“You can find happiness if you know where to shop.”

So proclaims the motto of St. John’s Shoppe, the boutique thrift store that celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. A mission of St. John’s Episcopal Church, it opened in 1982 on 93rd Avenue North and moved three years later to its current spot on 110th Avenue North, off U.S. 41 one block south of Immokalee Road.

Here is where a steady flow of bargain hunters find their bliss. Six days a week, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., they scour racks of designer-label clothing and accessories, inspect shelves of books and bins of toys, and consider how artfully arranged furniture and decorative items might fit in at home.

For many years, St. John’s Shoppe was a general thrift store in the classic sense, a more casual arrangement of used goods. And in terms of finding great bargains on “previously loved” things from golf clubs to evening gowns to patio sets, it still is. But since she was hired as general manager, St. John’s Shoppe has turned 30 in style.

BY EVAN WILLIAMS
ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

St. John’s Shoppe turns 30 in style

CALL FOR STRATEGIC MEASURES

New Collier Partnership steps up to change regional business culture

BY ROGER WILLIAMS
rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

HERE’S THE PUDDING PROOF OF an arguable proposition: that given the right thinkers and doers, it’s possible to think and do your way right straight out of the briar patch.

Behold, The Partnership. A pro-bono experiment that

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One of the terrible burdens sometimes placed upon me as a columnist — weightier than the mortgage, grimmer than a draft notice, even less appealing than cleaning the chicken coop — is this: I have to cast the first stone.

That’s right. I often criticize my fellow Americans for doing exactly what I have done, in direct disobedience of the famous Biblical imperative located deep in the Gospel of John or the bowels of a whale or a similarly obscure location.

It’s a job hazard, pure and simple. But as burdens go, this one is easy to execute: It requires little more than sheer hypocrisy. As you may have noticed, hypocrisy is one of the most essential tools of good parenting.

That’s why I feel perfectly comfort- able criticizing the Brevard County Public Library, championed by front-man and county spokesman Don Walker.

Are Brevard officials just a bunch of Commie pinks?

That’s a question my drill instructors once asked of me after one discovered “a platoon of little green men” formed up inside my rifle barrel during a spit-and-polish drill-deck inspection.

Let me just say with stern finger-wagging admonishment: Censorship is un-American, Don, just like platoons of little green men excavating your M-14. But Don and Co. made “The New York Times recently practicing classic censor- ship — they banned a book on our behalf so none of us can be sullied by pornography.”

Thank you, Don. You may now report back to the early 17th century to take up life among your pursed-lipped kind, the Puritans.

Meanwhile, here in the 21st century, we’re left with Don’s ringling defense of censor- ship, quoted in the Great Gray Lady as “The Times is euphemistically and perhaps pornographically called: “We view this as pornography material. I have not read ‘Fifty Shades of Grey’ but I read reviews of ‘Fifty Shades of Grey.’ From what I understand, it’s a lot about male dominance and female submission.”

And we’re not supposed to read about that if we want to, in Brevard?

No, Don and Co. said we couldn’t.

What about in other counties?

As a proud Floridian (American by birth, Floridian by the grace of I-70 east and I-75 south), it hurts me to admit that Brevard is the cradle of the First Amendment.

In Lee County, for example, my son took one of the few Florida-set novels that deserves a place in the opus of American Literature, “A Land Remembered,” by Pat- rick D. Smith.

He found the original on our shelves back to the Indian village, and he randomly found the original on your shelves and read the whole darn 403-page thing, about a pioneering family here. Meanwhile, the teacher, a capable person, read the abridged version out loud to the class.

People swear. People die in this book. People meet (God forbid) actual Indians, and have sex with them and span them and their children.

And some people lose their tempers and murder other people who hurt pregnant women.

But it’s a lot of that mirror-held-up-to-nature fiction, including the union between Indians and whites and the swearing, was censored from the book presented to the class.

It’s safer that way. Some parents might object, for goodness sake. And, as the teach- er pointed out, “There’s bad language.”

But even if the sweet-sweat-and-sour of struggling lives appears unvarnished in a story, so what?

Those who don’t want to read it — Bre- vard county officials, for example, or any public school committee members who pick fiction for fourth graders — don’t have to.

Before I decided to throw this stone, I called my son over and asked him what specifically had been left out of “A Land Remembered.” — a book published in the land of the free, the home of the brave and the cradle of the First Amendment.

Then I wrote down what he said, word for word.

“They never said Zech and Towanda had a baby,” he told me.

“We read to the part where Zech comes back to the Indian village, and he randomly finds he had a son. And the thing was, Dad, he never had a son with Towanda (in the abridged version), so that’s physically impossible.

‘I’d rather they cut out the entire part about the boy. It’s a pitiful way to rec- create the story.

“They also censored the swearing,”

“What swearing, I asked?

“Hell, sonofabitch, bastard, things like that,” he told me. Terrible. I’ll bet none of us have ever heard those words, especially used well when the stakes are mortal — and neither has he.

“And it cuts out that part when Frog found the man who made Glenda have the dud baby that died, and he brings him back and says, ‘What are we going to do with him?’ And Zech drags him out in the woods and kills him, and the only thing left is his limp body. It left all that out.”

Zech ain’t perfect, son. Neither am I. Pick up your dirty clothes.

The censors also left out the first and last chapters of “A Land Remembered,” my son told me.

In an elegant and old-time storytelling symmetry, the novel starts in a Rolls Royce overlooking Key Biscayne and ends only a short time later on a Cracker front porch, as a man dies in a stampede of his memories.

It’s poignant and beautiful, and it moved my son deeply. He was sobered. He talked about it for days. He’ll remember it all his life, I know from experience.

But if the real book, not the censored book, hadn’t been sitting on our shelves, he’d never have known.

And the story would never have given him that special insight into himself and all of us who live here on the surface of real men and women, those who came before.

And now, if my son asks to read “Lolita,” or “The Complete Kama Sutra,” or “Lady Chatterley’s Lover” — all books available at Brevard libraries, and everywhere else — there can only be one answer: Absolutely not.

Not until he’s old enough to vote.
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The end of China envy?

Richard Lowry
Special to Florida Weekly

China-envying New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman likes to muse about how wonderful it would be if the United States could more closely resemble China for a day. The scandal engulfing former rising star Bo Xilai, the cashed-out Communist Party boss of the city of Chongqing, suggests how this magical day might go down.

A popular governor who rose to prominence based on his anti-corruption campaign while illicily enriching himself would fall from grace. His wife would be accused of murdering a foreign businessman. His security chief, whom he relied upon to run an extensive spying operation on potential foes, would seek asylum at a foreign consulate, fearing for his life. State and federal security forces would have a standoff outside the consulate.

The entire nation would become obsessed with the case, but the government would prevent anyone from searching the Internet for information about it. Everyone would assume that the government would control the political fallout by arranging a nice show trial for the disgraced governor. It could be the Joys of China-for-a-Day, according to the Bo Xilai script. The Bo affair doesn’t truly tell us anything new about China. But the lurid details — the body of the allegedly murdered British businessman cremated without an autopsy, Bo’s privileged son partying as a student at Oxford and Harvard — might jolt some China-enviers out of their Chinese wishful thoughts about the glories of the “Beijing Model.”

It’s not just Thomas Friedman. Andy Stern, the former president of the Service Employees International Union, wrote an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal titled “China’s Superior Economic Model.” He cited Bo — and his “people-oriented development in Chongqing” — as one of the impressive assets of “Team China.”

So Barack Obama has used China’s national programs as a plug for adopting similar policies at home and said longingly of one of China’s technological advances, “That used to be us.”

The Bo scandal shows the Chinese system to be as thoroughly rotten as one would expect of a kleptocratic police state. What is unusual is only that it was allowed to fester for so long.

If China’s economic rise has been something to behold during the past three decades, it is not a tribute to the technocratic proficiency of China’s rulers. It is China’s mixed system, it is the genuinely private companies that are more economically efficient, according to the Wall Street Journal.

China’s economic miracle may well stall out before we get the opportu- nity to emulate its successes. China can’t convert agricultural workers into manufacturing workers and suppress domestic consumption in the cause of creating an export-driven juggernaut forever. The World Bank report recommends that China move to the next stage of development by “reforming and restructuring state enterprises and banks, developing the private sector, and reducing its dependence on state enterprises that control the political fallout.”

But no, that would be too much to ask. “Reforming and restructuring state enterprises and banks, developing the private sector, and reducing its dependence on state enterprises will require substantial political and societal reforms,” the report concludes. That’s as polite as the World Bank gets.

— Richard Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Coal, foreclosures and Bank of America’s extraordinary event

Amy Goodman
Special to Florida Weekly

Shareholder meetings can be routine, unless you are Bank of America, in which case it may be declared an “extraordinary event.” That is what the city of Charlotte, N.C., called the bank’s shareholder meeting this week. Bank of America is currently the second-largest bank in the U.S. (after JPMorgan Chase) and has in the last three decades, it is not a tribute to the technocratic proficiency of China’s rulers. It is China’s mixed system, it is the genuinely private companies that are more economically efficient, according to the Wall Street Journal.

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Kathleen Passidomo was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in November 2011 and serves on several committees, including the Judiciary Committee, the Civil Justice Subcommittee, the K-20 Innovation Subcommittee and the Congressional Redistricting Committee.

As a partner in the law firm Kelly, Passidomo & Alba LLP, her practice centers on real estate, corporate and business law (she was in the first class of approximately 70 lawyers certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a Board Certified Real Estate Lawyer). A past president of the Collier County Bar Association and of the Collier County Women's Bar Association, she was a founding member of the Volunteer Lawyers Project of the CCBA. She has also served as chairman of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women.

Kathleen graduated cum laude in 1975 from Trinity University in Washington, D.C., and went to law school at Stetson University. She and her husband, John, met at Stetson, married in 1979 and moved to Naples. Their three daughters, all graduates of Naples High School, are: Catarina, a graduate of Washington & Lee University and a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia; Francesca, a graduate of the University of Miami; and Gabriella, a student in the Honors College at Florida Gulf Coast University.

In her “free time,” Kathleen’s pursuits range from cooking to hiking, baseball and opera.

— Bob Harden is the producer and host of “The Bob Harden Show,” airing from 7-8 a.m. weekdays at www.bobharden.com. The show is archived for listeners’ convenience.
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James M. Scanlon, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Paul A. Vieta, Jr., M.D.
PARTNERSHIP

From page 1

might pay off by securing a robust economy, that short version of the full name — "The Partnership for Collier’s Economic Future (call volunteer)" — carries an alluring whiff of cabal, to be sure. But it bears no hidden agenda.

Indeed, The Partnership is a brain trust conceived by the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce. Pioneered to change the old ways of thinking and doing, it allies private, public and university talent to retread an outmoded and underpowered local economy.

“We hold the very important cultural philosophy that if it is not good for the community at large and in general, then long-term it is not good for business. And if it is not good for business, then it isn’t good for the community,” says Edward Morton, a member of The Partnership who is managing director of Wasmer Schroeder & Co. and a former CEO of NCH.

To understand The Partnership, think of a staid, business-suited luncheon crowd smilingly vacating the chicken divan and suddenly snapping to attention, leaping from their chairs and shouting in unison “Let’s change the culture!” Before the dessert course, shouting in unison “Let’s change the culture!”

To give tourist development in the region a specific brand.

To give new life to the University of South Florida by keeping an office there.

To put it together — 100 questions.

Asygul Timur, professor and vice chair of administration at Hodges University’s School of Business, who led the research team.

This report brings together data for discerning economic patterns, best practices and perhaps even models for successful government and business partnerships."

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Arthrex is an example of the kind of business that will help diversify Southwest Florida’s economy.

For example, the team showed that 63 percent of the counties use a combination of public and private talent, 25 percent rely mostly on public efforts (Lee and Sarasota), and 23 percent rely mostly on private efforts (Lee and Sarasota) — is this: Recessionary national economics anchored by our own albatross — is the problem facing all of us.

“In the quantitative research it’s very specific markets. In the qualitative research you should give you a faintly analogous idea of The Partnership. Among its goals:

• To work closely with Collier County government by keeping an office next to the county manager’s.
• To develop themes such as bio-technology.
• To create a campaign to educate the public.

‘‘This is something new. This is something we haven’t done before,’’ explains Mr. Reagen, describing study that compares Collier to eight other Florida counties, both demographically and in terms of best practices.

But that was phase III, says Asygul Timur, professor and vice chair of administration at Hodges University’s Johnson School of Business, who led the research team.

First, the Hodges team compared Collier to 30 other counties in the United States and determined Collier was most similar to these four: Lane County in Oregon, Sonoma in California, Charlotte, S.C., and Palm Beach County on the other side of Florida. “But when we presented that at Wake Up Naples (a chamber-sponsored meeting), they said, ‘That’s very nice, but how do we compare to counties in Florida? Does anybody know what others are actually doing?’

So it was back to the drawing board as 200 rolled into 201 and the economies of Collier, Lee and every other county in the Sunshine State continued to struggle.

It took Dr. Timur and her team a few months even to identify counties similar enough to Collier to be worth asking, she says. Ultimately, they zeroed in on Lee, Sarasota, St. Lucie, Broward, Duval, Miami-Dade, Hillsborough, Orange, alm Beach, Seminole and Martin.

Anke Stugk, a researcher who studied with Dr. Timur and earned an MBA, researched raw data and new information and eagerly helped gather data for the comparative study. One thing she learned “is how diverse Collier County is — I lived here for seven years but I never knew. Maybe the blinds were on.”

Collier’s population is diverse not just in terms of ethnicities and nationalities, but also in terms of talent, experience and vocational abilities, she says.

For the hard-data side of the study, Ms. Stugk and the team drew from two years of detailed analysis, relying on U.S. Census reports combined with the American Community Survey, a federal-state compilation of unemployment statistics in local communities, and a consumer market research system that gives public and private leaders targeted demographic data so they can reach very specific markets.

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percent use only private talent to deal with the new economic challenges.

“When Collier officials answer these questions, then we’ll know how we want to do economic development in this county, going forward,” she says.

So far they have not answered them. To what extent they will do so, and how well they can work with private leaders in Collier — those representing The Partnership, for example — remains to be seen.

This isn’t the first time at the dance for Collier officials and business leaders. To be sure, there was another brain trust of sorts — an effort headed by consultant James McGraw — hired to produce a study directing Naples leaders forward. But that didn’t take, although it helped educate, Mr. Reagen recalls.

“McGraw said: (Private business) should have an office in the county government building. And the business community should raise money to support business incentives. “It was a classic model (for economic development), and McGraw said there were 45 places in the country that do this. You need a constituency raising private money to do it, and to have the good stuff, he said — because here, the county (government) doesn’t.”

The good stuff, the stuff of The Partnership, now includes a remarkable array of opportunities, including a 10-week business development program to locate existing businesses that can benefit from economic development help; a luncheon series for CEOs, and other efforts.

“Is Collier now a wonderful place to live? Yes, but that’s not the right question.

“Is it a wonderful place to grow a business in?

“Does it have the educational and philosophic approach to business to nurture a healthy and diversified business community that provides opportunities not only for those who have acquired wealth and decided to live here, but for people to work and create a life and a career from the ground up, here?

“The Hodges study demonstrated that in Florida and the U.S., Collier is perhaps that county with the widest spread between passive wealth and working wealth.

“The gap between wealth and the working men and women of this community has got to close. We have to create a business climate that allows those men and women who work everyday to diversify the age base, to increase it and to diversify wealth defined 360 degrees — wealth invested in all of our citizens, not only in those with passive income.

“We can define wealth in non-financial terms as well. It can be a wealth of knowledge that our children and our children’s children use to live where they have the dignity of work, and their labor is supported and sustained.

“We have a critical need to synthesize and bring together technical skill, education and ambition.”

—— Edward Morton

Urology problems can have a huge impact on one’s quality of life. Our experts at Specialists in Urology offer leading-edge treatments, innovative research and the most advanced minimally invasive surgical procedures. From urinary incontinence to pelvic disorders, sexual dysfunction to cancer, our fellowship trained physicians in female urology are here to help.

Specialists in Urology provides a comfortable, private, specialized place for women to go where people who care will listen, evaluate their problem and provide treatment that will truly make a difference in their lives.
**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Naples Harley-Davidson revs up for Freedom Ride**

The staff of Naples Harley-Davidson, the American Legion Post 135 and other former and active military personnel in Southwest Florida are planning a Freedom Ride to raise funds for Fisher House, a nonprofit organization that provides a “home away from home” for families of patients receiving medical care at military or VA medical centers.

Opening ceremonies at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, May 20, will feature the Barron Collier High School ROTC and American Legion Post 135 Honor Guard. The ride will begin at Naples Harley-Davidson at 10:30 a.m. and finish at Stan’s Seafood Restaurant in Goodland on Marco Island.

Participation is a donation of $10 per bike and $5 per passenger. For a $20 donation, participants can get a Freedom Ride 2012 T-shirt. All funds collected will be donated to Fisher House

**Shelter plans program for friends of abuse victims**

The Shelter for Abused Women & Children invites anyone who has a loved one in an abusive relationship to attend a meeting from 5:15-7 p.m. Wednesday, May 30, at Cedar Hammock Golf & Country Club, 8660 Cedar Hammock Circle in Naples. The presentation will help friends and family members of domestic violence victims understand:

- The roots of abuse
- Different forms of abuse
- The effects of domestic violence on the family
- Why a woman stays in such a relationship
- What can be done

A question-and-answer session with a victim advocate from the Shelter will follow the formal presentation.

RSVPs are required, and all guests must adhere to the Cedar Hammock Golf & Country Club dress code (no denim, no shorts, no T-shirts).

For more information or to RSVP, call 262-6517, ext. 110, or callie.spilane@naplesart.org.

**Military personnel enjoy free Zoo entry**

The Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens offers free admission to all active military and veterans from Friday through Monday, May 18-21. Adult and child guests in the same party will receive $2 off the regular price of admission.

Military personnel must present current military identification or membership card in a veterans organization and matching name/photo ID.

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**WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2012**

11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

**Goodwill Retail & Donation Center/Job-Link**

12665 Tamiami Trail E.

Naples, FL 34113

Join us for a free educational event featuring refreshments and entertainment for kids, and bringing you information on:

- Making Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP)
- Job-Link Services
- Self Sufficiency Programs
- Credit Counseling
- Foreclosure Counseling
- Loss Mitigation
- Down Payment Assistance in Florida
- Small Business Training Information

**LightHouse Commons Opens This Fall!**

The first on-campus residence hall is coming to the Edison State College Fort Myers campus. LightHouse Commons blends student-centered amenities and meal plans with the safety and convenience of on-campus living. Space is filling up fast for the 2012 fall semester!

**RESERVE YOUR ROOM TODAY**

**239-985-8361 or 800-749-2322**

www.housing.edison.edu

**Fifth Third Bank’s eBus, a financial literacy mobile**

Fifth Third Bank’s eBus, a “financial literacy mobile” electronically retrofitted to serve as a mobile classroom with the tools to help people learn how to become financially successful, is making the local rounds. Visitors to the eBus receive one-on-one credit counseling and money management and budget advice, as well as information about homeownership. The eBus will be at the Haitian Heritage Festival from noon to 8 p.m. Friday, May 18, at the Florida Sports Park, 8250 Collier Blvd. From 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, the eBus will be at the Goodwill Store at 12604 Tamiami Trail E. For more information, call Jadira Hoppy at 449-7083.
Jesus java

Britain’s ITV1 television network announced plans in April to accept “prop placements” to blend into production of its new reality talent show in which actors compete for the lead role in the musical “Jesus Christ Superstar.” The network said, for example, that it was seeking coffee machines, which piqued the interest of the Starbucks brand manager who offered its top-of-the-line Magnifica ESM4200.

What goes Around

Note: From time to time, News of the Weird reminds readers that bizarre human adventures repeat themselves again and again. Here are some choice selections of previous themes recently coming around again (plus a couple of updates on earlier stories):

■ Each spring in Dongyang, China, the aroma of urine is in the air — specifically, the town’s specialty of eggs boiled in the discharge of young boys (under age 10, typically gathered “fresh” from toilets at local schools). Townspeople have believed for centuries that the eggs, properly cooked, bring health and prosperity. “By eating these eggs,” one chap- ter told a Reuters reporter in March, “we will not have any pain in our wrists, legs and joints. Also, you will have more energy when you work.” In fact, Dongyang officials have proudly proclaimed “virgin boy eggs” as an “intangible cultural heritage.”

■ And once again this spring, the Chinese marked the Qingming holiday with celebrations honoring the dead by making offerings to their deceased relatives. At the “bomb-sweeping” festival, people gathered paper replicas of items their ancestors are believed to need in the afterlife. Uncreative relatives give plain play money, but the offerings can be elaborate, such as shoes, cars and TV sets, or this year’s hot item — paper iPads, which were selling in Hong Kong for the equivalent of about $3.

■ With Afghanistan’s morbidly Taliban-ridden landscape, a legal action to obtain compensation for a worker to defraud his agency’s work-compensation program (according to prosecutors in Los Angeles) is fireman Rafael Davis, 35, who received disability payments for about 30 months during 2008-2011 while at the same time engaging in mixed martial arts matches as “The Noodle.” Mr. Davis’ record (according to LA Weekly) was 12-2, with seven of those matches coming during his disability period, including six victories. “MMA” (as noted by the newspaper) requires similar “standing and coordination” as is required for firefighting.

