Bonita’s historic Shangri-La Healing Waters revival under way

BY SANDY REED
Florida Weekly correspondent

When was the last time you stepped into a 90-year-old building to become reinvigorated? While history and tradition go hand in hand, an injection of rejuvenation is coursing through Shangri-La Healing Waters as the landmark hotel and spa in downtown Bonita Springs gets ready for its reopening with a holiday event next week.

Oak Creek meanders through the center of the property, and the owners have maintained the property’s original organic garden and orchard. Certified organic by the USDA, its produce has been sold at Food & Thought in Naples, and the owners intend to expand into produce markets in Bonita next year. And when the Shangri-La restaurant opens next...
My grandfather, Walter Nash, sat straight in the saddle on his quarter horse, Cherokee, watching us become a Jew last Saturday night. It was the fifth night of Chanukah.

His rope, neatly looped, remained secured to the saddle and hanging over his right leg. He wore blue jeans and a long-sleeved white shirt that rose, buttoned, all the way to his neck. Above that, his dark Stetson, the working hat, sat straight on his head. His left hand closed the reins in a calmed grip about a foot above the horse’s mane, and his right rested where it should on his upper thigh, ready for anything required.

Cherokee was wired tight, a muscled mahogany bay with three white socks. His nostrils flared while his ears turned back—of nervous mothers as easy as slipping a knife from butter.

My grandfather said nothing as we did. He was ready to ride, and would—small spurs; none had a better seat than he required.

The guys singing Chanukah songs tried very hard, although none of us knew what their words meant or whether they kept them. But the way he held his horse told me that my grandfather approved of my new religion, with a caveat: When you ride into unknown country, keep your eyes open and think for yourself.

So we did. Amy and I, with our two youngest boys, D.P. and Nash, had decided that since no one was going to choose us, we’d just up and choose ourselves to join the Jews. It was a moment of magic.

One of the wonderful things about the Jews we’ve known is that they don’t proselytize. We were compelled to conversion only by Nash, who has no problem proselytizing, or at least asking insistently.

One of the things that got my grandfather to light the others.

Cherokee is the classic middle-of-the-road American Jew: not orthodox, and not entirely lost to ancient traditions, either. Someone who can Jew: not orthodox, and not entirely lost to the grace of an injured rooster, while some men apparently shouted, “Schlemiel! Verklempt! Schlemiel!” over and over again. In every song.

It was arguable the most awful joyous music I’d ever heard—aawful not because of the music itself, I suspect, but because of its execution, and I mean murder, by a bunch of brassy singers from New Jersey.

My grandfather didn’t care. His character was a tight weave of tolerance and a lifelong determination to judge other people only by whether they kept their word, minded their own business and tried like hell.

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Nash stumbled on the moment of magical good fortune at his public elementary school, and with him, us: He became the ward of an extraordinary teacher. Somehow, the momentum of God, in true old Testament and Greek—Epicurious.com. But that’s a Jew—ish tradition: Adopt, adapt and make the best of the moment. Which is pretty much what my grandfather, that tougher-than-rawhide rancher, thought, too.

When Amy finally settled the feast on the table, Nash and D.P. lit the candles on the hamukiah far distinguished from the Temple menorah, which originally had 7 oil-burning wicks. The hanukiah, which many call the menorah, has a single shamash or helper candle mounted above a star of David, and flanked by four candles on each side. The shamash is used to light the others.

And then we ate and laughed and fancied for an hour or more, while Nash’s great-grandpa Walter Nash, framed in an old photo on my desk, road off into the eternal night, almost grinning. Another day, no doubt, we’d be celebrating something else, and we’d become something else. But on this night, we were the chosen ones. And we celebrated only l’chaim.

This column has become a Florida Weekly tradition with the approach of Chanukah, which this year is Dec. 20-28.
Merry Christmas

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Listen to the people, not the polluters

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA – High above the pavement, overlooking Durban’s famous South Beach and the pounding surf of the Indian Ocean, and just blocks from the United Nations Climate Change Conference, a large crowd of 20,000 people gathered, seven activists fought against the wind to unfurl a banner that read “Listen to the People, Not the Polluters.” It was no surprise that morning: It’s a straight arrow, and the group hanging the banner was too fast as we need them to go.” They were afraid “controversial.” It’s now cutting off high school and eventually had to out of high school and eventually had to millions of South Africans fighting the in 1980, at the age of 15, he was one of executive director of Greenpeace Inter- and banners and sang in solidarity with the police gathered and scores held signs environment.” Down at street level, as 2011 by Florida Media Group, LLC. Copyright: The contents of the Florida Weekly are copyrighted by Florida Media Group LLC. No portion may be reproduced without the express permission of Florida Media Group LLC.

What's wrong with Tim Tebow?

In Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow, the football gods have offered up a star that every father in America should be grateful for (provided they don’t root for a rival team in the AFC West). Tebow is respectful, wholesome and a man of God. He has no obvious fail- ings besides an inaccurate throwing arm. If Disney were to concoct the plot of a movie about an atoll as a straight arrow. It’s counter-intu- itive, it’s not exactly welcome. They were with the one of Tim Tebow was to highlight how governments are being unduly influenced by a handful of Transnational Corporations who are trying to adversely influence the climate negotiations that are happening here in Durban. They are holding the climate hostage.”

“Dirty Donz”

Naidoo is no stranger to action on the streets of Durban. While he is now the executive director of Greenpeace Inter- national, one of the largest and most vis- ible global environmental organizations, in 1980, at the age of 15, he was one of millions of South Africans fighting the racist apartheid regime. He was thrown out of high school and eventually had to go underground. He emerged in England, living in exile, and went on to become a Rhodes scholar. Naidoo has long struggle- dled for human rights, against poverty and for action to combat climate change. A colleague and I scurried up to the roof to film as the seven banner- hanging activists were arrested. One of them, South African climber Michael “Ike” Tull told me: “Our goal here today was to highlight how governments are being unduly influenced by a handful of Transnational Corporations who are trying to adversely influence the climate negotiations that are happening here in Durban. They are holding the climate hostage.”

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Bill Frusztajer's life story is as amazing as it is improbable. Bill (Boruch) survived life in a Siberian work camp as a child living 1,300 miles from the closest railway station to become an extremely successful entrepreneur in America. The Frusztajers were our neighbors in Boston. When Bill wrote his personal memoir, “From Siberia to America: A Story of Survival and Success,” I was humbled that he asked me to review early drafts. When we moved from Boston to Naples, we were pleased to discover that Bill and Olga had owned a home in Naples since Gulfshore Boulevard was a dirt road.

In spite of his lack of business training, Bill has achieved outstanding success. “I was humbled that he asked me to review early drafts. When we moved from Boston to Naples, we were pleased to discover that Bill and Olga had owned a home in Naples since Gulfshore Boulevard was a dirt road. Bill has been a frequent guest on my show. I'll share a few highlights from his story on my show; his mild Polish accent combined with his deep, sonorous voice and ability to articulate his accent make his storytelling mesmerizing. In spite of his lack of business training, Bill has achieved outstanding success.”

Bill graduated in 1952 from University of London, England. In 1954, working for a large British Company BTH Ltd., he developed and produced the first practical transistors in England. He came to the U.S. in 1956. He has served on boards of directors of several public and private companies and as a trustee for numerous nonprofit organizations.

Bill remembers a loving environment at the Frusztajer home in Poland. With few possessions and no preparation, they were taken to the train station to be processed. When they arrived, there was no privacy, no facilities, no bathing and little food or hope. When they arrived at the work camp, they were told, “Here you’ll live. Here you’ll die. Forget your Poland.”

Bill's mother was taken ill and sent to a hospital more than 10 miles away. In the Siberian winter, the hospital had a failed heating system, and in order to prevent the patients from freezing to death, they were sent home on foot. Miraculously, Bill's mother physically survived the journey, but she lost her mind and died after four months of insanity. Bill looked after her while his father worked in the mines. Still a young teen-ager, he also worked in the mines on Sundays to get extra rations for his ailing mother.

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Occupy: A leaderless movement with many supporters

BY EVAN WILLIAMS
ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

AFTER PEOPLE GATHERED IN PROTEST ON Wall Street in September, a new move- ment appeared around the country and world, including outside an old court- house in Punta Gorda, in Centennial Park in Fort Myers, and along Fifth Ave- nue South in Naples.

"The public seems to understand very clearly what we're talking about," said Karanja Gacuca, a former bank analyst who took up with Occupy Wall Street. "It's quite simply about economic injusti- ce and under that there are so many things, so the specifics are broad and varied. But it's about economic injustice and the control of corporations on gov- ernment and all our systems."

All around the same time in mid- November, law enforcement forcibly disbanded some of the movement's tent city protests, including in New York City, Philadelphia and Fort Myers.

Protests rallied again on Dec. 10 for Human Rights Day, dozens convening on a street corner in Naples before heading north to meet others in Fort Myers for a march across the Edison Bridge.

Signs of the time
Occupy supporter Karen Dwyer met with a handful of others on the Wednes- day before the march at a Bonita Springs storage locker armed with a list of more than 100 slogans to be used on posters. Phrases by Martin Luther King Jr. about economic injustice mingled with newer slogans such as the most prevalent, "We are the 99 percent."

The Occupy movement could be defined by decades of slogans, bumper stickers, sound bites and symbols that made up a collage of grievances. The movement's recognizable clenched fist, for instance, has been widely used, including on a poster by the Students for a Democratic Society during pro- tests at the 1968 Chicago National Demo- cratic Convention.

"I think it's an issue of human rights," said Bill Coughlan, adjunct professor of philosophy and ethics at Edison State College, about the Occupy message. "It's a massive sort of call to the 99 percent: basic human rights, opportunity to earn a living, opportunity to share in the profits, opportunities for women and minorities. It's all the same issues we've been fighting, like in the ’60s.”

As a self-described "leaderless" movement, Occupy's center shifts to each individual, making up a great ship of ideas with everyone and no one at the helm, supporters say. On Sat- urday's events, singular personalities and tastes were reflected by signs displayed along streets. Peace signs — many of them — were flashed by protestors and drivers, and a dissenting "bird" was flipped from the passenger window of a maroon pickup.

Two senior women walking together carried messages of dry, biting humor: "House for Sale, Senate Too" and "Insid- er Trading, Congress at Work."

Human Rights Day protests
The Occupy movement mingled with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers by the Publix grocery store at U.S. 41 and Immokalee Road in Naples. Publix hasn't agreed to pay tomato growers a penny more per pound so field workers in Immokalee can make a better wage.

"For us in Immokalee the economic crisis is very real," said Nancy Feraldi of Interfaith Action told supporters with a megaphone while picking at the seeds of a pomegranate fruit. "Occupy is doing what the CIW has been doing for a while, highlighting the profit of the big corporations at the expense of the 99 percent that make it possible."

A man who wouldn't give his name but called himself "Patrick Henry" of the Naples Tea Party arrived with his own sign, a sign that said, "Occupy Wall Street are union free-loading thugs," and a portrait of President Barack Obama with the words "FRAUD."

"Get a job!" he yelled, marching up and down the sidewalk. "Pack up and go home."

The Occupy protesters were already leaving for the march in Fort Myers. A few dozen convened at the courthouse downtown under an ominous bank of clouds and marched about a mile over the Edison Bridge and then back. Sheets of rain were coming down on both sides of the Caloosahatchee River, but the protestors and media covering the event were only misted.

The most rhythmic slogan of the day was chanted at the corner of First and Fowler streets: "Show me what Demo- cracy looks like! This is what Democracy looks like!"

Defined as character, democracy looks notoriously messy. It has ridicu- lous bed-head and bleary eyes, and a hoarse voice. It's young and it's old. It's well-employed and out of work and sometimes conflicted about its own desires and beliefs, but it's out there making a stand. Following is a collec- tion of supporters who were standing up for their varying versions of democ- racy with the Occupy movement last weekend.

You might say I've been involved with the movement all my life," said Ms. Feral- di, 68. "I believe in human rights, social justice, peace, and environmentalism, saving a piece of the planet for future generations. Many people have fought long and hard for regulation to help achieve that. But eight years of the Bush administration pretty well overturned all that — deregulated it."

Matthew McDowell has been a spokesperson for Occupy Fort Myers, and lives in Naples. He said Phase 1 of the movement, in which protestors camped out in public places, is moving on to Phase 2 after police kicked them out.

"(Lee County Sheriff) Mike Scott, the Fort Myers Police Department, the city, all stifled our ability to assemble," said Mr. McDowell, 34.

Phase 2 plans include occupying fore- closed properties in Southwest Florida, as well as more marches, and targeting issues such as voter registration. United

Occupy and Coalition of Immokalee Farmworkers convened in Naples.

"WHAT'S REALLY NICE IS WE'VE GOT PEOPLE out on a rainy day to speak out about what's happening in our country," said Steven Hempling, a leader in the Demo- cratic Party of Naples.

States military actions were part of what spurred him to get involved with the movement.

“For me, it probably started with 9/11,” he said. “I used to be a hard-core Republican. The engagement in the Iraq War made me take a closer look at what was going on in the world. The president we have in office — he hasn’t much helped either.”

But Mr. McDowell says the basic tenets of the movement have been brewing for a long time.

“At a lot of us feel like we’ve been waiting,” he said. “We hadn’t have a movement like this in 50 years.”

Littlefield

Paul Theodore Littlefield has been traveling across the country to different Occupy events. He has a rare brand of Republicans in Maine, and a Democrat in Occupy events. He has a rare brand of the movement have been brewing for a long time.

“I have a year. Definitely not like I said. “I have a year. Definitely not something I they're criticizing,” he said. “I don’t know if the younger people in this movement have a vision,” for themselves personally, as well as the movement in general. “Many are just trying to cope with life.”

Alex Flynn, 68, is a retired teacher and fireman who has followed the Occupy movement in Fort Myers and elsewhere, and he looks like Ernest Hemingway.

Financially well off, he was there for people who aren’t as fortunate. “I’m not sure what kind of future we’ll have for our kids,” he said.

“The thing they can learn (from previous generations), especially the young people, is they have to prepare themselves to take over some of the space that we are creating,” he said. “I don’t know if the younger people in this movement have a vision,” for themselves personally, as well as the movement in general. “Many are just trying to cope with life.”

Ellen Hemrick is a single mother who lives in Naples. She works as a speech language pathologist, but is stifled from running her own business, like she used to do, because health-care costs for herself and her 2-year-old son.

“The government’s not protecting people from the health insurance industry,” she said. “It feels good to play a part in that; it’s an honor to be a neighbor.”

Brandon Jones has never been an activist but felt Occupy needed his support.

“I have a great job; I’m in school (studying environmental science),” said the 26-year-old Golden Gate City resident. “I’m here more for the people that it is affecting. And that has to do with human beings. If it helps my people would do the same for me if I were in that situation. It’s not their job to play a part in that; it’s an exciting time.”

Mr. Jones says he’s not sure whom he’ll vote for in the presidential election. “I’m just torn. I have a year. Definitely not Republican, that’s a guarantee. But the Democrats are not that much different.”

-wide-eyed radical.”

He was there in support of one of Occupy’s main tenets: to stop corporations’ undue influence on politicians.

“They even co-opted the Supreme Court to allow corporate personhood,” he said. “It’s an insidious undermining of democracy.”

He also offers a critique of Occupy: “The movement right now is too diffused. Too many different opinions.”

movements’ many demands online.

“More than half of the stuff resonated with me,” such as outsourcing jobs to for- eign countries, she said. “Basically we’re condoning slavery in another country.”

Her father is also on Social Security.

“Every time I hear about cutting Social Security — where do they think that’s right? My father worked his entire life putting money into that program.”

She hasn’t taken advantage of govern- ment funded Medicaid or WIC even though she qualifies.

“We try to make everything work without being dependent on the government,” she says. “I’d love to go back to work. I’m a graphic designer by trade and would like to start my own business.”

But with day-care and other costs, that would be too expensive for her now.

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Habitat for Humanity of Collier County has received a $500,000 grant, the largest grant made by Wells Fargo to a Habitat affiliate in the state of Florida, to aid in the revitalization of Naples Manor, specifically providing funding to purchase vacant, abandoned or foreclosed properties in the neighborhood and renovate them to Habitat’s like-new standard. These homes will then be sold to qualifying partner families with an interest-free mortgage held by the affiliate.

The grant “represents one of the most significant investments in the Naples Manor neighborhood,” says Dr. Sam Durso, president of the Habitat board. By helping people meet the most basic of human needs — safe, decent shelter — Habitat for Humanity allows families to begin focusing on health care, education and building a better future for their children, he adds.

Habitat for Humanity of Collier County has been serving families since April 1978 and has built more than 1,400 homes to date. It is one of the oldest and most successful affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International. Locally, a small, professional staff manages the general programs with assistance from a board of directors made up of men and women who volunteer their time to Habitat for Humanity.

To make a donation, volunteer or learn more about Habitat for Humanity of Collier County, call 775-0036 or visit www.habitat-collier.org.

COURTESY PHOTO

Dale Hall, Machelle Manor, Laura Wrenn, Jocie-Mae Beebe, Lisa Lefkow, Michelle Braun, Rick Altemeyer and Debra Kent Faulk celebrate the grant from Wells Fargo to Habitat for Humanity of Collier County. Ms. Beebe is a Habitat homeowner in Naples Manor, where more homes will be made habitable thanks to the $500,000 grant.
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The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund’s “The Wall that Heals,” a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C., traveled to Marco Island earlier this month and drew thousands of visitors to Veterans Community Park over the course of four days. Volunteers manned the exhibit, which was open 24 hours a day, and clergy and bereavement counselors from the community were on hand for anyone who wanted to talk.

1. NBC2’s Kelly Creswell
2. Keith Dameron, Robert Herrick and Kamela Patton
3. Arriving on Marco Island in the rig that turns into a museum
4. Joe and Cristina Davido with Rebecca
5. Virginia Langlois
6. Bill Philbin
7. Steve Roberts
8. Veteran Mike Wheeler with his son Austin and grandchildren Devon and Sloan
9. Steve Reynolds and Anthony DeLucia
10. Brenda and Bob Dobek drove the tractor-trailer rig that transports The Traveling Wall around the country.
11. Linda Spell and Ray Rosenberg
12. Rev. Thomas McCuflay and Bob “Cadillac” Butcher

BERNADETTE LA PAGLIA / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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That's government...

Stung by criticism in 2007 that they were neglecting severely wounded service members, the Pentagon and the Department of Veterans Affairs have now gone extreme the other way, routinely providing at least a half-dozen (and as many as two dozen) caseworkers per patient. A Government Accountability Office report in October said the result was “duplication, confusion and turf battles,” according to a November Washington Post story, leaving the members and their families often conflicted and overwhelmed about prognoses. At times the Pentagon (serving active-duty personnel) and the VA (ex-military) balked over coordinating their treatments. The agencies, however, told the Post that any duplication was intentional, even though the Post cited military families who each wished they had a single, authoritative case manager they could turn to. A GAO official called the situation “crazy” and “disturbing.”

