Activists work to curb candy-flavored tobacco use

BY GLENN MILLER
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Adults may never have heard of candy-flavored tobacco products, but their kids or grandkids have.

“They’re kind of invisible except to kids,” said Dr. Mary Bonnette, chairwoman of the Tobacco-Free Lee Coalition.

Many youngsters are aware these products are readily available and come in all sorts of flavors.

“Smells like grape soda,” said Melissa Peacock, tobacco prevention specialist with the Charlotte County Health Department. “Tastes like grape soda.”

But these “invisible” products that taste like grape soda or watermelon or blueberry candy or sour apple or chocolate are infused with something else — nicotine. The candy makes the tobacco more palatable to young tastes.

These products are not cigarettes. They include items such as chew, dip and snuff.

The product line includes dissolvable tobacco pellets called orbs.
A story lives only in the moment, a moment dressed in the past. Soon that story becomes history, where it carries on for as long as we can remember and act, translating new stories.

For that reason, the story of our Republic, like the story of a person, does not necessarily begin on its birthday — on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia.

Instead, it begins about 2,600 years earlier, when the Greek poet Homer first describes homophrosune in “The Odyssey,” a concept expanded by Aristotle.

Washed up on a beach at the knees of Nausica, Odysseus asks the gods to give her “a husband and a household, and ‘together-mindedness’ graced with virtue...for nothing higher or more noble exists than man and woman directing their household with ‘community of mind’ and feeling.”

Then, the wily adventurer concludes, “the greatest joy will be theirs in knowing friendship’s grace.”

I learned this in Rhode Island last week while listening to my nephew, Nick Romeo, a writer and classicist. He was toasting his friend, he said, may hold his place in history, where he can debate and answer their questions.

As advice or revelation, it can carry the weight of a nation, too. Shortly after the wedding, I drove with my family to the rural New England home of military historian and replicator Mark Hilliard, an expert in the uniforms, habits and weapons of early America.

Mr. Hilliard supports his ongoing research as head of Heart of Oak Historical Services by outfitting film and TV productions, reenactors, national parks, and museums to recreate historic moments. He invited us to fire a .75 caliber musket with fixed bayonet, a reproduction of a type used during the Revolution.

Meanwhile, his father, the novelist and playwright Dr. Robert Hilliard, now 88, looked on silently. Dr. Hilliard, a combat veteran of World War II who carried an M-1 carbine (.30 caliber) in action, was wounded more than once as a 19-year-old veteran of World War II who carried an M-1 carbine (.30 caliber) in action, was wounded more than once as a 19-year-old.

That happened in a seven-mile stretch of clear-cut farm fields punctuated by trees and stone walls stretching from Lexington to the old North Bridge at Concord, in eastern Massachusetts.

After visiting the Hilliards, I drove there with my family — there where the new Republic began in earnest.

British troops had marched out from Boston, shot a few resistors on the green in Lexington at 5:30 in the morning, then marched over to Concord to find a cache of weapons.

At about 9:30 a.m., a larger force of Americans — they were well-trained farmers, artisans and merchants — met them at the narrow bridge and stopped them cold when they tried to come across.

Outnumbered, the British lost three men there and many more in their subsequent retreat back to Boston.

The powerful words of four authors who lived around Concord — all inscribed on monuments or plaques near the North Bridge — put the events of that day and future ones into perspective.

“When the rude bridge that arched the flood, / Their flag to April’s breeze unfurled, here / Once the embattled farmers stood, and fired / The shot heard round the world,” wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson.

“They came three thousand miles and died, to keep the past upon its throne,” observed James Russell Lowell, describing the sharp sting of loss in a lost cause, for the red coats.

Louisa May Alcott, who lived a quarter-mile from the North Bridge and wrote prolifically until her death a century after the Revolution, called for a second revolution — this one for the rights of women.

Her plea is inscribed near the words of Henry David Thoreau, acknowledging (like she did) the great weakness of the Declaration of Independence: it’s hypocrisy. The problem would be remedied by future generations.

“Do we call this the land of the free?” Thoreau asked in 1854.

“What is it to be free of King George and continue (as) the slaves of King Prejudice? What is it to be born free and not to live free? What is the value of any political freedom, but as a means to moral freedom? Is it a freedom to be slaves or a freedom to be free of which we boast?”

Such writers can be celebrated as patriots-critics on July 4, 2023 — that together we can debate and answer their questions or any others about our country — speaks not just to muskets, rifles or bombs in defense of freedom, but to homophrosune. Whatever form it takes, our own together-mindedness is the greatest weapon of mass construction ever invented.

Weapon of mass construction

July 4th is a day for family, friends and country! Clive Daniel Home will close for the day so all of us can celebrate this most American of holidays!
TOUCH THE SKY

In all of Southwest Florida, there are few places as prized and desirable as Bonita Bay. Surrounded by the lush, unspoiled beauty of the Paradise Coast, the six High-Rises at Bonita Bay are architectural marvels, adorning a spectacular setting framed by panoramic views of the Gulf of Mexico and Estero Bay.