What’s in a name

More and more newspapers are assign- ing reporters to pore through local birth records to sample the diversity of names parents are giving their kids these days. An Edmonton Journal reporter noted in March that the nearly 51,000 babies born in the province of Alberta in 2011 includ- ed a boy named Mos, two girls named Unique, an Einstein, a Messiah, a J-Cub, a Smiley, a Tuff, a Tuba, a Jazz, a Camry, an Andromeda and an Xavier (sic), and a boy named R and a girl named J.

Least-competent criminals

■ In Twin Falls, Idaho, in April, Dylan Contreras, 19, became the most recent per- son arrested while trying to avoid police. Contreras, 19, became the most recent per- son arrested while trying to avoid police.

■ In April, a teller at Chicago’s North- west Side bank became the most recent to thwart a robbery simply by telling the perp, “You have a holdup note” (who had presented a holdup note) that the bank is now closed and suggesting that the robber come back the next day. (The perp walked out and did not return.)

Fine points of the law

■ A woman who was injured while traveling on business in November 2007 in New South Wales, Australia, was denied worker’s compensation by the workplace safety tribunal on the grounds that the injury occurred in her motel room while she was having sex with a friend. A wall light fixture came loose as a result of the pair’s vigorous antics. However, in April 2012, Aus- tralia’s Federal Court overturned the decision and granted the compensation, ruling that since the woman was on assignment at the time, the overnight stay, and even the sex, were “ordinary incidents” of the situation her employer placed her in.

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■ In Twin Falls, Idaho, in April, Dylan Contreras, 19, became the most recent person arrested while trying to avoid police by giving a false name (“Olema”) even though his real name (the one on out- standing warrants) was tattooed in plain sight on his forehead.

■ A New York City system-gaming public school teacher, Alan Rosenfeld, 66, continues to show up for make-work (such as photocopying “duty”), at a salary of $8000 a year, rather than retire. Mr. Rosenfeld was accused in 2001 of making lewd comments to female stu- dents in his typing class and removed from classroom duty, but he protested and continues to exercise his union “due process” rights. In a January 2018 report, the New York Post noted that Mr. Rosenfeld could have retired four years ago, but that by remaining on the “job,” the value of his pension increases, and the light duty enables him to conduct his real estate business while at “work.”

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Conservancy’s turtle tracking: 30 years and counting

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The survival and study of loggerhead sea turtles, one of nature’s most beautiful and enduring creatures, has been a 30-year initiative of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. Its sea turtle monitoring and protection program on Keewaydin Island began in 1982 and is one of the longest running loggerhead turtle monitoring and research projects in the country.

With the May 1 start of nesting season, the Conservancy staff and interns began patrolling beaches, tagging turtles, clearly marking nests and counting hatchlings. The project team works to track the “stories” of the turtles to better understand them and what conditions threaten them. Data gathered includes turtle measurements, nest locations, nesting frequency and nest success rates.

For loggerheads to reach adulthood, they must find avoid natural predators and myriad manmade perils, including commercial fishing gear and marine pollution plus a diminishing foraging and nesting habitat. It’s no wonder that only an estimated one in 1,000 hatchlings reach adulthood.

“While our research shows that loggerhead nesting has declined over the past 10 years, we are very encouraged by the increase in hatchlings we have logged the last two years,” says Dave Addison, lead biologist and co-director of the science program at the Conservancy.

Mr. Addison adds 238 nests and a total of 13,396 hatchlings were charted in 2011, compared with just over 11,000 hatchlings in 2010. “We believe fewer severe storms in 2011 contributed greatly to the number of hatchlings that reached the gulf last summer. We are hopeful for the same in 2012,” he says.

The Conservancy team will place satellite tags on nesting female turtles. Activated when the turtles come to the water’s surface for air, they send signals to a satellite to determine the animals’ location. Over many days, the accumulated data will reveal the turtles’ migratory routes. Funding for the tags comes from private donors and grants from the Marine Turtle Grants program administered by the Sea Turtle Conservancy. Between 2009 and 2011, the Conservancy tagged 22 turtles.

“Thanks to the tags, we will be able to identify migratory pathways and the areas where they forage when they aren’t busy making more turtles. They have high fidelity to their foraging areas,” Mr. Addison says. “We also hope to determine if individual females return to the same area, just as they (annually) return to the same nesting beach. We hope to retag some of the turtles we satellite-tagged previously.”

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida also collaborates with other research centers and universities, collecting nest temperature data and tissue samples for colleagues and graduate students.

“By learning where they travel and what waters they live in, we can do as much to protect them in the ocean as we do when they are on shore to nest,” Mr. Addison explains. “The knowledge gained on sea turtles’ migratory and foraging habits is vital to their survival.”

In addition to loggerhead research, the Conservancy’s state-of-the-art sea turtle studies include the most threatened species of sea turtles in the world — the Kemp’s Ridley, Conservancy Research Manager Dr. Jeff Schmid is collaborating with Mote Marine on one of only two in-water research studies for this species in U.S. waters.

In this file photo from the Conservancy, former intern Michelle Conant takes measurements and log data on a nesting loggerhead.

A hatching makes its way toward the gulf waters.

In the know

Turtle Facts

- The loggerhead sea turtle nesting season began May 1 and continues through October.
- While not nesting, female sea turtles may travel thousands of miles.
- The loggerhead sea turtle is Florida’s most common nesting turtle.
- Female loggerhead turtles annually return to the same beach they were hatched to lay eggs.
- Loggerhead sea turtles can live 70 or more years.
- The moon’s reflection on the water guides hatchlings to the sea.

How To Help

- Limit nighttime beach activities and use of lights during nesting season.
- Do not disturb tracks, eggs, adults, hatchlings or nest markers.
- Volunteer to help clean up the beach during nesting season.
- For more information, contact the Conservancy of Southwest Florida at 262-0034 or www.conservancy.org.

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South Florida’s subtropical environment has inspired many people to import plants and animals from around the world. While many of these species have enriched our lives, some have damaged our environment when they escape or are released.

First reports in Florida of the non-native Burmese python (Python molurus) occurred in 1979 within Everglades National Park. By the late 1990s, the python population had expanded and increased its range north to Lake Okeechobee.

Burmese pythons — some documentated at more than 15 feet long — have been found in Collier County, and there is a collective hypothesis that their presence here might be the result of a separate introduction. In addition, within the last five years researchers and land managers have identified a second species of python, the African rock python (Python sebae) breeding and spreading from northwest Dade County.

While pythons aren’t known to attack humans, they are known to prey indiscriminately on native wildlife, including endangered mammals and birds. The true ecological costs of this invasive apex predator in the Everglades system are not fully known, but the negative impacts seem apparent. Researchers have identified at least 25 species of birds and a wide assortment of mammals and reptiles inside the stomachs of captured pythons.

Nature is adept at striking a balance, however, and pythons will be subject to ecological pressures from various sources. Although cold temperatures should prove lethal and reduce their numbers, freeze events thus far do not appear to have had the impact on the south Florida population that most hoped.

Land managers are working to improve trapping techniques and focus on removing pythons from the ecosystem. Researchers are tracking the snakes and collecting valuable information on their distribution and reproductive behavior in the wild.

Legislation has been enacted to address the python problem, and state-wide invasive species partnerships have formed between local, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and private landowners with the goal of managing non-native invasive species.

We can all help to control the spread of non-native animals. Report any sighting by calling the Python Patrol Hotline at 1-888-IVE-GOT1 or by visiting www.Ivegot1.org. Operators request that you do not attempt to capture the animal but instead take a photo and record a GPS point or detailed location to aid the responder.

Wildlife professionals unequivocally state that pythons are not out to harm humans and the chance of encountering a python in the wild is rare.

— Ian Bartoszek is a biologist at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. Reach him at 403-4208 or ianb@conservancy.org.
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12923 POND APPLE DRIVE E
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NEW LISTING

NEW LISTING

NEW LISTING

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SOLD

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OPEN SUNDAY
2-4 PM

OPEN SUNDAY
1-4 PM

SOLD

OPEN SUNDAY
2-4 PM

DIRECTIONS:
From I-75, take Immokalee Road 1/2 miles east to Valewood Drive, turn left (North) and follow road to the Gatehouse. Pick up Map at Gatehouse.

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Prognosis ‘guarded’ for injured panther kitten

Biologist predicts return to the wild unlikely

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

An endangered Florida panther kitten recently rescued after apparently being struck by a vehicle will likely be unable to return to the wild. Staff from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found the kitten unresponsive on April 23 along State Road 82 in Collier County. A volunteer with the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge on his way to work spotted the injured kitten that morning and reported the sighting.

Rescuers immediately took the then 12-week-old male kitten to the Animal Specialty Hospital of Florida in Naples for treatment. Although veterinarians found no major fractures and no signs of significant internal damage, they believe the panther experienced some level of head trauma.

“Unfortunately, this kitten’s condition makes it unlikely that he will recover enough to be released into the wild,” says Dave Onorato, FWC biologist. “We’re grateful to the staff at the Animal Specialty Hospital, who have worked tirelessly caring for him.”

With a guarded prognosis, the kitten has been transferred to Tampa’s Lowry Park Zoo for further rehabilitation. This is the third kitten and seventh panther overall to receive rehabilitation at the zoo.

A male panther kitten, believed to be this kitten’s brother, died April 7 from injuries also consistent with a vehicle strike.

Collisions with vehicles are the top human-related cause of panther deaths. More than a third of panther deaths documented last year were the result of vehicle strikes. Drivers are encouraged to slow down and drive carefully in rural areas where panthers are known to live.

An estimated 100 to 160 adults of this federally endangered species live in the wild.

To report dead or injured panthers, call the FWC’s Wildlife Alert Hotline at (888) 404-3902 or dial #FWC or *FWC on a cell phone.

Florida residents can support panther conservation efforts through the purchase of a panther license plate at www.buyaplate.com. Fees from the plates are the primary funding source for FWC’s research and management of Florida panthers.

For more information, visit www.floridapanther.net.

More grass means better habitat for Lake Trafford fish, birds, gators

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission planted more than 25,000 aquatic grass plants in Collier County’s Lake Trafford earlier this month. Biologists designed this project to provide better habitat for fish and wildlife that live in and around the lake, the largest one south of Lake Okeechobee.

“This grass will provide excellent habitat for fish living in the lake,” says Roger Hudson, aquatic restoration biologist with the commission. “It will also provide a good foraging area for alligators, otters and birds such as herons, egrets and anhingas.”

The grass species, called Paspalidium gymnatum, is native to Florida. Known among anglers as “Kissimmee grass,” it grows in small, scattered patches around the edges of the lake. Biologists chose to plant additional grasses in areas of Lake Trafford with little or no vegetation. The newly planted grasses cover approximately two acres of the lake and eventually should spread to provide even more habitat.

For more information on the FWC’s freshwater conservation programs, visit www.myfwc.com/conservation and click on Freshwater Programs.

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SALE

$2,799

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SALE

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

Nine big guys and one brave gal faced down platters full of hot dogs for the Naples qualifying leg of the Nathan’s Famous July Fourth Hot Dog Eating Contest held outdoors at Mercato on May 12. Along with a kids’ hot-dog-eating etiquette contest, the spectacle drew a couple of hundred spectators who watched in awe as the hot dogs disappeared.

1. Future champs got a taste of competition in an etiquette contest.
2. Laura Riehman, Kyle Nestel, Lisa DeCola and Adam Peters
3. Laura Riehman was the only woman in the competition.
4. Kevin Strahle
5. First-place finisher Adrian Morgan after downing 33 hot dogs in 10 minutes to earn a trip to the July 4 finals on Coney Island.
6. Contestants Adrian Morgan, Kyle Nestel and Adam Peters
7. Emcee Sam Barclay
8. Quinlyn Dickson
Most travelers along the Tamiami Trail to and from Miami no doubt notice a collection of concrete pillars just off the highway, roughly 11 miles from Miami, which from a distance resemble an oversized chessboard. What many probably don’t know, however, is that the pillars are a memorial.

May 11, 1996, was a clear, sunny day for passengers on ValuJet 592 bound from Miami to Atlanta. But barely 10 minutes into the routine 110-minute flight, all 110 passengers were dead. At 5:50 p.m., the airplane had nosedived into the murky waters of the Everglades swamps. The victims included missionaries, high school sweethearts, grandparents heading to their granddaughters’ graduation, and five members from one family.

Divers worked under grueling circumstances and in special biohazard suits during the recovery attempts that were made even more difficult because the nearest road was more than a quarter mile away. In addition to the jet fuel surrounding them, there was also concern for nearby alligators and razor-sharp sawgrass, coupled with the risk of bacterial infection from the water itself. Eventually, 12 bags of body parts were recovered, enabling the positive identification of 61 individuals.

“ Barely a Trace” read The Miami Herald’s front-page headline the following day. Six months after the crash, this same jet fuel prevented wildlife from returning to the area and it was declared a bio-hazardous zone in an environmentally sensitive and protected site. Initially, the crash site was closed to the public for 90 days while environmentalists studied the effects to this fragile ecosystem.

The National Transportation Safety Board investigation determined that a fire that began in a cargo compartment below the passenger cabin had doomed Flight 592. The investigation also determined that just before takeoff, expired chemical oxygen generators had been placed in the cargo compartment in five mislabeled boxes by employees of the maintenance contractor SabreTech. The company’s employees also declared on the cargo manifest that the generator canisters were empty, when in fact they were not. Investigators concluded that somehow, knocking around in cardboard boxes as the plane ascended, the canisters had ignited a fire.

Federal Aviation Administration regulations forbid the transport of hazardous materials in aircraft cargo holds. And prior to the crash of Flight 592, there were no smoke detectors in the cargo holds. Such detectors, which are required equipment today, perhaps could have alerted the crew to the fire in time to land safely.

Instead, everyone onboard perished, and Capt. Candalyn “Candi” Kubeck became what is believed to be the first woman commercial jetliner captain to die in a U.S. crash. Three years after the crash, a striking memorial to the victims of Flight 592 was erected and dedicated alongside the Tamiami Trail. Created by students from the University of Miami School of Architecture, it consists of 110 concrete pillars, in varying sizes, representing those who lost their lives that day. A granite slab lies adjacent to the pillars, bearing the names of the dead and pointing due north toward the site of the impact.

Valujet suffered major financial problems following the intense negative publicity that surrounded the crash. A year later, the airline merged with AirTran Airways, and by November 1997, the tarnished Valujet name passed away into aviation history. In 2001, Southwest Airlines acquired AirTran Airways.

The only positive things to come from this disaster were drastic air safety changes. It was reported that less than two weeks after this crash, the FAA banned oxygen generators in commercial flight cargo holds. It also mandated fire detection systems for these same cargo holds, which resulted in the retrofitting by March 2008 of more than 3,400 aircraft.

According to an Associated Press report by Curt Anderson in May 1996, John Goglia, a former NTSB member who led the hearings on the crash of Valujet Flight 592, said during the hearings: “What I remember most about this accident is that ... it was completely preventable.”

On your next drive to Miami via the Tamiami Trail/US 41, plan some extra time to visit the Valujet 992 memorial. Six miles past Shark Valley and the Miccosukee reservation (just past Buffalo Tiger’s Airboat Rides), turn left onto the bridge and then veer right to the memorial site.


Concrete pillars of varying sizes were created by students from the University of Miami School of Architecture.
The Naples chapter of Zonta International recently awarded its 2012 Young Women in Public Affairs award to Ashley Inman, a graduating senior at Gulf Coast High School. Ms. Inman receives $1,000 from the local club, and her application has been forwarded to the Zonta District II YWPA committee for their consideration as well.

In her application, Ashley demonstrated her commitment to community and women’s issues as president of her school’s Model UN program, ranked 10th in the nation, and through numerous volunteer activities with the National Honor Society, providing more than 300 hours of service to Collier County. She hopes to pursue a career in diplomatic service with a special focus on the Middle East.

New officers for the coming year for the Naples Zonta chapter are: Michelle Hashman, president; Betty Kampfer, vice president; Julie Schippereit, treasurer; and Marla Ramsey, secretary. Directors are: Yasmine Awad, Bernadette Garabed and Jane Kolczun. Past president is Laura Carlston.

In 2011, local Zontians donated $35,000 and volunteered more than 1,300 hours to nonprofit organizations that enhance the status of women. Members and guests meet on the first Tuesday of every month for a luncheon program. Cost is $17 and reservations are required. For more information, call 572-4343, e-mail info@zonta-naples.org.

The Naples Natives Club meets at Noodle’s Italian Café and Sushi Bar.

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The Naples chapter of Zonta International will discuss little-known facts about the writing of “The Wizard of Oz.”

Cost is $20 for members, $25 others. Reservations and choice of entrée (Italian salad with chicken breast or ravioli Florentine) are required by Sunday, May 20, via e-mail to rsvp@naplespressclub.org.

The Ohio State Alumni Club of Naples holds its monthly happy hour social from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, May 17, at The Pub in Mercato. RSVP by calling 248-7408 or e-mailing jimdmbb@comcast.net.

The Southwest Florida chapter of the Kiwi Club, a social and charitable organization of present and former flight attendants of American Airlines, TWA and other airlines acquired by or merged with American Airlines, meets for its monthly luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 26, in a private home. For reservations or more information, call Eileen Martino at 959-159 or e-mail emmartino@gmail.com.

The local chapter supports Pace Center for Girls-Collier at Immokalee and the Collier County Hunger & Homeless Coalition. New members are always welcome. For membership information, call Jeanne Preston-Horvath at 956-0260 or e-mail Jeanne.preston@yahoo.com.

The Inbetweeners, a social group for singles ages 40-65, welcomes newcomers and regulars at gatherings from 4-7 p.m. every Wednesday. The May 23 and 30 gatherings are set for Noodle’s Italian Café and Sushi Bar.

For more information, visit www.meet-up.com/inbetweeners or e-mail naplesinbetweeners@gmail.com.

The Naples Newcomers Club welcomes women who have been permanent residents of Naples for no more than five years and who want to meet others who are new to the area.

The club meets for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of every month at country clubs throughout the area. In addition, groups within the club plan outings and dates to share varied interests, such as mah-jongg and duplicate bridge, gourmet cooking and discussions about philosophy. Prospective members are invited to coffee at 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month. For meeting locations and more information, call 298-4083 or visit www.naplesnewcomers.com.
In 2011, the Shoppe donated $105,000 to 18 Collier County charities, whose names and amounts received are posted by the front door. They include: the Harry Chapin Food Bank, The Shelter for Abused Women & Children, Collier Pregnancy Centers Inc., Habitat for Humanity, the Neighborhood Health Clinic, Naples Equestrian Challenge, St. Matthew’s House, Youth Haven, Literacy Volunteers of Collier County, Project Help, Fun Time Early Childhood Academy, and the Children’s Advocacy Center.

Over the years, St. John’s Shoppe has given more than $12 million to numerous local charities. That money comes mostly from sales at the shop on 110th Avenue North; eBay sales also contribute to the bottom line.

One morning last week, a painter applied the finishing touches on fixtures in preparation for a 30th anniversary open house and volunteer recognition taking place during store hours Saturday, May 19. The St. John’s Episcopal Church congregation will also celebrate the Shoppe’s longevity during the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 20. All are welcome. The shop is at 500 Park Shore Drive.
Collier County celebrates Memorial Day!

Presented by the
Collier County Veterans Council

Monday, 10 am, May 28th
Naples Memorial Gardens
525 111th Ave. North
Naples, Florida 34108
(just west of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church)

Wounded Warriors

Keynote will be given by local vet CPL. Bobby Joseph, USMC (Ret.):
“Once a Marine, Always a Marine!”

FREE picnic will be catered by Cook Brothers BBQ
in memory of their beloved father, US Navy veteran, Ronald E. Cook
Proceeds to benefit Wounded Warriors

Music will be provided by the Pine Ridge
Middle School Band under the baton of Kelly Parker

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www.hodgesfhatnaplesmg.com
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Blood center needs all types

After a busy winter/spring season, the Community Blood Center needs to replenish its supplies of all types of blood. Donors can visit the following Community Blood Center locations:
- Naples: 311 Ninth St. N., on the first floor of the NCH Medical Plaza. Complimentary valet parking for all blood donors.
- Bonita Springs: 9700 Bonita Beach Road, in SunShine Plaza. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday-Friday. Call 436-5455.
- Fort Myers: 2200 First St., in the Thomas W. Avera II Medical Plaza. Parking is complimentary.
- Cape Coral: 1010 Winterhaven Blvd., in Winterhaven Centre. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday-Friday. Call 436-5455.
- A22

For a list of Community Blood Center bloodmobile locations and times, visit www.giveloveblood.org.

A SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

When should patients say “What?” to their doctors? A Consumer Reports coalition of nine physician groups compiled lists of “Five Things Physicians and Patients Should Question” as part of the nonprofit organization’s Choosing Wisely campaign. It’s been estimated that 30 percent of health care in the U.S. is unnecessary.