Can’t possibly be true

• The U.S.-Pakistan relationship has reached “the nadir of absurdity,” wrote Wired.com, after a December report in The Atlantic revealed that Pakistan “secures” its tactical nuclear weapons by moving them around the country in ordinary unmarked vans (“without noticeable defenses”). It supposedly uses the “Economies of Doom,” “hidden” in plain sight on the country’s highways, because it fears the U.S. (its “ally”) would steal the bombs if it knew where they were. Dishonestly, wrote Wired, the U.S. funds Pakistan yet regularly invades it, though desperately needing Pakistani soldiers to fight alongside Afghan insurgents against the U.S.

• In October, the super-enthusiastic winners of a Kingston, Ontario, radio station contest claimed their prize: the chance to don gloves and dig for free Buffalo Bills’ football tickets (value: $230); buried in buffalo manure in a child’s plastic inflatable pool. The show’s host, Sarah Crobbie, reported the digging live (but, overcome by the smell, vomited on the air). More curious was a runner-up contests who continued to mark around for the second prize, even though it was only tickets to a local zoo.

• In a federal lawsuit for malicious prosecution, a judge found a “strong” likelihood that EPA agent Keith Phillips “deliberately” set up a hazardous-waste-enforcement case against Hubert Vidrine for the purpose of facilitating his own work/sex relationship with a female EPA agent. The court, Mr. Phillips was married and unable to carry on with the agent (stationed in another city) except when they worked together, which they did periodically over a three-year period on the Vidrine case. In October, Vidrine was awarded $81 million in damages.

Worst-laid plans

• L.H. Williams, a black man married to a white woman in Panama City, Fla., reported that the Ku Klux Klan had burned a cross in his driveway in November and left a threatening note. However, the note did not demand that the couple move from the neighborhood; it demanded that they stay. Since the Klan is not known for supporting mixed-race couples, police were suspicious and ultimately charged Williams with making the threats himself—to frighten his wife into abandoning the divorce she had recently requested.

• Paul Moran, possessing (according to his lawyer) “considerable intellectual ability,” nonetheless attempted a procedure to turn his own feces into gold (and was sentenced in October to three months in jail in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, after accidentally setting his apartment on fire in the process). Moran teacher Paul LaDuke, 75, was fired in November from the Schaumburg (Ill.) Christian School after a student reported seeing him brazenly masturbate, with his pants lowered, as he sat behind his desk in a full classroom. Mr. LaDuke had been at the school for 36 years, and police believe (according to a Chicago Tribune report) he had “committed similar acts at the school several times a year for a decade or longer.”

Fine points of the law

Daniel Vilca, 26, was ordered to prison for the rest of his life (without possibility of parole) following his conviction in Naples in November for having pornographic photos of children on his computer. He had no previous criminal record, nor was there evidence of any contact with children. The judge computed the sentence by multiplying a five-year term by the 454 photos police found.

A week earlier, a judge in Dayton, Ohio, sentenced former CEO Michael Peppel, 44, for defrauding his shareholder by overstating revenue in a company that went on to lose $298 million and cost 1,800 employees their jobs. Sentencing guidelines recommended an 8- to 10-year term, but federal judge Sandra Beckwith ordered Mr. Peppel to jail for seven days.

Dog walker Kimberly Zakrzewski was found not guilty in October of violating the poop-scooping ordinance of Fairfax County, Va., despite photographic “evidence” of dog piles submitted by neighbors Virginia and Christine Cornell (who had previously been feuding with Ms. Zakrzewski). The judge chose to give “considerable weight to testimony by the dog’s owner that the photographed piles were bigger than anything she had ever seen from ‘Baxter.’” The owner also revealed that she had brought to court one of Baxter’s actual piles but decided to leave it in her car.

Gun wrongs

acquaintance thought she was shooting at an opossum.

A 20-year-old woman was shot in Vilas County, Wis., in July; deputy sheriff Ty Peter-son (a relative) thought he was shooting at a coyote
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It has now been one year since completing my cancer treatment with Premiere and Dr. Smith. I have fully regained my health and confidence. My husband, three daughters and I will be forever grateful to Premiere Oncology and Dr. Smith.

-Teri Thompson
Bonita Springs, FL
Step right up for Red Sox tickets

Tickets go on sale Saturday, Dec. 17, for the Boston Red Sox’ 2012 spring training schedule, which includes 18 games at the new JetBlue Park at Fenway South in Fort Myers. Tickets from $3 to $46 will be available at City of Palms Park in Fort Myers, online at www.redsox.com or by calling (888) 733-7696.

Also on Saturday, the Red Sox will hold a City of Palms Park Yard Sale beginning at 8 a.m. at the park at 2201 Edison Ave., Fort Myers. Fans will be able to buy items from the team’s 20-year history at the park. Admission is free, and all sales are cash only.

The spring training season opens with two college exhibitions on Saturday, March 3: a matinee game against the Northeastern University Huskies, followed by a nightcap with the Boston College Eagles. See the complete schedule at www.redsox.com.

Red Sox pitchers and catchers report to Fenway South on Sunday, Feb. 19, and hold their first workout on Tuesday, Feb. 21, the first full squad workout is set for Saturday, Feb. 25. All workouts are open to the public free of charge.

NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY | WEEK OF DECEMBER 15-21, 2011 | A19
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-Vladimir Mathieu, MD, Family Medicine Physician practicing at NCH for 10 years.

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‘Diary of a Wimpy Kid’ provides inspiration for student writing contest

Volunteer USA Foundation and best-selling children’s author Jeff Kinney have partnered for a writing contest open to students throughout Southwest Florida.

Mr. Kinney is well known for his “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” book series, which combines funny stories about growing up with doodles and cartoons. In his recently released “Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever,” beloved character Greg Heffley is in trouble. When the authorities begin closing in, a surprise blizzard hits and Greg is trapped indoors with his family, causing even more chaos.

In the Celebration of Reading writing contest, students in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties, grades 4-7, are invited to create a funny story involving Florida’s own storm season — that of hurricanes, tornadoes and tropical storms.

The short-story contest involves simple illustrations or a comic strip based on the “storm watch” theme. “As a resident of New England, I’ve weathered a number of storms that have turned my life upside down for days or even weeks. I’ve found that the best way to get through a tough situation is with a positive attitude and a good sense of humor,” Mr. Kinney says. “I’m very excited to read the contestants’ essays on the ‘storm watch’ theme and see how they inject humor into their work.”

Contest winners accompanied by their parents will be recognized at a VIP breakfast on Friday, Feb. 17, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa hosted by former Gov. Jeb Bush, Mrs. Barbara Bush and members of the Bush family to support successful family literacy programs.

The students will be Mr. Kinney’s guests of honor at the Celebration of Reading breakfast and have the opportunity to visit with the author and share their winning submissions.

Entries must be submitted electronically to Contest@VolunteerUSAFund.org or postmarked no later than Wednesday, Jan. 18, to: Volunteer USA Foundation, Attn: COR 2012 Writing Contest, 516 N. Adams St., Tallahassee, FL 32301.

Fifteen winners will be selected based on their writing and imagination. Winners will be listed at www.volunteerusafoundation.org and schools will be notified on Jan. 27, in conjunction with Celebrate Literacy Week.

For more information, call Volunteer USA Foundation at (850) 562-5300.
Here are some programs and events in the works among the area’s clubs and organizations:

- The Kappa Alpha Theta alumnae chapter for Naples, Bonita Springs and Marco Island holds its annual Founders Day Celebration beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Club at Mediterra. All alums from chapters in the United States and Canada are welcome. Tickets are $25 and reservations are required by Jan. 17. Call 431-5434.

- Save the date for the Zonta Club of Naples’ seventh annual “Make A Difference” fashion show, auction and luncheon set for Friday, March 30, at The Club at the Strand. Proceeds will benefit the PACE Center for Girls-Collier at Immokalee and Naples Teenage Parenting Program (TAPP), the Sally Sitta Awards for Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology in Health Sciences, Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowships and Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships.

- Nonstop flights and low fares to great destinations from convenient Punta Gorda - Charlotte County Airport.

- Luncheon meetings take place on the second Thursday of each month at country clubs throughout Naples. In Naples, Club members also meet in small groups for various outings depending on their interests. Orientation for the prospective members is held on the first Thursday of each month.

For more information, call 239-4083 or visit www.naplesnewcomers.com.

- A limited number of tickets remain available for the Naples Garden Club’s 2012 House & Garden Tour set for Saturday, Feb. 4. Hundreds of visitors will tour four private properties in Port Royal, Aqualane Shores and historic Olde Naples. Tour buses depart from the Naples Botanical Garden at intervals throughout the day beginning at 8:30 a.m. (9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. departures are sold out). General admission is $85; patron tickets are $150.

Proceeds from the House & Garden Tour help provide scholarships for students of botany and horticulture at FGCU’s Harvey Kapnick Education and Research Center at the Naples Botanical Garden.

For more information or tour reservations, visit www.naplesgardencircle.org or e-mail info@naplesgardencircle.org.

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The Naples-Pelican Bay Rotary Club invites artists to hit the pavement for Chalk Art 2012 on Saturday, Jan. 28, along Fifth Avenue South. Thousands of spectators will “walk the chalk” as individuals and teams of amateur and professional artists transform the street into a colorful, half-mile-long concrete canvas.

Businesses can participate by purchasing a “canvas” — either a 6-foot ($200), 9-foot ($300) or 12-foot square ($500) — which they, an artist of their choosing or an artist provided to them by the Rotary Club can use to create a curbside masterpiece. A total of 150 artist squares are available, each bearing the name of the sponsoring business. Proceeds will benefit the Pelican Bay Rotary Scholarship Fund.

Artists who wish to participate are encouraged to register at no charge. They will be matched with a sponsor and will receive all the materials needed to complete their artwork.

Registration for sponsors and artists will be accepted through Jan. 21.

Admission to Chalk Art 2012 is free to the public and will include live entertainment, music and fashion shows throughout the day. The public will determine the first-, second- and third-place People’s Choice Awards by purchasing voting tickets as they stroll the event. This year’s winners will also receive cash prizes.

For more information or to sign up as a business sponsor or a participating artist, visit www.pelicanbayrotary.com, e-mail cathycnaples@aol.com or call Jim Richardson at 272-3645.

The Bonita Springs Newcomers Club welcomes women who have lived in Bonita for less than three years. Luncheons are held at area country clubs on the third Thursday of every month (December meeting is on the second Thursday).

Members must attend five luncheons a year and pay annual dues of $40. For more information, e-mail bonitanewcomers@gmail.com or visit www.bonispringsnewcomersclub.com.

Clubs Notes
The women of the Pi Mu Chapter of Chi Omega at Florida Gulf Coast University raised $5,860 to help make a wish come true for a local girl diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition. Thanks to several fund-raising efforts by the chapter, the teen will meet Carmindy Bower of TLC’s “What Not to Wear” show. Her wish will be granted through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Back row: Janae Matzat, Shannon Sanders and Gina Geller. Front row: Katie Feldman, Michelle Gazvini, Melissa Khayata, Kelsey Delosch and Madison Harris.

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Sweet!
Simply Cupcakes opens downtown shop, East Naples location expands for baking

Simply Cupcakes owners JoAnne and Ken Glasgow will celebrate the grand opening of a new downtown location from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at 300 U.S. 41 N. (corner of Third Avenue North). Complimentary mini-cupcakes will be served.

The couple started baking cupcakes and selling them at the Third Street Farmers Market six years ago and now have 38 Simply Cupcake licensees operating from California to Belize, including Il in Florida.

Simply Cupcakes in East Naples bakes the cupcakes for Simply Cupcakes of Old Naples. It is the first store for the company in the downtown area.

Nordstrom pros will offer fashion advice
Do you sometimes wish you had a personal dresser to give you that special look? Temple Shalom Sisterhood hosts breakfast and a fashion demonstration at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, at Nordstrom in Waterside Shops. Guests will receive a gift bag from the department store and individual advice from a Nordstrom fashion consultant. Gift certificates to the store will be raffled. Tickets are $36 and $72. Seating is limited. For reservations or more information, call 262-4487 or visit www.naplescupcakes.com.
Avow Hospice hosts book signing for local author


The author will donate $5 to Avow Hospice for each book sold at the event. The book shares nearly 100 notes Ms. Raycroft’s husband, Ray, wrote to her following his 1995 diagnosis with terminal testicular cancer. It provides a unique look into one husband’s thoughts, fears and promises to his wife during his long struggle with cancer.

Written primarily on paper towels, Mr. Raycroft’s notes expressed love for life, laughter and ultimately his fear of what eventually came.

He died on Christmas morning in 1996.

Chad Lilly of Revolution Press, publisher of the book, says Ms. Raycroft’s "passion to share her husband’s innermost thoughts and feelings during this terrible period of struggle in the couple’s life would act as a beacon of guiding light for readers to share with their loved ones.

“The emotion is raw and unedited and offers a unique look at the lasting impressions we leave with loved ones.”

At the end of the 36 pages, the author invites readers to write their own notes to loved ones and then share the book as a gift with the goal of opening people up to sharing with one another.

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year, the chefs will use homegrown produce. Previous owners installed a European-style spring fountain in the spa. The owners will return the property to its original state with additional mineral spring baths for soaking. The next closest minerals springs spa is in North Port, north of Punta Gorda in Charlotte County.

The Shangri-La resort and spa was built on the first natural mineral springs spa in North America. From the very beginning in 1921, it attracted many Europeans to the area. “In Europe, they have long tradition of spas being developed alongside natural springs,” says current co-owner Heather Burch. “Europeans visited these spas to rest or recuperate.” Ms. Burch experienced this healing tradition while she recuperated from an illness during the 1970s. Inspired and impressed with its revitalizing atmosphere, she and co-owner Addison Fischer purchased the property in 1998, when the resort was in foreclosure, from the previous owners, Leo and Deborah Dahlmann from Germany.

Alternative medicine practitioner Dr. Charles Gnau, who owned the hotel in the 1960s, is the one who developed the holistic healing environment there, Ms. Burch says, adding, “We will build on that environment.”

Local history

Renowned historical preservationist J. Allison DeFoor, who once served as former Gov. Jeb Bush’s “Everglades Czar,” says Ponce de Leon sought out Shangri-La’s spring of healing waters. More recent Florida history indicates Babe Ruth and Buddy Hackett also visited the spa. “There’s neat artwork on Bonita City Hall that includes a spa with Babe Ruth, Buddy Hackett and others,” he says.

Mr. DeFoor also says holistic healing “had a powerful effect on (Mr. Burch’s) life,” and the rejuvenation of Shangri-La “is not just a business venture for her.” Charlie Strader, past president of the Bonita Springs Historical Society, says he and others in the organization are pleased to see Shangri-La reopen its doors.

“In the early 1920s, there was tremendous growth in Bonita Springs,” Mr. Strader says, adding, “Many soldiers from World War II trained in Florida, and they ended up moving here or retiring here.” Even when gated communities started popping up during the 1960s, Old Bonita remained intact.

“The community is fascinated with Bonita’s historical attributes,” he says. “The Wayside Inn was brought from Fort Myers to Bonita by barge in 1914. Back then, it was the premier hotel. People like Barron Collier, Henry Ford and Thomas Edison stayed there when they came to the area to hunt.”

“We’re excited to see Shangri-La reopen its doors. It has really maintained its historical character.” To continue to protect the integrity of Shangri-La, the owners purchased adjacent land, making the area a 15-acre escape from reality.
After the owners’ longtime discussions with the Bonita Springs City Council, a unanimous 6-0 vote granted a special event permit, and the council agreed to co-sponsor Shangri-La’s reopening event. Shangri-La will reintroduce itself to the community with a two-day celebration that includes holiday activities and entertainment, organic food and beverages at the pool pavilion by Chef Don Splain, a public tour of the grounds and the Shangri-La labyrinth. A VIP reception is available for $125 per person each evening. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Bonita Springs Rotary Club.

According to Ms. Burch, “We plan to open in February or March — not the (main) hotel or restaurant yet — but the northern four acres of property that include 22 rooms, a dining room and kitchen, as well as the spa building, meeting rooms and the natural spring for events like weddings, workshops, yoga retreats, and some of our own events.”

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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Even though we don shorts and T-shirts, there’s no shortage of holiday spirit around town. Here are some of our favorite traditions of the season (see more holiday events in the regular calendar on pages C6-7):

Throughout its own “12 Days of Christmas,” The Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens delivers special gifts to its wildlife residents. Visitors can watch Malayan tigers and South African lions claw into wrapped presents filled with meaty treats; alligators swallow a festive turkey leg dinner; apes nibble fruity treats; African honey badgers and Red River hogs play with a rolling ice snow globe; and the new giraffe herd munch into leafy surprises.

See the full schedule of events at www.napleszoo.org/holiday.

“Trumpet Christmas” by the Naples Concert Band will be presented as part of Evening on Fifth from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, along Fifth Avenue South. Musicians highlighted include the Trumpet Ensemble, J&P Trio, the Saxophone Ensemble and the Stein Family Ensemble. The evening’s entertainment is sponsored by IberiaBank and DeVoe Automotive.

For more information about this and other holiday happenings on the avenue, visit www.FifthAvenueSouth.com.

The Naples Preserve and Eco-Center holds its second annual “Preserving the Holiday Spirit” open house with seasonal music and refreshments, naturally decorated holiday trees and guided evening tours of the boardwalk at the preserve in the heart of the city.

Hours are 4-7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 16-18. Friday’s entertainment will be by steel drummer Joey Bathol of Steel Cruzin’; Saturday’s music will be by the Irish band Inish; and the Golden Gate High School Ensemble will perform on Sunday.

Admission is free. The preserve is at 1690 Tamiami Trail, at the corner of Fleischmann Boulevard. For more information, call 261-4290.

The Naples High School concert bands present their “Holiday Prism” concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 16-17, in the school auditorium. The program will feature performances by the concert, symphonic and jazz bands and the percussion ensemble.

Admission is $5. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 821-8520.

Everybody loves a Christmas parade

Pictures of happy faces from the Naples Christmas Parade say more than 1,000 words. Photographer Bob Raymond caught hundreds of people in the crowd on film but couldn’t possibly get their names. See if you can find someone you know.
**HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS**

**Artichoke and Company** presents Ray Livosi in “A Christmas Dinner Show with Frank Sinatra” from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at the Inn at Pelican Bay. Cost is $54 per person. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 263-6979.

**Aldo’s Ristorante Italiano & Bar** hosts its fifth annual Pizza with Santa from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17. Children ages 12 and under can have their photo taken with the jolly old soul and then enjoy free pizza, soft drinks and cookies. A full menu will be available for adults. All proceeds benefit the ABLE Academy, which serves individuals with autism and related disorders. Aldo’s Ristorante is at 4820 Davis Blvd. For more information, call 779-2200.