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The entrenched regime of racial preferences in American academia is a fait accompli for subject by study for the nation’s top psychologists. It’s never OK to discriminate on the basis of race in American life, except when it is. Schools lionize the 1964 Civil Rights Act in their classrooms, and then violate it in their admissions offices. This system is bad for the moral fiber of academic institutions, bad for the ideal of race blindness in America, and bad, the latest research suggests, for the minorities supposedly benefiting. It is good only for saving the guilty, for the PC administrators and appeasing the PC gods and the usual interest group. But the Supreme Court decided to let the dinosaur keep roaming the Earth, although it tightened up the standards in its 73 ruling. The court said that racial discrimination is permissible in fostering educational diversity, but those who have shown that such discrimination is narrowly tailored.

In the majority opinion, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote, “Structures”...not permit a court to accept a school’s assertion that its admissions process uses race in a permissible way without closely examining how the process works in practice.” No, it will require “a careful judicial inquiry.” In other words, if you are wondering how to find out — or spend years trying to find out — the answer, by the way, will probably change the next time the Supreme Court decides to hear the issue.

In the real world, there is little doubt that racial preferences are a failure. “Large racial preferences backfire against many and, perhaps, most recipients,” Richard Sander and Stuart Taylor Jr. write in their book, “Mismatch,” “to the point that they learn less and are likely to be less self-confident than those who have gone to less competitive or still quite good schools.” They note that “even though blacks are more likely to enter than those with whiter or less prestigious backgrounds, they will usually get much lower grades, rank toward the bottom of the class, and far more often drop out.” When racial preferences were ended in California by referendum in 1996, disaster was supposed to ensue. The New York Times reported that a movement of blacks and Hispanics in the University of California system dipped slightly from 4 percent and 15 percent to now the numbers are 4 percent and 25 percent. The state university has begun to reach down into middle schools to find promising students — minority and nonminority alike — and work to ensure that they are better prepared. This is affirmative action worthy of the name, based on improving students rather than checking a box.

It has begun to dawn on liberals that preferences are a clumsy and ineffec- tual social tool. In a New York Times column titled “The Liberals Against Affirmative Action,” David Leonhardt notes research showing that preferences don’t really help the poor. “In effect,” he writes, “poor and middle-income students are rejected, while others with similar scores and grades — legacies, athletes and minorities, often from privi- leged backgrounds — are admitted.”

— Rich Lowry is editor of the Nation- al Review.
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The doctors and specialists at NCH & Mayo Clinic are sharing everything from first-hand experience to a wealth of knowledge allowing you access to Mayo Clinic’s expertise for solving the hard-to-solve medical problems. For you that means peace of mind and the finest healthcare available. Right here at home. NCH and Mayo Clinic... working together to make your hospital even better.
In the days following Sept. 11, 2001, Naples artist Rick Kelley found himself at his easel creating what would become one of the most important and impactful series of art in his career. The piece, “On Freedom’s Wing,” would be the beginning of his American Freedom Series.

Frustrated like most Americans with the cruelty that had been bestowed on his country, Rick felt he had to do something. The seemingly simple search to buy a flag for display at his house became an exhaustive ordeal; all stores were sold out of Old Glory. When Rick’s wife suggested that he paint a flag, he poured out “On Freedom’s Wing.”

When the artist’s friend, actor Joe Montagna, and Joe Engle, former President George Bush Sr. with a Master Edition canvas of the painting. Two years later, he met the former president in his Houston office to present him with Master Editions of “Reflections of Freedom” and “Liberty’s Flight,” the remaining pieces of the American Freedom Series.

Rick began his quest to be an artist out of a love for nature when he was just 10 years old. He continued to paint through his studies at Eastern Montana University and in 1980 began painting full-time as a professional.

Rick paints from his emotions and creates images that depict the beauty and mood of nature. An avid outdoorsman and naturalist, he donates much of his artwork to conservation fundraising efforts and other charitable organizations.

His newest project entails giving Southwest Florida families of fallen soldiers of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq a choice of one of the three prints in his American Freedom Series. Find out more by calling him at (800) 949-4945 or by visiting www.KellyFineArt.com.

— Bob Harden is the producer and host of “The Bob Harden Show,” airing from 7-8 a.m. weekdays at www.bobharden.com.
Construction begins next month on new visitor center at the Garden

Naples Botanical Garden has received a $500,000 grant from the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs, to help with construction of the Eleanor and Nicholas Chabraja Visitor Center. Groundbreaking by general contractor Manhattan Construction for the $15 million project is planned for early August.

Designed by Texas-based Lake/Flato Architects, the center will be surrounded by new garden vignettes designed by famed landscape architect Raymond Jungles. Set to open in the fall of 2014, the center will increase the Garden’s capacity for educational exhibits, programs and other events. The café, ticketing and retail spaces also will be enhanced.

Site preparation is under way and includes the relocation of many palms and trees and the addition of construction fencing. The Garden remains open for visitors, however.

Summer hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. For the latest construction information, visit www.naplesgarden.org.

Before school starts, it’s time to collect necessary supplies

Summer is in full swing, but area businesses and nonprofit organizations are beginning to collect school supplies for children to take back to the classroom come fall. According to the website for Collier County Public Schools, more than 63 percent of local students (more than 27,500 children) qualify for free and reduced-priced lunch. No doubt those children’s families cannot afford basic school supplies. Among the most-needed items are: glue sticks, crayons and markers, index cards, pens and pencils, erasers, paper (lined and also plain paper for printers), two-pocket folders, spiral notebooks, binders and rulers.

