelican Isle I #402**
- Great Gulf views, 2677SF, 3.5 Ba, 2 car garage, $849,900

**Pelican Isle II #403**
- 3 Den/3.5 Ba, completely remodeled, 3,000SF & unrl $1,550,000

**Pelican Isle II #405**
- Villa style residence, w/ water views, 2 car garage, $849,000

**Pelican Isle II #406**
- Master suite, new granite st, Gulf views, 3 Den/3.5 Ba. $1,299,900

**Pelican Isle III #403**
- Canalfront, first floor unit, spacious, 2,400SF, $799,000

**Pelican Isle III #402**
- Designer decorated, wood flrs, Gulf views, 2,200SF, $849,900

**Pelican Isle III #401**
- 3 Den/3.5 Ba, completely remodeled, 2,800SF & unrl $1,000,000

**Pelican Isle III #404**
- "Best Buy Admiral" granite kit, end unit 3 Den/3.5 Ba, 2,875SF $1,549,000

**Pelican Isle III #405**
- Canalfront, first floor unit, spacious, 2,400SF, $799,000

**Pelican Isle III #408**
- Master suite, new granite st, Gulf views, 3 Den/3.5 Ba. $1,299,900

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Rental Price: $6,500/month

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Another successful fundraiser, and more great events around town. C29, 31 & 33 ▶

Artists Among Us
Meet expressionist painter Mally Khorasantchi. C9 ▶

ERIC RIEMENSCHNEIDER WAS ONLY 9 OR 10 when he saw the giant faces. His mother took him to the Akron Art Institute to see an exhibit of Chuck Close paintings and Duane Hanson sculptures.

“It was a Chuck Close portrait of a lady, and (it was so big) you could see the pores on her face,” he recalls. “The piece was like 10 feet high… And Duane Hanson (with his life-sized sculpture of) a chubby lady in curlers in the mumu. These people were scattered all around the gallery. It was the coolest thing I’d ever seen in my life.”

In retrospect, he realizes it was a pivotal moment for him. “In my journey in art, that was one of those moments that changed me,” he says.

Now Mr. Riemenschneider is celebrating another milestone: his one-man show.

When Yanni ‘kicks butt,’ it’s kinder, gentler

One thing that quickly becomes apparent in listening to Yanni’s new CD, “The Truth of Touch,” is that with several songs, this isn’t the same lush and pastoral music that prompted many to call him an originator of new age music. “Voyager,” “Flash of Color” and especially “Vertigo” display a new rhythmic heft that Yanni, who performs at thePhilharmonic Center for the Arts at 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, has rarely brought to his music.

“Yes, it’s very dominant,” he says. “The rhythmic content of the album is definitely more assertive, a little more Westernized than I normally do. I just felt like it. It was time. I just wanted to kick some butt. Can you print that?” Just did, actually.

But don’t panic, Yanni fans. Kicking butt Yanni-style is a far kinder and gentler proposition than kicking butt in a Metallica sort of way. Consider it more...
The sassy advice columnist at online site The Rumpus recently responded to a request from a young reader. “What would you tell your 20-something self if you could talk to her now?” she asked.

“Stop worrying about whether you’re fat,” the columnist wrote. “You’re not fat. Or rather, you’re fat,” the columnist wrote. “You’re not fat or rather, you’re fat,” I joked.

“Better than before.” He nodded, very serious. “You are,” he said. He looked nice on you.” Well. At least there’s that. Here’s to the jaay fonde lovers of the world.

SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

The sassy advice columnist at online site The Rumpus recently responded to a request from a young reader. “What would you tell your 20-something self if you could talk to her now?” she asked.

“I’m getting fat,” I joked. He nodded, very serious. “You are,” he said. “But it looks nice on you…”
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show of oil paintings at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in downtown Fort Myers. Titled "America" and touted as "a collection of large-scale portraits that depict the beauty and complexity of the everyday man," the exhibit runs through April 23.

A people person

“I always loved people,” he says. “There was something about faces, drawing faces.”

In school, he’d draw portraits of his teachers and classmates in the margins of his notes.

But it took Mr. Riemenschneider a while to find his way to art. Right after high school, he studied premed, but was then dropped out of college.

It wasn’t until he was 30 years old, with a wife, a baby and another on the way, that he decided to study art. He went to the Ringling College of Art & Design in Sarasota and graduated with a BFA in illustration.

“I was a non-traditional student,” he says. “I was paying my own way. I had my eyes open. I was there to sponge up as much information as I could.”

There was a variety of ages in the classes, he says, but there was one constant: “Everyone was there for the same reason: be as creative as they could be, and bring everything they had every day.

Shawn Barber, one of his professors, did a series of realistic portraits of tattoo artists and moved out to Los Angeles.

“I look at him as a mentor,” Mr. Riemenschneider says. “I didn’t copy his style, but his work ethic. He would come in the next day with this completed painting that he hadn’t started until the end of the (previous) school day. I realized that I had that same ability to just commit to the work and do what I know and not question it.”

When he decided to go to art school, he applied for and won a Robert Rauschenberg Scholarship from BIG Arts on Sanibel Island. Years later, as a waiter at the Captiva Art Café, he had met the acclaimed artist.

“He was a genius,” he says about Mr. Rauschenberg. “It was a little bit like meeting the Wizard of Oz from behind the curtain. It demystified the whole world of art to me, and made it very approachable.”

“I think just seeing that he used the same wood, the same paint that I could buy, a lot of the same stuff, made me think: ‘Oh, so I just have to do it.”

“My wife Katie kicked my butt and said, ‘Go to Ringling and follow your dreams.”

After graduating, he did graphic design for a few years before he started painting portraits.

“I know all these characters, and I mean that in the best way,” he says. “People with personality. Not pretty, perfect people. They’re comfortable in their own skin. People that aren’t in magazines or on the covers. I think they’re cool because of what’s inside them, and some of it comes out in their expressions.”