**The Dock at Crayton Cove** celebrates its annual Dickens Fest from 4:30 p.m. until closing on Saturday, Dec. 17. The staff dresses as characters from “A Christmas Carol,” and the holiday classic movie will be shown on TVs throughout the restaurant. The chef is at work creating Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim’s favorites dishes, and the Tiny Tim’s favorite dishes, and the holiday classic movie will be shown on TVs throughout the restaurant. The chef is at work creating Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim’s favorite dishes, and the Friend of Music String Quartet from Barron Collier High School will entertain. For reservations or more information, call 263-9940.

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If you have a jewelry box with bling from an old fling or a coffee can full of old coins, you may want to haul it down to the Hawthorn Suites next week. “The gold and silver markets have not been this strong for over 30 years” said Dennis Kouts Ohio Valley Refinery spokesperson. Typically when the U.S. dollar is weak and the economy is flat, gold and silver markets soar. “That’s good news if you are sitting on a few gold necklaces or an old class ring” says Kouts.

Starting Monday at 9am and every day next week through Friday, the Ohio Valley Refinery is setting up a satellite refinery right here in Naples at the Hawthorn Suites. During their 5 day stay, anyone can bring gold, silver, pre-1970 coins and turn them into cash on the spot explains Dennis Kouts. “Just about everybody has some amount of gold or silver just lying around collecting dust and this week anybody can sell theirs direct to our refinery. Typically selling direct to a refinery is reserved for larger wholesale customers like jewelry stores, pawn shops and laboratories” says Kouts. “We are changing how business is done,” he explains “we want to do business with everybody so we took our business to the streets.”

“Our teams visit various cities around the country hosting 5 day events and allowing the general public to take advantage of our services. “The turnout has been overwhelming” says Kouts. “Usually each day is busier than the previous day. It seems once people come to us and sell something, they are so amazed what an old ring or gold coin is worth, they go home and start digging around for more and telling relatives, friends and neighbors.”

What should you expect if you go to the event to sell your gold and/or silver? Just gather up all gold, silver and platinum in any form. If you are not sure if it’s gold or silver, bring it in and they will test it for free. When you arrive at the event you will be asked to fill out a simple registration card and will be issued a number. Seating will be available. When your number is called you will be escorted to a table where your items will be examined, tested and sorted. This only takes a few minutes, using their expertise and specialized equipment. Items will be counted and/or weighed. The value of the items will be determined based on up to the minute market prices. Your payment will be available at the event displaying current market prices of all precious metals. If you choose to sell your items, they will be bagged and tagged and you will be escorted to the cashier to collect your payment. Waiting time to sell your items may range from just a few minutes to 1 hour, so bring something to read. If you are the owner of a jewelry store, pawn shop, dentist office or a dealer you are encouraged to call ahead to make an appointment with the smelt master to discuss their special dealer programs. They can be reached during Refinery hours at (217) 787-7767.

Ohio Valley Refinery will open for business Monday from 9am-6pm. The event continues every day through Friday. No appointment is needed for the general public.
HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

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The Ave Maria Silverados rode in the Town of Ave Maria’s first-ever holiday parade on Dec. 2.

The annual “Tuba Christmas” concert took place under the stars in Sugden Plaza on Dec. 8. Hundreds of people enjoyed their favorite holiday songs performed by tuba, sousaphone, euphonium and baritone horn players from the Naples Concert Band. DeVoe Automotive and IberiaBank sponsored the free concert.

BACKWATER JACKS Waterfront Seasonal Dining

NOW OPEN! Tuesday - Sunday 3 to 9pm

POUR ON THE HOLIDAY SAVINGS!

Each day from Dec. 1 to Dec. 24 we’ll announce a new one-day special on holiday gifts available in-store and online. Check our website, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for daily deal announcements during the 24 Deals of December.

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Pour your heart out and save!
Weekend blood drive will also collect toys

Make magic happen in more ways than one this holiday season. Give blood and an unwrapped toy at the Community Blood Centers’ Holiday Tailgate for Life Blood Drive and Stuff a Truck Toy Drive. Bloodmobile hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Tarpon Springs Plaza on Immokalee Road just east of I-75 near Target. Bringing an unwrapped toy to the event will ensure that children in area hospitals, at St. Matthew’s House and at the Shelter for Abused Women & Children will have a gift. Giving blood will help ensure supplies are available during the holidays for patients in area hospitals. All successful blood donors will receive a prize pack (while supplies last) including gift cards from Chili’s, Sports Clips and Cruise Naples. Panera Bread will provide refreshments.

Donors are always welcome at CBC’s two locations:
- In Naples at 311 Tamiami Trail N., Suite 3180 Estey Ave., between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.
- In Bonita Springs at 9170 Bonita Beach Road., Suite 102, 495-1138.

For more information, including a schedule of bloodmobile drives, call 436-5455 or visit www.givebloodcbc.org.

Children’s Advocacy Center welcomes toys, gifts

The Children’s Advocacy Center of Collier County is collecting new toys and clothing for children who have been physically or sexually abused. The items will be distributed to parents and caregivers to give to their young charges. Clothing of all sizes as well as games, toys and sports equipment for all ages are needed. Financial donations are also much appreciated. Donations can be dropped off at the CAC office at 1036 Sixth Ave. N. For more information, call Tina Streeter at 263-6383, ext. 232, or e-mail tstreeter@CACCollier.org.

Shelter collecting gifts for all ages

The Shelter for Abused Women & Children needs new, unwrapped, non-violent toys and other gift items to help make the season safe and bright for hundreds of domestic violence victims throughout Collier County. Donations can be delivered to Options Thrift Shoppe, 968 Second Ave., N., between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Appropriate donations for the holiday season include: gift cards to Walmart, Target, Coastland Center; phone and gasoline cards; dolls (all ethnicities); sports equipment; non-violent books, CDs, DVDs and video games; roller skates and skateboards; MP3 players and portable CD players. Clothing for adults and children (especially teen boys) is also needed, as are toys for pets.

For information about hosting a Shelter giving tree, adopting a shelter family for the holidays or organization a donation drive in your office or neighborhood, call Rebecca Grabau at 775-3862, ext. 235.

Salvation Army needs new toy donations

The Salvation Army is collecting new, unwrapped toys for Collier County children this holiday season. Donations can be dropped off at the Salvation Army Christ Toy Store, 2100 Trade Center Way, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday-Friday or at the Salvation Army headquarters, 380 Entry Ave., between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Toys are also being collected for adults and children ages 12 and younger.

For more information, go to www.salvationarmysusa.org.

Add something to every Red Kettle

As 2011 draws to a close, many people in Collier County are still feeling the effects of the economic downturn that started in 2008. Low-income families and individuals are having to between buying food or making utility payments. A successful Red Kettle campaign can help The Salvation Army’s help the less fortunate bridge the gap between their resources and the cost of acquiring basic human needs. Through Christmas Eve, Red Kettles manned by bell-ringing Salvation Army volunteers are up and running at more than 50 locations in Collier County. From pennies and dimes to dollars in all denominations, cash donations are welcome.

The Salvation Army foresees a critical situation in 2012, because chronic economic instability has affected not only those who are already struggling, but also those generous people who would usually feel compelled to offer financial support.

As you make your rounds for holiday shopping, drop a donation in a Red Kettle wherever you see one, and know that every gift will help someone in need ring in the New Year with a renewed sense of hope.
Pat Darcy lived with constant pain in her legs and hips. When her movements became so restricted that even a short walk caused intense pain, she knew she needed help. She turned to Charles Springer, M.D. who replaced both of her hips. Now, Pat is as active as she was 30 years ago, but instead of returning to work, she’s back in the gym, working out with friends. To read more of Pat’s story, please visit www.LeeMemorial.org/caring

Caring people, caring for people.
HEALTHY LIVING

TO YOUR HEALTH

Grief workshop coming to Avow Hospice

Avow Hospice will present “Opening the Heart,” a workshop for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, in the Isispi community center on the Avow campus at 1095 Whisperpoor Willow Lane.

Led by nationally recognized grief workshop facilitators, the program provides a supportive atmosphere to help adults heal grief using a variety of activities including music, meditation and holistic exercises. Participants make a commitment to confidentiality regarding information shared during the workshop.

Registration is $95 and includes breakfast, lunch and refreshments. A monthly payment option is available upon request. Professionals and students can earn six CEs.

Enrollment is limited and early registration suggested. Call 261-4404, ext. 3733.

Find out what’s so funny about growing older

Everyone knows that aging isn’t for sissies, but no one said you shouldn’t have some laughs while it’s happening.

Dr. Richard Bimler will present “Aging with Humor,” a free program with insights about growing older, on Friday, Jan. 13, at Marco Lutheran Church, 525 N. Collier Blvd., Marco Island. Registration begins at 10 a.m., the program starts at 10:30 a.m. A light lunch will follow, compliments of The Arlington.

For more information or registration, call 348-4180 or visit www.physiciansregional.com/events.

Parkinson’s patients step out for dance classes

Through a grant from the Martin Foundation to the United Arts Council of Collier County, PASFI is able to offer the class at no charge to residents of Bonita Springs and Collier County until Dec. 22. The Bonita class is set to resume on Jan. 10, the Naples class, however, will not start up again unless funding can be found (505 per class), now that the grant has ended.

The class was developed through the Mark Morris Dance Group in New York City. Isabel Castro, a 30-year dance veteran and the local instructor for the past year, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10; the Naples class, however, will not start up again unless funding can be found.

Enrollment is limited and early registration is suggested. Call 261-4404, ext. 3733.

STRAIGHT TALK

From conference spectators to poster presentation leaders

Six years ago, a handful of us from NCH ventured to Orlando for the annual meeting of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Our small group was overwhelmed by the more than 6,000 healthcare professionals in attendance from around the world.

This year, 40 NCH colleagues, including eight board members, 38 staff nurses, seven directors, six physicians and three senior administrators, just returned from IHI’s 23rd annual National Forum, where we presented 18 posters about what we know best: health-care quality.

NCH’s remarkable evolution at the presidential level indicates, but the last thing we should do now is rest on our laurels. Now is the time for all of us to redouble our efforts in realizing IHI’s five yardsticks to sustain our role today, is further proof of how far we’ve come as an institution and as quality health-care professionals.

But the last thing we should do now is rest on our laurels. Now is the time for all of us to redouble our efforts in realizing IHI’s five yardsticks to sustain our community’s continued progress in quality health care.

We should all be proud and thankful for the 4,000 NCH colleagues who are making a difference in our community’s and our nation’s health care, every single day.

— Dr. Allen Weiss is president and CEO of NCH Healthcare Systems.
three years, travels to New York City at least once a year for training with the MMDG specific to the company’s “Dance for PD” program. “For an hour a day, they can do something that everyone else is doing,” Ms. Castro says about her Parkinson’s dance class participants. “Leave your worries at the door,” says Doug Carman, a member of Naples City Improv who provides the keyboard music for the class. The movement and music are interlocked: Dance allows Parkinson’s patients to exercise both right- and left-brain activity, and the live component of the music facilitates memory, and the live component of the music nurtures relationships among other organizations so that classes based on our model are widely available.”

About PASFI

The Parkinson Association of Southwest Florida Inc. is at 2950 U.S. 41 N., Suite 20, in Naples. The association offers classes and workshops in exercise, dance, speech/swallowing, balance and art therapy. An anonymous donor recently has offered to cover the cost of PASFI members’ participation in a program at Naples Equestrian Challenge. Respite and day care assistance and support groups are also part of the association’s offerings. For more information, call 417-3465 or visit www.pasfi.org.

The fourth annual PASFI Fashion Show & Luncheon

What: Clothing from Petunia’s and Evelyn & Arthur, eyewear presentation and makeover by Eye Consultants of Bonita
Where: 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14
Where: Naples Sailing and Yacht Club
Tickets: $75 per person (purchase by Jan. 6)
Info: 417-3465 or pasfio@aol.com
PET TALES
Game-changers
Litter, scratching posts have changed the way we keep cats

BY DR. MARTY BECKER
Universal Uclick

Every year, I make the rounds of pet-industry trade shows and veterinary conferences, and every year I at least glance at thousands of new pet-care products. While a few are truly innovative, many are just variations on a theme as companies work to mimic top sellers as closely as they can without getting sued.

Whether any new product will catch on is anyone’s guess, though few will reach the level of those that truly have changed the way we live with our pets.

I recently mentioned five such products for dogs. Now, here are some for cats, with a handful of items that have changed the world for cat lovers:

Litter
While the idea of keeping a box inside for cats to use as a potty was around for a while, it never really took off until Edward Lowe happened upon what he called “kitty litter” in 1947. His dad owned a company that made industrial cleanup materials, and when someone asked him to suggest something for a cat box, he filled up a bag of Fuller’s Earth, a kind of absorbent clay. When Lowe sold his Kitty Litter company decades later, he was rich beyond his wildest dreams, and cats had become more popular than dogs as pets. Today, more than 80 percent of cat owners have litter boxes in their homes, although clumping litter is used in most of them now, not the material on which Lowe built his company.

Scratching posts/cat trees
Clawing is natural, normal and very satisfying for cats. While cat lovers may understand the normal and natural behavior, they’re not on board with the satisfying when then shredded objects include the furniture. No one knows who first came up with the idea of providing cats an approved place to scratch, but the idea was a great one for both cats and people. While scratching posts used to look like DIY fright shows covered in dreadful colors of leftover ’70s shag carpet, today it is easy to find cat trees and other related items that keep cats happy and divert attention from the corner of the sofa.

Microchips
Cats are notorious for roaming, even if they have to slip out against an owner’s wishes to do it. They’re also pretty good at slipping out of their collars, since cat collars are designed to give way if a cat gets caught on something. Problem is, a cat with no ID tag is unlikely to be reunited with her family, and shelter workers sadly note that many “strays” turned in are obviously lost pets.

The microchip betters the odds of a reunion, since most shelters scan lost pets for such ID. The size of a grain of rice and easily implanted at a veterinarian’s office or shelter, the microchip is the best insurance you can buy to help your cat come home when lost.

Cat fishing toys
Cats love string, but string can be a problem for cats. Young cats and kittens sometimes swallow string, and that can lead to a crisis that requires surgery. That’s why whoever first thought of tying one end of a string to a pole and the other to a cat toy deserves a nod for coming up with what may be the best cat toy ever. You can find all kinds of variations on the cat fishing toy, and you can even make your own. It’s all good — and it keeps your cat busy, you amused and the claws on the end of the string. Runner-up: Laser pointer, and only second because it’s not on board with the satisfying when then shredded objects include the furniture. No one knows who first came up with the idea of providing cats an approved place to scratch, but the idea was a great one for both cats and people.

Cats who are kept indoors are prone to obesity and boredom. The cat fishing pole helps keep those problems under control, in a manner entertaining for all.

To adopt or foster a pet
• This week’s adoptable pets are from Brooke’s Legacy Animal Rescue, an all-volunteer, foster home based in Fort Myers. For information about volunteering or about making one of this week’s pets your own, call 434-7480, e-mail AdoptABrooke@BrookesLegacyAnimalRescue.org or visit www.BrookesLegacyAnimalRescue.com.

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They saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the Lord.
— Exodus, 34:35 (New International Version)

“He’s got the whole world in his hands.”
— from the hymnal “Spirituals Triumphant, Old and New”

Manager: I am rehearsing and you know perfectly well no one’s allowed to come in during rehearsals. Who are you, please? What do you want?
Father: As a matter of fact...we have an author here...
Manager: But there’s no author here...
Father: Any author, sir.
Manager: An author? What author?
Father: As a matter of fact...we have in Charge of You and Yours: This is Anoesis

At Legoland everyone becomes a hero...Hi, my name is Model Mom Mary and I am here to make your visit to LEGOLAND California brickfully blissful and utterly stress-free.
— LEGOLAND website

“Is it every single writing specifically by you...or have I detected that someone else occasionally stands in for you?”
— from an e-mail written on Oct. II by a Musings reader

“As far as your closing the discourse without reply, I must assume that you consulted someone else as to how this agenda should be handled, and he or she advised you to submit...Either way...Cogito, ergo sum.”
— from e-mail written on Sept. 9, 2010 by a Musings reader.

• emerging from cave dream, from dark to light dream, to whole plant, to simply leaves edge eaten into living fractils, then merely one leaf with one hole heart shaped, wondering what mouth could create such wonder, author appears: green friend, six legs, two bulging eyes (radiant white with red pupils), two antennas, black hourglass on back, constructs, minimalist mindless: wander lust coming an infinity of 8 ½-by-11s": Oh, windows open all around that vehicle priety. Until as it was passing through south, not head on, no crash intended, north toward this black car driving in complete and unnoticeable procession, ’er got a mine, knot minding minutings stars and mangier managing, got to go to hand it to you.
(iii) black vehicle driving down road up round up loaded, white vehicle approaching, nothing extra, ordinary, unfulfilled inner discourse intra-coursed, you know, wanting to even out cogito bumps ergo assumes ergot assumptions, ’er got a mine, knot minding mining mining, blahs say striving, sin sere maximum.

Then veil water boarding: Flash: “That white car was coming north toward this black car driving south, not head on, no crash intended, but in complete and unnoticeable procession. Until as it was passing through windows open all around that vehicle came an infinity of 8 ½-by-11s": Oh, sheets: flying whiter than white, whiter than cloth out of the bleacher’s eye, filling the spacious sky, like flat one-winged birds, untamable, mindless: wander lust story, were you somewhere pixel safe or is the white horse rider long haired and naked laughing still, like leg obs and ah shaking out pouring in date ah logged low g ah humming home?
(The buck stops here.)

iv To sum, caving back, wanting to find my friend again, but being lost in space and timeless: no such hope, even to see the whole plant, much less the leaf with hearted hole, much less a green tiniest tinniness. still going south again, mounting sigh high, mount horeb, mount musa, mount tawn mana, dancing with the stars, lay downing the law, how turning left at the store long ago sealed, condemned, rocked, how turning right at the north star, the big dipper, it’s all moving even mountains. And yet, the eye on the turn notes and he appears impossibly, not a moment too soon or too belated, sans cronies, oceans the tears of you, nigh on; of ions; of pion then muon, of anti- and new tree no. (But eye just see you) (this has that heard)

— Rx is the FloridaWeekly muse who hopes to inspire profound mutiny in all those who care to read. Our Rx may be wearing a pirate cloak of invisibility, but emanating from within this shadow is hope that readers will feel free to respond. Who knows: You may even inspire the muse. Make contact if you dare.

Lights.

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Bonita Springs – 239.949.2544, 28801 S. Tamiami Trail

— from an e-mail written on Sept. 9, 2010

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— from e-mail written on Sept. 9, 2010 by a Musings reader.
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Holiday retail season starts strong

December's Consumer Reports Index, a gauge of overall consumer financial health, showed that despite flagging confidence and a weak employment picture, the holiday season is off to a good start, with excellent activity in November and the prospect of a strong December.

After several years of reining in spending, consumers are in the mood to splurge this holiday season with activity up substantially over last year. The Past 30-Day Retail Index for December was 13.9, up from 12.4 a year ago, and planned spending for December was also strong at 12.7, compared to 11.8 last year. Among the categories comprising the Retail Index, the largest gains were in personal electronics.