Fifth Third Bank locations throughout Collier County are collecting supplies that will be distributed through the schools. To find the closest Fifth Third location, visit www.53.com.

The Shelter for Abused Women & Children hopes to collect and fill 500 backpacks with back-to-school supplies to give to children of Shelter clients throughout the school year. In addition to the items above, the Shelter welcomes backpacks and lunch boxes, Kleenex and hand sanitizers, gift cards to Walmart, Target and Payless Shoes and new school clothing.

Donations for the Shelter can be dropped off at Options Thrift Shoppe, 968 Second Ave., between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday. For more information, call 775-3862 or visit www.naplesshelter.org.

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Deb Salyer has belted out “Me and Bobby McGee” more times than Janis Joplin ever sang it. She’s been singing it on stage ever since she was a teenager, entertaining her daddy’s request.

But when she wants to sing it now, she knows she’d better do it during her first set. If she waits until the second set, the song will be too rough on her voice.

She won’t even attempt “Piece of My Heart” anymore.

Ms. Salyer, the front woman, lead singer and bass slinger of Deb & the Dynamics, no longer drinks Jagermeister. She drinks vodka (less fattening, she says). And she spends more money on music equipment.

“My passion wanes in the years with a passion that never wanes,” she stretches out. “We’re exactly as one would expect: she rocks out, throws back a couple of cocktails, gets paid and goes home. Her fans are called Deb-heads.

Other aging rockers in Southwest Florida quit the band way back when to go to college. But they circled back, not quite able — or willing — to shake rock ‘n’ roll. Now they play gigs in Naples, Fort Myers and Punta Gorda until midnight and wake up the next morning to go play bankers, doctors, lawyers again.

These rockers have grandchildren. But being in a band gives them some kind of Fountain of Youth elixir. Physically they might change, their fingers might not be as nimble, but their ambition stays the same: to be a rock star. And in that way, rock ‘n’ roll proves to be a Peter Pan profession. When you play the music you grew up to, it carries you back to that part of you that does not change.

These rockers used to play for the dream of some play to prove they’re not the stereotype. Professionals you would never suspect, dressing in ways you would never expect them to dress, are out to prove that they can rock.

To them, it’s not about the money; it’s about being good enough to be in a band.

“We make choices, I guess, based on the talents that we perceive ourselves to have and if you’re not confident in your talent, then you probably don’t make that choice,” says Bob Sizemore, a private wealth advisor at FineMark National Bank & Trust who rocks out as the rhythm guitarist for the band Redemption.

Mr. Sizemore’s mother bought him his first electric guitar at Sears & Roebuck when he was 13. Apparently, she didn’t know enough about electric guitars to know that he also needed an amplifier. His uncle, an electronics repairman, rigged it up to the family’s Curtis Mathes stereo.

The young teen played his guitar around the house for a couple of years, but gave it up as he grew more interested in having his ball and chasing girls. He didn’t play a guitar again until he turned 50.

His son had gone away to college, and Mr. Sizemore was cleaning out the boy’s closet when he came across the
electric guitar and amp he had bought for him. He plugged it in and started playing around with it. He recalls thinking, “You know, I’m making enough money now, I could have a decent guitar if I wanted one.” So he went straight to the music store and bought an Ovation Celebrity 12-string acoustic/electric guitar.

Mr. Sizemore played at home for seven years. He was working at Merrill Lynch at the time. Turned out one of his work buddies played the guitar, too. And another played the drums. They formed a group quickly enough to play the Merrill Lynch holiday party out at Cabbage Key.

“We started playing and it was like everybody was shocked,” he says. “Everybody we worked with was shocked that we had any talent at all, I guess.”

The group stayed together long enough to play that one gig. Plenty of tryouts and breakups later, Mr. Sizemore, 57, has learned the toughest part about being in a band is staying together.

It took him four or five years, but Mr. Sizemore found a group that gelled. In 2011, Redemption played its first gig at Miceli’s Restaurant on Pine Island. It was pouring down rain and the band worried no one would show. The night proved to be standing room only. By the time they had played 10 songs, the manager had booked the band to come back.

“I’ve gotten beyond proving anything,” Mr. Sizemore says of playing in a rock ‘n’ roll band. “I do think it’s a really good stress reliever. It’s a way to let it all hang out … dress like you never would dress at work, wear a fedora and dark sunglasses and pretend you’re something that you’re really not. I think it’s just an opportunity to do something you never thought you would do.”

He can’t help but draw parallels between his own background and that of one of his idols, Tom Petty: “He was born in 1950, small town, poor family — same as me, only he did not have the options I had. I was academically smart. I had baseball talent. I don’t think he...
liked school. He didn’t have any physical talent, so playing rock ‘n’ roll was all he knew how to do. And thank God he did what he did — I was too practical, I guess, and looked at what could I earn.

Redemption lead guitarist Dave Neu- ser, 56, also works as the master con- trol chief operator for ABC-7. He went down the street path at his fork in the rock ‘n’ roll road, too.