So he did a portrait of Jose, who cleans classrooms at Lexington Middle School, where Mr. Riemenschneider teaches art. (Last year he was named Teacher of the Year in Lee County, received an Angel of the Arts Award for Teacher of the Year, and was a Golden Apple Teacher of Distinction.)

Sometimes Jose would stop by his classroom and watch him paint after school, until it dawned on Mr. Riemenschneider: “I need to paint him!”

He calls the work “My Friend,” because that’s what Jose always calls him. Then there’s Sheldon, whose wife is the Riemenschneider’s postal carrier. Sheldon came to the house to buy their refrigerator.

“My wife saw him and said, ‘My husband’s going to want to paint you.’ He said, ‘That’s cool.’

‘Sheldon’ shows a man in a steel-blue shirt and a long, white beard that reaches to the middle of his chest. ‘That beard has a personality all its own,” Mr. Riemenschneider says. “It’s not Santa. It’s just cool.”

He’ve painted old friends, students, people he’s run into and finds interesting. He’s painted Jupiter One, a band from Brooklyn.

“ Humphrey,” the man with brown cap, green hoodie, earrings and a cigarette tucked behind one ear, is the roommate of a friend from Ringling.

“I always loved people,” he says. “There was something about faces, drawing faces.”
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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

**THEATER**

- **Blithe Spirit** – By Gulfshore Playhouse through April 23 at the Norris Center. (866) 811-4111 or www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org.

- **Rabbit Hole** – By The Naples Players at the Tobylo Studio at the Sugden Community Theatre through April 20-May 15 at the Sugden Community Theatre. 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.


- **King O’ the Moon** – By Florida Repertory Theatre, Fort Myers, through April 24. 332-4488 or www.floridarep.org.

- **Suit My Heart** – By Florida Gulf Coast University Theatre Lab and Footsteps to the Future through April 17 in the Theatre Lab at FGCU. 590-7268.

- **My Fair Lady** – By Florida Gulf Coast University Theatre Lab and Footsteps to the Future through April 17 in the Theatre Lab at FGCU. 590-7268.

**SYMPHONY**

- **Final Performance** – The Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra presents “MasterWorks 85,” the last performance of its 2010-11 50th Anniversary Season, at 8 p.m. April 16 at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers. Maestro Michael Hall discusses the program at 7 p.m. 481-4888 or www.wflso.org.

- **Pops Sounds** – The Naples Philharmonic Orchestra performs “Pops Suite My Heart – right. Well-behaved canine companions are welcome to accompany their owners. Adoptable pets from Brookie’s Legacy Animal Rescue will be on hand, so representatives from Camp Bow Wow, doggie fashions from Kiwi Couture and treats from Top Dog Kitchen.

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

- **Sweet Art Gallery hosts the opening reception for “Pets in Paradise” from 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 15. Included in the new exhibit are Madelon Gorsky’s “Lover Boy,” above left, and “Moon Over Heart,” right. Well-behaved canine companions are welcome to accompany their owners. Adoptable pets from Brookie’s Legacy Animal Rescue will be on hand, so representatives from Camp Bow Wow, doggie fashions from Kiwi Couture and treats from Top Dog Kitchen. Sweet Art Gallery is at 2046 Trade Center Way, North Naples. Call 597-2110 or visit www.sweetartgallery.com.

- **Sunset Jazz** – Jazz violinist Doug Cameron performs with David John-son, Bill Peterson and Jim Gasior at the Alliance of the Arts in Fort Myers at 8 tonight and Saturday. $20. 966-2787 or www.artineed.org.

- **Eggsactly!** – Waterside Shops hosts an egg hunt and morning of fun with the Easter Bunny from 9-11 a.m. www.watersideshops.com.

- **Pet Blessings** – Rev. Rich-and Rogers conducts a blessing of the animals from 9-11 a.m. at Unity of Naples, 2000 Unity Way. Bring your pet in a carri-er or on a leash, or bring a picture of your pet. 775-3009, ext. 11.

- **Harvest Time** – The Immokalee Har-vest Festival starts at 10:30 a.m. and includes a parade and lots of food, entertainment and fun. 677-3237 or ecss@comcast.net.

- **Shirley Street 16** – Visit the galleries and meet the artists at 5760 and 5850 Shirley St. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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WHAT TO DO

Making Waves – The Southern Extreme Water-Ski Team performs from 4-6 p.m. at Miromar Outlets.

Tuesday, April 19

Opera Program – The South-west Florida Opera Society presents “Opera at the Library: History of the Neapolitan Song” at 6:30 p.m. at South Regional Library. Enjoy songs by tenors Enrico Caruso, Mario Lanza and Luciano Pavarotti. 252-7542.

Wednesday, April 20

Wine & Fun – Wednesday Night Out at the Naples Botanical Garden presents music by Robert and a wine tasting by Artichoke & Co. from 6-9 p.m. www.naplesgarden.org or 643-7275.

Dream Houses – Bamboo Café French Home Cooking hosts a luncheon with the author and photographer of “Dream Houses: Historic Beach Homes & Cottages of Naples” from noon to 3:30 p.m. April 21. $25 per person. 643-6277 or www.bamboocafe-naples.com.

Singing Comedy – The Axis Of Awesome performs April 21-24 at the Off The Hook Comedy Club on Marco Island. 389-6900.

Innovative Dance – Diavolo performs at 8 p.m. April 21 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

Baubles & Bangles – Marissa Collections features a Tamara Comolli jewelry trunk show April 21-23 at 1167 Third St. S. 687-1148 or www.marissacollections.com.


Spamalot – The Tony Award-winning musical “Monty Python’s Spamalot” plays April 22-23 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

Eggs In The Garden – Kids can hunt for eggs from 9-11:30 a.m. April 23 at the Naples Botanical Garden. 643-7275 or www.naplesgarden.org.

Summer Trunk Show – The Worth Collection presents its summer trunk show from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 22-28 at 380 10th St. S. 860-3100 or www.worthny.com.