Though there has been no improvement in Consumer Sentiment or in the financial difficulties faced by consumers, overall, measures are fairly stable.

"It may be this relative stability in contrast to the gloom of the past several years, that is causing consumers to cast off the restraint of the seasons gone by and 'celebrate' with some serious shopping," said Ed Farrell, director of the Consumer Reports National Research Center.

The Consumer Reports Index report is available at www.ConsumerReports.org.
Investing is not an easy thing to do. If it were, the world would be replete with multi-millionaires who made their fortune investing.

In the 1980s and 1990s, managing your own portfolio was made easy: a rising tide in worldwide equities and declining interest rates lifted all portfolio boats. Many an individual who tried his hand at running his own money arrived at a self-assessment that he (if he must say so) did a pretty good job. In reality, his investment performance was largely buoyed by a bull’s run.

The New millennium brought a much harsher reality to do-it-yourself investing as tech equities collapsed in the year 2000 and ensuing years brought two major market crashes and, now, another international banking crisis looms large. And traditional places to hide funds until the economic banking crisis looms large. And traditional places to hide funds until the economic

place to stay.

the rules and made cash a very painful time around, the Federal Reserve changed Joe the Investor; rapidly declining fixed places to hide until the economic reality to do-it-yourself investing was largely buoyed by a bull’s run.

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Joe the Investor; rapidly declining fixed places to hide until the economic reality to do-it-yourself investing was largely buoyed by a bull’s run.

is the community with likes expertise. Within the broad forum are smaller groups... and entry is by invite. Not that the group is snobbish; entrance to some inner circles is best made by quality of your postings.

The group generally embraces the investment style of Warren Buffett who, in my opinion, now value invests on a billionare’s preferential playing field. Buffett often appears in critical times/situations when a lot of money is immediately needed and deal negotiation must be extremely fast; Buffett is handsomely paid and often well-protected in his investments... far beyond terms available to the public.

But traditional value investing, the piece-by-piece analysis of a company’s assets and cash flow, is rarely not just real as VF carries a torch for individual investors. In general, the VF investor seeks higher income with added benefit that the dividend or distribution often provides a floor for the equity in volatile markets.

A widely accepted maxim (akin to “too good to be true”) is: if the yield is so high, there has to be something very much wrong. But there are important caveats to that truism: if a company is sufficiently small, it will not be covered by an institutional analyst and, if the industry or company is sufficiently complex, many an analyst will stay clear of coverage as they know that few of their clients would have the patience, interest, time or capacity to read even the best of breed research on such. But this is where VF members thrive.

Certain sectors offer many of the above-mentioned size and complexity compo-
nents: mortgage REITs, oil and gas MLPs/ trusts; shipping companies; and SBICs (i.e. real estate investment trusts, master limited partnerships, and small business investment companies). The Value Forum group likes the hunt and relishes prized annual yields of 10 percent plus; some pay upwards of 18 percent!

Not all VF coverage is on high-yielding plays as some follow natural resources, agricultural/ fertilizer plays, consumer products, even a tad of tech can be found. Not all postings are fundamental; some members share their technical approaches and some discuss business cycle/wave the-
orients (e.g. Nenner, Armstrong, Prechter, etc.)

Participants post by “handle” and can remain anonymous... except if an forum hosts an annual event called InvestFest, held all over the country but, as it happens, this year is in Tampa on Feb. 12. Three days of learning and sharing — many a face matched to their handle.

One of the big highlights of the confer-
ence will be presentations by mortgage REIT AGNC and its recently formed sister company (MTGE) explaining how it man-
ages their leveraged mortgage portfolios (with heavy explanation on how they have produced AGNC’s quarterly dividend of 18 percent... for several years). Another speaker is a VF member who is an expert in shipping companies, particularly those of John Frederickson. (Some VF members actually travel to Bermuda for Freder-
 ckson companies’ annual meetings and face-to-face fact-finding.) Other topics are: wealth planning, technical trading, etc.

I am also on the speaker list but, lest you think this is self-promotion, I am eager to learn as I invest/trade in AGNC, MTGE, and CHIK and a list of others to be bought at certain prices.

You can try VF online (http://valuefo-
rum.com) for a nominal cost. Downside? This is not a free site, which is also an upside as it keeps out online riffraff. Also, the vituperous online dialogues sometimes lack decorum.

A trial membership might make a great Christmas gift for the beginner investor (who needs a fish but was never taught how to invest fish) or the retiree who doesn’t need more hardware, software, gloves, ties or gift cards.

None of the above opinions or position disclosures should be construed as a rec-
mendation; they are my personal views and are not intended to determine suitability and for verification of investment facts. I

— Jeannette Showalter, CFA is a com-
modities broker with Worldwide Futures Systems, 57V-896C. For mid-week commen-
taries, write to showalter@wwfsystems. com.
**PORT ROYAL - SPYGLASS LANE**  
Commanding views over Treasure Cove from this magnificent estate home situated on one and one-half Port Royal lots. Port Royal Club membership eligibility.  
$9,450,000

**BEACHFRONT - 13TH AVENUE SOUTH**  
A real opportunity is presented for a buyer to take advantage of a very private, gated community located on the unimproved beachfront property that can some day become a private residence with magnificent Gulf views and no public roads on either side…. your “secret beachfront home” just minutes from Third Street South.  
$7,200,000

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

**PORT ROYAL - SPYGLASS LANE**  
Dramatic views over Treasure Cove from this architectural masterpiece designed by renowned architect Kasimir Korybut. Elegant, yet comfortable, tropical living. Port Royal Club membership eligibility.  
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Commanding views over Treasure Cove from this magnificent estate home situated on one and one-half Port Royal lots. Port Royal Club membership eligibility.  
$9,450,000

**PORT ROYAL - KINGS TOWN DRIVE**  
Spectacular long water view estate site. 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

**PORT ROYAL - FORT CHARLES DRIVE**  
Spectacular long water view estate site. 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.  
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**PORT ROYAL - RUM ROW**  
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ON THE MOVE

Banking & Finance

Richard Greenwood has joined The Naples Trust Company as a managing director and will help guide overall capital allocation and corporate strategy in addition to his role as a client advocate and member of the firm’s asset management committee. He will work out of the company's Naples and Chicago offices. Mr. Greenwood is president and chairman of the Chicago-based Madison Advisory Group Inc., which he founded in 1977 to provide investment services to institutions, foundations and high net-worth individuals and families. Madison acts as the general partner in high net-worth individuals and families.

Board Appointments

Several new members have joined the board of directors for the Neighborhood Health Center. They are: Sharon Hanlon, attorney with Zelman and Hanlon PA; Daniel Hickey, senior vice president and senior portfolio manager at Northern Trust; Dr. Paul Jones, past board chair and a clinician volunteer who is board-certified in family medicine; Chet Scholtz, clinic volunteer and the retired president and CEO of Russellborough Supply Company; and Sandy Waite, co-owner of Platinum Total Fabricare.

Michael Schmidt, Ph.D., has joined the board of Bonita Springs-based VR Laboratories LLC. Dr. Schmidt will support VR Laboratories in business development, negotiations, discovery and screening, clinical trials, medical food development and botanical drug development. He is one of three scientists teaming up for an inaugural science expedition aboard Virgin Galatic’s SpaceshipTwo. The scientists will study radiation and other exposure in the suborbital space environment. Dr. Schmidt has spent the past 20 years studying human performance under extreme conditions and developing analytics, small molecule therapeutics and neuroplasticity-based diagnostics to optimize performance in these environments.

Carol Conway, president of CRS Technology Consultants, has been named vice chair of the board of directors of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce. She will assist in advancing the member services and public communication committees of the chamber. An 18-year resident of Southwest Florida, Ms. Conway is also active in the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce, FGCU, The United Way and Susan G. Komen for the Cure-Southwest Florida.

Fitness

Debra Orringer has been named managing director of fitness at Tiburon Golf Club. Previously with the fitness center at Kennedy Space Center and a consultant with equipment companies including Winsor Pilates and Total Vibes, Ms. Orringer holds a master’s degree in exercise physiology. She is certified by the American College of Sports Medicine, the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America and the American Council on Exercise. She also has been featured in and authored fitness articles for Shape magazine and the IDEA Fitness Journal.

Health Care

Dr. Vivian Ebert, D.C., was honored as the distinguished chiropractic physician of the year in Southwest Florida by the Florida Chiropractic Association. She has been a chiropractic physician in Southwest Florida for more than 30 years. She practiced for 27 years in Naples and recently opened Living Well Chiropractic in Bonita Springs. She graduated from Logan College of Chiropractic in St. Louis, Mo., and also completed a post-graduate program to become a certified chiropractic sports physician. Dr. Ebert currently serves as the president of the Collier County Chiropractic Society, which she co-founded in 1989. She also co-founded the Naples Executive Women’s Golf Association, and is an assistant golf coach for girls at The Community School of Naples.

Three bilingual, board-certified psychiatrists have joined the medical staff at the David Lawrence Center. Dr. Frank Lehninger will serve as a child and adolescent psychiatrist in Children’s Outpatient Services. Dr. Monica Robles will serve as the senior physician in Children’s Outpatient Services; Dr. Luis Rives will serve as an adult psychiatrist in Adult Outpatient and Urgent Care Services.

A native of Germany, Dr. Lehninger earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, European College of Osteopathic Medicine, and a doctor of medicine from Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University of Frankfurt in Germany. After relocating to the United States, he completed residencies and fellowships in child, adolescent, adult and geriatric psychiatry at SUNY Buffalo in New York, University of South Florida and University of Florida.

A native of Spain, Dr. Robles received her doctor of medicine from the Complutense University of Madrid and completed her residency in psychiatry followed by a fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of Tennessee in Memphis.

Dr. Rives earned his bachelor’s of arts degree in chemistry and his doctor of medicine from the University of South Florida. He completed his residency in psychiatry at the University of Virginia. He has more than 15 years of experience in an outpatient, inpatient and hospital treatment setting serving the adult and geriatric population. He also has experience working with individuals battling eating disorders and chemical dependency.

Maxine Michael has joined Park Royal Hospital as director of business development. She is responsible for business development, product development and strategic community alliances for the private 76-bed mental health facility that will open in January on the HealthPark Medical Center campus in Fort Myers. Ms. Michael has 25 years of experience in the health care industry and has owned her own medical and mental health company for nine years. She most recently served as director of business development with Psychiatric Solutions Inc. in Fort Lauderdale and North Carolina and previously worked with privately held psychiatric and medical hospitals in the Tampa-St. Petersburg market. She holds a master’s degree in gerontology from University of South Florida.

Dr. Katie Harrison has joined Physicians Regional Medical Group, a strategic affiliation of Park Royal Healthcare System. Dr. Harrington earned her medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine in Dominica, West Indies, and completed a two-year residency at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Her specialties include high-risk obstetrics, neonatology, adolescent gynecology and family planning. Her office is in the Medical Arts Building at Physicians Regional-Collier Boulevard.

Hospitality

Jason Babel has been promoted to director of sales and community relations for the five Southwest Florida Jason’s deli restaurants. A graduate of Central Michigan University, Mr. Babel has more than seven years of experience as a catering manager for Jason’s in Naples and Fort Myers.

Chef Marty Freeman has joined the culinary team at Noodles Italian Cafe and Sushi Bar. He brings more than two decades of cooking and catering experience to the restaurant, beginning with his experience working at Alphonzo’s, a French restaurant in his hometown of Closter, N.J., and opening his first kitchen 10 years later in Westchester, Pa.

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Beachfront - 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

Port Royal - Nelson's Walk
Absolutely magnificent environmental views of Naples Bay. Two and one-half platted Port Royal lots with approximately 509 feet (per plat) on the water. Properties may be purchased separately. Port Royal Club membership eligibility.

$12,500,000

Port Royal - 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

Port Royal - Spyglass Lane

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"One of the most superb and uniquely located equestrian properties in America."

Port Royal - Nelson's Walk
Sensational vistas 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 Rookery Bay and the pristine coastal estuaries. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $11,500,000

Port Royal - Galleon Drive
Two and one-half Port Royal lots overlooking Naples Bay with multiple building opportunities. Port Royal Club membership eligibility.

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Port Royal - Galleon Drive
From the engaging driveway entrance, through the interior of this masterpiece of comfortable elegance, unfolds a panorama without equal. One immediately recognizes that a striking clarity of conception was turned into a remarkable reality. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $14,975,000

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• You are willing to do some math now and then.
• You won’t need any of the money you invest for at least five years.
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  • You can list reasons why you’re buying it and what will make you sell it.
  • You have a good handle on its competitive advantages.
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  • You will read its four earnings reports each year.

Don’t let this list discourage you. Becoming a successful investor is achievable and can be fun. It’s never too late to start learning. Click over to www.fool.com and www.betterinvesting.org for more guidance.

If you’re not ready to be an active investor, be a passive one. Opt for mutual funds, such as those based on the S&P 500, which tend to beat most stock mutual funds.

shipping services. I’ve won awards for my recycling and environmental efforts. The Grammy Awards and Los Angeles Lakers games occur under my name. I make things “easy.” Who am I?

Know the answer? Send it to us with Foolish Trivia on the top and you’ll be entered into a drawing for a natty prize!

Name That Company

I was founded in 1986, opening my first store in Brightown, Mass. Today I’m the world’s biggest office-products company, with annual sales of $25 billion. (I’m the world’s second-largest online retailer, too, after Amazon.com, and I rake in more than $5 billion online annually.) I employ 90,000 people in more than 1,800 stores in North America, offering copying, printing and more guidance.

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Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway (NYSE: BRK-B), recently revealed that he has bought a 55 percent stake in IBM (NYSE: IBM), worth more than $10 billion. After a great third-quarter earnings report and the appointment of 30-year veteran Ginni Rometty as the next CEO, Buffett’s buy, and therefore implicit approval of IBM’s path, is icing on the cake for what most investors already know is a great company and stock.

In the past, Buffett has avoided the tech sector, claiming he didn’t understand the companies well enough to make significant investments. But current CEO Sam Palmisano impressed Buffett with his unusually detailed disclosure of IBM’s future financial plans and goals.

At one point, IBM had targeted on the edge of irrelevance, Palmisano reimagined and reinvented the company, adding consulting and other services. Looking beyond mere technology to the total customer solution took IBM from being the mainframe storage leader. I rake in more than $10 billion annually. My stock has grown by an average of 13 percent annually over the past 15 years. My stock has grown by an average of 13 percent annually over the past 15 years. My name might make you think of Albert Einstein. Who am I? (Answer: EMC)

Write to Us: Send questions for Ask the Fool, Dumbest (or Smartest) Investments. Got one that worked? Submit to My Smartest Investment. If you haven’t yet, you’ll win a Fool’s cap! Do you have an embarrassing story or an actively researched investment that interests you? Submit to My Dumbest Investment. Were you trained in any kind of financial education? Were you trained in any kind of financial education? Let us know your best defense is always to be as informed as possible. Since you didn’t know much about this company, it could have surprised you in all kinds of ways.

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My Dumbest Investment Dumb Luck

Back around 1995, my broker recommend- ed a growing tech stock. It was trading around $8 per share and he thought it would hit $12. Based on his word alone, I bought it, and then the stock plummeted all the way to $1S1. A few years later, the company’s name had changed twice, and my shares were worth $2 apiece. It kept going, and I sold at around $15 and a profit. My initial $1,800 investment netted me a profit, but it took a long time. I’ve since learned to do some research and stick with companies I know a little bit about before investing.

— D.P., San Ramon, Calif.

The Fool Responds: You jacked up. Many broker recommendations don’t pan out, and your own investment choices can disappoint you too. Your best defense is always to be as informed as possible. Since you didn’t know much about this company, it could have surprised you in all kinds of ways.

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Do you have an embarrassing story or an actively researched investment that interests you? Submit to My Dumbest Investment.

The Motley Fool

Ask the Fool

403(b) vs. 401(k)

What Is This Thing Called 403(b) vs. 401(k)?

How do 403(b) plans and 401(k) plans differ?

M.C., Tampa, Fla.

A 403(b) plans are tax-deferred retirement plans for private-sector workers, and similar 401(k)s are primarily for the self-employed individuals and some non-profits. With both plans, you contribute “pre-tax,” which are invested and grow tax-free until withdrawal.

With both, employers will often match employee contributions, to some degree. If your employer does so, be sure to take maximum advantage, as this is free money. Employer contributions to 403(b)s can have vesting periods of up to several years, while 401(k)s typically feature immediate or quicker vesting. In both cases, employee contributions are immediately fully vested. Learn more at www.fool.com/retire ment and www.403bwise.com.

What’s a UIT?

R.G., Springfield, Mo.

It’s a unit investment trust, invested in a relatively fixed portfolio of securities (such as, say, five or 20 stocks or bonds), with no investment manager buying and selling holdings throughout its defined lifespan. The UIT components are held until the trust is liquidated at a predetermined date in the future — which could be several or many years down the road.

Investors who want to trade shares of a UIT before it matures can often do so on the secondary market. Unlike a mutual fund, UIT share prices in the secondary market may be priced above or below the net asset value of the trust’s actual holdings.

If you buy shares of UTls, you typically pay a sales fee, or load, of around 4 or 5 percent, but the ongoing management fees are usually much lower than for mutual funds. In contrast, charge no sales load at all, but can charge more in annual fees.

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Buffett Buys IBM

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A century of drilling

Although oil production in Florida has never reached the scale of Texas or the Middle East, exploration traces its history back to the turn of the 20th century, when wildcatters were lured here by Indian folklore and dreams of striking it rich. The search for Florida’s black gold centered on the Panhandle and the L.3 million acres owned by Barron Gift Collier, who was convinced his land would fuel America’s growing demand for oil. Early oil exploration proved fruitless until Sept. 26, 1943, when after decades of failed attempts and dozens of dry holes throughout the Panhandle and Southwest Florida, the Humble Oil & Refining Co. struck pay dirt at Sunniland just south of Immokalee. Humble, which later became Exxon, spent $1 million and reached a depth of 1,436 feet before tapping into the reserve.

Sunniland No. 1 became Florida’s first producing oil well.

Although Mr. Collier never lived to see his speculation prove true, Humble Oil, which leased the mineral rights to Sunniland through Collier Resources, claimed the $50,000 incentive offered by state legislators who were eager to see Florida become an oil-producing state. The company donated the money plus the $100,000 to the University of Florida and the Florida State College for Women.

Oil at Sunniland was discovered after a decade of seismic testing and numerous dry holes throughout Collier, Lee and Hendry counties — a process involving the first big-wheeled swamp buggy in the country, according to a 2004 Petroleum Article article recounting the search for oil in Florida.

“Back in the old days they used gravity surveys and gravity anomalies,” says Mr. Jones. “It was traditional wildcatting. Oil forms in pockets so it really was speculation. That’s why historically there are a lot of dry holes put down in Florida. The challenge is to find those pockets of oil, which are not necessarily large. Some of these fields are 1,000 acres over 2 square miles.”