Mr. Neuser joined his first band, The Foreign Affairs, when he was 12. “That was before Foreigner, so we were on something there,” he says. Although he started out on drums, the lure of guitar playing stole him away. Heightened by influences including Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and Gary Moore, he started with a kind of music to make it in the business.”

Up in New York, Mr. Neuser was in a band and in college at the same time. They were playing out, they had a kind of music to make it in the business.”

When his band broke up, his family was over. Then he enrolled at Berklee College of Music in Boston.

His children grew up going into music for eight years. “I was so disheartened,” he says. “I thought we were going to have this band here?” the bar owner questioned.

“Yeah,” Mr. Ianuzzi fibbed. Then he scurried to put together a blues band. Calling themselves The Mambo Brothers, they recorded a radio spot: “Tonight at the Brick Bar: The Mambo Brothers. One night only.”

The gig went on for four years, then some of the guys bailed out. When Mr. Ianuzzi finally split from the band, he says, he cried for a couple of months — and then formed The Juice.

“Nothing else,” he says of his band made up of medical professionals, a mother, a schoolteacher and a couple of professional musicians. “We only play a couple of times a month because of everybody’s schedule, but we can go three months without playing together, come back and the band’s on fire. It’s like riding a bike, or like a friend that you haven’t seen in 20 years but when you see them they feel like you just saw them yesterday. It’s that kind of thing.”

The Juice features a lineup of well known local musicians, including Lynn Richardson, Joe Connors, Larry Hobbs, Ernie Cantu, Doug Simonds and Rick Russell. The band has opened for Tower of Power and shared the stage with Ziggy Marley & the Wailers.

Mr. Ianuzzi says he could have pursued greater ambitions, he could have gone to California and try to further his dreams as a drummer, but he had a family that was his responsibility. He worked in construction and in restaurants by day and played music for $100 to $200 a night. He thought he could make a living.

Mr. Ianuzzi says “I’m a drummer first, then a vocalist.” Call him a one who could have — but didn’t work for the NBC powers that be.”

“Mr. Ameruoso’s brothers auditioned to be featured on a compilation album. Up-and-coming Jon Bon Jovi went to the same tryout.

So Mr. Ameruoso decided to get back up. Mr. Ameruoso now makes up one half of the duo TAT2. His partner Geoff Schmith plays guitar. Both men sing. Mr. Ameruoso decided for “The Voice,” singing with Jon Bon Jovi number 20 Billboard.”

“Mr. Ameruoso says “I say this lightly because we became friends later on, but we could have been Jon Bon Jovi’s band.”

When Ozzy Osbourne lost Randy Rhoads to a plane crash, he wanted one of Mr. Ameruoso’s brothers to play for him. When David Lee Roth and Eddie Van Halen, Eddie Van Halen wanted the same Ameruoso brother to play for him.

Mr. Ameruoso has been ever so close to fame. He worked with Bob Williams, family to Hank; Jay Black of Jay & the Americans; and Billy Joel. He toured with Joan Jett. He and his brothers sold out The Rainbow Room in New York City and The Whiskey on Hollywood’s Sunset Strip. They racked up a gold and a platinum record.

“I say this lightly because we became friends later on, but we could have been Jon Bon Jovi’s band.” says Mr. Ameruoso, reminiscing on the day he and his brothers auditioned to be featured on a compilation album. Up-and-coming Jon Bon Jovi went to the same tryout.

Mr. Ameruoso was always the kind of music to make it in the business.”
Tobacco Prevention Advocates 

Tobacco prevention advocates throughout Southwest Florida and beyond are spreading the word about tobacco-flavored products. The Lee County Commission recently passed a resolution encouraging retailers “to voluntarily restrict the sale and marketing of candy-flavored tobacco,...” This follows on the heels of other such resolutions in Collier County, Everglades City, Marco Island, Bonita Springs and Fort Myers Beach and up the west coast of Florida to the little town of Safety Harbor in Pinellas County and many others. These resolutions, though, are just that. “They don’t have any teeth,” Ms. Sparano said. “They mask the harsh taste of tobacco.”

Andrea Sparano, who coordinates Students Working Against Tobacco for the Collier County Health Department, said, “Death Never Tasted So Sweet.”

Folks venturing online to www.tobaccofreeflorida.com can find this headline: “They’re in any convenience store,” said Andrea Sparano, who coordinates Students Working Against Tobacco for the Collier County Health Department. Folks venturing online to www.tobaccofreeflorida.com can find this headline: “Death Never Tasted So Sweet.”

Under it is an illustration of a skull that looks a bit like something from “Pirates of the Caribbean.” But Captain Jack Sparrow can’t rescue somebody with cancer.

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“They don’t have any teeth,” Ms. Sparano said. “They mask the harsh taste of tobacco.”

Andrea Sparano and others will continue encouraging retailers to voluntarily restrict the sale and marketing of candy-flavored tobacco products. Even if many adults don’t know they exist.

“They’re in any convenience store,” Ms. Peacock said. “They may be invisible to adults but they are within reach of kids.”

“I’ve long said it’s a starter product,” Ms. Peacock said. “It’s known to be a starter product,” Ms. Sparano said.