Florida Contemporary – The Florida Contemporary Exhibition is on view at the Naples Museum of Art April 23-June 30. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

Rock Opera – The Trans-Siberian Orchestra performs at 7:30 p.m. April 24 at Germain Arena. 948-7825 or www.meridarena.com.

It’s Not Unusual – Tom Jones performs at 8 p.m. April 25 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

Send calendar listings to events@floridaweekly.com. Plain e-mail, jpeg or Word documents, please. No pdfs.

Upcoming Events

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Before “King O’ the Moon” starts every night at Florida Repertory Theatre, Bob Dylan’s “The Times They Are A Changin’” begins to play.

Director Robert Cacioppo couldn’t have picked a more appropriate song, because “King O’ the Moon” is a play about transition — societal, religious, familial and personal.

It’s set in July 1969, just when astronauts are about to land on the moon for the first time and the country’s youth are still being shipped off to Vietnam to die.

This Tom Dudzick play is a sequel to his “Over the Tavern” and part of a planned trilogy focusing on the Pazinkis family in Buffalo, NY. The first in the series has played at the Florida Rep in an earlier season, but it’s not necessary to have seen it in order to appreciate the second; it’s self-contained.

You don’t have to be Catholic, either, like the Pazinkis, though I suspect if you are, it might deepen your appreciation and understanding of the play.

Son Rudy (Jason Parrish), who’s studying to be a priest and who’s had a close bond with his dad, has gone AWOL from seminary and arrives home after participating in his first anti-war demonstration. Meanwhile, his brother, Eddie (Jacob Womack), who’s just gone through boot camp, is about to be shipped off to Vietnam.

Eddie’s pregnant wife, Maureen (Rachel Lomax), was formerly one of the neighborhood’s easy girls, which upsets Rudy and Eddie’s sister, Annie (Claire K. Guy), who’s having marital problems. The fourth sibling is Georgie (Adam Jones), who’s developmentally challenged. Everyone looks after him.

Their mother, Ellen (Carrie Lund) watches over them all with patience and exasperated love. And, unknown to the kids, she and her late husband’s best friend, Walter (Mark Chambers), who works in the family tavern, have been dating. He wants to marry her.

There’s lots going on, but it’s easy to follow, because Mr. Dudzick breaks up the action into short scenes and doesn’t get too deep. This isn’t “All My Sons.”

It also isn’t “August: Osage County,” which was the Rep’s previous offering. Both the Pazinkis and the Cabot family, but the play’s pace couldn’t be more unlike in tone and approach.

“King O’ the Moon” is more light-hearted fare, simple and sweet.

Mr. Dudzick has been called “the Catholic Simon,” and I could agree with that assessment if the lines were consistently funny. This script has some great ones, but on opening night there were some that missed. He’s supposed to be in advertising, but he seems to depend more upon his muscles than his wit or brain. He and Maureen are perfectly suited for each other: She’s a dim bulb, too, but shows a lot more sass. Mr. Womack’s portrayal of the soldier-to-be Mr. Parrish portrays his war hero-to-be role as Georgie seems the most risky. It could turn into an off-putting caricature, but the actor makes him into a sweet, expressive young man. (His impersonation of their late father is hilarious.)

Mr. Jones’s role as Georgie seems the most risky. It could turn into an off-putting caricature, but the actor makes him into a sweet, expressive young man. (His impersonation of their late father is hilarious.)

I’ve seen him a number of times now, and he never fails to impress. His recent show at Sarasota’s Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall just underscored what I already know: The man is a consummate performer, at the top of his craft.

Backed by a 12-piece orchestra as well as a bassist and drummer, he opened with “The Way You Look Tonight,” one of the standards he performed on Broadway last summer (15 sold-out shows at the Neil Simon Theatre).

“It’s a beautiful place...(pause)...on the inside,” he said of the venue. “I never saw a place like this...purple paint!”

The audience laughed.

“I never know what I’m going to play,” he told them. “Probably no Black Sabbath. Maybe some Deep Purple,” he joked, taking another jab at the Van Wezel’s purple exterior.

Mr. Parrish’s Ryder is idealistic, loving, conflicted. It takes a long time to build up to it, but his closing monologue — a “state of the family” speech to an empty chair symbolizing their late father — is funny and poignant.

The entire play takes place in the Pazinkis’ backyard. And set designer Robert Wolin has given us a highly realistic one. Beyond a fence is the rest of the neighborhood — the noisy neighbor’s house and, almost in dead center, the dome and stained-glass windows of the Catholic church, which stands as a silent sentinel and overshadows everything this family does.

“King O’ the Moon” has moments of humor and moments of sweetness and, though set in upstate New York, should appeal to Southwest Florida’s many Midwestern transplants and snowbirds.

It portrays a family in transition living in a nation in transition. It also demonstrates that sometimes, when you reach for the moon, you don’t have to settle for stars. Sometimes you can grasp the very thing you want. ■

Connick Jr. at the top of his craft

It’s a beautiful place...(pause)...on the inside,” he said of the venue. “I never saw a place like this...purple paint!”

The audience laughed.

“I never know what I’m going to play,” he told them. “Probably no Black Sabbath. Maybe some Deep Purple,” he joked, taking another jab at the Van Wezel’s purple exterior.

He delivered a tender version of the Beatles’ “And I Love Her,” then went to the piano and started talking about great New Orleans pianists such as Jelly Roll Morton and Professor Longhair, demonstrating their piano styles. “That’s how ‘Fess would play,” he declared, then showed how others would add their own variation and flavor.

His attire — a dark suit with a white button-down shirt open at the collar — is a perfect metaphor for his shows, which are always professional but also very informal.

When host trombonist Lucien Barbarin came out to play, the two jammed on “How Come You Do Me Like You Do?” with Mr. Connick hammering it up, serenading Mr. Barbarin. He even picked up a trumpet and played. The two danced about the stage with glee, at one point even stepping across the front of the stage, their backs to the audience, wiggling their posteriors, to the great joy of the crowd.