Sunniland No. 1 initially produced 140 barrels of oil a day before eventually settling down to 20 barrels. But the discovery of oil unleashed a fury of wildcat wells, which, when full, are transported by tanker trucks to Port Everglades and periodically emptied into barges. Those barges transport Florida’s black gold across the Gulf of Mexico to refineries in Texas, explained Mr. Jones.

Of course, finding oil today is a little more scientific than it was during those fledgling wildcat days. Depth-penetrating oil-locating sound waves reduce the need to drill multiple exploratory wells.

“Today, it’s more precise,” says Mr. Jones. “They use a 3D seismic process, to identify oil.”

Florida’s inland oil production — tapping 600 million barrels since 1943 — has occurred without a single inland oil production, especially in the Sunniland Trend, is a different animal than deepwater offshore drilling, says Mr. Jones. “We don’t have the prospect of a blow out, which is something that occurs at the well head,” he says. “Our wells are two miles deep and the oil rises on a couple of hundred feet. All of these wells are pumped. There’s no free flow to the surface.”

Reopening old oil fields

It’s an almost-risk-free venture Rep. Hudson is advocating with HB 87, which will offer tax incentives for tapping into wells drilled before 1983 in Southwest Florida and the Panhandle. His bill could step up Florida’s oil production by next summer. The House Energy & Utilities Subcommittee voted 10-4 last week in favor of the proposal that would open up 16 Florida oil fields, including five in Southwest Florida.

In an official statement, Collier Resources said it was not aware of Mr. Hudson’s proposal but does “believe that additional onshore drilling in Florida can provide many benefits including new jobs. Oil drilling in Southwest Florida, ongoing for over 60 years, has proven to be an economic advantage generating tax revenues and creating jobs all in an environmentally sensitive manner.”

“Quite honestly I haven’t followed the bill,” Mr. Jones says in an exclusive interview with Florida Weekly. “But I understand the purpose of it: New drilling technology could target abandoned wells in a different direction.”

Whether Rep. Hudson’s proposal stirs a controversy akin to that of offshore drilling, it has spotlighted an industry few knew existed in Collier County.

“Generally, people don’t realize oil production is occurring right here in Florida and Southwest Florida,” says Mr. Jones. “It creates jobs. We currently have a partner and at some point in the future will look at the possibility of doing exploration ourselves. We would ultimately get into oil production, as well.”

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3. Mark Fanta, John Garvalia and Peter Webster

Celebrating a new name: The William C. Huff Companies

1. John Purchase, Jaclyn and Jim Henderson
2. Barry Nichols, Sara Booker and David Varano
3. Don Neer and Julie Hussin
4. Cheryl Lampard and Karl Gibbons

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The NAACP of Collier County 2011 Freedom Banquet

1. Naples Police Chief Thomas Weschler and Mrs. Weschler
2. Akita Cannon, Irene Williams, Laurel Paster and Harold Weeks
3. Harold Weeks, local NAACP president, and keynote speaker former Sen. Bill Owens
4. Rev. Clinton Hall and Sharon Hall
5. Adline Metayer, Elizabeth Loredo and Peterson Herard

Conservancy of SWF hosts member recognition breakfast

1. Martha Rozman, Rob Moher, Lavern Gaynor and Terry Flynn
2. Supporting sponsors Ken Krier and Ted Walters of Cummings and Lockwood
3. Presenting sponsors Dan Cardinal and Alfonso Olivas from PNC

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May we suggest Chardonnay or Pinot Grigio? Stunning views dominate each luxurious residence and every on-site amenity at Moraya Bay. From the beachside service, restaurant and grotto bar to resort-style pool, lap pool and fitness center, the views are quite distracting. Residences of 4,000-4,500 square feet. Prices from $2.5 million. Over $100 million in sales.
The Eagle has landed
Redesigned course will ring in the New Year at TwinEagles

A grand opening celebration for The Eagle at TwinEagles, the community's golf course that has been redesigned by Steve Smyers and his design associates Patrick Andrews, is set for Tuesday, Jan. 3.

“We regard what we are creating at TwinEagles as very much a work of art,” says Dick McPhail, general manager at TwinEagles. “Now The Eagle course is going to be the perfect complement to the Talon,” says Dick McPhail, general manager at TwinEagles. “The ninth hole is one of the neatest looking second shots into a par 4 that I’ve ever seen in Florida,” says Scott Newhouse, director of golf at TwinEagles. “Imaginatively shaped greens, one of which is over 15,000 square feet, add to the allure of the new course,” he says, adding, “The best feature of this design philosophy is that it provides a different experience for golfers each time the course is played. “When The Eagle opens, we will have two tournament-ready golf courses — and two tournaments are already scheduled.”

TwinEagles hosts the 2012 ACE Group Classic and the CME Group Titleholders ladies LPGA tournament. A golf membership is included with the purchase of a new home in TwinEagles. There is a membership cap of 300 members per 18 holes of golf.

COURTESY PHOTOS

SEE EAGLE, B16 ▶

1752 Gulf Shore Blvd. N.

"House Hunting" is a new Florida Weekly feature that focuses on one listing in the local marketplace.

Directly on Hurricane Harbor, this model home is one of 12 new architectural creations at Naples Casamore within the Coquina Sands community. With interior decor and furnishings by Collins & DuPont and with all upgrades in place, the property is offered furnished for $3.995 million. Expansive windows throughout the three-level floor plan draw in views of the water and natural light. There are four bedrooms, 5½ baths, an elevator, gas fireplace, four-car garage, pool, spa and a boat dock on Hurricane Harbor with access to the Gulf of Mexico. Square footage is 3,953 square feet under air and 6,008 square feet of exterior space.

Naples Casamore is the ideal address for those who treasure a boating and beach lifestyle. In addition to golf access from the picturesque harbor, homeowners have the privilege of private gated beach access across the boulevard.

Naples Casamore’s signature West Indies-influenced designs are by Stoff Cooney Architects; construction is by BCB Homes. Six homes face Hurricane Harbor and six are along Gulf Shore Boulevard. Models are open daily. The home shown here is listed by Premier Sotheby’s International Realty. For more information, call 963-4242.
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EAGLE
From page 11

Prospective buyers can sample a round of golf and enjoy lunch at TwinEagles as part of the community’s Member for a Day program. For details, visit www.twineagles.com.

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Toscana - Golf course view w/ pool. Beautiful lake view. Great room & cook's kitchen.$350,000. [Roseanne] | (239) 502-6570

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Private location overlooking lake & preserve. Upgraded IRB/BA den & family room opens to heated pool.$388,000. [Rosanne, Jackie] | (561) 521-0520

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PELICAN LANDING - LAKE MONT
Private location overlooking lake & preserve. Upgraded IRB/BA den & family room opens to heated pool.$388,000. [Rosanne, Jackie] | (561) 521-0520

VASARI COUNTRY CLUB - SOUTHBRIEGE
Toscana - Gulf access. Beautiful lake view. Great room & cook's kitchen.$350,000. [Roseanne] | (239) 502-6570

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Tibetan style - beachfront. southern exposure light-filled views. Updated IRB/BA den and modernity. Call or text to reserve to play.$299,000. [Roseanne] | (561) 521-0520

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  - Former decorator model with heated pool in complex. Turnkey furnished, all new interior, full size washer/dryer, Large Custom Tile, Hurricane Impact Glass, all new stainless steel appliances, 3+Den/2 (H5705)

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  - **Palmetto Pointe**, 405 Palmetto Blvd, #201 - Former Model, furnished 3/3+den, granite countertops, SS appliances, 2-car garage, lift, custom pool & spa, outdoor kitchen, outdoor fireplace, 2nd floor lanai and living area, full size washer/dryer, Large Custom Tile, Hurricane Impact Glass, all new stainless steel appliances. 3+Den/3 (H6153)

- **Orchid Island**
  - **Colliers Reserve**, 7171 Pelican Blvd, #4 - S. Raphael – luxurious garden villa, comfortable easy living, 10 foot ceilings, stone floors, screened lanai and outdoor patio, private pool with pool, gas grill, A/C 2003) 595-2875
  - **River Reach Estates**, 23650 Via Veneto Blvd, #102 - Former Model, furnished 3/3+den, granite countertops, SS appliances, 2-car garage, lift, custom pool & spa, outdoor kitchen, outdoor fireplace, 2nd floor lanai and living area, full size washer/dryer, Large Custom Tile, Hurricane Impact Glass, all new stainless steel appliances. 3+Den/3 (H6153)
  - **Wildcat Run**, 27308 Tarpon Way - PRICED TO SELL!! Condo in Pelican Bay, A/C 2007, 3rd floor end unit overlooking beautiful lake views & is within walking distance to the Mediterranean clubhouse. 2/2.5 (C7188) Jim Scarts, 777-8726

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- **New Construction**
  - **Pelican Cove**, 405 Palmetto Blvd, #201 - Former Model, furnished 3/3+den, granite countertops, SS appliances, 2-car garage, lift, custom pool & spa, outdoor kitchen, outdoor fireplace, 2nd floor lanai and living area, full size washer/dryer, Large Custom Tile, Hurricane Impact Glass, all new stainless steel appliances. 3+Den/3 (H6153)
  - **Wildcat Run**, 27308 Tarpon Way - PRICED TO SELL!! Condo in Pelican Bay, A/C 2007, 3rd floor end unit overlooking beautiful lake views & is within walking distance to the Mediterranean clubhouse. 2/2.5 (C7188) Jim Scarts, 777-8726

- **Imperial Golf Estates**, 1901 Imperial Golf Club Blvd. - Former Model, furnished 3/3+den, granite countertops, SS appliances, 2-car garage, lift, custom pool & spa, outdoor kitchen, outdoor fireplace, 2nd floor lanai and living area, full size washer/dryer, Large Custom Tile, Hurricane Impact Glass, all new stainless steel appliances. 3+Den/3 (H6153)

- **Camelot River**, 7390 Moorings Ct, #201 - Former Model, furnished 3/3+den, granite countertops, SS appliances, 2-car garage, lift, custom pool & spa, outdoor kitchen, outdoor fireplace, 2nd floor lanai and living area, full size washer/dryer, Large Custom Tile, Hurricane Impact Glass, all new stainless steel appliances. 3+Den/3 (H6153)
An exhibit of signed lithograph prints and vintage posters by master artists of the 20th century opens Friday, Dec. 16, at The von Liebig Art Center. On loan from Galerie Mourlot, New York, the works will remain at the Naples Art Association headquarters through Jan. 15.

Eric Mourlot, owner of the New York gallery as well as the Galerie Mourlot in Paris, will present a behind-the-scenes look at the arts, lithography and the history of his family’s business at 4 p.m. before the opening reception from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Dec. 16.

The master artists in the exhibition are said to have been inspired to explore lithography, a unique print art form, through the encouragement of the Atelier Mourlot, a Parisian print shop founded by the Mourlot family in 1852.

BY NANCY STETSON
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

Alyce Bochette looks back with great fondness at her time as a rat.

“It was fun to be a rat!” she says. “We came out from under the couch and fought the GI Joes.”

In addition to being a rodent, she was also a flower, a snowflake and a fashionable woman from France.

She played these roles as a dancer in “The Hard Nut,” Mark Morris’ groundbreaking, offbeat interpretation of “The Nutcracker.”

As a member of the Mark Morris Dance Group, Ms. Bochette performed in the January 1991 debut of the dance in Brussels, Belgium. Though “The Nutcracker” is standard ballet repertoire, it was the first time she’d ever danced in any version of the holiday staple. Viewers today can see her in the DVD of “The Hard Nut,” originally filmed for the PBS series “Great Performances: Dance in America.”

The dance has been shown annually on cable TV on Ovation’s “Battle of the Nutcrackers,” in which viewers vote for their favorite from among five different productions of “The Nutcracker” the network broadcasts. The winning “Nutcracker” then airs on Christmas Eve.

“The Hard Nut” was so popular —

Exhibit showcases Picassos, Chagalls, Matisses and more

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

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SEAN MOURLOT, C23

Opera at the movies

The Met shares abridged classics at area cinemas.

Apart from the others

Restaurant critic Drew Sterwald discovers A Table Apart remains in a league of its own.
People will tell you newspapers are dying. They say it’s all electronic now, that nobody pores over the morning paper with a cup of coffee, flipping through the funnies and reading the latest from Dear Abby.

It’s true that many of us have moved to online formats. We prefer CNN.com to the old paper-and-ink editions. But I still have an affinity for the printed newspaper, and I still flip through the comics with my morning cup of tea. And, God help me, I still love Dear Abby.

Her topics have become racier over the years, the current slew of sex scandals and delinquent boyfriends nothing like the G-rated versions I read growing up. What I love best about the Dear Abby letters is their obviousness, the way the questions almost feel rhetorical. I sometimes wonder why the writer even bothered; the answer is often in the asking.

For instance, “In a Quandary” recently wrote in with these two opening sentences. “Dear Abby: I married ‘Raymond’ in 2004. I met his son, ‘Bill,’ a year before the wedding and have been in a relationship with him ever since.”

Yikes. I scanned to the end of the letter, wondering what she could possibly want to know.

“Am I walking into a ring of fire by keeping the relationship with Bill?” Quandary asked.

Yes, dear writer. Unequivocally, yes.

Another advice-seeker presented a different dilemma. She was 31 and had been in a relationship with a man for 11 years. She desperately wanted a baby. But the boyfriend?

“He says he has a successful business, loves his life and doesn’t want any more kids,” she wrote. He hinted that he might change his mind down the road but made no promises.

What’s more, the woman wrote to Abby, she had two abortions five years into their relationship.

“He felt we weren’t ready,” she said.

She signed her letter “Cheated in New York” and asked Abby for help.

“I hate him for this,” she said. “I’m starting to pull away.”

I took a sip of tea and pushed my empty cereal bowl to the edge of the counter. I wondered if people took the time to read back over their letters, if they were truly so blind to what was really going on.

Did “Cheated in New York” not see that she was being used? Did she not understand that her boyfriend of more than a decade was never going to give her what she really wanted — a stable relationship and a baby? Did “In a Quandary” really think that her affair with her husband’s son could go on forever? That she hadn’t already plunged her marriage into hot water?

Apparently not.

I folded the paper and mentally cast stones at the Abby letter-senders. I shook my head at their willful blindness.

But then I stopped myself. What would my own letter to Dear Abby look like?

I started to compose one in my head, realizing as I wrote that my romantic complications would wind up being just like those I read every morning: Elusive to my own eyes, but painfully obvious to everyone else.
How do you describe your art form and your style? Expressionist painter…. oil and mixed media…. many large-scale works. I'm also a printmaker. I am considered a “colorist.” I usually work in series… and I enjoy exploring new ideas.

My style is high-energy, fresh and very spontaneous. I follow my whims and random ideas, only to find later that they are linked and meaningful. I love surprise.

Where are you from? I was born and grew up in Baltimore, Md.

When did you discover your creative talents? When I was in the 11th grade, my art teacher pulled me aside and said, “Tammra dear, you really should pursue your art.” I was quite shocked.

Where can we see your work? In my studio at 5760 Shirley St. and online at www.tammrasigler.com.

What inspires you? Just about anything can bring birth to new ideas. I need to always be “open” and watchful, visually and mentally. Music is a great inspiration, rhythmically and sometimes content-wise.

How has living in Naples inspired you? The light and “lightness of being,” the joyful lifestyle here inspires me. I teach at The von Liebig Art Center, and my wonderful group of students have been inspirational in a special way.

What inspires you? Just about anything can bring birth to new ideas. I need to always be “open” and watchful, visually and mentally. Music is a great inspiration, rhythmically and sometimes content-wise.

What is your studio like? Cozy and filled with music. Wonderfully messy… my own organization of tables full of many, many colorful tubes of paints and brushes in all sizes.

Are you a full-time artist? Yes, and an art educator.

How do you feel your art contributes to our community? My work is contemporary and much of it is abstract. I think my vision is my own, and therefore brings its own unique point of view to an “art-forward” community.

How do you use technology in your work? For announcements and invitations. Also for creating my website, lots of image communications and entries and sales, my contact list of patrons and studio visitors, keeping earlier versions of a painting, and for storing, scanning and printing images that will be used in paintings as collage.

Outside of your art, what are you passionate about? Family! I also love physical exercise and fresh air. And I care a lot about my friendships, old and new.

What do you do to put something new into your work? I enjoy working with young adults, so I could see myself as a “kid coach” for college applications… helping students understand and believe in their talents and finding their “hook”!

Favorite artists: Picasso, Matisse, Bonnard and Milton Avery.

— 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, call 263-8242 or visit www.CollierArts.com.
in a French maid’s outfit. Ms. Bochette danced with the Mark Morris Dance Group from 1988-1995. A Fort Myers native, she now contributes her expertise to the students of Dance Bochette, which is under the tutelage of her mother, Jeanne Bochette, in Fort Myers. In honor of the 20th anniversary of the debut of “The Hard Nut,” I invited Ms. Bochette to watch the DVD with me over pizza. It’d been years since the debut of “The Hard Nut,” I invited Ms. Bochette to watch the DVD with me over pizza. It’d been years since

The ballet opened with Marie, Fritz and Louise watching television. Dressed in black and white, they almost look like comic book figures themselves. The set design, by Adrienne Lobel, is based on Charles Burns’ pen-and-ink drawings. The dancers playing Fritz is Marianne (Mooore), Ms. Bochette notes. “It’s actually a woman.”

As the ballet opened, no other dancer playing the opposite gender in this ballet. The housekeeper soon appears, performing by Faye, (Patterson), a slim African-American man who dances en pointe, which is extremely rare for men. He just brought the house down (with his performance), Ms. Bochette says.

Mikhail Baryshnikov was supposed to be in the dance, she reveals, adding, “He was cast as the Nutcracker Prince, but he ended up not performing with us because he hurt his knee.”

Party prep/irvival of the guests The parents, Dr. and Mrs. Stahlbaum, show up, both dressed in holiday greens and reds. The husband, a short man sporting glasses and a goatee, wears a green plaid jacket. “That’s Barry Alterman; he was one of the company managers,” Ms. Bochette says.

The physically imposing mother, wearing an off-the-shoulder dress, is Peter Wing Healey. He towers over the husband. Ms. Bochette comments that some of the audience members never realized he was a man.

The father turns on the TV, which shows a fire in a fireplace. The audience members express thought phase. So then you (ital) become ed thought phase. So then you (ital) becomes clearer in expression. You don’t have to think as much when the movement becomes clearer in expression.

Closing celebration At the end of the ballet, there’s an exuberance and a sense of celebration as all the women come out and do pique turns on stage. The men follow, doing “turns in second,” in which they spin rapidly, with their feet turned in.

“Usually one man in a ballet will come out and do that, but here it’s a whole group of men,” Ms. Bochette says.

There’s wistfulness and a joy in seeing her old friends and fellow dancers once again. The ballet brings back memory of that time.

She performed “The Hard Nut” in Brussels a couple of times and also at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, but she can’t estimate how many times she danced it.

“The more you dance something,” she says, “the more comfortable you become with it, the more familiar your body is with the moves, and the more freedom you have with it. You don’t have to think as much when the movement becomes clearer in expression.