“It’s known to be a starter product,” Ms. Peacock said. “It’s known to be a starter product,” Ms. Sparano said.

The Florida Youth Tobacco Survey was conducted in 2010 and updated each of the past two years found use of the products trending down. In 2010, 17.7 percent of respondents admitted trying flavored tobacco products. That was down to 13.9 percent in 2012. In 2010, 8.5 percent said they were currently using the stuff and by 2012 that percentage was down to 6.4.

The use may be more widespread, though, than the state study indicated. One study estimated 23 percent of 17-year-olds used candy-flavored tobacco products.

Melissa Peacock, Dr. Mary Bonnette, Andrea Sparano and others will continue trying to get the message out about candy-flavored tobacco products.

Even if many adults don’t know they exist.


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Even if many adults don’t know they exist.
We are growing! Come join our team!

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The AARP offers driver safety classes to help drivers learn new traffic laws, refresh their driving skills and reduce their risk for tickets and accidents. Drivers over age 55 become eligible for a discount on auto insurance.

Registration to cover the cost of supplies is $14 per person, $12 for AARP members. Reservations are essential and can be made by calling the number with each session. Here’s what’s coming up:

■ Tuesday and Wednesday, July 9th: Noon to 3 p.m. at South County Regional Library, 2100 Three Oaks Parkway in Estero; 495-8280.
■ Tuesday, July 16th: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Christus Victor Lutheran Church, 15600 N. Tamiami Trail, Naples; 269-6050.

Local writers to discuss news, novels, nonfiction

Marco Island residents and authors Don Farmer and Tom Williams, both former journalists, are on tap to share stories about their forays into writing at the next IberiaBank “In the Round” presentation Thursday, July 11, at the bank’s Naples headquarters, 3838 Tamiami Trail N. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Farmer wrote the recently released murder mystery “Deadly News” in collaboration with fellow TV journalist Chris Curle. Mr. Williams, a former feature writer, recently released “Surrounded by Thunder,” a non-fiction historical narrative about the golden age of the American space program. His first book, “Lost and Found,” was published in 2008.

Attendance at “In the Round” presentations is free, but seating is limited and reservations are required. Call 403-9223.

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January 10, 2013

Florida Weekly is now FREE across all platforms.
Things people believe

Among the character witnesses in March that “every state” is experiencing the “Moorish American” invasion.

■ Britain’s Anomalous Mind Manage- Abductee Contactee (Helpline) is the nation’s “weirdest” support group, wrote the Daily Mirror in June, providing a range of services to victims (usually in gold) for Christopher-Botox-era Euros. There is a venerable “signatures” left on a skin’s atoms by meters and mineral lamps to identify giving place”). The other, resembling a dog, providing a range of services to victims.

■ The local council in Brunete, Spain, near Madrid, has seen a radical drop in unoccupied dog droppings after employing volunteers to find the names of dere- licet dogs. They then matched the dog with the town’s dog registrations to obtain the owners’ addresses, then used an ordi- nary wall-stud detector to locate bodily secrets that have been kept secret kick their drug habits.

■ Tim Blackburn, 50, fell off a ladder in Stockton-on-Tees, England, in 2007, and shattered his arm so badly that doctors had to remove four inches of bone and attach a metal scaffold around his arm that took six years to heal completely (and then only because of help from a cutting-edge ultrasound procedure). In May 2013, one day after he got a clean bill of health, Mr. Blackburn tripped over his dog and tumbled down the stairs in his home, and his arm “snapped like a twig,” he said.

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Siegheating

As many as 50 exam monitors were forced to take cover at a high school in Zhongxiang, China, in June, fending off outraged students (and some parents) who hurled insults and stones at them after the monitors blocked cheating schemes on the all-important national “gaokao” exams. It was “siege warfare,” and partying joyously — based on made-up documents full of gobbledygook and stilted legalese granting the locks, and partying joyously — based on made-up documents full of gobbledygook and stilted legalese granting the locks, and partying joyously — based on made-up documents full of gobbledygook and stilted legalese granting the locks, and partying joyously — based on made-up documents full of gobbledygook and stilted legalese granting the locks, and partying joyously — based on made-up documents full of gobbledygook and stilted legalese granting the locks, and partying joyously — based on made-up documents full of gobbledygook and stilted legalese granting the locks, and partying joyously — based on made-up documents full of gobbledygook and stilted legalese granting the locks, and partying joyously — based on made-up documents full of gobbledygook and stilted legalese granting the locks, and partying joyously — based on made-up documents full of gobbledygook 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Healthy Living

Book outlines a lively program for spiritual detox and renewal.

BY PHIL JASON
Florida Weekly Book Critic

“Dancing in Rhythm with the Universe,” by Barbara Miller. Barbara & Company; 186 pages; $14.95 trade paperback.

Most self-help books offer ideas that aren’t really new. The value of a motivational guide has to do with presentation. Organization, accessibility and authority can lead to a successful presentation of familiar concepts. The author’s voice and the way in which the author engages the reader are also determining factors.

On all these issues, Barbara Miller’s “10 Steps to Choreographing Your Best Life” is strikingly effective. She’ll make her primary readers — women who seek encouragement and the tools to empowerment — actually pay attention so that her advice, although familiar enough, can now sink in.