When guest trumpeter Wendell Brunious joined them, all three took turns soloing on “The Sheik of Araby.” At one point, Mr. Connick encouraged the crowd to chant “without your pants on” after each line. The concert had transformed into a giant New Orleans party, with dancing, singing and ad libbing.

“This is how they do in New Orleans,” Mr. Connick said.

It was an exhilarating, joyful, triumphant night, and even though Mr. Connick came out for an encore, performing “Mardi Gras in New Orleans,” you couldn’t help but wish for more. ■

It’s Springtime...You’ve got some celebrating to do

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

MALLY KHORASANITCHI

>> What is your medium of choice?
Oil and oil sticks.

>> Where can we see your work?
My work is currently part of the public art program at the Tampa airport. Several pieces are also on display at the Miromar Design Center in Estero and at Judith Liegeois Designs, 851 Fourth Ave. S. in Naples.

>> Are you working on any special projects?
I am working on a series called “Genesis.”

>> How would you describe your style?
Expressionistic. I like working large and spontaneously as I strive to explore the connection between the spiritual and the real, between nature and culture. Bright, vibrant colors express my light-hearted spirituality and the joy in my life.

>> What inspires you?
I am inspired by nature, the continuum of all living things and the universal struggle to survive.

>> What do you work?
I share a studio with artist Jane Borchers on Shirley Street.

>> What are you reading?
“Mayflower” by Nathaniel Philbrick.

>> Tell us about your background.
I immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1992 and became an American citizen in 2006. I have traveled extensively through the U.S. and am captivated by its wild, unspoiled natural landscape — so different from the overcrowded Europe of my youth.

>> Are you involved in other activities?
I am serving as president of the board of directors for the United Arts Council of Collier County. I am also a graduate of Greater Naples Leadership. 

— Artists Among Us is provided by the United Arts Council of Collier County. The council promotes all the arts in Collier County and provides education in the arts for at-risk students. For more information and a calendar of arts and cultural events, call 263-8242 or visit www.CollierArts.com.

Marco student sculptors have exhibit

The sculpture department of the Art League of Marco Island is having its seventh annual exhibit April 15-21. An opening reception takes place the evening of Friday, April 15. The show represents the culmination of many weeks of focused work for sculpture students who have transformed rough blocks of stone into polished pieces of fine art.

Frank de la Roche of Ontario, Canada, runs the Art League of Marco Island’s sculpture program with assistance from Joe Cooper. Student sculptors work in various types of stone, ranging from the harder stones of marble, African wonderstone and black chlorite, to softer stones such as alabaster and soapstone. Materials come from quarries throughout the United States and Canada. The students work on the outside deck of the art building in an atmosphere of focus, fun and camaraderie. For more information, call the Art League of Marco Island at 294-4221.
**FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES**

**APRIL SHOWERS**

**HOROSCOPES**

- **ARIES** (March 21 to April 19)
  Impatience is still somewhat of a problem. But a sign of progress should soothe the anxious Aries heart. Meanwhile, invest some of that waiting time in preparing for the change ahead.

- **TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20)
  Bovines tend to excel at solving problems, not creating them. But you risk doing just that if you’re slow to respond to a timely situation. If necessary, seek advice from someone you trust.

- **GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20)
  The Gemini Twin might need to do more than a routine check of both job-linked and home-based situation. Dig deeper for more data on both fronts to avoid unwanted surprises later.

- **CANCER** (June 21 to July 22)
  Moon Children facing an important workplace decision are encouraged to use their perceptiveness to see through any attempt to win them over with a supercharge of fawning and flattery.

- **LEO** (July 23 to August 22)
  Good news catapults Leos and Leonas into reconsidering a deferred decision. But time has moved on, and it’s a good idea to recheck your plans and make adjustments where necessary.

- **VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22)
  The week favors relationships, both personal and professional. Take the time to look for and immediately repair any vulnerable areas caused by unresolved misunderstandings.

- **LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22)
  A friend’s problems bring out your protective instincts. Be careful to keep a balance between meeting the obligations of friendship without being overwhelmed by them.

- **SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21)
  Try to see the person behind the image. It will help you adjust more easily to the changes that new authority figures inevitably bring.

- **SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21)
  Music helps restore the Aquarian’s spiritual energies this week. Take someone you care for to a concert of your musical choice. Also, expect news about a workplace matter.

- **CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19)
  Use the assistance of a third party to help resolve problems that threaten to unravel an important agreement.

- **AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18)
  Music helps restore the Aquarian’s spiritual energies this week. Take someone you care for to a concert of your musical choice.

- **PISCES** (February 19 to March 20)
  A challenge that seems easy enough at first could take an unexpected turn that might test your resolve. Decide if you feel you should stay with it, or if it’s better to move in another direction.

**BORN THIS WEEK:**

- You can be strong when standing up for justice, both for yourself and for others.

**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:**

- **★ ★ ★** 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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LATEST FILMS

‘Hanna’

In the opening moments of the woefully illogical and ridiculous “Hanna,” Hanna (Saoirse Ronan) kills an elk and guts it. Then her father beats the crap out of her. Not for killing the elk, mind you, but for her own good, so that makes it OK.

You see, dad is a rogue ex-C.I.A. agent named Erik (Eric Bana) who’s training his 16-year-old daughter to be an assassin, and she had her back turned.

Some fathers want their daughters to be doctors or lawyers. Erik wants his little girl to kill. I don’t feel comfortable judging the parenting of others, but... yeah.

They live in the frigid, desolate Arctic. Why? Because Erik wants to be far away from Marissa (Cate Blanchett), a CIA agent who once worked with Erik. Marissa has a vested interest in Hanna — and no, it’s not because Hanna is her long-lost daughter, even if the trailers try to get you to believe that’s the film’s “twist.”

After teaching Hanna German, Italian, Spanish and other languages but never exposing her to electricity, for reasons never explained Erik allows Hanna to tell Marissa where they are and a game of cat-and-mouse ensues. For help, Marissa hires Isaac (Tom Hollander), whom she meets in a sex club as they watch a transvestite perform. But that’s not the unusual part.