“You can go into almost an suspend- ed, almost trance. So then you (ital) are (close Ital) the dance, you’re not doing the dance.”

In the know Festive fun awaits! Join us for a festive fun filled Holiday dance show! It’s not “The Hard Nut,” but it’s a holiday tradition! Dance Bochette and Gulf Coast Dance team up to present dances from “The Nutcracker” and other holiday classics at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17, at First Baptist Church in downtown Naples. The complimentary show is included with tickets for “The Hard Nut.” For information, call 334-3274.
“Remember the last time an original Broadway musical made you laugh, cry and think? WICKED is the most complete, and completely satisfying, new musical in a long time.”

-USA Today

MARCH 28-APRIL 15
BARBARA B. MANN PERFORMING ARTS HALL

NAUGHTY OR NICE, WICKED TICKETS MAKE THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT.
WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Thursday, Dec. 15

- **Shakespeare Fun** – A free Shakespeare seminar and wine tasting with John McKerrow of Shakespeare in Paradise takes place from 4-6 p.m. at Clive Daniel Home. 2777 Tamiami Trail N. 261-4663.

- **Art in Bonita** – The Center for the Arts of Bonita Springs presents Art Walk from 5-8 p.m. at the Arts Studios at the Promenade at Bonita Bay, 2681 S. Bay Dr. 459-8989 or www.artscenterbonita.org.

- **Holiday Pops** – The Naples Philharmonic Orchestra presents “Holiday Pops” at 8 p.m. tonight through Sunday at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts, 597-1900 or www.ThePhil.org.

- **Cantors in Concert** – The Gulf Coast Symphony presents “A Cantor's Faith in Song” at 8 p.m. at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers. A reception starts at 6:30 p.m. 277-1700 or www.gulfcoastsymphony.org.

- **It Takes Two** – Enjoy a tango show by Pablo and Vicky at the Martin Fierro Restaurant, 6002 Radio Road. 659-8996.

- **Sacred Tunes** – The Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida performs “The Messiah” at 8 p.m. at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers. A carol sing-along concludes the program, and a reception follows. 262-6581, ext. 207.

- **Holiday Party** – Ooh La La Jewels Du Jour holds a holiday open house from 4-6 p.m. The Holiday Harmony Carolers sing seasonal classics. 434-9700 or www.oohlalanuts.com.

- **Free Concert** – The Naples Orchestra Chorus presents holiday concerto at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Sunday at Golden Gate High School. Free. www.naplesorchestraandchorus.org.

- **Beachfront Brass** – The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club presents Late Night Brass in a free outdoor holiday concert from 5-8 p.m. Enjoy craft-making activities, holiday snacks and more. 261-2222.

- **Winter Wonderland** – The Village on Venetian Bay presents holiday activities and entertainment by Patchouli Duo from 5-8 p.m. www.venetianvillage.com.

- **Movie Night** – It’s free family movie night from 7:30 p.m. under the stars at Cambier Park. Tonight’s feature: “The Polar Express.” 213-3058.

Friday, Dec. 16

- **Fine Art** – The Naples Art Association at The von Liebig Art Center hosts a preview reception for “Lithography from Gallery Moulton, New York” from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The exhibit runs through Jan. 15. See story on page C1.

- **Craft Show** – The Southwest Florida Craft Guild hosts an opening reception for “No Boundaries” from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Center for the Arts of Bonita Springs. The juried show features work by local guild artists in clay, glass, sculpture, jewelry, fiber arts, wood and mixed media. It remains on exhibit through December. 26100 Old 41, Bonita Springs. 495-8989.

- **Seasonal Sounds** – The Naples High Concert Bands perform a holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday in the school auditorium. 582-8520.

Saturday, Dec. 17

- **Storytime with Santa** – The jolly old soul himself reads holiday classics for kids 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. at Waterside Shops. Young performer Jessie Cohen entertains at 3 p.m. www.watersideshops.com.

- **Street Art** – Celebrate original American art while shopping at the Shirley Street Galleries and Studios from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 5700 and 5800 Shirley St. 572-3386.

- **More Art** – “3rd Saturday Art Days,” presented by the North Naples Arts Alliance, runs from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in galleries and studios in the Pine Ridge Industrial Park. 821-1061.

- **Christmas Carols** – The choir at Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church presents a concert of carols at 5 p.m. today and 4 p.m. Sunday. A carol sing-along concludes the program, and a reception follows. 262-6581, ext. 207.

- **Holiday Cheer** – Florida Gulf Coast University Theatre Lab presents “Thistletree Cabinet,” an evening of seasonal cheer and a silent auction beginning at 7 p.m. in the FGCU Arts Complex. 225-5970-2268.

Sunday, Dec. 18

- **Free Film** – The Marco Island Jewish Film Festival presents “100 Voices: A Journey Home” at 2 p.m. Free. 991 Winterberry Drive. 642-0800.

- **Big Band Sound** – The Gulf Coast Big Band performs from 2-4 p.m. in the band shell at Cambier Park. 213-3058.

- **Bach Ensemble** – The Bach Ensemble Troubadours and the choir at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church present “A Holiday Celebration” at 6 p.m. at the church on Marco Island. www.thebachensemble.org.

**Naples City Improv takes the stage for an evening of ad-libbing from 6-10 p.m. Friday at The Norris Center. 213-3058.**

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**Holiday Pops** – The Southwest Florida Symphony performs “Holiday Pops: Timeless Treasures” at 8 p.m. at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers. 418-4500 or www.swfso.org.

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WHAT TO DO

COURTESY PHOTO


All That Jazz – The Jerry Stawski Quartet performs from 2-4 p.m. at Sugden Regional Park. 775-2800.

Holiday Service – Marco Presbyterian Church holds a family Christmas service, “Through the Eyes of a Child,” beginning at 6 p.m. 873 W. Elkcam Circle, Marco Island. 994-8816.

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WHAT TO DO

Monday, Dec. 19

Movie Night – The Center for the Arts of Bonita Springs presents a screening and discussion of “Gigante” at 7 p.m. at the Promenade at Bonita Bay. $8. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

3-B-I-N-G-O! – Bingo games begin at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Congregation of Marco Island. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for a free kosher hot dog supper. 991 Winterberry Drive. 642-0800.

Art Event – The Coconut Point New Year’s Weekend Art Festival is set for Dec. 31-Jan. 1 at Coconut Point. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 561-746-3065 or www.brownpapertickets.com.


Young Artists – Bayshore CAPA presents the Naples Music Club Young Artists in concert Jan. 6 as part of the Eric Kunzel Community Concert Series at Edison State College-Collier. 775-2800 or www.bayshorecapa.org.


Submit calendar listings and high-resolution photos to events@floridaweekly.com. E-mail text, jpgs or Word documents are accepted. No pdfs or photos of flyers. The deadline for calendar submissions is noon Sunday.

Tuesday, Dec. 20

Broadway Tunes – Waterside Shops presents a sneak peek of the national tour of the Broadway musical “Million Dollar Quartet,” with 20-minute shows at noon and 2 p.m. The Philharmonic Center for the Arts presents the show at 8 p.m. tonight through Dec. 23.

Menorah Lighting – Chabad Naples hosts a Chanukah celebration from 5-7 p.m. Free parking and shuttle service from the Northern Trust Bank building. 404-6993.


Submit calendar listings and high-resolution photos to events@floridaweekly.com. E-mail text, jpgs or Word documents are accepted. No pdfs or photos of flyers. The deadline for calendar submissions is noon Sunday.

Wednesday, Dec. 21

Wine & Music – Fred’s Food, Fun & Spirits hosts Wine Down Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. Open mic night starts at 7:30 p.m. at 2700 Immokalee Road. 431-7928.

Funny Guy – Jimmy Walker performs today through Friday at the Off The Hook Comedy Club on Marco Island. 389-6900.

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Kids Under 12 Sit • Kids Under 5 FREE
Reservations a Must.

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www.naplesphotograph.com

Questions? Call 394-8186.
Their 26-year-old son, Chris (Jordan Wilson), still lives with them. He's a psychology major in graduate school who lacks motivation to move out and look for a job. He has little life experience but thrives on psychoanalyzing and labeling everyone around him. Mr. Wilson's perfect in this role: smug and condescending. With youthful ignorance and from the safety of academia, he thinks he has the world all figured out — but it's all just book knowledge.

Becky's car-selling co-worker, Steve (Martin Hastings), is a widower who still hasn't come to grips with the loss of his wife. He's the type of guy who needs a woman to take care of him, and he leans on Becky for emotional support. Mr. Hastings plays him as a classic narcissist, displaying an irritating single-minded self-centeredness.

One night, a wealthy man walks into the dealership to buy cars for his employees. Walter (Scott Thomson), a widower, falls for Becky, and as they converse, he mistakenly comes to believe that her husband is dead too. Mr. Thomson is perfect at portraying Walter's mix of emotions: inflated, hopeful, doubting, vulnerable.

Becky, more than a little intrigued, doesn't know how to tell Walter that her husband is still alive. And so she begins to live a kind of double life.

Quirky, fun, intelligent

"Becky's New Car" is the type of production Theatre Conspiracy excels in: quirky, funny and totally unpredictable. Steven Dietz's witty play is intelligent and fresh; not only could I not guess what was going to happen next, but I enjoyed his unique staging.

The set (by Bill Taylor) is divided into thirds — office, home and the yard where Walter's pushy, pretentious father lives. The yard is perfectly staged to reflect the launch of Walter's car company — a path to wealth. The set's black curtain backdrop also serves as a French maid's outfit, and cleaning room. Director Steven Hooper lets this opening scene go on for too long. We're subconsciously expecting something to happen — but it never does. The play was written and staged to make us like her character, even if we might not care for her choices. This is not as much a play about possible adultery as it is about midlife in general, and reassessing one's possibilities and options.

Life narrows, the older you get. Walter says at one point. And Becky ruefully notes how, after 40, women become invisible. Perhaps that's part of the reason why Walter's attention intrudes her so much; her husband, her son, her bosses and her co-workers all seem to take her for granted.

And a client whose husband left her for a swimwear model echoes the classic Peggy Lee song, asking her, "Is that it, Becky? Is that all there is?"

It's interesting to note that Mr. Dietz wrote "Becky's New Car" after turning a Peggy Lee song, asking her, "Is that it, Becky? Is that all there is?"

Stress less this holiday... leave your party to Buca

This Holiday Season, think of Buca when planning office parties or family get-togethers. Whether you bring them to Buca, or bring Buca to them, we know how to feed a crowd.

**In The Know**

"Becky's New Car," by Theatre Conspiracy

**When:** Through Dec. 17

**Where:** The Foulds Theatre, Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers

**Cost:** $18

**Info:** 506-3239

**HOLIDAY GATHERINGS | GIFT CARDS | PARTY PANS TO GO**

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**SPECIALS**

STRESSBALL

MEATBALL

OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY

**Stress less this holiday... leave your party to Buca**

Buca di Beppo, the authentic Italian restaurant known for its strong family tradition of hospitality, is a top choice for holiday parties. This year, Buca is offering a delicious Christmas Day Menu, with a Special A La Carte Menu featuring a variety of traditional Italian dishes. Whether you’re planning a small family gathering or a large holiday party, Buca di Beppo will take care of all the stress of holiday planning and food preparation.

NAPLES

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BUCADIBEPPO.COM
Young ballet students will dance in Opera Naples’ ‘Hansel & Gretel’

Students from Naples Academy of Ballet will perform as angels in the Opera Naples production of “Hansel & Gretel” coming up Friday and Saturday, Dec. 16-17, at the Community School of Naples. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

The classic fairy tale opera from the Brothers Grimm will be performed in English to the music of Engelbert Humperdinck and will feature members of the OnCore ensemble and a full chamber orchestra.

Naples Ballet Inc. was founded in August 2009 and is a nonprofit company dedicated to providing the art of ballet as a component of education and promoting cultural enrichment and awareness within the Southwest Florida community. Community outreach includes performance opportunities, scholarship programs and special needs children music/dance programs.

For more information about Naples Ballet, call Jeff Wardrop at 732-1000, e-mail giving@naplesballet.org or visit www.naplesballet.org.

For tickets and more information about “Hansel & Gretel,” call Opera Naples at 963-9050 or visit www.operanaples.org.

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

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WATERSIDE ANGEL TREE
BENEFITING SALVATION ARMY
NOW THRU DECEMBER 18

Pick an angel from the tree, purchase a gift and give an underprivileged child a season to remember.

SATURDAYS WITH SANTA
DECEMBER 17
10am-12pm, and 1-3pm

Join Santa as he reads holiday classics.

MUSIC FROM JESSIE COHEN
DECEMBER 17
3-5pm

SEACREST SINGERS
DECEMBER 11
1-2pm

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET
DECEMBER 20

Noon and 2PM – Waterside Shops Pavilion
Live preview performance from the National Tour of the Broadway musical Million Dollar Quartet (appearing at The Phil December 20 – 23)

STROLLING VICTORIAN CAROLERS
DECEMBER 23

Strolling Victorian Carolers 2-4pm

WATERSIDE SHOPS I DECIDE GIFT CARDS

THE GIFT THAT LETS THEM CHOOSE.

AVAILABLE AT
THE MANAGEMENT OFFICE
OR AT WATERSIDESHOPS.COM

EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS

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Christmas Day Closed
9am - 8pm

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THE NORRIS CENTER
Naples’ Best Kept Secret

HeartTown

A top nationally known Bluegrass band consisting of the cream of the crop of well known and leading Bluegrass singers/ musicians on the Bluegrass scene today. www.hearttownband.com

December 17, 2011 • 7:00pm-10:00pm
Location: 755 8th Ave., S., Naples, Fl. 34102
Tickets $23-213-3049 or 3058
$22 in advance-reserved seating
$25 at the door

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**HOROSCOPES**

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) The coming year will bring more people into your life. Some situations might not work out as well as others. But overall, everyone earns something, and that’s always a good thing.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) The new year could find you indulging in one or more of the hobbies you’ve always wanted to take up. And don’t be surprised if they ultimately direct you toward a new career.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) The artistic Aquarian should find more opportunities in the new year. You might even make some potentially helpful contacts as you gather to ring in the year 2022.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) The new year offers challenges for Pisceans who want to make better use of the skills they now have and learn new ones. Personal relationships show stronger positive aspects.

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) With the new year’s opportunities almost within reach, the Arian’s courageous aspects are rating to go. And don’t be surprised if a lot of people follow the zodiac’s most trusted leader.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) As the new year holds both glitter and gold. As you contemplate the new year’s potential, you might want to talk things over with people who are or have been where you want to go. Their experience and advice can be helpful.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) This means Leos and Leonas should begin getting the facts they’ll need to separate the real thing from the sham in order to make important decisions next year.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) The new year holds both glitter and gold. This year holds for the Gemini Twins, both mental, nevertheless, you are generous and caring and very much beloved.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) The new year will bring more people into your life. Some situations might not work out as well as others. But overall, everyone earns something, and that’s always a good thing.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A good way to start the new year might be to arrange for a visit to someone you haven’t seen in a long time. You also might want to pick that project you put off a while back.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) As you move into the new year, your travel aspects grow stronger, and you might find yourself making decisions about a destination and a traveling companion sooner than you’d expected.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Someone close to you might feel you have no more room for him or her in your life. This calls for immediate reassurance of your love so you can begin getting the facts they’ll need to separate the real thing from the sham in order to make important decisions next year.

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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) With the new year’s opportunities almost within reach, the Arian’s courageous aspects are rating to go. And don’t be surprised if a lot of people follow the zodiac’s most trusted leader.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) As you contemplate the new year’s potential, you might want to talk things over with people who are or have been where you want to go. Their experience and advice can be helpful.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) This means Leos and Leonas should begin getting the facts they’ll need to separate the real thing from the sham in order to make important decisions next year.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) The new year holds both glitter and gold. As you contemplate the new year’s potential, you might want to talk things over with people who are or have been where you want to go. Their experience and advice can be helpful.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) The new year will bring more people into your life. Some situations might not work out as well as others. But overall, everyone earns something, and that’s always a good thing.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A good way to start the new year might be to arrange for a visit to someone you haven’t seen in a long time. You also might want to pick that project you put off a while back.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) As you move into the new year, your travel aspects grow stronger, and you might find yourself making decisions about a destination and a traveling companion sooner than you’d expected.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Someone close to you might feel you have no more room for him or her in your life. This calls for immediate reassurance of your love so you can begin getting the facts they’ll need to separate the real thing from the sham in order to make important decisions next year.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) The coming year will bring more people into your life. Some situations might not work out as well as others. But overall, everyone earns something, and that’s always a good thing.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) The new year could find you indulging in one or more of the hobbies you’ve always wanted to take up. And don’t be surprised if they ultimately direct you toward a new career.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) The artistic Aquarian should find more opportunities in the new year. You might even make some potentially helpful contacts as you gather to ring in the year 2022.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) The new year offers challenges for Pisceans who want to make better use of the skills they now have and learn new ones. Personal relationships show stronger positive aspects.

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) With the new year’s opportunities almost within reach, the Arian’s courageous aspects are rating to go. And don’t be surprised if a lot of people follow the zodiac’s most trusted leader.

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**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) This means Leos and Leonas should begin getting the facts they’ll need to separate the real thing from the sham in order to make important decisions next year.

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**LATEST FILMS**

‘New Year’s Eve’

Is it worth $10? Yes

Call me a hopeless romantic, but there’s something about New Year’s that warms the heart. It’s an opportunity for change, rebirth, the pursuit of unfulfilled hopes and getting rid of all that weighs you down. It is, in short, a special night for those who choose to make it special. “New Year’s Eve,” director Garry Marshall’s moderately successful and endearing follow-up to “Valentine’s Day,” works because it embraces the romance and optimism that people love about New Year’s. The film is about love, loss, hope, friendship, second chances and fresh starts. Set in New York City, it features a cast of A-listers and legit up-and-comers.

Major players include: Hilary Swank as the person in charge of the ball drop in Times Square; Halle Berry as the nurse to Robert DeNiro’s dying cancer patient; Ashton Kutcher and Lea Michele as opposites stuck in an elevator; Katherine Heigl as the spurned lover of a rock star played by Jon Bon Jovi, and Sofia Vergara as her assistant; Josh Duhamel as a man who desperately needs to get to the city; Abigail Breslin as another couple (played by Sarah Paulson and Til Schweiger) to have the first baby of the new year.

The best and most interesting storyline, however, features the unlikely pair of Zac Efron and Michelle Pfeiffer. He’s a courier who wants her tickets to a posh party; she just quit her job and has a list of resolutions she has no idea how to fulfill. The deal: He makes her resolutions come true in one day and she’ll give him the tickets to the party. He’s allowed a lot of leeway, and it’s a real treat the way he proves her with a trip to Bali, a traffic-free taxi ride, etc. This is a storyline that would be fun to see as its own movie.

Often ensemble movies featuring many storylines and characters get lost in a balancing act, but Marshall and screenwriter Katherine Fugate are always able to focus on the end point of the ball dropping at midnight. This is especially important because it allows momentum to build as Marshall cuts between characters and keeps all in the same time frame.