Ms. Miller, who has lived and worked in Naples for many years, is concerned with women who have lost the keys to self-esteem, who have repeated unsuccessful patterns in their relationships and reached, inevitably, stasis and despair. Tempted to interpret their predicament as caused by outer circumstances and other people, they have no idea how to take responsibility for their lives and their happiness. The author carefully leads them back into themselves to convince them they have always had — and neglected — the tools to live the lives of their dreams. The missing ingredient has been gaining control of the knowledge, skills and tools, and then developing them further.

Ms. Miller does not allow her reader simply to accept blame for her unhappiness. Blame may not really be the issue, and wallowing in it means looking backward. However, the past cannot be changed. Meaningful, strategic commitments in the present, confidently put into action, can create a successful future. Mantras help. Thoughts and language make a difference on the road to action, accomplishment and well being. Through the book’s 10 chapters, the author develops the dance metaphor by breaking her counsel into bite-sized portions. The chapters are not truly steps (well, perhaps they are dance steps) in that the order is not essential. Each chapter reinforces the key ingredients for bringing effective, positive change into one’s life. In addition, each chapter supplies new insights and centers of focus. Different readers will find the cues, incentives and motivating impulses that they need in different chapters. Some will be helped jargon and communicates her powerful commitment to her mission. She not only preaches the therapeutic power of laughter, but also injects her wise and necessarily sober counsel with bursts of humor and wit.

Ms. Miller’s authority comes from acts of intimacy, revelations about her own troubles earlier in her life, her struggles to unlock her own powers, and her eventual successes. She also provides many informal case studies of women locked in paralyzing, demoralizing behavioral cycles and shares the ways in which they were able to change the dynamics of their lives.

“Dancing in Rhythm with the Universe” is filled with useful checklists, often in the form of questions. Some are scary: “What does your future look like? Can you continue life as usual?” “Are you still trying to control everything and everybody?”

The author seeds the motivational landscape with quotations from other empowerment thinkers and also includes a list of suggested reading. This new book builds upon Ms. Miller’s earlier “You Can’t Have Your Cake and Not Your Life.” In marketing that title, she presented herself as “a writer, public speaker and independent medical esthetician” and suggested her personal journey through divorce, financial loss and class action as the basis for helping others “let go of all inner conflict and conflict, and replace it with peace and joy.” “Dancing in Rhythm with the Universe” goes beyond the particular challenges of divorce to engage a wider audience by exploring a wider array of situations and a wider range of tools for psychological and spiritual renewal.

— Phil Jason, Ph.D., United States Naval Academy professor emeritus of English, is a poet, critic and freelance writer with 20 books to his credit, including several studies of war literature and a creative writing text.

Need for blood donors remains

Donations of blood slow to a trickle during the summer months in South Florida, but the need for blood of all types does not. Donors are urged to take the time to donate at the Community Blood Center or its bloodmobile.

The center is on the first floor of the NCH Medical Plaza Building at 311 Ninth St. N., next to the NCH parking garage. Complimentary valet parking is offered for all blood donors. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday.

In Bonita Springs, the CBC bloodmobile makes a regular visit to the parking lot at Sunshine Plaza on the second Monday of the month. Look for it next from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 8.

Here are some additional stops for the bloodmobile coming up:

■ Friday-Saturday, July 5-6: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Sembler Plaza, corner of Air- port Road and Naples Boulevard (donors get a complimentary movie pass).

■ Monday, July 8: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sunshine Plaza, Bonita Springs.

■ Thursday, July 11: 3-5 p.m. at the Waldorf Astoria, Naples.

■ Friday, July 12: 7-11 a.m. at Riviera Golf Estates near the recreation center.

■ Friday, July 12: 1-3 p.m. at the Naples Municipal Airport.

■ Sunday, July 14: 8 a.m. to noon at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church.

Donors can safely give blood every 56 days. The minimum age to give blood is 16 (parental consent required). Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds, should eat and be well hydrated prior to giving blood and must present photo ID.

For more information, call 632-4120 or visit www.giveloveblood.org.
CLUB NOTES

Chess players of all ages and levels of ability are welcome to join the new Chess Club at the Moorings, meeting from 9 a.m. to noon every Saturday at Moorings Park. Each morning will begin with a brief discussion by various experts about some aspect of the game. Participation is free. Bring your own chess set or use one provided by the Moorings. Moorings Park is on the east side of Goodlette-Frank Road just south of Pine Ridge Road. Stop at the entrance gate to receive directions to the Chess Club meeting.

The new club is organized by Moorings Park resident Wade Keller, who learned to play chess as a high school student in the 1960s and returned to the game about five years ago. Since then he has competed in numerous tournaments and, in 2010, won the Florida State Championship in the under 1400 ranks. For more information, call Mr. Keller at 389-2525.

The Jewish Genealogy Shared Interest Group meets at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 9, at Moorings Park resident Wade Keller, who moved to Naples in 2010. Keller spearheaded the effort to establish the Jewish Genealogy Shared Interest Group as a forum for sharing insights into Jewish genealogy. Attendance is free, but RSVPs are appreciated and can be made by e-mailing genrewis@gmail.com.