The unusual part is that Isaac is supposed to be a maniacal killer, and all he wears are tracksuits. I don’t care who you are, what you do or how deviously quirky you might seem, no one — and I mean no one — looks tough in a tracksuit.

As she’s on the run, Hanna meets a British family and befriends Sophie (Jessica Barden), who’s her age. It’s here, among other places, that director Joe Wright’s movie gets into trouble: There’s simply no time for Hanna’s coming-of-age drama, and every time the thrill of the chase heightens, the momentum is undone by Hanna embracing her girlhood.

What’s even worse, as the plot twists unfold, the story by Seth Lochhead and David Farr gets harder and harder to believe. Information is deliberately kept from the audience and also from major characters much longer than it should be. When key points are revealed, they aren’t logically consistent with everything that’s come before.

What “Hanna” does well: The action scenes are nicely choreographed, especially one long tracking shot in which Erik walks into a train station, beats up five thugs and then walks out the other side, all in one shot. Like the movie or not, that scene is pretty impressive from a filmmaking standpoint, and it nicely articulates how everyone seems to be coming at Erik and Hanna at once.

Unfortunately there’s nothing else to love about “Hanna,” which is decent at best and a total disappointment at worst. ■

— Dan Hudak is the chairman of the Florida Film Critics Circle and a nationally syndicated film critic. You can e-mail him at dan@hudakonhollywood.com and read more of his work at www.hudakonhollywood.com.
Artists of the Shirley Street 16 welcome visitors to gallery tour

The next open house and gallery tour of the Shirley Street 16 takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17, at 5760 and 5850 Shirley St. off Pine Ridge Road in North Naples.

Among the participating artists are painter Joan Osborn-Dunkle and potter Annabelle Johnson.

A Naples resident for 15 years, Ms. Osborn-Dunkle has taught art for 30 years and works in various mediums, including acrylic, collage, watercolor and pastel. Her pieces often include found objects that “pay homage to the process of time and reveal a fundamental link to the past, present and future of our lives by their honesty, simplicity and beauty.” She works daily, year round, at The Kelley | Dunkle Studio, 5760 Shirley Street.

A self-taught potter, Ms. Johnson moved to Naples with her husband more than 20 years ago. Although she had been fascinated with pottery her entire life, it was in Naples that she met a mentor who inspired her to take risks with her work and convinced her that she could make a career from her artistic endeavors. Now her work can be found in several galleries around the country.

Ms. Johnson works primarily with functional white or terracotta earthenware. Brightly colored glazes applied to her wares are all custom made in her Naples studio. The local environment is evident throughout her work with dragonflies, geckos, fish and the occasional Labrador retriever decorating every piece.

Annabelle Johnson Pottery is at 5850 Shirley St. Ms. Johnson can be found every Saturday morning at the Third Street Farmers Market in Old Naples, and her custom works are available in the gift shop at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples.

Other participating artists in the Shirley Street 16 are: Cynthia and Steve Adams, Karen Barrow, Eric and Jessica Crabtree, Susan Doerflinger, Nancy Hall, Sandra Jackoboice, Alice Jacobs, Shirley Kelley, Carol Lader, Lynn Lescutoff, Patty Mayhew, Deborah Martin, Susan Alexander Shipman, Gerry Crow Roeder and Tamrra Sigler. Meet them all and learn about their work at the open house this weekend.
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It’s true: ‘Rumors’ is on its way

In New York’s Sneden’s Landing, four couples of high society gather for a rendezvous and face increasingly unusual and hilarious circumstances. Such is the setting for “Rumors,” the Naples Players’ second spring comedy, presented April 20-May 15 at the Sugden Community Theatre.

The story begins with the deputy mayor of New York having shot himself in the ear while hosting a dinner party in which his wife has gone missing. The situation is exacerbated as events become ever more chaotic, and the affluent and image-conscious guests attempt to cover things up from the police and everyone else.

The Naples Player’s production of Neil Simon’s classic comedy is directed by Pat Ashton, who previously directed the company’s “You Can’t Take It With You” and who starred in the group’s satirical comedy, “Greater Tuna.”

The ensemble cast of “Rumors” features Jim Corsica, Diane Davis, Bianca Embley, Matt Flynn and Shelley Gothard.

The Naples Players’ production of Neil Simon’s classic comedy is directed by Pat Ashton, who previously directed the company’s “You Can’t Take It With You” and who starred in the group’s satirical comedy, “Greater Tuna.”

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Gulfshore Playhouse announces a diverse lineup of lively productions for its Sensational Sixth Season in 2011-12.

The company's fifth season concludes April 23 with the final performance of "Blithe Spirit" at the Norris Center.

Opening the season for 2011-12 will be the world premiere of "Handle with Care," Oct. 28-Nov. 20 (preview Oct. 27). The play by Jason Odell Williams is the story of Ayelet, an Israeli girl who is dragged by her grandmother on a road trip to America in search of a dream. Despite a botched DHL delivery, an unexpected blizzard and an ill-equipped translator who is not really cut out for the job, the clues her grandmother deftly leaves behind eventually lead Ayelet to find what she didn't even know she was looking for: her destiny.

The playwright and his wife, Charlotte Cohn, will star in the Gulfshore Playhouse production. Three of Mr. Williams' plays have been produced in New York this season. Ms. Cohn, a former lieutenant in the Israeli army, won an Ovation Award for her performance in Baz Luhrmann's production of "La Boheme" on Broadway.

David Mamet's 2009-2010 Broadway hit about a racially charged lawsuit, "Race," will play Jan. 27-Feb. 12, 2012 (preview Jan. 26). Three attorneys, two black and one white, are offered a chance to defend a white man charged with a crime against a black woman. The plot unfolds as the lawyers and defendant grapple with the evidence of the case and their own feelings. A true case of "He said, she said," "Race" makes audiences question what they thought, what they heard and what they think they know.