Consumer Reports cited five leading examples of “when to say what” in a new report available for free online at www.ConsumerReports.org and in the June issue of Consumer Reports. Some highlights:
- **EKGs and exercise stress tests** for heart disease are key for people who have symptoms of heart disease or are at high risk for it. But for otherwise healthy people, the tests are not as accurate and can lead to unnecessary follow-up and treatment. The risks: Those follow-up tests can include CT angiograms or coronary angiography; both expose you to a radiation dose equal to hundreds of chest X-rays and other potential adverse events. Inappropriate testing can also lead to overtreatment with drugs or angioplasty or stents. The cost: An EKG typically costs about $50 and an exercise stress test about $200 to $300. But subsequent interventions can add thousands to the tab.
- **Imaging tests for lower-back pain** might sound like a good idea, but back pain usually subsides in about a month, with or without testing. The risks: One study projected 1,200 new cancer cases based on 2.2 million CT scans done for lower-back pain in the U.S., not to mention the radiation-related changes that the tests can detect, prompting needless worry and further testing and treatment, possibly surgery. The costs: An X-ray of the lower back typically ranges from $200 to $285, an MRI from $875 to $1,225, and a CT scan from $1,080 to $1,520.
- **CT scans and MRIs** for headaches rarely help the patient more than taking a careful medical history and doing a neurological exam. The risks: Brain scans can reveal things that appear worrisome but aren’t, triggering follow-up tests and prompting referrals to specialists for expensive consultations. CT scans of the head can deliver a radiation dose that’s the equivalent of hundreds of chest X-rays in some cases. The costs: A standard brain CT scan costs about $340, and a brain MRI about $660. Referrals to a specialist or subsequent treatment are extra, of course.
- **Bone density scans** for low-risk women are used routinely to screen for weak bones with a test called a DEXA scan. But many low-risk women learn they only have mild bone loss, a condition known as osteopenia, and for them the risk of fracture is often low. The risks: While there is little evidence that people with osteopenia benefit from drugs, the diagnosis often leads to treatment with drugs that pose numerous risks. The costs: a DEXA scan costs about $132. The price for a month’s supply of generic alendronate is $58 to $70, and $125 to $148 for Fosamax, the brand-name version. People often take the drugs for years. **Antibiotics for sinusitis** are frequently prescribed (5 to 21 percent of all antibiotic prescriptions for adults are to treat sinusitis). But most people don’t need the drugs because the cause is often viral and antibiotics don’t work against viruses. The risks: About one in four people report side effects and in rare cases, the drugs can cause anaphylactic shock. Overuse of antibiotics also encourages the growth of bacteria that can’t be controlled easily with drugs, making you more vulnerable to antibiotic-resistant infections and undermining the usefulness of antibiotics for everyone. The costs: Not all antibiotics are expensive, but since doctors write so many prescriptions for them, the total cost to the health-care system is substantial — at least $31 billion a year.

**SCHOOL NURSES MAKE THE GRADE WITH COMPASSIONATE CARE**

In honor of National School Nurses Day, we recently celebrated the cherished and committed group of individuals that help NCH attain and preserve its quality distinctions. As Stephanie Braun, our school nursing program director and supervisor of 38 professionals who care for more than 42,000 students in 52 local schools, put it: Our nurses love what they do and are truly a dedication and care of professionals. Each day they see the difference they make in the lives of the students in Collier County.**

I can’t cite all the wonderful things our school nurses do every day, but I am happy to share a couple of examples of their dedication:
- Rosa Hernandez, R.N., was on duty at Pinecrest Elementary School in Immokalee when, close to dismissal time, she was alerted to a 6-year-old kindergartener who had fallen off the monkey bars and injured her leg. The child was in extreme pain. Ms. Hernandez cared for the child as numerous attempts were made to contact the parents, who were field workers in Immokalee. Although her scheduled contract was at 3:15 p.m., Ms. Hernandez followed the ambulance to the hospital. When she returned to her school the next morning, she contacted the physician’s office to which the child had been referred and scheduled a follow-up appointment for the child.
- Ms. Hernandez’s kindness and compassion for her children extends far beyond her contracted duties. Any parent would want a school nurse like this to care for his or her children.

One day she mentioned she had seen 45 children.

“Suze really loves her work and all the children she works with, and I am sure there are a lot of these nurses out there in this district that do the same as Sue. Surely, Lynn Becker.”

Thank you, Ms. Becker. And thank you to all of our NCH school nurses for everything you do for our community’s children.

— Dr. Allen Weiss is the president and CEO of Physicians Regional Healthcare System.
Step up and join the local effort to make strides against breast cancer

The American Cancer Society is seeking volunteers and sponsors for the 2012 “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” 5K walk taking place Saturday, Oct. 20, at Cambier Park. It’s still five months away, but committee chairs are already gearing up for the big event. Several volunteers signed up at the “Put On Your Pink Bra” committee rally at Clive Daniel Home earlier this month, but the ACS continues to reach out to everyone who would like to make a difference in the fight against breast cancer.

Volunteers are especially needed to serve on the team development, sponsorship, survivor and logistics committees. Team captains are also needed to round up family and friends to participate in the walk. Local businesses can play an essential role as well by signing on as corporate sponsors.

A “Put On Your Pink Bra” kick-off party is being planned in August for teams that have already registered and to sign up new teams. To learn more about joining a committee, starting a team or becoming a sponsor, contact Kathy Cleeland at the ACS by calling 261-0337, ext. 3895, or e-mailing Kathy.Cleeland@cancer.org. ■

Collins Physical Therapy Institute opens for business

Rehabilitative specialist Greg Collins has opened the Collins Physical Therapy Institute in the Professional Arts Building Center at 848 First Ave. S. in downtown Naples. With more than 35 years of experience in Naples, Mr. Collins receives referrals from doctors throughout Southwest Florida. He believes in the use of skilled hands and comprehensive exercise programs for healing chronic neck, back and other orthopedic ailments.

Mr. Collins earned a degree from Ohio State University in 1978 and then worked at NCH for two years before opening Suncoast Rehabilitation & Aquatics, which eventually grew to eight locations in the region.

For more information about the Collins Physical Therapy Institute, call 384-9952. ■

Peds Ortho — Pediatric Orthopedics of South- west Florida, the Fort Myers-based medical prac- tice specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of infants, children, adolescents and young adults with orthopedic conditions — has moved its Naples office to 1265 Creekside Parkway, next door to The Children’s Hospital Specialty Clinic in the Polaris Building. The physicians are on the staff at NCH in Naples and The Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida in Fort Myers.

Peds Ortho Drs. Brett Shannon, John Churchill and Matthew Wagner are board certified and trained to deal with musculoskeletal deformities and injuries such as broken bones and joint, ligament, tendon and muscle problems in developing children. They also specialize in sports medicine, as well as congenital and developmental conditions such as scoliosis, limb deformity and spina bifida. The practice also employs physician assistants and physical therapists.

“We have seen the need grow over the last two years that we have had the Naples office, so we wanted to improve the availability of our services so families don’t have to travel for specialized medical care, which means less down time from school and sporting activities,” Dr. Shannon says.

For more information, call 432-5100, or visit www.pedsortho.net. ■

Collins

Pediatric Orthopedics relocates in Naples

Representatives from Chase Bank at the committee rally at Clive Daniel Home included Ryan McGauley, Tameka Thomas, Kim Nguyen, Mildred Germosen and Alexandra Dimanche.

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Find big game here—on two Tom Fazio golf courses at Bonita Bay East. Capture your game before daily play ends March 2013.

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- Bob Hardin, Host of the Bob Hardin Show

*"After I started Concept 10 10, my neck problems are almost gone & my back is so much better. I feel good and much stronger."*
- Linda Hardin, writer for Paradise Post & Naples Illustrated

Golf Club of the Everglades hosted 116 players in the seventh annual Royal Palm Academy Classic on May 7. The event, which included dinner and an appearance by PGA Tour professional Mark Lye, raised $32,000 for the private Catholic school.

1. On the course at the Golf Club of the Everglades
2. Chrisy and Mark Rogers
3. Jenn Wojcik and Lisa Gorda
4. Nannette Staropoli
5. Mark Lye and Margaret Richardson
6. Members of the Ave Maria University golf team

JAMES GRECO / COURTESY PHOTOS

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Call to attend our FREE seminar, May 23rd!
Do you know what you spend on your dog? Some of us prefer to remain blissfully unaware, while others track every penny.

Most of us are probably somewhere in the middle, with a general idea of annual costs that we don’t think of much — unless we’re hit with something out of the ordinary.

Trade groups that track these things put the “start-up” costs of a dog (not accounting for the cost of purchase or adoption) at around a thousand dollars on average, with annual upkeep of about $700 per year. Bear in mind two things: first, that costs often are higher in urban areas and on both coasts, and less expensive in rural areas and in the Midwest and South; and second, that “average” includes people who frankly are barely spending enough on their dogs to keep from being hauled in by humane officers and charged with neglect.

If you opt for a high-quality diet (recommended), a solid preventive-care regimen from your veterinarian (also recommended) including parasite control (protecting your dog and your human family, too), along with some “fun” purchases that can also make your life easier and keep your home cleaner, some “fun” purchases that can also make your life easier and keep your home cleaner, including parasite control (protecting your health), preventive care, and if you need it, I guarantee you’ll be grateful you have it. Your veterinarian, read the reviews and fiddle with the online formulas to see what companies and policy options, talk to your veterinarian, read the reviews and fiddle with the online formulas to see what companies and policy options, talk to the experts at Eye Centers of Florida.

The tight economy has led many people to cut preventive care for pets — a decision that can backfire. Some people prefer to remain blissfully unaware, while others track every penny. To adopt or foster a pet — this week’s pets are from Collier County Domestic Animal Services. Adoption fees for cats are $60 and dogs are $85 and include spay/neuter surgery, vaccinations, pet license, ID microchip and a bag of food. Visit DAS at 7610 Davis Blvd. from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. For more information, call 252-7387 or visit www.collierpaws.net/pets. Plan ahead
Preventive care, pet health insurance save lives, money

BY DR. MARTY BECKER
Universal Uclick

Do you know what you spend on your dog? Some of us prefer to remain blissfully unaware, while others track every penny. Most of us are probably somewhere in the middle, with a general idea of annual costs that we don’t think of much — unless we’re hit with something out of the ordinary.

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If you opt for a high-quality diet (recommended), a solid preventive-care regimen from your veterinarian (also recommended) including parasite control (protecting your dog and your human family, too), along with some “fun” purchases that can also make your life easier and keep your home cleaner, some “fun” purchases that can also make your life easier and keep your home cleaner, including parasite control (protecting your health), preventive care, and if you need it, I guarantee you’ll be grateful you have it. Your veterinarian, read the reviews and fiddle with the online formulas to see what companies and policy options, talk to the experts at Eye Centers of Florida. The tight economy has led many people to cut preventive care for pets — a decision that can backfire. Some people prefer to remain blissfully unaware, while others track every penny.

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“Kitch is the absolute denial of shit. It excludes everything from its purview which is essentially unacceptable in human existence.” — Milan Kundera

“Here is a painting I happened to drip red paint on. At first I was terribly upset, but then I started enjoying it. The trickle looked like a crack... I began playing with the crack, filling it out, wondering what it looked like a crack.... I began playing with the crack, filling it out, wondering what... I began playing with the crack, filling it out, wondering what it looked like a crack.... I began playing with the crack, filling it out, wondering what... I began playing with the crack, filling it out, wondering what it looked like a crack.... I began playing with the crack, filling it out, wondering what... I began playing with the crack, filling it out, wondering what it looked like a crack.... I began playing with the crack, filling it out, wondering what... I began playing with the crack, filling it out, wondering what it looked like a crack.... I began playing with the crack, filling it out, wondering what... 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-Christopher & Heather Burgess
Owners, Brambles Tea Room

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www.NCHmd.org
AN ATLANTA-BASED DEVELOPER AND THE owners of the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Racing & Poker hope to prod state lawmakers into expanding gambling in Lee County — a move Izzy Havenick says will help the landmark dog track win back business from the penny arcades and so-called Internet cafes that have sprung up in strip malls throughout the Southwest Florida area in recent years.

“We’re getting killed by all the unregulated arcades and Internet cafes,” says Havenick, president of the Greyhound Racing & Poker.

Casinos, racetracks and penny arcades vie for gamblers’ money

BY NANCY THEORET
Florida Weekly Correspondent

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Awards honor ‘Stars’ of the local tourism industry

Paradise Coast Tourism Star awards for 2012 were handed out to the cream of Collier County’s tourism industry crop at the 10th annual Collier County Tourism Week celebration and luncheon held at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort on May 10. The event takes place every year to coincide with National Travel & Tourism Week.

Reflecting this year’s theme of “Forecast 2012 – Sunny Skies for the Paradise Coast,” Jack Wert, executive director for the Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention and Visitors Bureau reported on positive numbers for the year 2011 and the first quarter of 2012 in tourism visitation and spending.

Visitation in 2011 set a record for the CVB since it was formed 10 years ago, with 1,489,900 visitors representing an increase of 7.7 percent over year 2010, Mr. Wert said. Direct spending by visitors totaled $782,078,400 (up 10.6 percent), and the total economic impact from tourism on Collier County’s economy was $1,289,990,388 (also up 10.6 percent).

While visitation was slightly lower in 2008 at 1,413,760, that year still holds the record for annual tourist tax revenue ($14.5 million) and average daily rate at hotels ($168) in the year preceding the recession. The average daily rate for 2011 was $155.80, an increase 3.3 percent, Mr. Wert said, adding he is confident this number will continue to recover and improve in 2012.

Visitation for the first quarter of 2012 was 551,500, up 7.8 percent over the same period in 2011. Visitor spending, at $360,512,100, was up 12.9 percent over first quarter 2011. Total economic impact for the quarter was also up 12.9 percent, at $537,523,542. Peak season occupancy was 84.5 percent.

SEE AWARDS, B4
A fundamental concept in investing is that the future is unknown. Portfolios should be constructed with that in mind. Sure, investors want to think that they can figure out the future. They will listen to cable news to hear many an economic prognostication and asset class forecast. But what they’re getting might be just high-end marketing, selling or info-tainting. Chances are very good that, even if the perfectly right scenario was laid before an investor, it would be tossed into the fore-cast heap and never become actionable.

The important thing for an investor to decide is whether his asset mix will serve him well over the long run… in a variety of economic, interest rate, inflation and liquid environments. A portfolio is not created to do well for a short-term market environment or for what might happen next month.

Constructing the portfolio is generally a factual, unemotional, logical process. It can be done alone, but is better done with several advisers’ review.

Because the future is unknown, the return of and return on any investment capital is at risk. The degree of risk varies by asset class and varies by selections within the asset class. For instance, within the risk class of U.S. equities, the sector of technology is of greater risk than utilities; further, within those subcategories, individual stocks have different risk levels.

Risk is a very important element of investing. To the ordinary investor, it means the possibility of loss or (losses in excess of capital if so applies.) ultimate return of investment funds, liquidity, transparency, volatility, ability of the asset to regain value after losses, among other risk characteristics. For instance, if you lose money in a bond that has defaulted, the chances of you getting your full principal back are slim versus a loss in equities due to a poor earnings release or a write-off, as the company might well have the capacity to grow and rebound in value over time.

Most investors need to first figure out if they can take investment risk. If they cannot afford to lose principal, then their investment choices are very few — possibly: CDs, short-term U.S. Treasuries, annuities, etc… all the while remembering: there are limits on bank CD guaran-tees; that even the U.S. government debt has been downgraded; and that there are risks inherent with an insurance compa-ny’s credit. Bottom line, even the riskless assets can have risk.

Investors then need to determine how much income they need and, given their risk profile, what income sources best suit them. If they are working in a secure job, then there is less dependence on invest-ment income. If they are retired, then they are very dependent on retirement sources of income.

For retirees, once their income needs are met (whatever the reliable source) and if they have emergency cash (or assets easily transferred into cash) sufficient to handle a several month or several year period, then they can take a look at adding layers of risk investments.

The first natural extension of the port-folio might be into corporate bonds and U.S. corporate equities paying dividends. Obviously, those equities offering a divi-dend will help satisfy the need for income and offer the potential for capital gain. Those who can take risk might reach for higher yielding plays and those who want less risk might be looking at companies that have never missed a dividend and have a long record of increases.

The young investor, those still employed, and/or investors with very large portfolios (young or old) can assume more risk such as technology, foreign equities, illiquid private equity, hedge funds and other alter-native.

Technically, you might be able to handle additional risk, but if you know your per-sonality is such that a loss changes your dis-position, your lifestyle and your approach to investing, then you might have to rethink your portfolio risk tolerance. Visiting with several investment advisers could assure that your approach is reasonable.

Now, some investors say, “I know the future! X, Y, Z will happen and I am making a great allocation to asset classes A and B and lightening up on asset classes C and D.” This rearranging of the deck chairs is not advisable for most. Yes, that is how money is made… or lost. Make and stay with additional risk, but if you know your per-sonality is such that a loss changes your dis-position, your lifestyle and your approach to investing, then you might have to rethink your portfolio risk tolerance. Visiting with several investment advisers could assure that your approach is reasonable.

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MONEY & INVESTING
Managing your portfolio and managing your expectations

A fundamental concept in investing is that the future is unknown. Portfolios should be constructed with that in mind. Sure, investors want to think that they can figure out the future. They will listen to cable news to hear many an economic prognostication and asset class forecast. But what they’re getting might be just high-end marketing, selling or info-tainting. Chances are very good that, even if the perfectly right scenario was laid before an investor, it would be tossed into the fore-cast heap and never become actionable.

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PORT ROYAL - ADMIRALTY PARADE
Incomparable views of Naples Bay and beyond. Attention to detail throughout with no expense spared in the use of warm woods and intricate stonework. A rare opportunity. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $8,500,000

PORT ROYAL - FORT CHARLES DRIVE
The engaging exterior architecture and the intricate details of the interior design reflect a thousand-year-old culture with a well-defined sense of self and a refined appreciation of good taste. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. Price upon request.

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. $10,290,000

PORT ROYAL - CUTLASS LANE
Perhaps, the finest waterfront property in all of Naples. Designed by architect Jerry DeGennaro and built by Newbury North Associates. A perfect combination of New England and Old Florida style architecture. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $19,800,000

PORT ROYAL - GALLEON DRIVE
A charming Port Royal home with expansive water frontage and multidirectional long water views over Buccaneers’ Bay and Naples Bay. In the style of the islands, the home is artfully constructed with high ceilings, rich wood floors, and epitomizes comfortable elegance. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $7,600,000

PORT ROYAL - FORT CHARLES DRIVE
This property has beautiful panoramic views overlooking Morgan’s Cove, which, allows a substantial building envelope, and is one of the most desired areas of Port Royal as evidenced by the by the extraordinary quality of the homes recently built around it. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $5,295,000

PORT ROYAL - GALLEON DRIVE
A handsome and classic Port Royal home with unobstructed water views and a deep Western exposure lot, which provides the owner with expansive green spaces and open vistas to the wide waters of Naples Bay and the Sugarloaf Mountain. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. $12,500,000

AQUALANE SHORES - 8TH STREET SOUTH
Wonderfully designed by Stofft Cooney Architects, this home captures the true essence of cottage living while providing the finest of modern day conveniences. The home is situated on an extraordianrily deep, Western exposure lot, which provides the owner with expansive green spaces and open vistas to the wide waters of Flamingo Cove. $4,990,000

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

AQUALANE SHORES - 17TH AVENUE SOUTH
Beautiful south facing home with elevated pool that augments the wonderfully appointed first floor living area, thus creating a private indoor/outdoor entertainment environment. Soaring ceilings and carefully placed windows illuminate the interior spaces. Significant recessed boat slip with lift and no-bridge access to the Gulf of Mexico. $3,850,000

GULF SHORE BLVD. CONDOMINIUM
Located in the Waldorf, one of the most sought-after condominium addresses in Naples, this first-floor living residence is directly proximate to the pool and the sugar sand beach of the Gulf of Mexico. West-facing living and dining rooms afford daily displays of dazzling sunsets. $1,790,000

GULF SHORE BLVD. CONDOMINIUM
Unique vistas are had from the main living areas and sizable bedrooms of this beautifully updated Admiralty Point II condominium. Admiralty Point’s unique setting along the North bank of Doctor’s Pass and its on-site amenities are among the finest in the Moorings. $674,000

PORT ROYAL - FORT CHARLES DRIVE
This exceptional South Naples beachfront residence is the personalization of the much admired and beloved individual who commissioned its construction. The home is finished with exceptional attention to detail. $15,000,000

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AWARDS
From page 1

up 6.5 percent. Finally, 94.7 percent of visitors indicated they would recommend the Paradise Coast as a visitor destination. Visitation data released by the CVB is compiled by Research Data Services Inc.

The county's 30,600 tourism and hospitality industry workers made the Paradise Coast the destination of choice for last year's record-setting number of visitors, Mr. Wert concluded before the Tourism Star awards presentation began. Judges for 2012 were Audrey Bird, International Meeting Planners Inc.; Marcia Taylor, FGCU; Elaine Hamilton, United Arts Council of Collier County; Debbie Newman, PhotoMagic; David Atkin-son, TRAVELHOST magazine; and Beth Preddy, Predgy PR. Several special award winners are also selected every year by CVB staff.

Here are this year's Paradise Coast Tourism Star award winners:

■ Rising Star: Ilia Acevedo, a member of the housekeeping staff at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort, Golf Club & Spa.
■ Approachability: Liz Sanders, manager of sales and catering for the Hilton Naples.
■ Outstanding Hotel Employee, Front Line: Marilyn Soffer, chef concierge at Naples Bay Resort.
■ Outstanding Hotel Employee, Support Staff: Analisa Hernandez, housekeeping/suite attendant at Hilton Naples.
■ Outstanding Attractions Employee, Support Staff: Mitch Fogel, private car driver/chauffeur, Naples Transportation, Tours & Event Planning.
■ Best Strategic Partner: paradise Coast TV Hotel Channel.
■ Outstanding Hotel Sales Employee: Cliff Dworkin, national sales manager, Hilton Marco Island Beach Resort & Spa.
■ Outstanding Attractions Sales Employee: Courtney Herrell, director of group sales at The Naples Zoo.