The Genealogical Society of Collier County holds its summer ice cream social at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 9, at Moorings Presbyterian Church. The evening will include a screening of the PBS documentary “Forgotten Ellis Island,” the story of the hospital on Ellis Island. Guests are always welcome. There will be no meeting in August. For more information, call 293-4550 or visit www.thejsgc.org.

The Ohio State Alumni Club of Naples holds its annual “student send-off” social for local students who attend OSU from 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 11, at Gatsby’s Pizza, 4450 Bonita Beach Road in Bonita Springs. RSVP by calling 404-9399 or e-mailing ohioalum@gmail.com.

The Naples Newcomers helps those who are new to the area make new friendships centered around various social activities. Members meet to share a variety of interests and activities, including couples and singles groups, bridge, mahjongg, crafts, gourmet cooking, coffees, movies, cards, games and book discussions. Membership is open to women who have been permanent residents of Naples for no more than five years.

Luncheon meetings are on the second Thursday of each month at Naples area country clubs. An orientation coffee for prospective members takes place on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information, call 298-4083 or visit www.naplesnewcomers.com.

Toastmasters International teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of meeting locations. Guests are always welcome. Local Toastmasters chapters, meeting times and locations include:

- Bonita Toastmasters Club: 7 p.m. every second and fourth Wednesday at the Bonita Springs Fire Station, 27701 Bonita Springs Drive. For more information, call Scott Vail at 777-3642.
- Collier Communiqué Club: 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at Moorings Professional Building, 235 Tamiami Trail N., Suite 208. Call Robert Rizzo at (407) 495-8584.
- Marco Island Toastmasters: 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Centennial Bank, 645 Elcam Circle, Marco Island. E-mail Chris Pritchard at colliertoastmasters@gmail.com.
- Naples Sunrise Bay Toastmasters Club: 7:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday in Moorings Park, 791 Harbour Drive. Call Steve McCann at 777-885.
- Naples Toastmasters Club: 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday at Naples General Aviation Center, 200 Aviation Drive N. Call Steve Jallad at 776-5098.
- Toast of the Coast Toastmasters Club: Noon on the second and fourth Friday at Stantec (previously Wilson Miller), 3200 Bailey Lane, Naples. Call Gwen Greenglass at 431-0931.
- Naples Advanced Toastmasters: 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday at the North Collier Government Center, 2355 Orange Blossom Drive. Call Linda Valentine at (954) 780-6683. This club has prerequisites for membership.
- Toastmaster Academy: 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday at the North Collier Government Center, 2355 Orange Blossom Drive, Call K. Sunde at 594-3828.

For more about the organization, visit www.toastmasters.org.

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Young scholar knows: It’s not what’s behind in life, but what lies ahead

Life hasn’t been easy for Jesus Velazco, a recent graduate of Immokalee High School. When he first came to this country from his native Mexico, he struggled to learn the English language, so school was difficult. His parents fought to make ends meet working minimum wage jobs. Jesus watched as they worked paycheck to paycheck, exhausted at the end of a long day trying to balance work and family, only to get up and do it all over again the next morning. He knew that he wanted better for himself and his family and he was determined to make it happen.

With hard work, dedication and a strong desire to succeed, Jesus is well on his way to making a change. As one of The Immokalee Foundation’s Take Stock in Children students, he serves as a tremendous role model for others who might be in a similar situation.

Jesus believes that it’s not what you’ve been through in your past, but what you become in your future that matters. And his future is certainly bright.

In addition to the TSIC scholarship he earns as a result of completing the program, he has received numerous accolades, including the Winged Foot Scholarship, Athlete Award, Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship, Albert Lee Wright Jr. Memorial Scholarship, Reserve National Scholarship, Florida Bright Futures, Orange Bowl Citrus Bowl Scholar, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which provides students with the opportunity to attend four years of college, tuition free, if they earn good grades, exhibit good behavior and meet weekly with a mentor.

“The Immokalee Foundation has been great, because at the time I entered the program, I had no idea about college — if I was going or how to apply,” Jesus says. “TIF gave me so many opportunities, but most of all, it gave me confidence. I knew at the end of my path I had something waiting for me at the end of my senior year. Even if it were just one penny, I would gladly take it with a smile on my face.”

He also expresses gratitude for those who have helped him along his path: John Henry, TIF board member; J. Richard “Dick” Monro, former chairman and CEO of Time Warner Inc.; Noemi Perez, TIF TSIC student advocate; and Mr. Touron, to name a few. “I truly appreciate their help and guidance,” he says. “They taught me to never give up. I look at all these people that have invested so much of their time in me and they believe in me. That motivates me to succeed. Any time I get knocked down, I tell myself I can’t fail and I just get back up and move forward. I don’t want to let them down.”

He also credits TIF’s career workshops, the ACT Summer Academy and college tours for helping him set a path for his own future and unique summer camp experiences in 2010 and 2011 that helped him build character and develop leadership skills, thanks to proceeds from the Charity Classic Celebration Fund A Dream auction — all experiences he “TIF believed in me from the beginning, and that makes all the difference,” the young scholar says. “If you have someone that believes in you, you can do anything.”