That said, none of the performances are very memorable, though a few stand out: Swank has a nice speech in the midst of the ball being stuck half way up the pole, comedian Larry Miller is amusing as an indifferent tow truck guy and Vergara gets some good laughs even if she’s playing the same role (in terms of personality) she does on “Modern Family.”

So no, there’s not much here if you’re like my uncle and go to bed at 10:30 p.m. on New Year’s Eve. But if you celebrate or have any fond memories of New Year’s at all, “New Year’s Eve” will make you smile.

**CAPSULES**

**The Sitter**

Jonah Hill, Ari Graynor, Sam Rockwell

A college dropout (Hill) babysits three weird kids so his mother can go to a party. Unfortunately, his pseudo-girlfriend (Graynor) coaxes him into bringing the kids into New York City, where predictable chaos ensues. It’s not funny, but it is hideously stupid and misguided. Plus, “Adventures in Babysitting” already did this.

**Arthur Christmas**

Voices of James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie, Jim Broadbent

After Santa’s (Broadbent) long night out, his son Arthur (McAvoy) races to give a little girl her present on Christmas morning. Nothing too special here, but it’s a fun, harmless and enjoyable Christmas movie that’s nice for the kids and easily tolerable for adults. Rated PG.

**My Week With Marilyn**

Michelle Williams, Eddie Redmayne, Kenneth Branagh

Well-to-do 23-year-old Colin (Redmayne) wants to join the film industry in 1950s England, and lucky for him his first job is on a set with Laurence Olivier (Branagh) and Marilyn Monroe (Williams). Much of the focus is on Colin’s time with Monroe and the story is nicely told, but the real highlight is Williams’ phenomenal performance. Rated R.

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LOCATION: 1/2

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**Opera for the family**

The Met presents two performances ‘Live in HD’

“The Met: Live in HD” presents encore screenings of Humperdinck’s “Hansel and Gretel” and Mozart’s “The Magic Flute” — in abridged versions and sung in English so as to appeal to families — Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 21-22. Four Southwest Florida theaters (see box) will present both shows.

Conducted by James Levine, Julie Taymor’s fantastical production of “The Magic Flute” will air at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 21. Running time is 110 minutes.

The classic story follows the hero Tamino as he teams up with the comical bird-catcher Papageno to win the hand of the beautiful princess Pamina. To find her, the two unlikely friends must navigate through a world of supernatural dangers and avoid the wrath of Pamina’s mother, the evil Queen of the Night.

Conducted by Vladimir Jurowski, “Hansel and Gretel” will air at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 22. Running time is 123 minutes.

The opera follows the fairy tale siblings as they wander into the forest in search of strawberries and find themselves in the clutches of an evil witch, who is determined to turn them into gingerbread cookies.

Catch “The Met: Live in HD” at these theaters:

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<tr>
<th>Theater 1</th>
<th>Theater 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hollywood Stadium 20</td>
<td>Bell Tower 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hollywood Coconut Point 16</td>
<td>Town Center Stadium 16</td>
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Tickets for $12.50 are available at the box offices or online at www.metopera.org/hdlive. Ordering in advance is advised, as screenings often sell out.

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**In the know**

Caught “Hansel and Gretel” at the new University of Florida Theater. Great performance with some great effects. (Jim B., Naples)

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*Rates and Promotions are per person, based on double occupancy and are subject to change, availability & restrictions and may be withdrawn at any time. All promotions expire in December 31 unless otherwise noted.
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- Würzburg (Würzburg Residence visit and choice of wine tasting OR downtown Würzburg walking tour)
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- Nuremberg (Choice of Nuremberg city tour and Heiligenkreuz Gardens OR WWII historical tour with Documentation Center visit)
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Free and open to the public. Following his presentation, complimentary refreshments will be served in Suite 340.

NOTE: Soft Lit Jazz WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 6-9pm SATURDAY 8:30-11:30pm with “The Doc” SUNDAY 11am-2pm

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“Night Lights: A Winter Solstice Celebration” returns to Naples Botanical Garden this year with more music, activities, marshmallows and lights. From 6-8 p.m. Dec. 20 and on the actual winter solstice Dec. 22. A special screening of “The Polar Express” is part of the Dec. 22 activities.

In addition to more lights, the Garden has added a number of live musical performances by The Wholetones, Island Vibes and Joseph Peliska with two performances per night on most evenings. A variety of activities ensure there is something for everyone in the family to do including:

■ Create your own “wish sticks”
■ Roast marshmallows over a toasty fire
■ Decorate tasty holiday treats
■ Walk the luminary-lit labyrinth
■ Snap a photo with friends in the Foto Booth by Luminaire Foto
■ Try the food and drink at the Garden Café Cart by Tastebuds Custom Catering

“Night Lights: A Winter Solstice Celebration” is sponsored by Eventz Inc. and Florida Weekly. Admission is $7 for Garden member adults, $3 for Garden member children; $10 for non-members adults and $5 for non-member children.

For more information, visit www.naplesgarden.org.
**FLORIDA WRITERS**

The suspense thermometer rises with this chilling mystery

“Collateral Damage,”
by H. Terrell Griffin.
Oceanview. 360 pages. $25.95.

Terry Griffin’s novels have a most attractive narrative ease. Nothing seems rushed as we move with the characters from one location to another — which often means from one restaurant, pub, or dive to another — enjoying an eating and drinking tour of Longboat Key and its environs. Business and friendship coexist in these sub-tropical neighborhood eateries. There is a tension in the dialogue, as questions are raised and explanations explored about the pressing criminal matters at hand. This balance of ease and tension, of pointed concern and light-hearted banter, of indulgence and discipline, gives Mr. Griffin’s novels their unique charm and energy. Throw in his idyllic portraits of coastal Southwest Florida and a delightful cast of central characters, and you’ve got surefire reading pleasure.

“Collateral Damage” is no exception. Here’s the setup: One day after his wedding at the local Hilton, the groom is murdered on the beach by a sniper. The man’s father, a wealthy businessman with whom Matt Royal served in Vietnam, asks Matt to look into the matter. Is it a coincidence that three other homicides take place on a Sarasota Bay dinner cruise the same day as the groom’s murder? If not, then what’s the link?

Matt, retired lawyer and intrepid freelance crime fighter, soon gathers together his old friends and loyal comrades in arms to pursue the investigation. Mr.
Griffin’s readers will always be pleased to reunite with Logan Hamilton and Jock Algren, the latter being a prominent agent for a top-secret government security agency that is even more powerful than the familiar alphabet agencies. Involved in the case as well is Longboat Key Police Det. J.D. Duncan, a forceful and attractive woman whose friendship with Matt is cautiously moving toward romance.

Before long, Matt himself is targetted, and the likelihood is that a powerful group with Asian connections is behind the Longboat Key attacks and similar ones elsewhere in the United States. More and more, the threat seems focused on American individuals who served in the Vietnam War, or the children of such former soldiers. Moreover, the friend who has called upon Matt for help — a man who saved Matt’s life in Vietnam — does not seem to be entirely forthcoming.

The investigation requires cooperation between the official investigators — J.D., her boss, and to some extent Jock’s agency — and the unofficial ones like Matt and Logan. The team works well together, covering a lot of territory in and around the Sarasota-Tampa area, other parts of Florida and the Bahamian Abaco Islands. Matt and company must probe the mysterious Otto Foundation and the sinister J.C. Algren’s Operation Thane, before getting to the bottom of things.

Mr. Griffin’s plot has plenty of complications, twists and turns. He takes us from question to surmise to answer to implications, twists and turns. This is a fine addition to the burgeoning canon of Florida mystery fiction.

### About H. Terrell (“Terry”) Griffin

Mr. Griffin has spent his adult life soldiering, studying, lawyering and writing. Born in Waycross, Ga., he moved to Florida at the age of 12. Upon high school graduation, he served for three years on active duty in the U.S. Army.

He earned degrees in history and law at Mercer University. He was an editor of the Mercer Law Review and received the Delta Theta Phi Award for Outstanding Scholarship. Upon graduation, he returned to Central Florida and practiced law for 38 years.

His first novel, “Longboat Blues” became a regional bestseller following publication in 2005. His second, “Collateral Damage” (2006), was an immediate hit. “Blood Island” (2008) had a second printing within three weeks and was a finalist for the USA Book News Book of the Year in the mystery/suspense category. It won several other awards as well. “Wyatt’s Revenge,” released nationwide in 2009, was named as National Best Book of The Year in the mysterious-suspense category by USA Book News. “Bitter Legacy” another hit, was reviewed in these pages this past January.
COMING UP AT THE PHIL

- Maestro Stuart Chafetz leads the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra in “Holiday Pops,” at 8 p.m. Dec. 15-18 and at 2 p.m. Dec. 17. Broadway’s Michele Ragusa, star of “Ragtime,” “Titicane” and “Young Frankenstein,” joins the orchestra. The Philharmonic Center Chorale and the Philharmonic Youth Chorale, directed by James Cochran, will also be featured, and Santa will make a special appearance.

  *Tickets start at $30 for adults and $22 for students.

- The national tour of “Million Dollar Quartet” — the Broadway musical inspired by the true story of the twist of fate that brought Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley together for the first and only time on Dec. 4, 1956 — comes to the Phil Dec. 20-23 for evening and matinee performances.

  *The cast will also present live preview performances at noon and 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, in the pavilion at Waterside Shops.

  *Tickets start at $59 for adults and $39 for students.

- The Philharmonic Jazz Orchestra presents the second concert in this series of “All That Jazz” sets at 6 and 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28, in the intimate setting of the Daniels Pavilion. Trumpet, flugelhorn, sax and flute player Ira Sullivan, an alumnus of Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers, is the guest artist joining Glenn Basham, violin and harmonica; Lew Del Gatto, tenor saxophone; Jerry Stawski, piano; Mike Harvey, drums; Kevin Mauldin, bass; and Dan Miller, trumpet.

  *Tickets start at $39 for adults and $36 for students.

- The NPO, led by Jerry Steichen, presents “A Rodgers and Hammerstein Celebration” at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30. Broadway stars Nat Chandler and Teri Dale Hansen will sing and dance the songs of the celebrated collaborators who transformed the musical genre during the Golden Age of Broadway.

  *Tickets start at $28.

- The NPO presents “Prokofiev’s Fifth,” the third program in the orchestra’s Classical Series, at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29. The NPO’s Roberta Alexander joins the Double Concerto for Violin and Cello; and Prokofiev’s epic Fifth Sym-

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**Les Misérables**

January 24-29

Evenings and Matinees available

**COMING UP AT THE PHIL**

Company performs at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10. Always a fertile ground for experimentation, the company continues to foster the groundbreaking vision of Martha Graham, whose choreography created a new modern dance vocabulary. Performing Graham classics and more recent works inspired by her spirit of ingenuity, the company presents a uniquely American style of dance that has influenced generations of artists and continues to captivate audiences. Tickets start at $69.

- The Martha Graham Dance
- Jazz guitarist and singer John Piz-
COMING UP AT THE PHIL

Zarelli performs at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11. Mr. Pizzarelli has established himself as one of the premier interpreters of the Great American Songbook and beyond — everything from jazz classics to bossa nova. He was the 2009 recipient of the Ella Fitzgerald Award, joining a select group of past winners including Aretha Franklin, Tony Bennett and Harry Connick Jr.

Tickets start at $55.

Frank Cooper, University of Miami research professor of music, returns to explore the world of classical music as part of the Phil’s Lifelong Learning arts education program. Classes will begin at 2 p.m. in the Toni Stabile Building just south of the Philharmonic Center.

- Wednesday, Jan. 4: “On the Path to Revolution: Baroque to Classicism”
- Friday, Jan. 6: “A New Style — Compositions in Coalescence”
- Monday, Jan. 9: “Mastery Developed and Acknowledged — Haydn”
- Wednesday, Jan. 11: “Genius Apparent and Achieved — Mozart”
- Friday, Jan. 13: “Giant Astride the Centuries — Beethoven”

Tickets are $60 for the series $54 each for individual performance.

Concert pianist Jodie DeSalvo presents “Shopping List! – Or Chopin Liszt!,” the first program in her piano music series in the Lifelong Learning program, at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9.

Tickets to the first in the series are $42. The series, which can be purchased for $160, includes additional performances with Jodie DeSalvo as follows: Feb. 6 – “Jodie and Glenn,” featuring NPO Concertmaster Glenn Basham; Feb. 27 – “A Tribute to Victor Borge”; and March 21 – “Around the World in 80 Minutes!”

Grammy Award-winning jazz singer and pianist Diana Krall will perform at 6 and 9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30 (her performance on Feb. 12 has been canceled).

Tickets start at $119.

— The Philharmonic Center for the Arts is at 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd., Naples. For more information or to order tickets, call 597-1900 or visit www.thephil.org.

NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY
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COURTESY PHOTO
Diana Krall will perform Jan. 30 at the Phil.
MOURLOT
From page 1

By 1937, Eric Mourlot’s grandfather, master printer Fernand Mourlot (1895-1988), had solidified the atelier’s reputation as the largest printer of artistic posters. The combined genius of modern artist and master printer gave rise to striking lithographs that appeared only as special limited editions, many of which are included in the “Lithography from Galerie Mourlot, New York” exhibit.

At the Paris atelier, 20th century artists learned the complexities of fine-art printing. They worked directly on smooth lithographic stone tablets to create original artworks, which would then be executed under the direction of master printers.

The Mourlot family’s New York City atelier was established in 1967 and has printed works by celebrated American artists including James Rosenquist, Roy Lichtenstein, Ellsworth Kelly and Robert Rauschenberg. Galerie Mourlot, New York is in another location on the Upper East Side.

The 2012 Lecture Series

Mr. Mourlot’s lecture before the opening reception launches the Naples Art Association’s 2012 Lecture Series. Programs are held in the Watson Gallery at The von Liebig and are designed to give context to contemporary artwork and the business of art today.

In addition to Mr. Mourlot’s presentation, lecture attendees this season will learn about ways to design a space around art and how to manage art as an asset. Featured speakers offer insights to educate and surprise both seasoned collectors and experienced artists. The 2012 series continues as follows:

- 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12: Richard Geary of Geary Studio/Art & Interiors, “Designing Your Environment Around Art.”
- 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27: Contemporary furniture artist Tommy Simpson, “Hand, Heart, Home.”
- 4 p.m. Friday, March 9: Jerry Uelsmann and Maggie Taylor will discuss the evolution of their imagery and their creative process.
- 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 14: David Slesman, director of the Winston Art Group, will discuss a current appraisal as a step toward the successful management of art as an asset.

The 2012 Lecture Series is sponsored by Mutual of Omaha Bank, Hahn Loeser and Leslie Hindman Auctioneers and WGCU Public Media. Sponsors of “Lithographs from Galerie Mourlot, New York” include Physicians Regional Healthcare System and Florida Weekly.

Lecture tickets are $10 for NAA members and $15 for others and must be purchased in advance. Call 262-6517, visit www.naplesart.org, follow the NAA on Facebook at facebook.com/vonliebigartcenter or Twitter at twitter.com/vonliebigart.

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We Deliver! jasonsdeli.com
Festival organizer Richard Sullivan announces that his Boulderbrook Productions event management company seeks artists for three upcoming art festivals:

- The North Port Masters Art Festival will be held Feb. 25-26 at The Coco Plum Center. Proceeds will benefit Art in Public Spaces in North Port.
- The Boca Grande Masters Art Festival will be held March 24-25 on the grounds of the historic Boca Grande Resort. The festival takes place at the same time as the Boca Grande Wine Festival on the same property. Proceeds benefit The Harry Chapin Food Bank.
- The Marco Island Masters Art Festival will be held March 31 and April 1 in Veterans Park on Marco Island. This festival is held in partnership with Marco Island Foundation for the Arts.

For more information about the festivals and online application forms, visit www.boulderbrook.net.

Library announces lecture series authors

Four best-selling authors have been engaged for the 2012 Nick Linn Lecture Series sponsored by the Friends of the Library of Collier County. Limited tickets remain available for the programs that take place at the Naples Grande on:

- Monday, Feb. 20: James Rollins (the blockbuster movie novelization “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull”)
- Tuesday, March 13: Andrew Gross (“The Dark Tide,” “Judge and Jury” with James Patterson)

For information about tickets, call Friends of the Library at 262-8135 or visit www.collierfriends.org.
SAVE THE DATE

Music for Minors plans fashion show
Music for Minors, a nonprofit organization that provides musical instruments for students in Collier and Lee county schools, holds a luncheon and tennis fashion show on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at The Club at Barefoot Beach. Local tennis players will model fashions provided by Just Tennis.

Tickets are $50, and a raffle will help generate more money for the cause. Reservations are required and can be made by e-mailing Becky Kimberly at docbeckyk@aol.com.

Counting down to Fun Time fun
The launch date for Fun Time Early Childhood Academy's annual fundraiser, “Fun Time Blasts Off into the Future,” is Friday, Feb. 10, at The Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club. Guests will gather at 6:30 p.m. for a cocktail reception, dinner and silent and live auctions. Fifth Third Bank is the presenting sponsor.

Tickets are $250 per person. Sponsorship and underwriting opportunities are still available. Proceeds will provide tuition assistance for the children of low-income working families.

For reservations or more information, call 261-8284.

A wine tasting for Nicaraguan orphanage
Diana and Jerry Thirion host “A Pour For The Poor,” a wine tasting featuring select vintages of Shafer Hillside Select wines, on Tuesday evening, Jan. 10, at Bay Colony Golf Club.

Guests will taste pours from 1990 through 1997 of this rare and highly rated wine accompanied by enjoy hors d'oeuvres selected by three top local chefs and prepared by Master Chef Wilhelm Gahabka at a pre-tasting champagne reception.

Proceeds will benefit Casa Jacinta y Francisco, an orphanage and school in Nicaragua that the Thirions manage. Attendance is limited due to wine availability. For more information or to receive an invitation, call Mr. Thirion at 777-0922.

Go black tie for Make-A-Wish
The sixth annual Wishmakers Ball to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation is set for Friday, Jan. 20, at the Hilton Naples with the theme of “Black and White.” Individual tickets are $200 and sponsorships start at $3,000. Premium tables are also available starting at $5,000.

For tickets or sponsorship information, contact Lesley Colantonio at 992-9474 or lcolantonio@sflawish.org.

Illuminate Your Holiday Season with Nine Nights of Lights!

A Winter Solstice Celebration is back!
December 20-23 & 26-30 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. each night
Enjoy live musical performances, family activities and hundreds of lights throughout the Garden every night!

Night Lights Admission:
$15 for Non Members Adult / $5 Non Members Children
$7 for Member Adult / $3 Member Children

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Step back in time to old Havana

Guests will be transported to vintage Cuba for “An Evening in Old Havana” at the David Lawrence Foundation’s signature destination-drive gala on Friday, Jan. 20, at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples. From the décor to the cocktails and music, everything will be reminiscent of Havana’s opulent social clubs of the 1930s.