Ken Ludwig's hilarious romp, "A Fox on the Fairway" pulls the rug out from underneath the stuffy denizens of a private country club. Filled with mistaken identities, slamming doors and over-the-top romantic shenanigans, the playwright's brand new tribute to the great English farces of the 1930s and 1940s runs at The Norris Center March 2-18, 2012 (preview March 1).

For the fourth and final show of 2011-12, Gulfshore Playhouse will present Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire," playing April 6-27, 2012 (preview April 5). 2012 will mark the 65th anniversary of the Pulitzer Prize-winning classic that follows the story of Blanche DuBois on a desperate prowl for someplace in the world to call her own.

Three- and four-show season subscriptions are on sale now. Single tickets will be available for purchase beginning May 1. For more information, call 261-7529 or visit www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org.

Sixth season for Gulfshore Playhouse will open with a world premiere

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- Fundraising experience
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YANNI
From page C1
of a gentle bruise instead of a full-on boot impression.

And “Truth of Touch” is still very identifiable as Yanni. The album’s more delicate tracks include the title song as well as “Can’t Wait” (one of three vocal tunes on the otherwise instrumental CD) and “Guilty Pleasure.” And even the punchier songs remain melodically rich and bathed in the blend of synthesizers, piano and orchestral-type tones that are Yanni trademarks.

“I think ‘Truth of Touch’ is going to surprise people,” he says. “It still sounds like Yanni and the record is me, but it’s not typical Yanni. I think I gave it a different life, a different soul, a different spirit... the same heart, the same soul, but a little older.”

The direction the new CD took was not something Yanni predetermined. In fact, as much as any of the albums he has released in his 25-year career, “Truth of Touch” happened spontaneously, taking shape almost before the artist realized he was making a new CD.

He’d been working non-stop, in the studio every day between tours, for four years, when, “All of a sudden there was a six-month period where things just went to a standstill,” he says. “Then one night I thought why don’t I just go and play some music like the old days, when I’d just walk into the studio, dim the lights a bit and just think — think of music, feel it... I went in there and I was so full of things to say, from so many years of traveling and so many new experiences in life.”

With no concept or direction to follow, he says he found himself going with whatever inspiration surfaced at the moment. “I was having fun with sound design, coming up with new sounds,” he says.
He continued to write (he says he has about 300 unreleased songs written) and eventually saw a group of songs that seemed to form the core of a new CD. Along the way, he did something he has only done occasionally over the years: collaborate with an outside writer on songs.

Producer/songwriter Miklos Malek, who has worked with Jennifer Lopez, Faith Evans, Jessica Andrews and Donna Summer, among others, is credited on five of the 15 songs on “Truth of Touch.” Yanni and Mr. Malek connected through Yanni’s producer, Ric Wake. “Miklos is a great composer,” Yanni says, adding the two never even got together in the same place as they worked on the CD. “He was working in Los Angeles. I would send him ideas and he would work on them and send some of his ideas back.”

Pleased with the results, Yanni now looks forward to more collaboration with Mr. Malek. “He had some really nice ideas.”

With “Truth of Touch” now out, Yanni is back on tour. Based on shows he played in Latin America earlier this year, he believes he’s hit a new peak with the mostly instrumental act. “I have a couple of vocal pieces,” he says, “but they’re surprises. I think it’s the best orchestra I’ve ever had. And this is the best tour, the best concert I’ve ever put together, because the choice of material goes from the very beginning of my career all the way to the latest album. “It’s all of the highlights of what I think people have enjoyed, plus a few good surprises.”

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KOVELS: ANTIQUES

Deceptive advertising has been a problem for centuries. The “cures” of Victorian times were promoted with posters, trade cards, almanacs, recipe books, calendars and other testimonials. One of the prominent makers of cures, remedies and hair and skin products was James C. Ayer & Co. From 1838-1841, Mr. Ayer worked in an apothecary shop in Connecticut. He studied the Harvard College suggested curriculum for chemistry and also studied medicine with a doctor. He bought the drugstore, sold his own remedies and eventually owned multiple stores, factories and other investments that made him a wealthy man.

He died in 1878, and and 1886 his family sold the business to Sterling Products. One of his most famous products, Ayer’s Hair Vigor, was advertised as a “coloring and dressing” that could prevent and cures hair loss and “restore gray hair to its natural vitality and color.” Restoring was really dying, but this was just a tiny exaggeration compared with the claims for other Ayer’s products. One said it restored your health after a malaria attack. Another promised a “youthful appearance.”

An Ayer’s hair product was still for sale in the 1930s. The colorful Ayer’s bottles, posters and printed material with unusual graphics are popular with today’s collectors.

Q: In 1980 I paid $500 for a hand-carved and inlaid coffee table that was a floor sample in an interior design company’s Cincinnati showroom. The name “John Widdicomb” is stamped on the underside of the tabletop. Can you tell me what the table’s market value is today?

A: John Widdicomb Co. was in business in Grand Rapids, Mich., from 1897 until 2002, when the company closed and its name was sold to L. & J.G. Stickley, Inc., of Manlius, N.Y. Stickley now sells a “John Widdicomb Collection” of traditional pieces. John Widdicomb Co. was known for its high-end designs, which might include your table. Pieces were marked in various ways through the years, but the simple mark “John Widdicomb” was used from the mid-1950s until the mid-1970s. If your table is in good shape, it could sell for $500 or more.

Q: We have a quilt that has been handed down in our family. It’s made of 36 small flannel flags of countries around the world surrounding a larger 48-star American flag. I think the small flags, each about 5 by 8 inches, were some kind of product premium. Can you tell me more?

A: Little national flags made of flannel...
KOVELS: ANTIQUES

were tobacco inserts first used in 1912. It was in July of that year that the American flag started to be made with 48 stars - and it stayed that way until Alaska was admitted to the Union in 1959. Collectors often refer to the flannel tobacco premiums as “blankets.” The flags were either wrapped around the tobacco package or inserted in a little envelope inside the package. They came in several sizes and were intended to be used for sewing into bedspreads and pillowcases. So it’s not surprising that one of your relatives used them to make a quilt. Collectors of old tobacco inserts want unsewn single flags. But some collectors like quilts made from the flags. We have seen quilts like yours sell for as little as $50 and as much as $1,000. Price depends on condition, size and where the quilt is offered for sale.