— As the official tourism marketing and management agency for Collier County, the Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention and Visitors Bureau produces the area's ongoing destination marketing campaigns, website and visitor guides, provides information and assistance for travel media, group meeting planners, tour operators and travel agents. The CVB is funded entirely by the Collier County tourist development tax collected by hotels, short-term vaca-tion rentals and campgrounds. For more information, call 252-2384 or visit www.ParadiseCoast.com.

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY
1. Members of the Hilton Marco Island staff
2. Bob DeGross and Lisa Andrews of the Lappaya staff
3. Robin Shiffllett and Katie O’Hara
4. Debi DeBenedetto, Ilia Acevedo and Jack Wert
5. Liz Sanders
6. Marilyn Soffer
7. Barry Larkin
8. Robin Jill Hochmeyer
9. Randy Smith
10. Members of the Hilton Marco Island staff

QuickBooks workshop offered by SCORE Naples

SCORE Naples and The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce present a QuickBooks workshop from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, May 24, in the conference room at the Liles Hotel in Bonita Springs.

The session will highlight the financial reports needed to manage a business and make good business decisions and will show participants how tracking sales information affects an operation’s finan-cial reports. Attendees will learn how to create memorized reports that provide critical financial information as well as how to customize the QuickBooks Company Snapshot report, which is similar to the type of report that top CEOs and CFOs have on their desk first thing each day. The workshop will also cover how to export important QuickBooks reports to Excel to perform “what-if” analysis to help create the financial backup for simple business plans.

Presenters are Ike Lichtenstein and Cheryl Willett, Ms. Lichtenstein, deputy director of client services for SCORE Naples in south Lee County, is the profitability consultant and a principal of Springs-based Willett Business Management Inc. He practiced as a CPA in New York for more than 25 years. Ms. Willett, president of Willett Business Management Inc., has more than 35 years of accounting and taxation experience. Registration is $25. Sign up online at www.scorenaples.org or enroll by calling the SCORE Naples office at 430-0081 weekdays between 9 a.m. and noon.
Mr. Havenick, whose family has operated the track since the 1970s, “Business is down.”

“The family is suing the Lee County Board of Commissioners to approve a voter referendum that could bring slot machines to the Bonita Springs race track. Commissioners will decide May 22 if the initiative will appear on the November ballot.

Throughout Florida, gaming interests not only battle public scrutiny and restrictive laws — casinos, pari-mutuels like the dog track, and the video gambling parlors at the strip malls also compete vigorously against each other for customers.

Internet cafés and penny arcade operators complain that despite the public perception, it’s difficult to turn a significant profit. Meanwhile, the developer of the Forum in Fort Myers is proposing a $1 billion destination resort that would offer 1,500 hotel rooms, a convention center, restaurants, shops and a casino — and lure tourists to the Southwestern Florida region.

The state has repeatedly stacked the deck against the track and other would-be casinos by favoring, says Mr. Havenick, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, which operates seven of Florida’s eight Indian casinos. Although the track won the right to offer poker in 1996, a 2010 compact approved by state legislators let the tribe expand the casino to increased revenues at the Immokalee facility.

Among the biggest payouts: a recent winner at the palace who won $1,320 in gift certificates at Luckystar Game Room in Port Charlotte. “I never thought it would be this good,” says Mr. Bass, whose clientele includes 1,000 people, says Mr. Bass. “I know what they drive to get to our door. I have a lot of seniors and retirees who gather here. They’ll have a cappuccino, meet friends and decide where to go for dinner.”

Among the biggest bounties: a recent Luckystar visitor who won $1,320 in gift cards at the Penny Arcade, a jackpot at Mr. Statton’s Jolly Rogers. “I’m lucky because I have a decent core customer base and a loyal following,” he says. “I offer a fun atmosphere. People like coming here,” says Mr. Farah. “Arcades are shutting down all over the place.”

Right now the greyhound track’s future may hinge on voters. “If we lose tomorrow, we’ll have to get the voters of Lee County to support us so the legislature will help us,” says Mr. Havenick.

The tribe also owns the landmark Hard Rock casinos in Tampa and Hollywood, the latter whose 481-room hotel boasts a 98 percent occupancy rate — an industry record. The tribe’s $2.06 billion in revenues in Florida in 2010, according to the Seminoles’ annual “Indian Gaming Industry Report,” local penny arcade operators say no one’s getting rich except their occasional big-time winners.

Unlike tribal gaming, which produced $176.2 million in revenues in Florida in 2010, according to California economist Alan Meister’s annual “Indian Gaming Industry Report,” local penny arcade operators say no one’s getting rich except their occasional big-time winners. "I’m doing good but I’m not going to get rich," says David Fyah, who operates Lucky Sweeps on College Parkway in Fort Myers. "Two or three of my competitors shut down a month ago and I’ve anticipated more will. I decided it looked like a good business. It ends up, it’s not. But I had neighboring businesses close after just eight months. Southwest Florida’s economy is bad."
Variable Annuity Dangers

Variable annuities are popular — more so than ever — but since the crisis, they’ve had a dark side. They’re really insurance products, but are often promoted as investment vehicles. They’re advertised with tools with returns that “vary” according to how you invest the assets. Here are some things to know:

- Inevitably, variable annuities do grow tax-deferred. But the money you ultimately withdraw will be taxed at the same rate as any dividends and long-term capital gains, which have been considerably lower in recent years. You can, alternatively, get tax-deferred growth from 401(k)s or traditional IRAs, possibly along with a tax deduction.

- When you buy into an annuity, be prepared to stick it out, or get stuck. Try to withdraw your money within the first few years and you may face steep “surrender” fees. A 6-percent fee on $50,000 would cost you $3,000. Also, watch out: if you turn 59½, you will generally result in a 10 percent tax penalty.

My Dumbest Investment

Crashed Rocket

My worst investment had to be Webvan. I got in on the IPO and thought it would rocket — but it ultimately crashed as a concept and as a company.

The Fool Responds

N.G., San Diego

Do you have a question about the market? Our team of Motley Fool experts will provide a thoughtful and fair analysis of your question.

Write to Us! Send questions for Ask the Fool (or Smarter) Investments (up to 100 words) and your Fool@fool.com or via regular mail, c/o this newspaper, attn: The Motley Fool. (Note that the rate can change in the future, and some are suggesting that it should be raised to generate more revenue.)

What is This Thing Called The Motley Fool?

Remember Shakespeare? Remember “As You Like It”? In Elizabethan days, Fools were the only people who could get away with telling the truth to the King. Queen. The Motley Fool tells the truth about investing, and hopes you’ll laugh all the way to the bank.

Ask the Fool

What are “tech stocks”?

C.S., Pensacola, Fla.

The term generally refers to companies that sell products and services that are computer-related. But “tech” can be as broad as the technology-based life sciences, computer companies, and even airlines.

Business Meetings

The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce holds its annual meeting and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 18, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. Tickets are $60 per person. For reservations, visit www.napleschamber.org/events.

The Collier County Bar Association holds its 2012-13 Leadership Installation Luncheon at 12 noon Friday, June 8, at Grey Oaks Country Club. Keynote speaker will be Chief Justice Charles Canady of the Florida Supreme Court. For more information, visit www.colliercountybar.org.
NETWORKING

Harris Bank hosts Naples Botanical Garden’s Sustaining Leadership Council

1. Connie Vandenberg, Meghan Clancy
2. Karen and Robert Scott
3. Stefan Both, Jenny Sutton and Jennie Craig
4. Lori Breyman with David and Vicky Smith
5. Sally Richardson, Chad Washburn and Phyllis Racine
6. Mary Smith and Brian Holley
7. Kent Anderson, John Vandenberg and Dan Mendezza
8. Wynnell and George Schrenk

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.
NETWORKING

Celebrating the Community Foundation’s 2012 Women of Initiative

Wake Up Naples with the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce

1. Front row: Barbara Jordan, Marissa Harrington, Cynthia Sherman, Shelly Stayer and Simone Lutgert. Back row: Julie Dalton, Jean Ackerman and Angela Smith
2. Stacy Deffenbaugh of NBC2
3. Sue Huff and Sandra Blanton
5. Mana Holtz, Lynne Shotwell and Linda Flewelling
6. Nancy White, Joanne Fowler and Hanna Cummings
7. Suzanne Todd, Shelly Stayer and Sheila Davis

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5. Mana Holtz, Lynne Shotwell and Linda Flewelling
6. Nancy White, Joanne Fowler and Hanna Cummings
7. Suzanne Todd, Shelly Stayer and Sheila Davis

BOB RAYMOND / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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.
Enjoy country living at its finest in this residence, located on a fenced corner lot of nearly 5 acres.

The home has three bedrooms and three bathrooms and has been fully remodeled. It features an eat-in kitchen with a marble floor, ample cabinetry, stainless steel appliances, overhead and underneath. The master bath has decorative tile design, dual sinks, and separate tub and shower.

Close to shopping, dining and beaches, the home is listed at $425,000. For more information, contact listing agent Elaine Zacka of Prudential Florida Realty at 470-3191.

This home, in a quiet gated community of custom-built residences, has great curb appeal.

The residence has four bedrooms, with a spacious master suite outfitted with a sitting room and arched entry. The master bedroom opens to a lanai with retractable storm shutters. The master bath has a beautiful marble tub and marble-topped dual vanities.

The split plan's fourth bedroom and full bath is separate, located on the other side of the pool.

The kitchen, great room, dining room and office open to the brick pavered pool deck, which also features a spa and pool safety barrier.

The large kitchen features stainless steel appliances and ample cabinetry. The outdoor summer kitchen has granite countertops and Jenn-Air cook top, refrigerator and sink. The home has 10’ ceiling fans throughout its 10-foot ceilings. The three-car garage has an automatic retractable screen.

List price for this property is $425,000. To learn more, contact Jan Mann of Bud Trayner Realty in Punta Gorda at (941) 204-1788.

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WILDCAT COVE AT STERLING OAKS Beautiful detached 2-story home has huge loft that could be 4th bedroom, office or game room. Community offers great tennis program. 3BD+Den, 3 BA 2GA $234,900.

SANDPIPER BAY CLUB, NAPLES Great location with beaches, restaurants, and shops close at hand. Community has dockage for sale or lease and is pet friendly. 2BD 2BA $155,000.

MARBELLA AT SPANISH WELLS Offered turnkey with over $100,000 in upgrades and designer furnishings. Eastern exposure with tranquil preserve views. Seller financing available. 3BD 2BA 2GA $224,900.

FORT Myers BEACH Beautifully upgraded townhouse with canal views. Walk to Ft. Myers beaches, Fishtail Marina & Santini Plaza. Dock space available to purchase. 3BD 3BA 1GA $389,900.

FOREST GLEN, NAPLES Top floor end unit with views of the lake and 5th green. Bundled golf community rich with amenities including gorgeous clubhouse. 2BD+Den 2BA $159,000.

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A POOL WITH EVERY HOME!

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**Pelican Isle II #302:** 2677SF , wood fl rs, Gulf views, LaPlaya membership avail. $729,000

**Pelican Isle II #405:** Expandive water views, turnkey furnished, 2428sf . $759,000

**Pelican Isle III #401:** 3050sf , end unit, 2 lg. wrap around lanais, Views! $989,000

**Pelican Isle II #702:** New A/C units & water heater, W. views of the Gulf of Mexico. $899,000

**Pelican Isle II #302:** 2677SF , wood fl rs, Gulf views, LaPlaya membership avail. $729,000

**Pelican Isle II #402:** Granite kit, wood fl rs, Gulf of Mexico views, LaPlaya membership avail. $989,000

**Pelican Isle II #702:** New A/C units & water heater, W. views of the Gulf of Mexico. $899,000

**Open House**  
Sunday, May 20th  
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Scintillating Southwest Exposure. Fronting Broad Water Vistas. Exquisite Move-In Interior w/ 2-Story Ceiling Height At Living Room. Coral Rock Fireplace. 2-Story Formal Dining Room. ½ Sites. 150 Ft. Waterfrontage. Breathtaking Sunsets! 5 Bedrooms, Study, 3-Car Garage.$6,595,000 (furnished)

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# Florida Weekly’s Open Houses

Open Houses are Sunday 1-4, unless otherwise marked.

## $400,000
1. **Mercato – The Strada**
   - 923 Strada Place
   - From $400,000
   - Call 239.594.9400
   - Monday-Saturday 10am-8pm & Sunday 12-8pm

## $500,000
4. **Bonita Bay – Esperia & Ta Vira**
   - 26951 Country Club Drive
   - From $500,000
   - Call 239.495.1105
   - Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm & Sunday 10am-5pm

## $600,000
8. **Pelican Bay – Island Cove**
   - 2267 Island Cove Circle
   - $545,000
   - PSIR • Linda Perry
   - 239.450.9113

## $700,000
10. **Vanderbilt Beach – Regatta**
    - 400 Flagship Drive
    - $475,000
    - PSIR • Patricia Bucalo
    - 239.248.0694

## $800,000
12. **Twin Eagles**
    - 1212 Wisteria Drive
    - $865,000
    - PSIR • John D’Amelio
    - 239.269.6161

## $900,000
14. **Pelican Bay – Tierra Mar**
    - 52 Tierra Mar Lane East
    - $950,000
    - PSIR • Beth McNichols
    - 239.821.3304

## $1,000,000
16. **Bonita Bay – Azure**
    - 4911 Bonita Bay Blvd
    - $1,050,000
    - PSIR • Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff
    - 239.777.2441

## $2,000,000
22. **Old Naples**
    - 120 5th Avenue South
    - $2,395,000
    - PSIR • Cindy Thompson
    - 239.860.6353

## $3,000,000
24. **Coquina Sands – Naples Casamore**
    - 1732 Gulf Shore Blvd. North
    - From $2,800,000
    - PSIR • Call 239.863.4342
    - Open Daily 12-4pm

## $5,000,000
29. **Port Royal**
    - 5438 Gin Lane
    - $5,400,000
    - PSIR • Frank Sajtar
    - 239.776.8382

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Stock posts strong April sales

Stock Development reports another month of strong sales across all of its Southwest Florida communities in April. CEO Brian Stock says the company signed 49 new home contracts in April worth more than $916 million. Sales revenue is up by 50 percent so far this year, while the number of contracts has increased 44.7 percent over the same time last year, he adds.

Sales included all product types, from flats and townhomes to custom-built estate homes. With 24 new home contracts signed, Lely Resort in Naples led the way in April. Five single-family homes sold in Black Bear Ridge, also in Naples.

So far this year, Stock Development has sold 181 homes with a sales volume of $837 million. The company is developing or building in seven communities and has more than 40 models open throughout the region.

The company is the exclusive builder in Seacoya Reserve and Black Bear Ridge and has become a preferred builder at Mediterranea, where it is marketing 111 homesites in the Buena Vistas neighborhood of estate-sized single-family homes.

Stock became a preferred builder at Quail West after acquiring homesites there and is building a series of models and spec homes from its Tamworth Collection. Stock also recently acquired 48 single-family homesites in the Isla del Sol, Mahogany Bend and Majorca Villages of Fiddler’s Creek.

Sales were also strong in Lee County at Paseo, where April sales volume was up 11 percent over last year. Over the past decade, Stock’s building division has built more than 2,500 new homes throughout the area and currently has more than 800 homes under construction.

For more information, visit www.stockdevelopment.com.

Florida’s real estate professionals find reasons to be optimistic

Florida’s real estate market outlook improved in the first quarter of 2012, according to the University of Florida. “The Survey of Emerging Market Conditions,” conducted quarterly by the Kelley A. Bergstrom Center for Real Estate Studies at UF’s Warrington College of Business Administration, revealed that those in the real estate business felt optimistic because of the falling unemployment rate and because they see more activity in rental housing, such as lease signings. The unemployment rate dropped from 9.9 percent in December 2011 to 9 percent in March.

“Positive outlooks for occupancy and rent growth along with an improving employment trend are increasing our respondents’ optimism about the real estate markets in Florida,” Timothy Becker, director of the Bergstrom Center, says.

The UF Commercial Real Estate Sentiment Index, a measure of the respondents’ own business outlook, reached its highest level since 2007. Bergstrom Center officials attributed the rise to lenders and owners sensing a better lending environment with banks as well as an improving economy.

“With billions of dollars of loans coming from the Federal Housing Finance Agency under the Home Affordable Modification Program, the increased lending activity is a welcome sign for real estate owners and investors looking for debt capital to refinance property properties,” Mr. Becker says.

Property fundamentals including occupancy and rental rates improved this quarter, with progress reported in single-family and condominium development, apartments, industrial, land investment and capital availability. Occupancy expectations were rated most favorably in the premium office market. Respondents cited a better employment outlook as the reason for optimism.

Although respondents were optimistic about the industry and the overall economy, they cited concerns about the upcoming presidential election and the state government’s financial situation. Respondents said that significant policy changes would most likely not be in place before the November elections and not resolving those issues could lead to harsh economic results. Among those issues are the Bush tax cuts and the pay-roll tax break, which are both scheduled to expire after 2012, and $1.2 trillion in spending cuts that are set to take effect in 2013. Respondents also were concerned about artificial low interest rates, inflation and increased gas prices.

Overall, the survey revealed that the future for real estate in Florida looks positive, but political and economic uncertainties remain. A majority of respondents expect a slow and measured recovery until the conclusion of the presidential elections.

A total of 180 Florida professional real estate analysts and investors, representing 13 urban regions of the state and up to 15 property types, participated in the survey.
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Think you can dance?

Reality show seeks seniors to step out

Modern Features Entertainment and Silver Shoe Productions announce “Senior Prom,” a competition reality show for television that will showcase six Naples residents as they take a journey toward their dream dance of a lifetime.

To be hosted by Hollywood legend Debbie Reynolds, the show will follow each contestant being trained and mentored by award-winning Broadway stars who serve as their dance partners and coaches. Each episode will focus not only on the dance training but also on the lifetime of memories and experiences that will serve as the backdrop for what truly makes this the journey of their lives.

Scheduled to be filmed this summer on location in Naples and Los Angeles, the series builds toward a finale event to be taped live onstage at the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts in front of family, friends, the community and a national viewing audience.

“We are thrilled to be bringing such a unique production to this beautiful city,” says Executive Producer Brian Howie.

“We chose Naples as the focus of the first season because of its energy and vibrancy, and are excited to showcase the spirit and support of the entire community,” Mr. Howie adds.

Producers are currently casting engaging personalities for the production. Candidates must:

- Be at least 70 years of age and in good physical condition;
- Have resided in Naples for at least the past three years;
- Be willing to share aspects of their personal lives and experiences;
- Be available for approximately 20 hours per week for six weeks beginning July 7;
- Have multiple family members and/or friends available and willing to appear on camera; and
- Be willing to travel to Los Angeles for 3-5 days in August.

For more information about casting or details about the production, e-mail info@modernfeatures.com or call Karen Molnar Danni at 963-1459.

ARTWORK BY MICHELLE WEINBERG
The first time I met my boyfriend’s dog, Lucy, there was the usual jumping, face licking and excited whining. I patted her flank and called her a good girl and made like we’d get on famously. Which we did. Until she realized I wasn’t leaving. She stood in the doorway to the kitchen as I helped my boyfriend unload the groceries, her furry face tilted to one side and her ears cocked as if to say, “Wait. She’s staying?”

There comes a momentous time in every relationship when a new partner meets the established pet. It’s like meeting future in-laws or future stepchildren. The moment is weighted with significance, everyone eyeing everyone else, the whole crowd waiting to see if the union might be a good fit.

With dog owners the question is always: Will this new person make a good addition to the pack? (Cat owners are another story; and let’s be honest — cats don’t really care.)

Later that same evening, my boyfriend and I stretched out on the couch to watch a movie. Lucy stared, incredulous, from the floor.

“What’s the matter with her?” I asked.

My boyfriend lifted his head from the pillow to get a better look.

“You’re in her spot,” he said matter-of-factly.

“No, no,” he said. He laid his head back against the cushion. “She can lie on the other side.”

He patted the empty couch on his right and Lucy hopped up. She set about licking his face and neck.

“Should I give you two a moment alone together?” I said, joking but with a jealous edge.

They looked at me with the same wounded expression. Or, I should say, almost the same. My boyfriend’s face said, “Don’t overreact. I’m just glad to see my dog.” But Lucy’s said, “Maybe you should give us a moment alone.”

I laughed as I realized I could never compete with her. I reached across my boyfriend’s chest and rubbed Lucy behind the ears.

She gave me a contented lick before burrowing down, and soon she was snoring through the movie. There we were, the three of us, with my boyfriend happily ensconced in the middle.

I had been outdone by a 60-pound mutt. But how?

Like this: Lucy loves my boyfriend unconditionally. If he comes home late, if he leaves his dirty socks on the floor, if he’s cranky or irritable or tired, if he wants to go for a run or a W-A-L-K, it’s all the same to her. She’ll still lick his face; she’ll still wag her tail. She’ll be just as happy and excited and full of love for him.

Which perhaps is a good lesson for all of us.

We’re so demanding in relationships. We demand that our partners love us unconditionally, no matter what kind of mood we’re in or how we’ve misbehaved. We demand that they love us whether we’ve earned it or not. Lucy never demands anything. She gives her love generously, unreservedly. And my boyfriend? He treats her with the same tail-wagging, face-licking affection that she dishes out.

And that’s something we could all use more of.

SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

And pooch makes three
ARTISTS AMONG US

Maggie DeMarco

BY MOLLY DOE
Special to Florida Weekly

When Maggie DeMarco took her niece to a decorative painting class in Providence, R.I., nearly 10 years ago, she had no idea that she would be the one leaving with a newfound passion for art. “I thought my niece needed to find a niche in the art world. I had never picked up a brush before in my life, then I went to this class with her and I fell in love with painting,” Ms. DeMarco recalls. “Something inside of me was just waiting for this experience. Someone up there was hearing me, or I was hearing them. “I know it all sounds over the top, but that is how it happened.”

Drawn to Naples by the weather and the community’s thriving arts community, she’s been a seasonal resident for seven years now, going back to her home in Narragansett, R.I., every summer. The abundance of art instructors, art leagues and workshops available are just some of the ways living in Southwest Florida has inspired her art. “I’ve also had the opportunity to meet a lot of people through my art because this area has so many national and international visitors,” she says. Ms. DeMarco’s diverse portfolio includes pieces ranging from landscapes to abstract works and reverse painting on glass. In recent months, she has become inspired by abstract painting and has begun to pursue this new art form.

Still, she says oil will always be her favorite medium of choice. “I like the feeling of painting with oil and the ability it gives you to move the paint together,” she explains. A member of the Naples Art Association and the Marco Island Art League, she teaches fish painting classes during the season at Waterfront Studios and Gallery in the Explorange on Marco Island, where her work is on display. Visitors to The von Liebig Art Center can also see her work there. She finds inspiration for her art wherever she goes. In Rhode Island, she loves to paint the landscapes of Newport, Jamestown and Narragansett. In her Florida home, she is lucky to have a small studio in her home where she paints for several hours a day. She studied at the Rhode Island School of Design, earning a certificate in decorative arts, and has won awards from the Naples Art Association at The von Liebig Art Center for her work completed through their workshops.

She has also won the People’s Choice Award from the Marco Artists’ Colony. For more information, visit www.maggiedemarcocraft.com.

— Molly Doe is a volunteer at the Naples Art Association, which operates The von Liebig Art Center and serves artists, students, art lovers and fellow nonprofit services through education, festivals, exhibitions and community outreach. For more information, call 262-6517 or visit www.naplesart.org.

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**Art for public places**

Ms. Weinberg's paintings have inspired public art over the past several years.

"It was a logical movement from me making art of urban spaces and architectural (places) to creating art for real public spaces," she says.

In downtown Tampa, she's working on a sidewalk and crosswalk project on three streets leading up to the Tampa Museum of Art.

Her work was also commissioned by Miami-Dade County Art in Public Spaces; her "Shadow Canopy" can be seen outside the county's newly constructed GSA Trade Shops facility. It's 3,000 square feet of pigmented cement tile mosaic mural, was installed at One Miami Riverwalk in 2005.

Another public art piece at Young's Circle ArtsPark in Hollywood, Fla., is in the fundraising phase. "Unswept Floor" is a modern version of the unswept floor in Hadrian's Villa in Ancient Rome. While the classic mosaic shows leaves, twigs and even a mouse on a floor, Ms. Weinberg's floor shows modern objects such as candy wrappers, a dropped pen, eyeglasses, a playing card.

**Zooming in and out**

I love... how playful her work really is, on one level, but how serious it is at the same time," Mr. Bishop says.

For Ms. Weinberg, creating public art is an opportunity almost akin to stepping inside one of her paintings.

"I make miniature versions of public settings (and with the public art pieces) I actually step into one," she says. "I like that telescoping effect: I can zoom in on one of my paintings and then zoom out, and affect a larger-scale world.

"Given I'm a visual artist, I'm working in two dimensions. My subject is always space, how I carve out an interesting space on a two-dimensional surface. That's my poetry. It's like Rene Magritte. He called painting 'a playful physics.' That's my favorite definition of what painting is."

Mr. Bishop thinks it's going to be a fun show and patrons will enjoy Ms. Weinberg's paintings.

"It's like nobody else's work," he says. "It's not another landscape painter; she's really found her niche, and is solidly in it. That's the hardest thing for any artist, finding your own niche, finding your own place. When someone does that, that's a pretty successful artist to me."

---

**Artist's statement**

"My paintings and collages describe stage-set-like spaces constructed from colored planes and flickering, patterned veneers. Often, typographic messages gleaned from the banalueric of advertising are pasted there, like concrete poetry. Fictitious architectural elevations — facades, plazas, papered walls, tiled floors, kiosks — are drenched in pastel and hot-house hues, inspired by the porous frontier where subtropic flora overtakes the geometry of the built environment.

Painting is the point of origin for my projects beyond the studio: the design of hand-knotted rugs, cement tiles, paint murals and other art for public spaces. I approach these objects like a set designer, and I propose new, vivid backdrops for the human activity that will unfold in each one.

I've collaborated with dance theater and film artists to extend my work into other media, access other audiences. "All my work expresses a playful physics, inviting the viewer to discover the surprising, the esoteric, and the sublime hiding in the everyday."
PAWS for an evening at Avow Hospice

Pets Are Wonderful Souls, a program of Avow Hospice that provides friendly pet visits to hospice patients and grief support for those who have lost a pet, will benefit from a fashion show from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, June 7, at Avow.

“Puttin’ on the Dog” will feature women’s fashions by GlamourPuss and Queen Grace, men’s clothing from Joseph’s Custom Clothiers and pet outfits from Fergie’s Closet. Veronica McCullion will present “The Power of Love: Inspiration from Senior Dogs and Beings.”

Tickets for $80 per person can be purchased at www.distinctivewomenmagazine.com/events. For more information, call Deb Jonsson at 649-5005.

Comedy aboard the Naples Princess

The Mental Health Association of Southwest Florida presents an evening with humorist, author and mental health advocate Wambui Bahati aboard the Naples Princess as part of the association’s 55th anniversary celebration. Boarding begins at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 23.

Ms. Bahati delivers family-friendly comedy with a unique blend of inspiration and motivation. She has appeared at New York City’s Gotham Comedy Club and Broadway Comedy Club as well as at Caroline’s on Broadway.

Tickets for $50 per person include a glass of champagne and hors d’oeuvres. Cash bar will be available. Call MHASWFL at 305-5405 or visit www.mhaswfl.org.

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Naples Florida Weekly

WEEK OF MAY 17-23, 2012

C5

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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Theater

- **Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella** – At Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, Fort Myers, through June 23. 278-4422 or www.broadwaypalm.com. See story on page C12.

- **Love Letters** – By Theatre Conspiracy on select dates May 18-June 2 at the Alliance for the Arts, Fort Myers. 961-3299 or www.theatreconspiracy.org. See story on page C13.

- **Mud** – May 23-27 at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, Fort Myers. 333-1933 or www.sbdac.com.

- **The Plague** – By Laboratory Theater of Florida through May 26 at Florida Repertory Theatre, Fort Myers. 333-1933 or www.tflaboratorytheater-florida.com.

- **The Mystery of Irma Vep** – By Florida Repertory Theatre, Fort Myers, through May 20. 332-4488 or www.loridarp.org.

Thursday, May 17

- **Readers Roundtable** – Share your favorite book of the season with other readers in an informal setting beginning at 2 p.m. at the Golden Gate Library, 2432 Lucerne Road. 252-4542.

- **The Declasified** – ArtsNaples World Festival presents The Declasified chamber ensemble with guest pianist Pavel Nersessian at 2 p.m. at The von Liebig Art Center, 390-2788 or www.artsNaplesWorldFestival.org.

- **Sunset Yoga** – The Friends of Delnor Wiggins Pass State Park offer a free yoga session with instructor Christinne Miles of Bala Vinyasa Yoga beginning at sunset. Bring your yoga mat, a towel, water and bug spray. Park admission fees apply. 598-1938.

- **Russian Film** – Arts Naples World Festival and the Naples International Film Festival present a screening of “Elena” beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Silverspot Cinema. Winner of the a Special Jury Prize at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival, it’s the story of Vladimir and Elena, spouses in their 60s who uneasily share his palatial Moscow apartment. He’s a virile, wealthy businessman; she’s his dowdy for-...
**Coming Up**

**Beauty and the Beast** – By the Center for the Arts Youth Theater May 25-26 at the Promenade at Bonita Bay, 26601 S. Bay Dr. 495-8989 or www.wpcytheatre.org.

**Art Opening** – An opening reception for the Michelle Weinberg exhibit is set for 6-8 p.m. May 25 at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at Edison State College, Fort Myers. The artists will discuss her work at 7 p.m. 489-9313. See story on page C1.

**Patrick Pops** – The Naples Philharmonic Orchestra presents “Patrick Pops,” a star-spangled celebration of America with Naples’ own Casey Weston, at 8 p.m. May 25-26 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. Tickets start at $27. 597-1000 or www.ThePhil.org.

**Big Brass** – members of the brass section of the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra present a Magic Carpet concert for families at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. May 26 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 597-1900 or www.ThePhil.org.

**Grand Reopening** – The Bonita Springs YMCA reopens with a free community celebration from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 26 at 27200 Kent Road. (941) 444-0522 or www.facebook.com/bonispringsymca.

**Outdoor Concert** – Kim Jenkins, billed as “The One-Man Baby Boomer Band,” performs music of the ’50s, ’60s and ’70s from 1-4 p.m. May 27 at Miromar Outlets. www.miromaroutlets.com.

**Garden Event** – The Naples Botanical Garden presents Memorial Day in the Garden from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. May 28. Enjoy a summer picnic and musical performances starting with the three-piece jam-band Orange Juice. 643-7275 or www.naplesgarden.org.

**A Sip of Scotch** – Shula’s at the Hilton Naples hosts a four-course dinner with Scotch pairings at 6 p.m. May 31. 659-3756 for reservations.

**—— 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, May 22**

**Show Tunes** – “The Best of Rodgers and Hammerstein II” starts at 2 p.m. at Headquarters Quarters, 2385 Orange Blossom Drive. Learn the stories behind the success of Rodgers and Hammerstein and hear recordings of hits from their most memorable shows. 593-0177.

**Chamber Ensemble** – The Naples Philharmonic Chamber Ensemble and Judy Christy, oboe, present “Brahms to Bax,” the final program in the season’s Chamber Series, at 8 p.m. at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 597-1900 or www.ThePhil.org.

**Ongoing Events**

**Museum Exhibit** – “Ship to Shore Featuring the Titanic” runs through June 30 at the Patty and Jay Baker Naples Museum of Art. The exhibition includes paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, sculptures and scale models exploring a wide range of oceanic and nautical themes. The focal point is a 10-foot-long model of the Titanic constructed of 75,000 toothpicks. Museum hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday. 597-2990 or www.thenphil.org.

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I want some milk and cookies. A big, big glass of cold milk and some just-out-of-the-oven chocolate chip cookies. I might not be able to fall naked into an oversized glass of milk a la Mickey in “In the Night Kitchen,” but I can boldly declare, “I’m in the milk and the milk’s in me!” — even if only the second half is technically true.

I want a comfy white pair of wolf pajamas with ears and tail, a la Max in “Where the Wild Things Are.”

And I want Mama Bear and Papa Bear to snuggle up on either side of me all cozylike, and read me bedtime stories with Little Bear until I nod off. I’ll feel the warmth of their soft brown fur and the deep, cello-like rumble of their voices vibrating in their bodies as I lean against them, and I’ll feel safe.

I want to revert to the idealized childhood I never had.

Maurice Sendak is dead.

(He was preceded in death by his partner of 50 years, Dr. Eugene Glynn, a psychoanalyst.) I feel as if my grandfather has just died.

I don’t remember when I read my first Maurice Sendak book, or even which one it was. Like my parents and older siblings, he’s just always been a part of my life.

Even when I became too old for children’s books (if there is such a thing),

“I still read them. When I had some spending money, I’d buy them. I studied the illustrations, the composition, the choice of words and economy of storytelling. It was a great education.

Though it was published before I was even born, I have fond memories one of the first books Sendak illustrated: “A Hole is to Dig,” written by Ruth Krauss. A tiny book with a green cover, it gives children’s definitions of various things. Some of my favorites: "Dogs are to kiss people." "Hands are to hold." "Arms are to hug with." "A brother is to help you." A book is to look at.

The illustrations are tiny line drawings of kids doing things kids like to do: digging holes, playing with kittens, dancing on their toes, ice skating, reading books. It’s as if children have been dancing on their toes, ice skating, reading books, exploring and having fun.

I want Mama Bear to coddle me, to talk about “Where the Wild Things Are” to the exclusion of everything else.

I want to talk about “Where the Wild Things Are” to the exclusion of everything else.

I want to snuggle up on either side of me all cozylike, and read me bedtime stories with Little Bear until I nod off. I’ll feel the warmth of their soft brown fur and the deep, cello-like rumble of their voices vibrating in their bodies as I lean against them, and I’ll feel safe.

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I want Mama Bear to coddle me, to talk about “Where the Wild Things Are” to the exclusion of everything else.

But Sendak also loved “Higglety, Pigglety, Pop!” Or There Must Be More to It, which received a National Book Award-winning “Outside Over There,” in which a baby is kidnapped by goblins and replaced with an ice baby. (I love the face of the infant as it’s being carried out the window by the goblins, and the googly-eyed ice infant left in its place!)

And he also loved “Higglety, Pigglety, Pop! Or There Must Be More to Life.” He based the drawings of the central character, Jennie, a Sealyham terrier, on his own dog.

I loved — and still love — “In the Night Kitchen,” Sendak’s homage to Winsor McKay’s classic “Little Nemo in Slumberland” comic strip. There’s the trio of bakers, all looking like Oliver Hardy, and a city constructed with milk bottles, pepper mills, bunches of asparagus and bones and bags of cereal, flour and sugar.

Like a Little Nemo strip, it begins and ends with the little boy in bed. I remember the big controversy about Mickey being naked in some of the scenes. Some parents and school librarians even went as far as whitewashing his tiny genitalia or painting diapers on him. (I think it’d be scarier for a kid to see an image of a neutered child and wonder: what happened to him?) If you missed Stephen Colbert’s hysterical two-part interview with Sendak earlier this year, you can still check it out online.

Sendak is outspoken, feisty and full of wit.

When asked about the current state of children’s books, he gives an emphatic one-word answer: abysmal.

But he gives a thumbs-up to the Curious George series with Mickey’s bare buttocks and genitalia cut out, especially when Colbert reveals that he keeps all the censored parts in a plastic baggie.

And he gamely listens to Colbert read his own children’s book, “I Am a Pole (And So Can You!),” calling it “terribly, supremely ordinary.”

When Sendak remarks, “The sad thing is, I like it,” Colbert asks if he can use that as a blurb. Sendak agrees, and the quote appears on the cover of Colbert’s book, which happened to be released May 8, the same day Sendak died.

Wild things holding a wild rumpus; seeing-staring goblins; a family of bears, a naked boy falling into a big bottle of milk, a mischievous pig who wants a party; Maurice Sendak is gone, but his characters will live on forever.
Art and verse come together at Music Walk

ArtPoems co-founders Lorraine Vail and Joe Pacheco will lead several ArtPoems in celebration of Fort Myers Music Walk Night and the ArtPoems exhibit at the Arts for Act Gallery. The readings will take place at 7:30 and 8:15 p.m. Friday, May 18.

The ArtPoems exhibit will continue at the Arts for ACT gallery for the entire month of May. ArtPoems is a collaboration between poets and artists to produce new poems and works of art. The Arts for ACT Gallery at 2265 First Street is an award-winning nonprofit gallery owned and operated by Abuse Counseling and Treatment Inc., an agency that provides shelter and support services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

For more information on the gallery, call 337-5050 or visit www.artsforactgallery.com. For more information on ArtPoems, call Joe Pacheco at 472-1280 or visit www.artpoems.org.

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LATEST FILMS

Dark Shadows

★★½

Is it worth $10? No

A recurring theme in Tim Burton's movies is that of an eccentric outsider (often played by Johnny Depp) who helps a group of people who can't help themselves. This structure, combined with Burton's trademark gothic tones, makes for a noble approach, and "Dark Shadows" is no exception.

Too bad "Dark Shadows" is only Saturday afternoon-matinee watchable, though a bigger point should be made: Burton's teaming with Depp is taking on iconic Hollywood status, the likes of which people 50 years from now will remember the same way film buffs today remember the movies of John Ford and John Wayne. And like Ford and Wayne, you know you're getting something intriguing with Burton and Depp, even if with the latter the level of quality varies significantly (from as good as "Edward Scissorhands" to as bad as "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory").

"Dark Shadows" is based on the television series of the same name that ran from 1966-1971. Depp plays Barnabas Collins, an Englishman whose family makes a fortune in the fishing industry after moving to Maine in 1700s. But after Barnabas swipes a witch's advances, he's cursed to be a vampire and buried alive for 200 years.

When he wakes in 1972, he's not exactly impressed with the current state of his family. Elizabeth is the matriarch Michelle Pfeiffer, and her daughter (Eva Green), with competition with rival businessmen for the governess Victoria (Bella Heathcote), and present themselves to Barnabas: his love Angeline (Eva Green), with whom Barnabas has an extended history. There are some nice sequences, including some quirky humor and inspired montages, but as a whole "Dark Shadows" the movie drags to 113 minutes and never inspires interest. The visual effects, production design and costumes are expectedly eccentric, but as we know with Burton, we can't allow ourselves to be fooled by his style — it's the story that always matters most. And though he gets nice performances from Green and Depp, they limp through a story that never feels like it's going anywhere and certainly isn't in a rush to get there.

But even if Burton cut a few scenes to quicken the pace, there's still an issue of balance. Some moments are played for laughs, others are straightforward drama, and the laughs come too often to be just comic relief. What this means is that a clear tone (is it campy? is it serious?) is never established, which makes all of "Dark Shadows" feel a bit off.

The Raven

★★½

(John Cusack, Luke Evans, Alice Eve)

When a killer uses Edgar Allen Poe's (Cusack) work as inspiration for his crimes, Poe is recruited to help a detective (Evans) solve the whodunit. The tone is appropriate-dark and gloomy, but you're never able to make sense of why the murderer would help his pursuers as much as he does. Rated R.

The Avengers

★★½

(Robert Downey Jr., Tom Hiddleston, Chris Evans) When Thor's (Chris Hemsworth) brother Loki (Hiddleston) tries to take over Earth, S.H.I.E.L.D. Director Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) assembles Earth's finest superheroes for the fight. Hulk has the best moments, and the last half-hour is as exciting as it gets. This is everything a summer movie should be. Rated PG-13.

Think Like A Man

★★½

(Gabrielle Union, Kevin Hart, Michael Ealy)

It's a battle of the sexes when a group of guy friends fall prey to women who use the dating lessons in Steve Harvey's book "Act Like A Lady, Think Like A Man" against them. This is one of the most honest movies about relationships I've ever seen, and it has a superb mix of comedy and sweetness. Rated PG-13.

Every Family Has Its Daemons

★★

(Gabrielle Union, Kevin Hart, Michael Ealy)

The dating lessons in Steve Harvey's book "Act Like A Lady, Think Like A Man" against them. This is one of the most honest movies about relationships I've ever seen, and it has a superb mix of comedy and sweetness. Rated PG-13.
‘Cinderella’ run at Broadway Palm starts with six benefit performances

This week’s first six performances of the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre’s production of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella” will benefit The Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida. The Fort Myers theater will donate $5 for every ticket purchased for the shows at 1:15 and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 17; 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 18; 1:15 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 19; and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 20, to the hospital. The production will run through June 23.

Wicked Stepsisters, a Fairy Godmother, a pumpkin and the perfect glass slipper bring this everlasting story to life on stage. The classic tale provides great warmth, more than a touch of hilarity, magical characters, irresistible romance and unforgettable songs, plus the magic moment when the slipper fits.

The Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida is part of one of the state’s largest not-for-profit safety-net hospital systems with a commitment to providing the highest level of care to the sick and injured children and families of our area. To meet the growing demands of our critically injured and ill children, The Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida plans to build a new children’s hospital connected to the existing HealthPark Medical Center.

The Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre is located at 1380 Colonial Blvd. Performances are Wednesday through Sunday evenings with selected matinees. Ticket prices range from $38 to $39 with group discounts available for parties of 20 or more. Tickets can be reserved by calling 278-4422, by visiting www.broadwaypalm.com or by stopping at the box office.
Local celebrity couples to perform ‘Love Letters’

In a unique collaborative effort, Theatre Conspiracy presents A.R. Gurney’s Pulitzer Prize-nominated play “Love Letters” in nine separate performances, each with a new cast and a new charity to be supported at the Alliance for the Arts’ Foulds Theatre in Fort Myers.

Each performance will star a prominent couple from Southwest Florida who has selected a charity to which 50 percent of ticket sales will be donated. The performance dates, acting duos and their benefiting organizations are:

- May 18: J. Mitchell and Joann Haley, Island Coast AIDS Network Inc.
- May 19: Terry and Mimi Tinker, Abuse Counseling Treatment Center
- May 20: W.B. and Andrea Peather, HOPE Clubhouse of SWFL
- May 24: Todd Blanton and Stephanie Davis, PACE Center for Girls.
- May 25: Chris and Lydia Black, Alliance of the Arts
- May 26: Bill and Lauren Taylor, Junior Florida Everblades

Written in 1989, “Love Letters” spans roughly 50 years in the lives of Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace Ladd III. The two begin to exchange letters as early as grammar school and continue to do so well into their golden years. Their relationship is at times warm and poignant, other times difficult and strained. The one constant between them is the letters, which constitute the play’s entire script.

A smash hit both off and on Broadway, it captures Andy and Melissa with a precision of detail and depth of feeling that only Mr. Gurney can command. All performances are at 8 p.m. except for May 20, which starts at 2 p.m. Tickets are $18. Call 936-3239 or visit www.theatre-conspiracy.org.