Tickets are $500 per person, $1,200 per VIP patron and $5,000 per table of 10. A variety of sponsorship opportunities and levels are also available. For more information, call the David Lawrence Foundation at 354-3416.

Royal Palm school will honor Donahues

The faculty, staff and families of Royal Palm Academy will honor Jack and Rhodora Donahue at the school’s “Denim and Diamonds” gala beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 3, at the St. Ann Jubilee Center. The evening will include a cocktail reception, dinner, silent and live auctions, raffle drawing, entertainment and more.

Tickets are $300 per person. Volunteer and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, contact Elizabeth Davison at 434-7183 or Elizabeth@hopeforhaiti.com.

Hope for Haiti plans garden gala

Hope for Haiti holds its 2012 gala, “A Passport to the Secret Garden,” from 6-11 p.m. Saturday, March 3, at the St. Ann Jubilee Center. The evening will include a cocktail reception, dinner, silent and live auctions, raffle drawing, entertainment and more.

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Maui-style Beach Ball for children’s center

The Children’s Advocacy Center of Collier County holds its 2012 “Meet Me in Maui” Beach Ball Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Naples Beach Hotel. Guests will enjoy sunset cocktails on Watkins Lawn followed by dinner under the stars, entertainment by Paul Easton and live and silent auctions. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information, call Tina Streeter at 263-8885, ext. 232, or e-mail TStreeter@CACCollier.org.

Be a goddess for an evening

Goddess Night 2012, an evening of pampering and enlightenment sponsored by the Naples Art Association, takes place Thursday, March 29, at The von Liebig Art Center. A champagne reception gets things going, and guests enjoy a seated dinner and keynote speaker as well as their choice of informative breakout sessions. For more information, call Aimee Schlehr at 262-6852, ext. 120, or e-mail aimee.schlehr@naplesart.org.

C’mon to the Dream Gala

The Golisano Children’s Museum of Naples will hold its inaugural Dream Gala beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 23, at C’mon in North Collier Regional Park. Gala chair Sheila Davis and her committee are hard at work planning an evening of adventure and discovery that will benefit Collier County’s first learning environment devoted exclusively to the serious business of children’s play. The 30,000-square-foot museum is set to open in early 2012. For information about gala sponsorship opportunities, call C’mon at 541-0084 or visit www.cmon.org.

Youth Haven hosts Olympian skater

Olympic speed skater and eight-time medalist Apolo Anton Ohno will be the guest speaker at Youth Haven’s “Home Hope Healing” luncheon Thursday, March 22, at the Naples Grande. Tickets are $250 per person, or $2,000 for two people and a pre-luncheon reception with Mr. Ohno. Sponsorship opportunities from $2,500 to $15,000 for business and individuals are available now. Youth Haven provides a home for children who have been removed from their families by the authorities because they are in grave danger of further physical or sexual trauma, emotional abuse and/or neglect. For more information, contact Jamie Gregor, Youth Haven director of marketing and communications, at 687-5153 or jamie.gregor@youthhaven.net.

— Send Save the Date information about galas and other fundraising parties to cpierce@floridaweekly.com.
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KOVELS: ANTIQUES & COLLECTING

Collectibles track Santa through the ages

Made by Holt-Hobart Co., an importing company that started working in New York City in 1949 and moved to Stamford, Conn., in 1995. The company sold candleholders, condiment jars, decanters, spoon holders, saltshakers and other table accessories. It was bought out by General Housewares Corp. in 1960. Holt-Hobart pieces often are stamped in black with “Holt-Hobard” or “HH” and the year of manufacture. The “HH” mark was used until 1974. Production of Holt-Hobard pieces ceased in 1990. Your mugs, if in perfect condition, are worth $5-$6 each.

Q: I have an Edna Hibbel 1985 Christmas plate called “The Angels’ Message.” It’s in perfect condition, but I don’t have the original box. I’d like to know the current value.

A: Edna Hibbel’s 1985 Christmas plate was the first in a series of four Christmas plates by the artist. It originally sold for $45. The first in a series of limited edition plates usually sells for more than subsequent plates, and buyers who “discover” the series later try to find the first of the series to complete the set. Today you can find this plate listed online for prices ranging from $10 or less to more than $200, but the plate in a frame sold for less than $15 at auction this year.

TIP: A dirty rag doll can be cleaned in place by a rubber band, on the nozzle of the vacuum cleaner. Then vacuum for a few minutes.

— Terry Kovel answers as many questions as possible through the column. Write to Kovelos (Florida Weekly), King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10009.

KOVELS: ANTIQUES & COLLECTING

Christmas in Y eellowstone

young at heart proves it’s not only toys

➤

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FRIDAY, DEC. 16, 9 p.m.

PBS Arts San Francisco: “The Little Mermaid” from San Francisco Ballet

When the Titanic goes down, Lord Grantham loses his immediate heirs, and his daughter Mary loses her fiancé, throwing Downton Abbey and its servants into turmoil. The new heir turns out to be Matthew, a handsome lawyer with novel ideas about country life. This Emmy-winning production stars Hugh Bonneville, Dame Maggie Smith and Elizabeth McGovern. (followed by Part 2.)

9:30 p.m. — Masterpiece Classic

Downton Abbey – Part 2.

Mary entertains three suitors, including a Turkish diplomat whose boldness leads to a surprise engagement. Downtown, the shocking former life of Carson, the butler, is unmasked, and Bates risks his health to remain the valet.

M O N D A Y, D E C . 1 9 , 8 p.m.

Antiques Roadshow

Forever Young

A celebration for the young and the young at heart proves it’s not only toys and that capture the spirit of youth. High-lights include original art for a Dr. Seuss lunchbox and a child’s shoe autographed by Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

W E D N E S D A Y , D E C . 2 1 , 8 p.m.

Nature: Christmas in Yellowstone

Revel in a Christmas like no other — from the unique crystals of snowflakes to the grand sweep of Yellowstone’s Hayden Valley.

Santa Claus has changed in appearance throughout the centuries. He is now a mixture of the Dutch, German, Scandinavian, British and American characters that have represented Christmas. The earliest Santa-like figure was Saint Nicholas of Myra, a 4th-century Greek bishop. He was pictured in religious clothing and was very thin. By the 13th century, the bearded Norse god Odin had influenced the Santa Claus image. He led a hunting party in the sky while riding an eight-legged horse.

The Dutch had Saint Nicholas, or Sinterklaas, by the 16th century. He rode into town on a steamboat in November and carried a book that told which children were good and which were naughty. Then in December, the elderly tall man with white hair and beard and a long red cape rode a horse in the sky and delivered gifts throughout the chimney.

Santa got shorter by the 1840s in Scandinavia, where he became a bearded elf dressed in gray and wearing a red hat. The Scandinavians also have a tradition of the “Yule Goat,” that pulled a sleigh through the sky. It came from the story of Thor, a Norse god.

In 17th-century Britain, Father Christmas was a jolly, bearded man dressed in a green fur-lined robe. Here in America, Santa Claus has been inspired by the figure in the 1823 poem “The Night Before Christmas,” which describes St. Nick as plump and jolly but also as an elf that could slide down a chimney. By 1863 Thomas Nast, a cartoonist, had pictured Santa as a large, heavy-set man with a beard. The Coca-Cola ads in the 1930s, but any Lisner mark with the copyright symbol and the name “Lisner.”

A: Your costume-jewelry pieces were marketed by D. Lisner & Co. of New York City. Founded by David Lisner in 1904, the company was strictly a wholesaler of imported European jewelry until the 1930s. During the ‘30s, Lisner enlisted a partner to oversee the establishment of a retail business that depended on contracts with jewelry manufacturers in Providence, R.I. The “Lisner” mark was used starting in the 1930s, but any Lisner mark with the copyright symbol dates from after 1955. The company was sold and resold several times since 1979, and jewelry marked “Lisner” has not been made since 1985. Lisner necklace and earrings sets sell for $75 to $150 or even more, depending on style, colors, material and condition.

Q: Can you give me information about a rhinestone necklace and matching screw-on earrings that were given to me by a deceased friend born about 100 years ago? Each piece is marked with the copyright symbol and the name “Lisner.”

Q: I have a set of four winking Santa mugs from 1960 with an “HH” logo on the bottom. I’d like to know who made them and if they’re worth anything.

A: Your winking Santa mugs were made by Holt-Hobart Co., an importing company that started working in New York City in 1949 and moved to Stamford, Conn., in 1995. The company sold candleholders, condiment jars, decanters, spoon holders, saltshakers and other table accessories. It was bought out by General Housewares Corp. in 1960. Holt-Hobart pieces often are stamped in black with “Holt-Hobard” or “HH” and the year of manufacture. The “HH” mark was used until 1974. Production of Holt-Hobard pieces ceased in 1990. Your mugs, if in perfect condition, are worth $5-$6 each.

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SOCIETY

Celebrating ‘Christmas at Palm Cottage’ with the Naples Historical Society

1. Stella Thomas, Nancy Timmis, Michael Timmis and Peter Thomas
2. Fred Towers, Milie Stewart, Lauri Towers and John Stewart
3. Bill Meek and Mary Smith
4. Lavern Gaynor, Juliet Sprout, Dee Sulick and Olga Washburn
5. Mary Smith, Paul Dresselhaus and Diane Kastner

COURTESY PHOTOS

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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JANUARY 1ST
3-9

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SOCIETY

The Education Foundation of Collier County 2011 Glass Slipper celebration
Recipients honored at ‘If The Shoe Fits’ soiree

1. Susan McManus, Jo O’Reilly, Sandy Waite, Bunny Brooks, Jessica Schneider and Daniel Lubner
2. Valita Laurito, Carol Ostrander, Patsy Carter-Ratliff, Jessica Colina, Jane Riley and Gleen Johnston
3. Wilma Boyd and Tamela O’Brien
4. Claudine Linger-Wetzel and Keleigh Grover
5. Rob Asbell and David Lupo
6. Maureen Mino, Karen Fulancyk and Heather Murphy
7. Judy Gallagher

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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The Women’s Philanthropic Network annual membership luncheon
A Community Foundation of Collier County event at Grey Oaks Country Club

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1. The 2012 Women of Initiative honorees
2. Dottie Serrity and Sally Gleason
3. Joan Aris Lynch, Cynthia Carlson and Linda Vaughn
4. Cyndi Fields and Susan Collins
5. Patricia Schrenk and Jan Clanton
6. Stephanie English, Gerry Moss, Marcia Arena and Vicki Capodona
7. Nancy Getasaki and Heidi Varsames

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2. Kayla Schill with Bruin
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4. Lisa Miller with Baxter
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PAST REPASTS

Here are some capsule summaries of previous restaurant reviews:

➤ Café Normandie, 376 Tamiami Trail N.; 261-0977
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 wines that please the owner. You can’t go wrong with mussel in Normandie cream sauce or the well-executed escargots de Bourgogne. Roasted duck with spicy peach sauce was a glorious variation on duck l’orange; and the shrimp and sea scallops au gratin were simple yet elegant. Dinner concluded with a classic raspberry tart and whipped cream. Service was efficient and warm. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★ Service: ★ ★ ★ ★ Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½ Reviewed December 2010

➤ Fernandez the Bull, 1201 Piper Blvd., Naples; 254-9855
This restaurant has thrived for years at its U.S. 41 location. Now, with its sleek second location, even more people can enjoy the authentic Cuban cuisine served up by the hospitable Fernandez family and staff. I can recommend the Cuban nachos, an inven-
tive mix of thinly sliced fried plantains, savory chicken, cheese sauce, capers and parsley (plan to share this one); calamari in a well-seasoned tomato sauce with pepper and onions; a refresh-
ing departure from fried calamari;ropa vieja, a classic dish of shredded flank steak in a tomato sauce with peppers and onions; and shrimp and scallops in white wine, garlic and capers. Yuca in creamy garlic sauce, black beans and yellow rice and sweet fried plantains were great sides. For dessert, you can’t go wrong with the flan or the tres leches cake. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½ Service: ★ ★ ★ ★ Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½ Reviewed March 2010

➤ Figs Grille, 29987 Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; 890-2000
Sam Tadros, the chef behind the pop-
ular Sam-Bucco Bistro in North Naples, has another winning concept with this exploration of the cuisines of Turkey, Spain, Morocco, Lebanon and France. It’s a worthy and welcome concept, considering how inadequately some of the regions are represented here. When you cross the threshold, it’s easy to forget you’re in a commercial strip center. Egyptian tapenades adorn the walls in the garnet and gold dining room. Ceiling lamps evoke Morocco and ethnic music plays softly in the background, but the effect is understated. Which-
evry country you decide to visit for your main course, your meal should begin — petite servings of Key lime pie and chocolate mousse — are the perfect way to end a meal here.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ½ Service: ★ ★ ★ ★ Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ½ Reviewed October 2011

➤ Grouper & Chips, 388 Ninth St. N., Naples; 643-4577
Located in an older strip plaza across U.S. 41 from NCJ, Grouper & Chips is a self-described “small unpretentious hole-in-the-wall restaurant.” It is indeed so small, that you might find yourself rubbing elbows with other parties or waiting an hour for table — reservations are not accepted. Takeout and delivery are options, but then you’d miss out on the warm hospitality of the staff. Besides, once you order, food is quickly delivered. The menu is heavy on fried foods, but the conch fritters and grouper did not suffer from greasy excess; batter, however, overwhelmed the fried shrimp. You wouldn’t expect to find it in a place like this, but the bouillabaisse is loaded with lobster, sea scallops, mussels, shrimp and chunks of grouper and is worth trying. Dessert shooters — petite servings of Key lime pie and chocolate mousse — are the perfect way to end a meal here.


➤ Mimi’s Cooking, Orange Pine Plaza, 2099 Pine Ridge Road; 566-2277
Mimi’s intimate dining room has the charming ambiance of a Parisian café and the kitchen serves up food to match. Both the classic bouillabaisse and coq au vin were flawless, as were appetizers of endive salad — with spinach, Roque-
fort cheese chunks and sesame dressing — and organic carrot and ginger soup. Portions are realistically sized, just right for a single sitting. Don’t miss dessert. We shared an outstanding warm apple tarte tatin with whipped cream. Service was efficient and warm. Beer and wine served.


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Chef Jeff Acol and his wife, Jessica, made a lot of smart choices when they opened A Table Apart three years ago. 

With 15 tables, the restaurant on Bonita Beach Road is small, which keeps overhead low, creates an aura of exclusivity and intimacy and enables the house to treat patrons with undivided attention. The small but diverse menu spans the globe, embracing classic French techniques, bold Asian flavors and even a bit of Italian pasta panache while emphasizing a commitment to sustainable seafood and seasonal ingredients.

Husband and wife are veterans of the former Registry Resort in Naples as well as several other resorts in Florida and Hawaii. He’s a Gordon Bleu-trained native of Hawaii; she’s French and holds a degree in hotel/restaurant management.

All of which begins to help explain why A Table Apart is, well, an experience apart from most Southwest Florida restaurants. The food is sophisticated but not overworked, unfussy, ambitious but not overworked, classical yet novel. Oh, and it serves the best French fries you will ever eat in Southwest Florida.

I had the opportunity to revisit A Table Apart recently and was pleased to see that it has lost none of its luster. The restaurant closes during the summer, and I imagine taking a break gives the Acols a chance to recharge and renew their dedication to making this a truly memorable restaurant.

Where to go: The wine list offers some interesting choices by the glass. We enjoyed a pinot noir from King Estate in Oregon ($11) and Sileni Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand ($9) with our appetizers.

You can start with “snacks” of Asian-flavored boiled peanuts, Madeira-infused chicken liver pate or the famous pommes frites (with or without truffle oil) for $3 to $5. The pate was tempting, but we decided to dive straight into appetizers, which are pricier at $9 to $14. 

Braised pork cheeks ($14) is simply one of the best cheese preparations I have eaten in a couple of decades of reviewing restaurants. Imagine the flavor explosion of spicy Mexican chorizo sausage, acidic white wine and tomatoes, crispy cilantro pesto and creamy queso fresco. Picture these colorful toppings mingling with a dozen and a half plump mussels sautéed until they are just barely cooked through and not a second more. Now, don’t forget to dip the roasted bread into the bottom of the bowl, where the flavors of all these ingredients pool together in a complex, briny broth. Mussels can be pretty mundane, but these would lure even a hardy soul out of his shell.

Quesadillas generally don’t generate a lot of excitement either. Maybe I eat too many at home. But never have I tasted a tortilla and cheese combination quite like Chef Acol’s Hawaiian kalua pig quesadilla ($12). The Hawaiian kalua pig is wrapped in tea leaves and roasted slowly for a long time. The meat comes out moist and tender-crisp. The garlic mashed potatoes and asparagus were nicely charred and as evidenced by an expertly crust- ed, juicy flatiron steak ($23). The 8-ounce portion was just right, especially since it was topped with rich blue cheese that’s smoked in-house. I never realized that blue cheese could be improved upon, but smoking it turns out to be a terrific idea. The acid in the roasted tomatoes on top helped balance the flavor profile of the dish.

Why bother with mashed potato- toes on the side when you can substitute pommes frites drizzled with truffle oil and sprinkled with fresh herbs and Parmesan cheese for a couple more bucks? Trish is, this probably the best way to order these crispy, fluffly treasures paired with luscious garlic aioli; if you get them as a starter, you will want to finish the basket and you’ll probably end up full before the main course. Even as a side, the basket is gloriously large. You’ll need everyone at the table to pitch in — and they won’t mind.

After all, it would be a shame not to have room for dessert, such as the unforgettable Okinawa sweet potato pie ($7). It’s a purple sweet potato filled topping with a sort of coconut custard — visually startling and simply scrumptious.

From appetizers to dessert, A Table Apart certainly lives up to its name. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A Flatiron steak gets dressed up with house-smoked blue cheese and roasted tomatoes.

A Table Apart continues to set the bar high.

Okinawa sweet potato pie is topped with a coconut custard.

Meats are executed equally well, as evidenced by an expertly crust-ed, juicy flatiron steak ($23). The 8-ounce portion was just right, especially since it was topped with rich blue cheese that’s smoked in-house. I never realized that blue cheese could be improved upon, but smoking it turns out to be a terrific idea. The acid in the roasted tomatoes on top helped balance the flavor profile of the dish.

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From appetizers to dessert, A Table Apart certainly lives up to its name.

Appetizers, $3-$14; entrees $19-$35. The Wine Merchant: Sample the cabs- ternauts of Nickel & Nickel, a top Napa producer; $25, 1252 Tamarind Trail N., Naples; 992-0000.

Farmers markets

Wednesday, 1:30- 5:30 p.m., St. Monica’s Episcopal Church, 7070 Immokalee Road; 591-4550.

Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., The Promenade, 26851 South Bay Drive, Bonita Springs.

Saturday, 8 a.m.-11 a.m., Naples Green Market at the Galle- ria Shoppes at Vanderbilt, off Airport Pulling and Vanderbilt Beach roads.

Saturday, 8 a.m., Freedom Park farmers market, I-75 Golden Gate Parkway.

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