Q: I buy junk jewelry from thrift stores and usually take pieces apart to make my own designs. I don’t want to take something apart that’s valuable, though. So how do I know if a piece is valuable?

A: What you find in a thrift store may indeed be junk. But it also could be vintage costume jewelry. First get a magnifying glass and check out the backs and clasps of any jewelry you find. Any piece with a mark should not be taken apart, at least not until you check who made it. Once you can make out the mark, check the Internet or books on costume jewelry to learn who used the mark. The Kovels have written two special reports on identifying good costume jewelry. They are available via the Store link at Kovels.com. Costume jewelry is very popular today, so you want to take care of any good pieces you find. Many marked pieces can sell for hundreds of dollars each.

Tip: When regluing loose rungs or parts of chairs, remove old glue with vinegar. Drip it into any holes with a small oil can.

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

James W. Hall’s recurring character, Thorn, is among my favorite reluctant heroes. Now in his 11th outing, Thorn (don’t you love guys with one name?) forsakes his usual association with the Florida Keys and runs into new kinds of trouble as a landholder with the goal of saving an enormous tract in south-central Florida from development. Well, no, the set-up is not as simple as that. Thorn has inherited an extensive patch of real estate east of Sarasota that he has agreed to sell to a state program of real estate east of Sarasota that he has agreed to sell to a state program of real estate. But will he? Is our hero Thorn kidnapped soon after? What is Gustavo’s motive? Why is Florida’s Gov. Sanchez visiting that day? And why is our hero Thorn kidnapped soon after?

As one might expect, behind the bedlam is a story. Gustavo, Browning, and their cronies are at work, each hungry to prevail. For Forces large and small are at work, each hungry to prevail. One piece of the action has to do with the Faust brothers, Moses and Jonah. These men, who buy and sell serial killer memorabilia, also do odd jobs for Brown- ing Hammond. They are the ones who’ve kid- napped Thorn and have him confined in what seems to be a sinkhole within which a prison has been fashioned. The thought processes of these moral cripples are exquisitely realized by their creator. Clearly, someone thinks Thorn’s plans to take valuable lands off the development table must be stopped or at least delayed. Earl’s death and Thorn’s disappearance are parts of the same case. The episodes in “Silencer” that describe Thorn’s confinement, escape and frenzied journey through the Central Florida wilderness are magnificent. Mr. Hall provides the unique terrain and of Thorn’s physical, perfect-pitch sensory renditions of the journey through the Central Florida wilderness are exquisitely realized by their creator. As always, Mr. Hall proves himself a star who’s now a smooth but shady pitch- man and dealmaker. Forces large and small are at work, each hungry to prevail.

Three forceful women are integrated into this plot, and each is carefully and memorably drawn. Readers familiar with Rusty Stabler, Thorn’s girl- friend and now the direc- tor of his real estate ven- tures, will know her bet- ter and admire her more; Claire, Browning wife, shows moral backbone as she turns into an accom- plice in the attempts to end Browning’s selfish, destructive behavior; and Anne Donaldson, FDLE agent, shows her no-nonsense professional- ism in what’s little more than a walk-on part.

There is a fourth important female: a heroic horse named Big Girl. As always, Mr. Hall proves himself a master of scene-setting and character development. He also knows, how to struc- ture plot and set the pace for maximum suspense. Though Thorn is not always center stage in this novel, there is plenty of him to endure and adore.

‘Silencers’ now out in paperback, is a totally engaging romp by the master of Florida noir. Mr. Hall brilliantly imagines the ways in which natural, economic and cultural history affect the shadow-filled, vulnerable present.

— Keep up with the author at www.jameswhall.com.
This spring marks the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, which began April 12, 1861, when Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter near Charleston, S.C. According to a new book, the first skirmishes of the war caught the South at a disadvantage. Since the Southern states were primarily agricultural, most of the firearms manufactured in America during the years leading up to the conflict were made in the North. Simply put, the South had to play catch up.

Dennis Adler is the perfect candidate to write a book that documents the colorful history and sprawling overview of the legendary guns and arms makers of the Civil War era. He is a nationally known expert in firearms and the author of 38 books, most on the subjects of Western guns and collectible firearms. Mr. Adler also is involved in the design and manufacture of custom cowboy guns for collectors and shooters, and serves on the Antique Firearms Committee of America.

“Guns of the Civil War” is divided into six main sections: A Nation on the Verge of Conflict and the Guns at Hand; Handguns of the Union — Arming a Nation at War With Itself; Longarms of the U.S. Military; Confederate Arms; A Litany of Foreign Arms; and Modern Reproductions and Replicas. Its 352 pages are filled with more than 300 photos and illustrations in full color, the work of the author. This is more than just a book about guns, however. Mr. Adler includes the politics of the country during this turbulent period that places the various guns in their historical context. The evolution of loose-powder cap-and-ball revolvers and the rifles developed and chosen for war is especially interesting.

This is a must-have book not just for gun enthusiasts, but for history lovers as well.
Barrister’s Bash will benefit Legal Aid Service

The Legal Aid Service of Collier County holds its third annual Barrister’s Bash beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 28, at the Hilton Naples. The evening celebrates those who assist the underprivileged in gaining access to justice. This year’s honorees are: Beverly Brennan, Esq., The Hon. James T. Martin Equal Justice Award; Cheffy Passidomo, PA., Law Firm of the Year; Carla Zamponga, Esq., Attorney of the Year; Jennifer Tears, Esq., Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award; and Brandy Woodson, Volunteer of the Year.