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Wednesday, 5/23 @ 7:35
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FLORIDA WRITERS

A guide to what makes for a bestselling novel

James W. Hall, best known as the prize-winning author of the Thorn thrillers, has fashioned a practical guide to the must-have ingredients for commercial success as a writer. Drawing upon his own experience as well as the insights developed from teaching his popular college course on bestsellers, Mr. Hall presents a live-lecture style of presentation of 12 features of legendary bestsellers. While each is distinctive, they share many features in ways that are sometimes immediately obvious, sometimes less so.

The author focuses on well-known titles, including “The Godfather,” “The Bridges of Madison County.” He shows how each of the 12, to a greater or lesser extent, orchestrates 12 features. One of these features is the centrality of a “hot-button” item that reveals “some larger, deep-seated and unresolved conflict in the national consciousness.”

For example, “To Kill a Mockingbird,” published in 1960, tapped into the nation’s concern with the stresses and strains of the civil rights movement and vigilante justice while probing the longer, deeper issue of America’s troubled history of slavery and racial prejudice.

Mr. Hall is careful not to suggest that the other titles treated in this enterprise “are chosen for their reader-friendly vision.” While some of the novels under consideration tap into this vision in a positive sense, others invoke it only to mourn its contamination. Mr. Hall explores “Peyton Place” and “Valley of the Dolls” from this perspective, and “Gone with the Wind,” “The Hunt for Red October,” “The Firm” and “The Bridges of Madison County.” He shows how each of the 12, to a greater or lesser extent, orchestrates 12 features. One of these features is the centrality of a “hot-button” item that reveals “some larger, deep-seated and unresolved conflict in the national consciousness.” For example, “To Kill a Mockingbird,” published in 1960, tapped into the nation’s concern with the stresses and strains of the civil rights movement and vigilante justice while probing the longer, deeper issue of America’s troubled history of slavery and racial prejudice.

A n o t h e r shared ingredient is the presentation of America as the golden land of innocence and opportunity — or at least the nostalgia for such a vision. While some of the novels under consideration tap into this vision in a positive sense, others invoke it only to morn its contamination. Mr. Hall explores “Peyton Place” and “Valley of the Dolls” from this perspective, but it becomes clear that the other 10 novels also make use of this ingredient.

“The Exorcist,” “Jaws,” “The Dead Zone” and “The Da Vinci Code” are the other titles treated in this entertaining, informative, and totally reader-friendly study.

Other characteristics found in all of the test-case bestsellers (and many hundreds of others) include:

- A satisfying abundance of facts — Readers enjoy finding out how high-powered law firms operate (Grisham) and what it’s like to pilot a submarine (Clancy).
- One or more maverick characters — Think Scarlett and Rhett. Think Michael Corleone.
- Secret societies, sexuality and dysfunctional families.
- Mr. Hall is careful not to suggest that the master ingredients are every-where that are some-times immediately obvious, sometimes less so.
- The author focuses on well-known titles, including “The Godfather,” “Gone with the Wind,” “The Hunt for

James W. Hall is the author of the Thorn thrillers, which have been translated into 22 languages and sold 30 million copies worldwide. He is a former professor of English at Florida Atlantic University and a frequent guest on National Public Radio. His latest novel, “Bridges of Madison County,” is a New York Times bestseller.

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Chicago staggered from a frenzy of violence and destruction. Scores died, neighborhoods were destroyed and beds of racial and ethnic hatred festered. At the center of the chaos was Mayor “Big Bill” Thompson, a loud blowhard who loved to swagger around town in a cowboy hat while promoting himself as a friend to the little people and against the powerful citizens of wealth and privilege.

Meanwhile, Illinois Gov. Frank O. Lowden saw the unraveling of Chicago as a way to seize control of the city from Mayor Thompson, whose administration he saw as hopelessly corrupt. Bestselling author Gary Krist blends colorful characters and rich detail to make distant history both exciting and relevant. This is more than the story of an American city facing challenges. It is tantant history both exciting and relevant.

Gary Krist's book is an absolute triumph.
Art pottery made by Weller is a favorite among collectors. The company made art pottery in Zanesville, Ohio, from 1893 to 1948. From the 1920s to the 1940s, Weller also made less sophisticated pottery for the yard called “Garden Ware.” Stone-colored bird baths, sprinklers, fountains, toadstool seats, sundials and urns were available. Large, colorful Garden Ware figures were the most unusual. They were made in several sizes: 4, 7½, 10 and 18 inches. Lifelike dogs, roosters, birds, cats, rabbits, penguins, ducks, frogs and squirrels were produced, along with humorous frogs, gnomes and unusual “Pop Eye” dogs. All of these figures were made to be half-hidden among plants, a surprise to be glimpsed from a garden path. Many of the figures were created by Dorothy England Laughhead. She worked at Weller Pottery from 1925 to 1960. Today a 4-inch Coppertone frog sells for about $300 and a 4-inch Pop Eye dog for $300, but a 19-inch “Gnome on Tree Trunk” is worth more than $5,000. Most Garden Ware has cracks and chips from living outdoors, but minor damage does not change the price very much.

Q: I was given a four-piece set of patio chairs by a family friend who said the set originally came from an old motel in Miami Beach. I have been trying to decide if I should restore the chairs or sell them. The metal frames have some rust and several of the chairs’ vinyl straps are missing. The straps are fastened onto prongs on the frame. I have yet to find anyone who has ever heard of prong connections for straps, and everyone I have asked thinks the set is very old. Is there any way to find the age and value of these chairs?

A: Old lawn furniture doesn’t sell for high prices unless it’s marked with the name of a famous designer or maker. It’s probably not worth the time and money it would take to restore it. The rust must be sanded or scraped off the metal frames. Then the frames should be painted with a rust-preventative base coat and a finishing coat of paint. In order to consider restoring the chairs, you would have to find a source for new straps. You can buy vinyl straps in various lengths, but it might be difficult to cut the kind of holes needed to fit around the prongs on your chairs. In order to avoid sagging straps, the vinyl strips have to be cut 10 percent to 15 percent shorter than the actual measurement needed. Then the vinyl has to be boiled briefly to make it pliable enough to be stretched to fit the frame. It tightens as it cools. If you can find the
supplies and do the work, you still have chairs that will be very hard to sell.

Q: What are the fancy decorations and handles on silver trays made of?

A: If the tray is sterling silver, its handles probably are sterling. The handles on silver-plated trays are often made of spelter, Britannia metal or another low-grade metal and then plated when the rest of the tray is plated. Be careful. We know of someone who put a silver tray in the oven to keep food warm. The heat melted the handles and they fell off.

Q: I would like to know how to clear the water in old snow domes. The water in mine has gotten very cloudy.

A: The liquid would have to be replaced. There are a few repair services that will do it, or you can attempt to do it yourself. But it’s difficult. Hold the snow dome upside down before you try to separate the top from the bottom. If it’s glued together, you may be able to soften the glue first by immersing the snow dome in hot water. Snow domes with black plastic bases or brown pottery bases made in the 1930s and 1940s were held in place by plaster of Paris, which can be carefully chipped away. Domes with new shiny black plastic bases, black pottery bases (1940s), or cobalt blue bases (1920s) cannot be opened unless they have a threaded base, and very few did. If you can open yours, pour the original liquid through a cloth so that the “snow” is separated from the liquid. Use distilled water to refill the dome. Adding about 1/2 teaspoon glyc erin to the water will make the “snow” fall more slowly. Snow domes should not be stored in the dark. Exposure to light keeps the liquid clear. But don’t keep them in direct sunlight. The glass can magnify light rays and may start a fire.

Tip: A diamond ring is durable but not indestructible. Don’t wear it when using chlorine bleach that can discolor the mounting. Have a jeweler see it once a year to check for loose prongs or worn mountings.

This Pop Eye dog made by Weller Pottery is only 4 inches high. It sold for $360 at a 2011 Hunter & Nolan auction in Cincinnati.

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

— Terry Kovel

The Southwest Florida Go Red for Women Luncheon

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CONTRACT BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

Thirteen — the magic number

Bridge is an easy game to play well — if you put your mind to it.

For example, take this deal where South was in four spades and West led a heart. East won with the jack, cashed the ace, West discarding a diamond, and continued with the king. When declarer trumped with the eight, West overtrump with the ten and shifted to a diamond, won by declarer with the king.

South played the K of spades — both

opponents following — then cashed the ace of diamonds and led the jack of clubs. West covered with the king, taken by dummy’s ace, and declarer returned to his hand by ruffing the ten of diamonds.

Next came the four of clubs, and when West played the deuce, South successfully finessed dummy’s seven! Declarer then claimed the rest of the tricks, making four spades.

How did South know he should finesse the seven on the second round of clubs? Was it just a lucky guess? Had he caught a glimpse of an opponent’s hand? The truth is that it was neither. It was really just a matter of counting up to 13.

South learned at trick two that East had started with seven hearts. At trick six he learned that East had started with two spades. When he ruffed the diamond ten at trick nine, he learned that East had started with three diamonds.

With 12 of East’s cards in three suits fully accounted for, it therefore followed that East had started with only one club.

Finessing the seven of clubs was thus not as peculiar a play as it seemed.

Observe that West could not have averted this outcome by playing the eight of clubs rather than the deuce at trick 10. In that case, declarer would have won with the ten, returned a spade to the jack and finessed the club seven at trick 12 to produce the same result.

Indeed, West’s best chance was to play low on the deuce and hope South had not counted to 13.

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THIS WEEK ON WGCU-TV

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 9 P.M.
Secrets of the Dead
The Airmen and the Headhunters
Investigate the extraordinary survival story of a crew of airmen shot down over the jungles of Borneo during World War II.

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 10 P.M.
American Masters
Johnny Carson: The King of Late Night
Johnny Carson was a fixture of national life, a piece of the cultural furniture, a part of the zeitgeist. In exploring the career and complexities of the biggest star television has ever produced, producers had the estate’s first-ever cooperation — unrestricted approach to managing salmon.

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 10 P.M.
Last of the Summer Wine
An affectionate BBC comedy about people in the autumn of their years with a penchant for light philosophy and full-on slapstick.

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 9 P.M.
Masterpiece Mystery!
Sherlock: The Reichenbach Fall
In what may be the climactic case of his career, Sherlock faces Moriarty’s diabolical plot to “get Sherlock,” which begins innocently enough when the criminal mastermind breaks into the Crown Jewels. As the scheme unfolds, Moriarty poses the “final problem,” and a tabloid reporter reveals the “shocking truth” about the great detective.

MONDAY, MAY 21, 10 P.M.
Burt Bacharach & Hal David: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song
Enjoy a star-studded tribute to the songwriting team who penned such classics as “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on My Head,” “What the World Needs Now Is Love” and “Walk on By.”

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 8 P.M.
Sherlock: The Reichenbach Fall
The masterpiece mystery continues with the series’ biggest action sequence.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 8 P.M.
Nature: Salmon: Running the Gauntlet
Delve into a wildly creative, hopelessly complex and stunningly expensive approach to managing salmon.

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SOCIETY

‘Frocks on Fifth’ for PACE Center for Girls

1. Annabelle Clarke, Lauren Taranto, Isabelle Winslow, Amanda Omeuya, Noreen Myrin and Barbara Collins
2. Ann Richard, Marianne Kearns, James Price, Kristen Porter and Barbara Harrington
3. Sarah Coates, Linda Scott and Marilyn Jarose
4. Jackie Sweet and James Nulf
5. Corye Reiter and Julie Kurenski
6. Yvonne Bourk and Patricia McLaury

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NAPLES
Traveling from Indiana to Southwest Florida, Harlo Conklin complained of chest pain. He and his wife attributed it to fast food and long hours in the car. A stop at a Gainesville hospital showed his vitals were good and he felt better. Though physicians thought Harlo should stay overnight, he and Frances returned to the road. Twenty-four hours later, Harlo went into cardiac arrest. His daughter performed CPR, paramedics used a defibrillator to restore his heartbeat and a special treatment that induces hypothermia to save Harlo’s life. To read more of Harlo’s story, please visit www.LeeMemorial.org/caring

Caring people, caring for people.
The 2012 NCH Nurses Awards at the Naples Beach Hotel

1. Dr. Allen Weiss and Michele Thoman
2. Deb D’Onesto, Tina Land, Sunshine Kinlaw and Veronika Rodriguez
3. Chris Raphael, Kevin Smith and David Baryza
4. Laurie Zone-Smith and Thelma Hodges
5. Vay Ariabango and Jessica Fuentes
6. Laurie Zone-Smith, Dawn Egerer, Erin Renay and Teresa Golden
7. Erica Szczepkowski, Jon Kling and Michele Thoman
8. Jacqueline Hurley, Sandy Mena, Bonnie Coolidge, Shannon Brown, Jane Mejia and Elita McRae
9. Teresa Golden, Michele Thoman and Laurie Zone-Smith
10. Catherine Rawio, Bernita Hinton and Marilyn Melson

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The 36th annual Great Dock Canoe Race: ‘Animal House’

1. The Swampy’s House entry paddled by Ashley Belanger, Jillian Sanchez, Hannah Grace Oiar and Taylor Trew
2. Lisa Zach and Nancy Schwerin as Babs and Mandy from Animal House
3. Diane Peterson, Victoria Myers and Marty Durman
4. Trouble at the turn
5. Launching the “Eat Me”
6. The “Deathmobile” with Mike Gill at the stern and Jorge Sanchez at the bow

Eden Autism Services honored at Diamond Volunteer reception

1. Jackie Indriago and Krista Mullaney
2. Michael Morris, Bob Goldman and Paul Befiro
3. Kelly Capolino and Susan Suarez
4. Cheryl and Bruce Scheiner
5. Karen Mayo and Taiie Malloy

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   - 239.598.3473
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4. **Calistoga Bakery & Café**
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   - 239.596.8840
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   - 1860 Tamiami Trail N
   - Naples, FL 34102
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   - www.noodlecafe.com

7. **Rosedale Pizza**
   - 1427 Pine Ridge Road
   - Naples, FL 34109
   - 239.325.9653
   - www.rosedalepizza.com

8. **Tavern on the Bay**
   - 489 Bayfront Place
   - Naples, FL
   - 239.350.2225
   - www.tavernonthebay.net

9. **VerGINA’S**
   - 700 5th Avenue South
   - Naples, FL 34102
   - 239.699.7008
   - www.verginarestaurant.com

10. **Riverwalk at Tin City**
    - 1200 5th Ave South
    - Naples, FL
    - 239.263.2734
    - www.riverwalktincity.com

11. **The Dock**
    - 801 12th Ave South
    - Naples, FL
    - 239.263.2734
    - www.dockcraytoncove.com

12. **The English Pub**
    - 5047 Tamiami Trail East
    - Naples, FL
    - 239.775.3727
    - www.naplesenglishpub.com

13. **Jason’s Deli**
    - 2700 Immokalee Road
    - Naples, FL
    - 239.593.9499
    - www.jasonsdeli.com

14. **Sam Snead’s Oak Grill & Tavern**
    - 8004 Lely Resort Blvd.
    - Naples, FL
    - 239.793.6622
    - www.samneadslely.com
Here are some capsule summaries of previous restaurant reviews:

- Agave Southwestern Grill, 2380 Vanderbilt Beach Road, North Naples; 598-3473
  A blend of Northern Mexican and American Southwestern cuisines. Executive Chef Thomas Riemann’s menu puts a sophisticated spin on humble, homespun food. The likes of which hasn’t previously been seen in Southwest Florida. Brought to us by the folks behind Angelina’s Ristorante in Bonita Springs, Agave is a great concept executed with panache. The restaurant pays tribute to the agave plant with 200 varieties of tequila, which can be ordered in flights so you can compare; for those less inclined to take it straight there are delicious fruit-and-herb-infused margaritas. Wraps are pressed in house, and sumptuous guacamole is turned out tableside with your choice of ingredients such as roasted corn, queso fresco and bacon. From a quickly marinated seafood ceviche to a slowly simmered poblano mole, dishes highlight flavorful ingredients and skillful cooking while never sacrificing authenticity. We only scratched the surface of the far-reaching menu and eager-authenticity. We only scratched the surface of the far-reaching menu and eager-authenticity. We only scratched the surface of the far-reaching menu and eager-authenticity. We only scratched the surface of the far-reaching menu and eager-authenticity. We only scratched the surface of the far-reaching menu and eager-authenticity. We only scratched the surface of the far-reaching menu and eager-authenticity.

- Martin Fierro Restaurant & Steak House, 6002 Radio Road, Naples; 698-5996
  This Argentinean-style steakhouse is tucked into a small strip center on Radio Road but carnivores will be well rewarded for taking the time to find it. The menu’s coastal cuisine spans a broad range, from the North Atlantic to Carolinian Low Country, around the Florida peninsula and up the Gulf to New Orleans. The Southern Collection is a good way to sample a range of appetizers, including Charleston crab dip, pimento cheese, house-made pickles. The shrimp and grits lacked spunk — even with horseradish cream and diced andouille sausage; but the Sea BLT — layers of arugula, fried green tomatoes and fresh seafood salad sprinkled with roasted corn and crumbled bacon — would delight any discerning palate. Perched on the banks of the Cocohatchee River, the restaurant and bar are nestled among old oaks and mangroves and have plenty of windows for enjoying the unique vista.

- Figs Grille, 29987 Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; 590-7500
  Sam Tadros the chef behind the popular 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 those regions are represented here. You cross the threshold, it’s easy to forget you’re in a commercial strip center. Egyptian tapas entice adorn the walls in the garnet and gold dining room. Ceiling lamps evoke Moroccan and ethnic music plays softly in the background, but the effect is understated. Whichever country you decide to visit for your main course, your meal should begin with mezze platter of hummus and babaganoush as well as charry sweet grilled eggplant chunks and cucumber salad served with lightly pickled vegetables. You can’t go wrong with one of several Turkish kebabs or with the filet medallions with grilled shrimp, garnished lavishly with caramelized onions, port wine sauce and fig chutney. Lush (chocolate marquise) or light (lemon semifredo), dessert shouldn’t be missed either.

- Noodle Saigon, 13500 Tamiami Trail N, North Naples; 598-9400
  For an inexpensive but excellent Vietnamese feast, head straight to Noodle Saigon. The 12-page menu may be intimidating at first, but the friendly servers are happy to help newcomers sort through it. I’ve found it’s hard to go wrong here. On my most recent visit, I enjoyed savory asparagus crabmeat soup, shrimp paste on sugar cane, steamed rice crepe with grilled pork, shrimp summer rolls, clams with black bean sauce and the restaurant’s heavenly version of rare beef pho. For dessert, we followed our server’s suggestion and tried a tasty mix of mashed avocado, sweetened condensed milk, ice, lime, sugar and mint. The combination resembled Italian water ice and was a great end to a terrific meal. Beer and wine served.

- Tierney’s Tavern, 799 Waller Street, North Naples; 598-3837
  Owners of The Bay House have rolled out a new, more casual concept in what used to be an expansive bar next to the restaurant. At Tierney’s Tavern, you can savor similarly Southern-inspired and equally well-executed food for much less money. Entrees top out at $24, and it’s possible to dine well for much less. The menu’s coastal cuisine spans a broad range, from the North Atlantic to Carolinian Low Country, around the Florida peninsula and up the Gulf to New Orleans. The Southern Collection is a good way to sample a range of appetizers, including Charleston crab dip, pimento cheese, house-made pickles. The shrimp and grits lacked spunk — even with horseradish cream and diced andouille sausage; but the Sea BLT — layers of arugula, fried green tomatoes and fresh seafood salad sprinkled with roasted corn and crumbled bacon — would delight any discerning palate. Perched on the banks of the Cocohatchee River, the restaurant and bar are nestled among old oaks and mangroves and have plenty of windows for enjoying the unique vista.

Key to ratings: 
* * * * * Superb; * * * * * * * Noteworthy; * * * * * Fair; * * * * Poor; * * * Good

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French American Bistro offers casual, pricier authentically American fare

Before 6 p.m. and $24.95 after that. And to top it off, the staff is extremely hospitable and courteous.

Although the name proclaims the establishment features both French and American fare, the French component clearly dominates. At lunch, you'll find American cuisine such as a club sandwich, burgers and a bacon-leek-tomato sandwich and chicken sandwich on the menu, along with quiche, salad Nicoise and crepes.

For dinner, however, the American dishes such as a monte cristo, pate and roasted duck to follow that lead. Two of the three seafood dishes we tried fell short of the mark. The sea scallops and shrimp au gratin ($9.95) contained scallops that had little flavor, miniscule shrimp and a thin, bland sauce. The rainbow trout with shrimp sauce entreé ($18.95) featured a strong-tasting fillet topped with a sauce that had only a vague shrimp flavor and, again, four of those tiny, tasteless shrimp. The other fish entreé — the only options for someone who doesn't eat meat — was salmon with lemon but- ter and, in retrospect, it might have been a better choice. In contrast, however, the smoked salmon tart with ice cream and whipped cream featured tender meat, cooked as ordered and bathed in a rich sauce that possessed enough pepper to be noticeable but not so much as to overpower the other ingre-dients. It came with mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, which tasted fine, but couldn't manage to work one into the meal.

Our server and another woman who appeared to be one of the owners were quite welcoming and did a great job of making sure we were well taken care of. Our wine and water glasses were kept full, dishes were cleared promptly and courses proceeded at a leisurely but consistent pace.

Considering the caliber of our meat dishes and the fact that the pate and baked goods are all homemade, it's clear that the management takes pride in its offerings. A couple of local, high-quality seafood items (including some larger Gulf shrimp) would immensely improve the non-meat options and bring that portion of the menu up to the par of the meatier items. Nonetheless, I'd definitely go back for more pate, the roasted duck and those terrific desserts.

The warm apple tart features a buttery crust and apples that are just sweet enough, topped with vanilla ice cream and served with fresh whipped cream.

Farmers markets

- **Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.:** Veterans Community Park, Marco Island.
- **Friday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.:** The Collier country Government Complex, 3335 U.S. 41.
- **Saturday, 7:30-11 a.m.:** Third Street South, behind Tommy Bahama's between Third Street and Gordon.
- **Sunday, 8 a.m.-noon:** Freedom Park, 151 Golden Gate Parkway.

- Send items to cuisine@floridaweekly.com.

Karen Feldman

French American Bistro

1201 Piper Blvd., Naples
514-1800

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

Reservations: Accepted

Credit cards: Accepted

Price range/entree: $5-$10

Entrees: $11-$19

Cupcakes, scones, muffins and donuts produced in-house from scratch and sold daily.

Unfussy French

>>Specialties of the house:

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- Small-plate shareables
- French classics
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>>Credit cards:

- Visa and Mastercard accepted

>>Beverages:

- Beer and wine

>>Credit cards:

- Visa and Mastercard accepted

>>Beverages:

- Beer and wine

>>Credit cards:

- Visa and Mastercard accepted

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In the know

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Karen Feldman / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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STAYCATION

SOMETIMES THE BEST PLACE TO VISIT IS RIGHT IN YOUR OWN BACK YARD

2012

THE WALDORF ASTORIA, NAPLES
SANIBEL ISLAND RESORTS
DISCOVER PUNTA GORDA

COVE INN, NAPLES
RESORT AT MARINA VILLAGE & TARPON POINT
NAV-A-GATOR
MARRIOTT SINGER ISLAND
THE OFFICIAL NAME CHANGE OF ONE OF NAPLES’ GRANDEST hotels — The Naples Grande to the Waldorf Astoria Naples — is more than skin-deep. Although operated by the luxury component of the Hilton brand for some years now, the new name, as of Jan. 1, brings even a heightened level of luxury to the former Grande. And its sister property, the Edgewater Beach Hotel, also benefits with the addition of enhanced amenities and services that now include beachfront day beds and cabanas at both destinations. Sigh.

At the now-Waldorf Astoria Naples, some of the changes have occurred where they matter most — the introduction of the brand’s signature mattresses and monogrammed linens, and for you hotel toiletries junkies, a switch to Ferragamo products in all suites. Additional changes will be rolled out throughout 2012.

Either property offers a luxury beachfront vacation with a benefit for summertime staycationers: The Waldorf’s “Spring into Summer” package, available through September, includes a fourth night free and 25-percent discounts at the onsite Golden Door Spa and the off-property Naples Grande Golf Club, featuring a championship course designed by Rees Jones and renovated last October. A similar package at Edgewater Beach offers the same spa and golf savings and a fifth night free. Think of it as luxury for less.

Visitors to the 474-room Waldorf will notice a tie-in to the famed New York hotel: a replica of the original’s storied clock above the concierge desk. A self-contained oasis that’s a scenic boardwalk away from the Gulf of Mexico beach, the grand hotel offers guestrooms, bungalows and suites within 23 waterfront acres surrounded by 300 acres of nature preserve and mangrove estuary. There is plenty to do onsite, including three pools — one with a 100-foot waterslide — the first Golden Door on the East Coast and dining options that run the gamut from fine-dining at the Manhattan-inspired steakhouse, the Strip House, and Florida fusion fare at Aura (both holdovers from its Grande days) to beach and poolside bars and grills.

Take advantage of the package savings and spend a morning or full day at the spa, a collection of Zen-inspired buildings offering 12 treatment rooms, a “floating” hair and nail salon, sun deck with chaises, a meditative labyrinth, and steam and sauna rooms. Book the couples villa for side-by-side treatments.

For more active pursuits, hit one of the Waldorf’s 15 tennis courts or pay the $25 an hour fee for the advanced tennis workout, offered three times a week. The resort’s tennis amenities and programs earned it a ranking among the top 25 tennis resorts in the world.

The Waldorf features a full calendar of weekly activities geared to children and adults, although many parents have happily partaken in the complimentary cookies and milk and s’more offerings. Crafters can create take-home totes and magnets to commemorate their trip (program fees range from $5 to $20). Activities for adults focus on more grown-up pursuits, many themed around half-priced libations: Mojito Monday, Craft Beer Tuesday and Wine Down Wednesday.

Lessons in Luxury
All of the activities and amenities of the Waldorf and the all-suite boutique Edge-water Beach Hotel, right on the sugary sand Gulf of Mexico beaches, are available to guests of both properties. The expanded beach offerings also include water sports rentals, children's activities and casual beach bars.

Edgewater Beach is ideal for families and longer staycationers, who want separate bedrooms and more elbow room. The resort offers on-the-beach and tower suites with one or two bedrooms, a kitchen with a full-sized refrigerator, a 24-hour fitness center and views of the Gulf or twinkling Naples lights.

Both resorts are close to Naples' best shopping and dining: Fifth Avenue South, the Village on Venetian Bay, Waterside Shops and the restaurants and entertainment venues at Mercato. Look for additional savings and packages on each property's web sites.

— Nanci Theoret

Sanibel Island's only all-suite beachfront resort. Featuring an Olympic size pool, Coconut's Pool Bar & Grill, Thistle Lodge Beachfront Restaurant 4-star dining, Kids Club and more.

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A quick, Caribbean getaway is just down the road between Fort Myers and Naples. If a vacation is an escape from reality, then the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa is just that. Step into the mahogany-laden lobby and feel as though you’ve arrived on a tropical movie set where Bogey and Bacall could be sipping a cool one at the bar.

But this 26-acre resort nestled on the edge of the pristine Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve is about more than just sipping and relaxing. Activities abound for staycationing families and couples alike. If the Raptor Bay Golf Club’s 18 holes and the indulgent Stillwater Spa are the bookends of luxury and fun, then a plunge down the 140-foot waterslide at the spectacularly designed pool is the unexpected staycation memory. Every detail is tended to at the Tanglewood and Tarpon Bay restaurants, where local and fresh fare are evident priorities. It’s no wonder this resort recently was named among Travel + Leisure’s 500 World’s Best Hotels.

But first: The important part. The rooms. Each of the 450 guestrooms comes with an airy feel reminding you of why you are vacationing here at home with sumptuous linens and down duvets, Wi-Fi and balconies plus an iHome stereo. The views of Estero Bay and the Hyatt’s gardens are inspiring, whether you go outdoors or just enjoy the great outdoors from the comfort of the room’s armchair. Those who want additional amenities have suite options as well.

Rates vary, and off-season specials are available, such as Hyatt Free Time (a free night and free breakfast for two now through December) or Sunshine on Sale (stay four nights and get the fifth night free). Of note is the Hyatt’s commitment to hypoallergenic rooms, with a six-step process to reduce airborne particles and minimize the presence of potential irritants. Also notable for the conscientious traveler is that this Hyatt has received the state-issued Florida Green Lodging Three Palm eco-friendly certification.

When hunger drives you from your room, you’ll find eco-efforts in the restaurants, too, and there are more options than just the Tanglewood and Tarpon Bay, though neither of them should be overlooked. (Don’t miss Tarpon Bay’s ceviche bar selections or Tanglewood’s fish tacos.) The Kofe Nut coffee bar, Mangroves Bar and also poolside dining at Corkscrew all maintain that Bahamian feel while fueling you for a vacation day.

The beauty of the Hyatt Coconut Point’s location is what lies off-site as much as what it offers in its preserve-like setting. Gold medal-winning Lovers Key State Park is a mere drive along the bay away, taking you to sandy shores and tidal pools teeming with sea life. Charter captains are set to take you fishing on the flats for snook, trout and redfish. The Everglades lie to the south for a freshwater adventure in the sawgrasses. Prefer to stay urban? Germain Arena is nearby, with entertainment options from sports to concerts. Miromar Outlets and greyhound racing also are close to the resort, which is ideally located about half way between Fort Myers and Naples.

On site, the Raptor Bay Golf Club was ranked among the Top 10 favorites by Gary Van Sickle, senior writer for Sports Illustrated. Golf legend Raymond Floyd helped design 18 holes of golf that received Audubon International’s Gold Signature Sanctuary Certification. The course has an ecological design that preserved the most valuable habitats on site and restored nearly 25 acres of wetlands. With no homes ringing the property, the natural surroundings encourage the appearance of bald eagles, herons and other wildlife.

While the adults are on the links, the kids can enjoy Camp Hyatt and also the 5,000-square-foot lagoon-style pool with that aforementioned water slide. There’s tennis and also the option of kayaking through the mangroves that lace the property. Oh and of course, the Stillwater Spa, which promises a “total immersion experience” with innovative treatments and therapy. In fact, a stay at this resort feels like a total immersion into a vacation, even though it’s in Southwest Florida’s back yard.

— Betsy Clayton
Be a tourist: Florida beckons

KATHERINE HEITZMAN USED TO RIDE THE BICYCLE AROUND BOCA GRANDE. PRESIDENT BUSH 41 and Barbara, and Bush 43 and Laura — who could go anywhere they want — all still go there regularly. That should be enough to motivate you to boat or drive out to Gasparilla Island near Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda.

Home to the exclusive enclave of Boca Grande, Gasparilla is one of Florida’s coolest staycation day-trips. Arrange for a full-day golf cart rental and let your day unfold. Take pics beneath the giant banyans. Have a mouth-watering seafood lunch. Tool around and pick out your dream cottage. Hang out with locals in one of the bars.

Boca is lovely, friendly and way beyond photogenic. If you like to fish, you may have found a new favorite place on earth: Tarpon fishermen take over the place during silver king season. Shoppers will also be happy downtown. But it’s the golf cart thing which makes this place a must-do. Like North Captiva Island, its neighbor to the south, Boca Grande’s adoption of battery-powered, open-air vehicles puts it high on our list of places which induce that happy vacation feeling.

Southwest Florida has a surprising, little-known attraction called Koreshan State Historical Park. Once the domain of a group of people who were not your average next-door neighbors. The Koreshans had a rather unique view of the earth: They believed we all live on the concave inside of the sphere rather than the outside. It goes without saying that any group of folks who believed this must have had a pretty interesting life in some other ways, so why don’t you check out the beautiful riverfront property which they called home and learn a little more.

Koreshan is a perfect place for an inexpensive staycation near Naples and Bonita Springs.

Perhaps it’s the American affinity with horror movies that make alligator farms, such as the Kissimmee Alligator Farm, so popular. If you haven’t yet set foot in Miami’s decadent Venetian Pool, this should be the year. Opened in 1924 by visionary George Merrick as part of a grand design for the City of Coral Gables, the Venetian Pool evokes the grandest aspects of the Mediterranean. This National Register of Historic Places pool is the only one in the states to have that on its resume.

Polarities like Esther Williams and Johnny Weissmuller used to hang out at Venetian Pool. In the 1930s, the pool was the stuff of nightmares for some, the ultimate thrill for others.

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While the House of Refuge has long since been razed, the lighthouse remains. Every January, the lighthouse is opened to the public. You can climb the 194 steps to the top.

You don’t have to spend a dime, however, to walk the walk of the loaded. Pop in to Tiffany and see how the other half shops. Worth Avenue’s typical patrons are sidewalk candy worth seeing, even if many of them are products of surgery. They wear their Prada well. And their Gucci, Versace, Choo and Louboutin. It’s fun just to watch the cars, for pete’s sake.

Florida’s Cross Creek, where the Yearling Restaurant serves “cooter, frog legs, alligator, and quail,” and Miami’s bizarre Coral Castle Museum, where one man toiled over limestone for nearly 30 years, carving 1,100 tons of rock using a secret process that has yet to be unlocked.

— Libby McMillan
Many consider living in an ever technologically growing world a blessing and a curse. But hashing out the pros and cons of technology and our disconnect from the simpler parts of life is a lengthy discussion. However, one thing is true for most of us, we all need a break — a break away from the complexities of life to a simpler one that doesn't involve cords, batteries or a power button. We all yearn to power down and recharge our fading lights.

Though there are many places to go by plane, train or boat, sometimes the best place to visit is right in your own back yard. For those dreaming of a getaway that does not involve much planning, distance or glitz, you need go no further than the old Florida available at Sanibel’s Island Inn or Casa Ybel Resort. The moment you turn onto the foliage and flower lined path a sense of ahh will rush through your body. You will feel your muscles untighten and your soul unwind as you put your vehicle in park, turn off the ignition and look upon the cozy cottages dotting the pinkish coastline. The Island Inn built in 1895 is the oldest inn on the island, said Island Inn General Manager Chris Davison. The affable and charming Mr. Davison works to ensure guests have a positive stay and leave with a head full of lasting memories. With an easy smile he points to the cottages and resort, which was originally owned by the Matthews family and is now owned by a few shareholders.

Each of the 49 units has a view of the Gulf. There is 550 feet of beach — far from the other resort or public beaches. The cottages, which were built before the requirement to build behind the coastal construction coastline, are therefore “grandfathered” in and are smack on the water. It is not hard to feel as though you have been transported to your own personal island in the Caribbean. The cottages are roomy, immaculate and quaint with soft pastel colors and an old Florida feel. Screened porches are ideal for sipping an ice tea or glass of wine while gazing at the teal, gentle swelling waters. Though, the rooms are built for tranquility and relaxation, Mr. Davison is mindful of modern needs. Rooms and cottages are equipped with a microwave, refrigerator, and coffee maker. Rooms also feature Wi-Fi, flat screen TV’s and DVD/CD players. Many of the cottages have full kitchens and the largest beach house can sleep up to 12 people. A recent refurbishment has helped maintain the old Florida charm and modern comforts for guests, Mr. Davison said.

Other amenities include a pool, tennis courts and the award-winning Traditions on the Beach restaurant. The casual fine dining establishment has a bar, lounge and live music. The Gulf front dining restaurant is run the charming and engaging Andrea. He will likely come over and chat with you while you dine, ensuring a fun night out.

Everything aside, the beach is the brightest jewel of the Island Inn’s amenities. The waters sparkle with a pink and marmalade like hue during sunrise and sunset. And like a true gift from the sea, countless shells of all shapes and sizes fill the coast with seemingly each tide.
In fact, the very first island shell fair, a local event for 75 years was held at the Island Inn, said Blanaid Colley of Hillgate Communications. “The biggest draw is the close proximity of the beach,” Mr. Davison said. The beach is nature’s own entertainment center. On shore fishing, shellng, sunning, boating and of course swimming is available to guests. For wildlife lovers’ birdlife is rich at the Island Inn as is the opportunity to spot dolphins arching and frolicking in the sea.

Historic Island Elegance
The Old Florida romance and elegance of Casa Ybel Resort’s 23-acre sweep along the Gulf of Mexico has made it a destination for lovers for more than a century. Its serenity and four-star service have attracted families and dignitaries as well. The Rev. George Barnes built Sanibel’s first cottage here and later its first inn after discovering the island by accident in the 1880s. The Thistle Lodge, home to the resort’s gourmet restaurant of the same name, was Barnes’ wedding gift to his daughter, and attracted Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and modern-day celebrities. Coconuts Poolside Bar and Grill is a more casual option.

The gulf-front property offers world-class shellng, gardens, lawns and just 114 one- and two-bedroom suites that live like a home. The guest-to-acre ratio adds to the resort’s feeling of intimacy, perfect for dozing in a hammock amid the palms, indulging in a beachfront or in-room spa treatment, or enjoying the barefooted splendor in the grass of the resort’s perfect emerald lawn.

— Ella Nayor and Evan Williams

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Punta Gorda will surprise you

Punta Gorda will forever be shining the Friday the 13th images of Hurricane Charley tearing through the Charlotte Harbor city in 2004. It probably doesn’t help beginning a story extolling it as a travel destination by referencing that fateful day.

But it’s because of Charley that Punta Gorda is what it has become: a thriving getaway destination for foodies and art lovers.

Get a true sense of the city’s emerging energy by staying downtown on the water: at the Wyvern Hotel. The Wyvern offers 63 rooms with single king-sized beds or two double beds plus a harbor suite, all overlooking either the harbor or the city and featuring stocked mini-bars, Frette linens and bathrobes. Amenities include a rooftop pool and lounge, an onsite fitness center and the Latin-fusion Lulu Restaurant, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner — and catering to a nighttime crowd that enjoys an aerial view of the city.

The 106-guest room Four Points also illustrates Punta Gorda’s growing cache and boasts marina- and harbor-view rooms, some with balconies, king-sized or double queen beds. Try the firecracker shrimp while dining alfresco on the Dockside Grill’s patio or savor the flavor of the world’s best bottled and draft craft beers in the lounge. Welcome the day with a workout in the fitness center or a cold pint of Guinness at the newly revamped Celtic Ray, a quirky and delicious fish and chips or chicken Breton with cool light-up menus. The Perfect Caper and the newer Opus provide additional forays into fine dining.

Have a yen for comfort food? Check out long-time River City Grill and Jack’s in the new SunLoft, also home to One Eleven, the martini, wine and tapas lounge with cool light-up menus. The city’s restaurateurs also tap into other global flavors, represented in the Japanese offerings at Amimoto and the traditional fish and chips at Breton (best with a cold pint of Guinness) at the newly expanded Celtic Ray, a quirky and fun Irish pub. You’ll also find Tex-Mex at Dean’s South of the Border and Windy City dogs and kielbasa at Big D’s Chicago Eatery.

Burn off those calories exploring downtown, visiting the eclectic shops and galleries tucked into side streets. Look for the shingled-red awning along Marion Avenue, home to the Sea Grape, a co-op artists’ gallery featuring paintings, fiber art, jewelry, pottery and wood-turning originals produced by local artists. The funky Creations Gallery, offering a collection of fine, fun and functional artwork, also by locals, is another can’t-miss for art lovers.

Plan your Punta Gorda staycation to coincide with the Gallery Walk. Many downtown businesses stay open later during the third-Thursday-of-the-month event from 5 to 8 p.m. Walk along the park-lined harbor or drive the mile from downtown to Fisherman’s Village, a waterfront mall offering restaurants, boutiques and gift shops plus a fleet of rental boats and charted fishing and sightseeing excursions of Florida’s second largest harbor. You might be tempted to extend your stay: two-bedroom villas above the mall can be rented by the day or week.

— Nanci Theoret
Beach lover’s paradise

The flashing beam of the iconic Jupiter Inlet lighthouse has been a beacon to sailors navigating Florida’s hull-crushing reefs and limestone outcroppings since 1860.

When it was built, there was no city of Jupiter — isolated barrier islands, deserted shorelines and stagnant swamps surrounded its island location. It stands today over Jupiter’s thriving coastal community, with luxury homes on the north and well-kept beaches to its south.

In its beam sits the Jupiter Beach Resort — a beach lover’s paradise at the ocean end of Indiantown Road. Long a haven for protected sea turtles, the property had one of the first turtle walks and dune protection programs in the area.

Tucked among lush, private landscaping, the resort transports guests from Jupiter’s city life only blocks away to a tropical retreat.

Decked out with a Caribbean island, casual feel with bright colors and woods, rooms and luxury suites provide a respite from cookie-cutter hotels and dark, minimalist décor.

Two restaurants on the property, plus a lounge with live entertainment on some nights, give diners options, though there are several restaurants only a short drive away.

A Floribbean menu is offered at Sinclair’s, and includes fresh seafood, steaks and pastas. Outdoor dining is optimal at night with the moonrise over the ocean visible from the patio tables.

The Sandbar, open for lunch and early dinner with drinks and light fare for casual diners, is next to the newly renovated pool deck. Live entertainment is featured on weekends here and guests join locals for the afternoon happy hour.

Spa lovers can be massaged and rejuvenated at the 7,500 square-foot spa and beautified at the full-service salon. An oceanfront pool, tennis courts, a recreational court and fitness rooms accommodate the more active guests.

The kids aren’t forgotten — activities for the G-rated set include bicycle rentals, basketball, a game room, and family-friendly “drive-in” movies shown poolside.

Guests will find signs around the resort indicating it’s “lights out” on the beach — it’s turtle nesting season. Lights from hotels and streets are shaded and or turned out from May through December along the coast to avoid confusing baby turtles who follow moonlight to find their way from the nests to the ocean.

Flashlights are provided for night beach walks, and guided talks can be arranged. A special “Lights Out” hotel package is available — included are luxury rooms, breakfast for two and two tickets for an escorted Turtle Walk at the nearby Loggerhead Marinelife Center (prices start at $299 — good from June 30-July 28).

Lucky guests at the resort may get a glimpse of the natural wonder as loggerheads come ashore to lay their eggs. Hatchlings appear during full moons, with the tiny turtles racing by the dozens into the water, leaving their eggshells behind in the nests.

There’s plenty to do in the area beyond turtle watching, however.

Start with a tour of the brick red lighthouse (closed on Mondays), and take a stroll through the museum and gift shop for a history lesson and to find unique Florida gifts.

Nearby are some of the best beach parks and swimming around — the Dubois Park is just a bike ride away, with picnic pavilions and grills, as well as a life guarded-protected natural swimming lagoon and playgrounds for young ones.

A wide beach and fishing jetty for are part of the adjacent Jupiter Beach Park a short walk away. Both are free.