Tickets for cocktail hour, dinner and the awards ceremony are $75 per person. Silent and live auctions will be part of the evening to help raise funds for Legal Aid Service of Collier County. The private, nonprofit law firm is headquartered in Naples and has an outreach office in Immokalee.

RSVP by calling 298-8143 or e-mailing analeslaid@gmail.com.

Supper club fun for Guadalupe Center

“239MEN,” a fundraiser for the Guadalupe Center, takes place at M Waterfront Grille on Thursday evening, May 5. The restaurant in the Village on Venetian Bay will revert to the supper-clubs of the ‘60s, complete with Rob Roys, Steak Diane and tableside Bananas Foster.

Tickets are $125 per person. Visit www.guadalupecenter.org/239MEN.

Saddle up for derby party

Naples Equestrian Challenge holds a Kentucky Derby Party from 4-7 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at Noodles Italian Café & Sushi Bar. The fun includes a mint julep and a buffet dinner for $25 per person in the Sushi Bar. The fun includes a mint julep and a buffet dinner for $25 per person in the Sushi Bar.

Tickets are $185 per person. Visit www.naples.legalaid@gmail.com.

Mark your calendar, save your appetite

The 28th annual Taste of Collier takes place from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 1, at Bayfront. Admission is $5 per person, with children 5 and younger admitted free. Tasting portions from area restaurants will be $3 to $5 each.

For more information, call 272-1907.
KidzAct presents ‘Hamlet’ on the outdoor stage

The Naples Players’ KidzAct troupe of young thespians presents Shakespeare’s timeless tragedy, “Hamlet,” at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 23, on the outdoor stage at Sugden Community Theatre. Megan McCombs directs the production with assistance from John McKerrow. Tickets for $10 can be purchased at the box office or by calling 263-7990 or visiting www.naplesplayers.org. Seating is limited to the first 100 people. ■

Tune up to try out for youth orchestra

Orchestral musicians who are in middle or high school are invited to audition for the Philharmonic Youth Orchestra on April 25-28 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. Directed by Charles Gottschalk, the youth orchestra rehearses weekly on Sunday afternoons. Annual tuition is $250 and the refundable music deposit is $35. Some scholarships are available. For more information about audition excerpts and other requirements, call 254-2612 or visit www.thephil.org/orchestra/Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. ■

Kids can get a taste of opera this summer

Area youth ages 12-22 are invited to be a part of Opera Naples’ annual summer production of Gilbert and Sullivan’s humorous operetta, “The Mikado.” Over nine days in June, aspiring performers will participate in voice, drama, and choreography rehearsals as they become trained in authentic Gilbert & Sullivan humor, dialogue and musical interpretation.

No experience is necessary to join the fun, which culminates in two performances in which every registrant performs. Rehearsals will take place all day Friday and Saturday, June 17-18, and Monday through Friday, June 20-24, at the Opera Naples Center, 2408 Linwood Ave. Performances will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 25, at the Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers and at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 26, in the G&L Theater at the Community School of Naples.

Pamela Leighton-Bilik of Washington, D.C., creator director of International Youth Gilbert & Sullivan and artistic director of the G&S Youth Company, directs the Opera Naples summer program. Robin Shuford Frank, ON director of educational outreach, is the musical director. For more information, call 514-7464 or visit www.operanaples.org. ■

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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

‘Cheers for Charity’ with the Wine Tasters of Naples

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Music Director Charles Fornara

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Music by Harry Warren, Lyrics by Al Dubin
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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

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4. Jackie and Dick Bearse
5. Chad Kimball with Mosey and Don Gunther
6. Joe and Dee Zednik

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Wanderlust raises $260,000 for FGCU Resort & Hospitality Management program

1. Kirsten Ferrara, Shirlene Elkins and Donna Solimene
2. Fred Veschoviak, Tamara Pigott and Brian Holly
3. Patsy Carbone and Mike Watkins in the Sugden Hall wine lab
4. Wanderlust co-chairs Ron Albeit and Brian Holly
5. Sandy Stilwell, John Naylor and Jack Wert
6. Norman and Mary Love

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Here are some capsule summaries of previous reviews:

➤ Café Normandie, 3448 Marina-town Lane, North Fort Myers; 995-3100
3756 Tamiami Trail N; 260-0977
This low-key outpost along U.S. 41 manages to provide delightful French fare and a casual, laid-back hospitality, compliments of owner Benoit Legris. The wine list is brief but well chosen, a snapshot of vintages that please the owner. You can’t go wrong with mussels in Normandie cream sauce or the well-executed escargots de Bourgogne. Roasted duck with spicy peach sauce was a glorious variation on duck Forange, and the shrimp and sea scallops au gratin were simple and sea scallops at gr...
The mahi mahi tacos with black beans and citrus jasmine rice are among the most popular items on Coconut Jack's menu. What customers want. Besides the option of eating indoors or out, diners can choose from among full entrees, sandwiches and salads. They can order inexpensive basics or pricier (and, in my opinion, worth the extra money) grouper and can have either served blackened, battered, fried, grilled or barbecued. While the tropical ambiance might seem to call for appropriately themed drinks, there's also a respectable wine list that complements entrees such as aged filet mignon, grilled mahi with Caribbean jerk glaze and lobster ravioli with applewood bacon sherry cream sauce.

Arriving at about 2:30 p.m., we opted for the more casual fare, which is available for both lunch and dinner. We started with a couple of tropical beverages: the Ultimate mojito ($6.25) and a Sunset Breeze ($6.25). The former was what the name implies: a tall glass filled with Don Q Limon rum, passion fruit juice, cranberry juice and mint. The latter was a lovely scarlet concoction consisting of Merlot Gay Cab glaze and passion fruit juice, cranberry juice and grenadine. The combination had a good balance of sweet and tart.

From the appetizers, we settled on the calamari ($9.95) and hot voodoo wings ($9.95). Other dining choices include fried chicken, fried mac & cheese and a full bar.

The coconut sorbet with a light sauce of lemon, garlic and banana peppers. Fried calamari comes with a light sauce of lemon, garlic and banana peppers.
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