South of the resort along A1A is the long stretch of Jupiter’s public beaches — with wide, dog-friendly sands (leashes, please, for Fido).

At the beachfront Carlin park, pavilions with grills and playgrounds and ball fields occupy both sides of A1A.

Kayaks, paddleboards and other water toys are available for rent at Jupiter Outdoor Center. Check out their full-moon paddle tour that includes a marshmallow roast. Guided eco and manatee kayak tours let you see the wildlife and flora of the Loxahatchee River, designated a Wild and Scenic River, at a slow pace from water level.

Three rare sea turtles and a number of plants and animals are in their natural habitat at Blowing Rocks Preserve on Jupiter Island. The Anastasia limestone shoreline is the largest on the Atlantic Coast and is part of the Nature Conservancy.

For rainy days, the Cobb Jupiter 18 Cinema is around the corner, along with top rated restaurants like Little Moir’s Food Shack with karaoke at Maxi’s Lineup next door, or Sala Thai.

Art lovers will want to check out the Lighthouse Art Center, a museum and gallery in nearby Tequesta, where guided talks can be arranged. A special “Lights Out!” family-friendly “dive-in” movies shown poolside.

Especially for kids is Jupiter Beach Park a short walk away. Both are free.

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Couples seeking to get the home fires burning again, or those who just want to chill out and, ahem, hang lose, may find Fawlty Towers the ideal spot for a staycation.

The resort motel, a fixture in Cocoa Beach since 1988, recently reopened as a “naturist resort.” That doesn’t mean it caters to bird watchers or nature lovers; the term “naturist” refers to those who prefer to vacation au natural.

With a lush tropical garden surrounding the pool, the 32-room resort offers the perfect opportunity for budding nudists to sun their buns for a weekend. In keeping with the more relaxed, global aesthetic, the authentic Tiki Bar serves a wealth of European beers and ciders.

Daytime guests can pay a $25 fee to visit the resort and take advantage of the chance to even up those unsightly tan lines, but gawkers and gigglers, be warned: Despite the festive, pool-party atmosphere and relaxed dress code, the resort promotes only “family oriented nudism, which shall be wholesome and non-sexual.”

Single males must qualify to visit, according to the resorts’ singles policy, but all members of the American Association for Nude Recreation or other nudist clubs or organizations are welcome. So bring the kids if you dare and even bring the pets—dogs and cats are welcome in several of the ground floor rooms. Just be sure to keep Fido on a tight leash before he says hello to the neighbors.

— Michelle Salyer
See SW Florida like a tourist

You've got a few days off but you're not feeling flush enough to take a big vacay. You can still be a tour-ist. Just do all the touristy attractions you've never done ... the things your own visitors can't believe you haven't done.

If you've been to the Punta Gorda Airport, you've seen our first recommendation, and if you went out on a Saturday night, you even heard it. It's Punta Gorda Speedway, a once-a-week testosterone-fueled destination that jams a lot of G-rated adventure into a noisy but affordable entertainment package.

Families, friends, couples and more than a few father-son combos start piling in shortly after the gates open at 4 p.m. The racing starts after 6 p.m., and there's always a wide range of events, from winged sprint cars and late model stock to bandoleros (a scaled-down version of a race car with a motorcycle engine) and pro trucks (your average pickup truck made into a race car). The concession stands offer inexpensive cold drinks, snacks and beer, and patrons have plenty of room to spread out in the stands. Get your vroom on.

Here's another attraction you're driven by on a zil-lion occasions. It's high time you check out the site of Southwest Florida's greatest bromance, the Edison-Ford Winter Estates. In case you've been under a rock, this is the beautiful, side-by-side estate of none other than Thomas Edison and Henry Ford. Tom and Hank each transformed America and the world; their McGregor Boulevard getaways inspired such amaz ing conversations that an entire local organization is devoted to celebrating their friendship.

Gardeners will be thrilled on the tour, and car nuts won't mind seeing Henry's garage, either. The Edison laboratory is fuel for young scientists. On the grounds is also one of the largest trees you've ever seen in your life (take your camera). We're probably forgetting a few other things, but one thing's certain. You'll be hard pressed to find Florida kitsch of this quality ANYWHERE else, from seashell-encrusted toilet seats to flamingo snow globes and Christmas ornaments. Take some Christmas shopping dollars and head on over. The giant seashell out front also makes for a cute family photo. Where did they GET that thing, anyway?

In much the same way that dinner parties offer guests all the pleasure with none of the pain, wonderdul gardens offer visitors the epitome of OP bliss. "Other people's" lovely outdoor spaces always guaran-tee enjoyment without any sweat, dirt, bugs or aches. So to celebrate the OP Mandala's 10th birthday, make a staycation beeline for Naples Botanical Garden.

This lovely urban respite is open daily from 9-5, and offers all comers a variety of environments in which to appreciate someone else's labor. The Florida Garden might serve as the most inspiring to realistic wannah-kees or true Sunshine State gardeners, while the Carib-bean, Asian, Brazilian and Water Gardens offer a lush alternate look through green tinted glasses. There's even a children's garden.

The entire 170 acre site, just south of Old Naples, rose from the ashes of a strip mall and parking lot, and even includes 2.5 miles of walking trails. Get an early start if you visit prior to late October, and by all means, have a camera handy if you love gardens.

Staycation doesn't have to mean an absence of adventure. So what if you can't swing an African safari? Your family can still hand-feed a giraffe, with a drive to Naples Zoo at Caribbean Garden.

This Southwest Florida attraction offers visitors a really cool animal experience and a day that's not too strenuous or hot. Take the primate expedition cruise, a shaded pontoon boat cruise past countless apes, lemurs and monkeys.

This particular zoo also has a rather amazing litany of reasons to visit: 1) largest black bear exhibit east of the Mississippi; 2) one of only four honey badgers in U.S. zoos; 3) a glass wall that separates visitors from beautiful leopards by mere inches; 4) laughing hyenas, leaping impalas and happy parrots. We're sure the two-legged critters in your clan would have a blast here.

You may have captured yourself and your family to Cabbage Key at one point or another. But it's high time you let a designated driver take you back, and that's exactly what Captive Cruises does on its lunch cruise to Cabbage Key. Don't be tempted to choose Useppa Island instead; the dynamics are different for excursion boat passengers than they are for private club members. Just book the Cabbage Key trip and put a dollar bill in your wallet to leave on the ceiling.

A bonus to this “Cheeseburger in Paradise” trip is what happens en route. Dolphins are attracted to Cap-
tiva Cruises’ head boat like politicians to a free meal. They practically race each other to play in the boat’s wake — the captains have learned a few tricks using ROMs — and if you go down to the transom (that’s “rear lower deck” to you landlubbers) you might well get the show of your life, with full-body breaches and eye-to-eye contact.

Has it been a while since you did the Time Warp or cheered on a transvestite in fishnet stockings? Then by all means, book a seat at the Fort Myers attraction you’ve possibly skipped, time and time again. Let the big blinking sign at Colonial Boulevard and Six Mile Cypress remind you that the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium now has a once-a-month showing of “Rocky Horror Picture Show” on the ceiling of the planetarium. Not only does the 8 p.m. show consistently sell out, but plenty of tickets sell for the 11 p.m. spectacular too.

Both films are greatly enhanced by the eye-popping performances of a local theater troupe. And if that weren’t enough fun, the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium is so hip, it sells prop bags for the show. If you’re scratching your head in confusion at this point, then you have postponed one of life’s saucier cult entertainment draws. Book your seats, buy the bag of props, and just follow the crowd. And just an FYI: this now-hip facility is going to start its weekend laser light shows again soon. Oh, Brad!

While you probably won’t enhance your economic situation by going to Naples Fort Myers Greyhound Racing and Poker, it’s possible. But the real reason to go is that it’s the most fun you can have for two bucks. If your Triple Crown friends have you too embarrassed to admit you’re going to the dogs, then don’t tell them (or find some new friends). This track has a full restaurant (reservations recommended) and bar, but you’ll be just as happy with hot dogs, chips and cold beer. Grab a program and head straight for the outside seats. Sure, you could sit inside where it’s air conditioned — closer to the betting windows — but then you’d miss the fun of hanging on the rail and having the world’s fastest dogs kick a little dirt in your face as they streak past in pursuit of “Sparky” the robo-rabbit. Impress your friends by studying up on “trifecta” and “exacta” before you go. Win either, and impress us!

We have our very own photography superstar here in Southwest Florida, and even fans often overlook his studio. Clyde Butcher — collected around the world for his stunning, large-scale black and white photos of the everglades — is just a regular guy with a superhuman eye for beauty. His digs of choice are the Everglades. And while summer is too hot to go sloshing and paddling around this national park, Clyde Butcher’s Big Cypress Gallery in tiny Ochopee is the perfect place to hang out.

Make your way into the ‘Glades and feel time slowing down as you approach the artist’s domain. Clyde is one cool cat, so you’d get lucky if he happened to be around. But either way, you’ll really love seeing his work in the environment, which is his muse. This is also a prime home improvement opportunity; consider taking home a non-humid piece of the ‘Glades. One moment, frozen in large, black and white time, by our very own master. — Libby McMillan

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Beyond the Beach: The Quirky, Quaint Cove Inn

The Cove Inn doesn’t have to recreate the 1960s — the era when many vacationers first discovered Florida. The Naples condo-hotel lives and breathes the decade it opened and epitomizes Olde Naples, right down to the seven red letters — COVE INN — that rise from the rooftop, announcing your arrival.

Other than utilitarian repairs and cosmetic improvements like a fresh coat of paint, the property, perched along Naples Bay at Crayton Cove, remains tied to the past. At just three stories and offering accommodations that range from standard hotel rooms to a two-bedroom penthouse, the Cove Inn offers an alternate to those looming beachfront resorts.

“We’re not a fancy hotel,” says Miriam Asay, general manager. “What makes the Cove Inn so unique is its view of Naples Bay, the boat slips and marina, which you can see from most of our rooms.”

As a condo-hotel, all rooms and apartments are individual homes and decorated by owners who have the option of placing their units in the rental program. Some have undergone major renovations; others harken back to the original kitschy cottagey look, and most have a regular following of repeat guests who reserve their next vacation a year in advance.

Guests can opt for a standard 375-square-foot room (a refrigerator, microwave and the all-important coffee-maker are included in all accommodations) or spread out in larger efficiencies and one- and two-bedroom apartments that provide kitchens complete with all the necessities for cooking and dining in. Rooms overlook the street or bay and offer private breezy balconies.

“They say location is everything, and what makes the Cove Inn so special are the views from the balconies,” says Ms. Asay. “Guests like to sit out there with a glass of wine or fresh-squeezed orange juice.”

The beach is within reach: just eight blocks away. But it becomes more of an afterthought, often getting pushed back on to-do lists as guest explore the area Beyond the Beach: The Quirky, Quaint Cove Inn

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in and around the inn, which sits on a natural peninsula on the bay. A second-floor library offers books for those who want to enjoy a good read from their balcony, on the first-floor back deck off the lobby or in the rose garden fountain patio. An onsite pool overlooks the bay and the sailboats and motorboats berthed at Naples City Dock, home to the city’s largest charter fishing fleet.

The poolside Chickie Bar is operated independently and open exclusively to its 200 members and inn guests. “Everybody loves it,” says Ms. Asay. “It’s a great place to enjoy a beverage and overlook the bay and boats.”

Sunset and sightseeing cruises can be booked at City Dock. Fishing excursions with a number of local captains are also offered here, and visitors can even arrive by boat; the dock offers transient slips that accommodate vessels up to 120 feet.

Dining options — including the famous open-air waterfront Dock at Crayton Cove — are adjacent to the inn or within a quick walk. Seafood and tropical cocktails are among the best noshes and libations at The Dock, which also offers a daily raw bar and a bloody Mary bar during its popular Sunday brunch.

The onsite Boathouse, also on the water, is known for its crab dishes — everything from sweet corn and crab chowder to steamed crab combos and seafood macaroni and cheese with a trio of cheeses, lobster and, you guessed it: fresh lump crab. Dine on the open-air deck or in the air-conditioned dining room, where a 1,000-square-foot glass wall and split-level design ensures bay views from almost every table.

Nearby Bleu Provence features authentic French fare (think escargot steeped in Burgundy and butter and crispy duck leg confit) and a boutique wine list heavily favoring the homeland.

For a true taste of the Cove Inn, don’t miss breakfast, especially the pancakes, at the Coffee Shoppe, a no-frills spit of a place beloved by locals. Be prepared to wait; it’s that popular.

“Our coffee shop is famous,” says Ms. Asay. “It’s a little hole in the wall and people will wait 45 minutes because the food is amazing. Some of the girls have been here since it opened.”

Summertime room rates at the Cove Inn start at $99 a night, and discounts are available through AAA and AARP and occasionally online.

— Nanci Theoret
Locals may know Tarpon Point is in Cape Coral, but vacationers could associate it with Naples, the luxurious playground 23 miles south. What Tarpon Point is, actually, is a resort that offers boaters a gateway to Sanibel and Captiva while redefining waterfront vacationing, thanks to its secluded location near the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River in a quiet part of the Cape.

On one site exists the boaters’ paradise of Tarpon Point Marina, the Resort at Marina Village (a SunStream-managed hotel) and also condominium homes at Tarpon Landings. All represent relaxing staycation options.

The marina itself is located just off the Intracoastal Waterway at Marker 92 with a deep-water basin and full-service fuel dock and 175 slips that can accommodate vessels up to 100 feet. Harbormaster Dennis Raney makes sure boaters have red-letter days, whether they are day-trippers or staying at the resort. The friendly atmosphere of the ships store harkens back to Old Florida customer service while offering restrooms and showers you’d expect to see in a luxury hotel and a selection of marine supplies, sandwiches and drinks that set you up for your outing.

Not a boater? You can become one, thanks to the variety of Tarpon Point’s boat rentals. Deck boats and pontoons are perfect for entertaining while center-console accommodate anglers. The rental outfit can also provide a captain if you’re not comfortable skippering alone. Or charter the Silver King, a 45-foot power catamaran for a private party complete with a dolphin tour. Kayak rentals also are available.

If you prefer to look at the water rather than be on it, other recreation awaits you. Walkways connect the luxury lifestyle at Tarpon Landings to a freeform pool overlooking the marina. The resort-style pool is Junior Olympic-style and set for lap swimming. It’s surrounded by a 25,000 square-foot sundeck area, with a separate 12-foot in-ground spa. Tarpon visitors also will find four lighted tennis courts and a fitness center.

Don’t forget a visit to Esterra Spa & Salon, a signature at SunStream-managed properties.

The Resort at Marina Village is a full-service condominium resort with towering sweeping river views to San Carlos Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. The furnishings and concierge service scream vacation. Guests check in at an octagon-shaped reception area that showcases a stunning water feature that looks like a sparkling beacon you’d look for if arriving by land, sea or air.

There are hotel-style luxuries such as room service and housekeeping. Studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom residences range up to 2,225 square feet, with...
grand rooms, master suites, guest suites, dining terraces and access to amenity decks. Perhaps the best reason to staycation in the Tarpon Point area, though, is the dining. Sometimes overlooked often by locals, the restaurants and bars at this river paradise make it seem as if you are miles from home.

Marker 92 Waterfront Bar & Bistro has an intimate feel, despite its size. Enjoy the cool darkness of the bar, have dinner in the air-conditioning next to picture windows or dine al fresco on the patio. Whether you want wood-fired pizza or steak, or the place’s signature sushi dish, you’ll find the right wine to go with it, thanks to a varied selection.

Want something a bit more casual? Try the Nauti Mermaid Dockside Bar & Grill. There’s no dress code, and certainly no hurry. The casual menu complements the Caloosahatchee atmosphere. Enjoy live music Thursday through Saturday evenings and also Sunday afternoon.

— Betsy Clayton

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Peace River adventure

NAV-A-GATOR owner Dennis Kirk didn’t exactly have to twist my arm when he suggested I might want to stay another night in the charming one-bedroom cottage overlooking the Peace River. He wanted me to experience the restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock capital of the world for four years running.

“People come here to relax and read a real book,” says Capt. Kirk. “It’s a getaway.” My cottage, the “Snook,” is available by the week or a minimum three-day, two-night stay. It’s unpretentious but quaint with a kitschy collection of fish and nautically themed knickknacks and the wood-paneled wall that divides living room and bedroom and falls a foot or two shy of the ceiling. There’s also a kitchen with an old gas stove/oven, a microwave and a full offering of plates and pots – as if I would want to cook.

I don’t even turn on the TV (it has an old-fashioned rabbit-eared antenna) let alone sit in the living room, which I later realize offers a mini-library of hardcovers – barefoot humans, birds and dogs. But cottages? Who knew?

I get a real sense of Florida here along the Peace River, the alleged dividing line under a peace treaty reached between the Seminole Indians and the whites. Y ou get a real sense of Florida here off in the distance or the scurrying by of a creature nearby doesn’t startle me. It’s peaceful, and I’m relaxed.

Even the occasional splash of water off in the distance or the scurrying by of a creature nearby doesn’t startle me. It’s quiet, appropriately peaceful.

The Nav-A-Gator is a dramatic contrast to Southwest Florida’s other water-front lodgings, usually along the Gulf of Mexico and chock-full of life’s little luxuries. You get a real sense of Florida here along the Peace River, the alleged dividing line under a peace treaty reached between the Seminole Indians and the whites, according to Capt. Kirk, or named by the natives for the black-eyed whiteman, according to Capt. Kirk, or named by the Natives for the ‘Gator, its rope-lit dock and building the only illumination in the otherwise inky night sky. Sure, I’m writing but I’ve started to think of the little cottage as a writer’s getaway. And I’m relaxed.

The Nav-A-Gator offers live entertain-ment in the bar Thursday and Friday and alfresco from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Pets are welcome outside and aboard Bow-Wow cruises on the pontoon boat. Morris, who’s played here years running. We’ve done airboat rides in the Ever-glades twice, and liked this better,” says a Port Charlotte passenger. “And it’s so much closer.”

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Daniel Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertainer: Jim Morris, whose original Trop-Rock restaurant/bar’s most popular entertain
West Palm Beach, Singer Island, Florida

WHY STAY ON SINGER ISLAND WHEN YOU LIVE NEARBY? THE MARRIOTT SINGER ISLAND, where you can be pampered to perfection, might be one answer, but there are several other attractions.

The beachfront and the Ocean Mall have been rebuilt with flair, and bring in bathers, shoppers and seaside diners — but not at the overwhelming numbers of other beaches. Catch it while it’s largely undiscovered.

The newest restaurants along the beachfront include a Mexican cantina, Two Drunken Goats and Pop’s Costa Rican Creamery, where tropical ice creams take the edge off the heat. At the New York Bagel Café, pick up fresh bagels and hot coffee to take to your beach stroll or pack a sandwich lunch to picnic.

Find creative sushi at the nearby Happy Fish sushi and Thai, along with rehабbed old favorites like Johnny Longboat’s, which specializes in seafood.

Other locals’ hangouts include Buddy’s, which has moved a few doors down from its former dinner location in the plaza opposite the Ocean Mall. It’s open till the wee hours for breakfast or for a drink. There’s Graeter Gator’s grocery, where you can pick up choice thick steaks for the grill, along with the charcoal and laundry detergent to wash your apron afterwards.

Where to stay?

The Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island boasts contemporary rooms and sleek, modern décor in a hotel with a boutique feel.

A luxury resort all around, the rooms are more akin to small condo apartments with full kitchens and laundries, making a week-long stay affordable for families who do their own cooking.

The beachfront resort also has the SiSpa, with a steam room, a number of scrubs, wraps and treatments, along with massages and fitness classes. Special spa packages are among several offered for summer guests.

A fitness center and two pools on site give athletes the chance to work out.

The resort also features 3800 Ocean Restaurant. It’s a farm-and-sea-to-table concept, set in a contemporary space with a chef’s community table and ocean views along with patio dining under the moonlight.

A new chef’s collaborative menu here gives the guests a chance to sample foods influenced by the regions and countries represented by the resort’s chefs — Caribbean cuisine dominates the new Paradise Island Tiki Bar and Grill, with the Coconut Breeze, the signature drink, served in a hollowed-out coconut.

Snorkeling on the reef is only a short swim off the property’s beach. Learn to dive here with a special summer package — a SCUBA for Two getaway is a special summer deal (there’s one for kids, too) starting at $349 a night, and includes resort diving certification, open water dives over the reef and more.

Other specials include the Girls’ Getaway, with a two-night stay in a two-bedroom condo with full kitchen and laundry, and unlimited spa use for four plus a $100 dining credit and more. Rates are from $564 per person.

Beyond the resort, there’s Ocean Reef Park, a public beachfront park on the island, with picnic pavilions, a playground and lifeguards for swimmers’ safety.

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Nature lovers won’t want to miss John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, where nature trails and a small estuary thick with mangroves afford a chance to see beach critters and sea life. The beach is quieter than many others and rocks jutting out afford some privacy for sunbathers here.

A number of programs for getting in touch with nature are offered — ranger walks, butterfly walks, birding programs, guided snorkeling tours and kayak clinics.

There’s a summer camp for youngsters, and bluegrass picking held monthly, too (check the park’s web site at www.macarthurbeach.org for schedules) — bring your banjo.

At the south end of the island, take a stroll to the park that overlooks the Palm Beach Inlet and watch the big boats, including the floating casinos and freighters, come and go to the nearby Port of Palm Beach.

It’s only a short drive over the island’s Blue Heron Bridge to board a ship for a day trip to the Bahamas, or just offshore to play the slots.

— Jan Norris
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