Jesus Velazco, left, with Patricia Rizo, manager of programs for The Immokalee Foundation. COURTESY PHOTO

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**YOUNG SCHOLAR:**

Jesus Velazco, left, with Patricia Rizo, manager of programs for The Immokalee Foundation.

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Moorings Park Foundation awards 55 scholarships

The Moorings Park Foundation, Inc. recently awarded 55 scholarships totaling $162,500 to Moorings Park employees and their dependents. Over the years, the foundation has awarded a total of $1,700,433 to 701 students in the form of scholarships.

With the motto of “Give them wings to help their dreams take flight,” the mission of the Moorings Park Foundation is to enhance the quality of life of Moorings Park residents and employees. Scholarship applicants come from various backgrounds, all with the common goal of achieving success through higher education or vocational training. Many Moorings Park employees juggle working full-time and taking care of their families, and still manage to take classes and complete coursework at night and on weekends.

This year’s recipients are: Lillian Aguilar, Molly Alderuccio, Yeni Alonsio, Romina Berqira, Jessica Brinkert, Lindsey Calderwood, Volha (Olga) Chernek, Shirlynn Althea Chu, Erika Cruz, Emma Davidsson, Katherine Davidsson, Kayla Douglass, Stevenson Dufort, Linda Ellis, Raechel Ellis, Richard Ellis, Gieseke Fischbach, Filipe Franca, Medens Gerbier, Christina Go, Hillary Guest, Gentjana Konica, Itzel Lemus, Bianca Marc, Caylin McClelian, Heldy Medina, Jean Merone, Tiffany Merucci, Ronald Merzier Jr, Tessa Millikan, Olivia Moline, Marina Moussa, Erika Muschong, Susan Ngoondo, Johanne Nordilus, Rochelle Parchment, Janis Pinedo, Stacy Prado, Sergio Ramirez, Esteban Rua, Ruth Saint Clair, Ginette Saint Fleur, Vanessa Salazar, Alston Sealy, Illi Sesso, Brett Swanson, Smithy Telusnord, Marie Thomas, Kostandina Toslluku, Emanuel Valdez, Christopher Villarraga, Patrick Villarraga, Alexandru Visan, Brittany Weppner and Luis Yule.

Many of these students are enrolled locally; taking advantage of the curriculum offered at Hodges University, Florida Gulf Coast University and Edison State College. The majority of the remaining students have also chosen to stay within the state of Florida, opting to earn their degrees at the University of South Florida, Florida State University and University of Central Florida. This year’s recipients include three students going on to earn advanced degrees online through out-of-state universities. Many scholarship recipients have chosen majors in nursing, economics, history, business, mechanical engineering, and music.
PET TALES

Saying goodbye

Choosing to end an animal’s suffering is a final act of love

BY DR. MARTY BECKER & GINA SPADAFORI

It’s the question every pet lover dreads, the one for which there’s often no easy answer: “When is the right time to say goodbye?”

Choosing to end a pet’s life is the hardest decision we make when it comes to our pets, and we can tell you from decades of experience that it’s a decision that never gets any easier. Your veterinarian will offer you advice and support, and friends and family can offer you sympathy, but no one can make the decision for you. When you live with an elderly or terminally ill pet, you look in your pet’s eyes every morning and wonder if you’re doing what’s best.

Everyone makes the decision a little differently. Some pet lovers do not wait until their pet’s discomfort becomes chronic, untreated pain, and they choose euthanasia to make her comfortable until that wasn’t possible anymore. Nowadays, nearly every advantage of human medicine — from chemotherapy to pacemakers to advanced pain relief — is available to our pets.

But the addition of high-level care shouldn’t change much when it comes to easing suffering. If you can have a realistic expectation that a course of treatment will improve your pet’s life — rather than simply prolong it — then those options should be considered. But you must also ask yourself: Am I doing right by my pet, or am I just holding on because I can’t bear to say goodbye? If it’s the latter, you know what decision you have to make.

Many people are surprised at the powerful emotions that erupt after a pet’s death, and they can be embarrassed by their grief. Often, we don’t realize we’re grieving not only for the pet we loved, but also for the special time the animal represented and the ties to other people in our lives. The death of a cat who was a gift as a kitten from a friend who has died, for example, may trigger bitter-sweet memories of the other love lost.

It’s the question every pet lover dreads, and the timing of euthanasia should always be made with the best interests of the pet first and foremost.

Choosing to end a pet’s suffering is a final act of love and nothing less. Knowing that our pets expect us to make decisions that will help them and not hurt them is an example of the love we have for them. We can make our decisions guided by that love, and then ask ourselves, Am I doing right by my pet, or am I just holding on because I can’t bear to say goodbye? If it’s the latter, you know what decision you have to make.

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Taking care of yourself is important when dealing with pet loss. Some people — the “It’s just a pet” crowd — won’t understand the loss and may shrug off grief over a pet’s death as foolish. I find that the company of other animal lovers is very important. Seek them out to share your feelings, and don’t be shy about getting professional help to get you through a difficult time.

Choosing to end a pet’s suffering is a final act of love and nothing less. Knowing that your decisions are guided by that love is what helps us all through the sad and lonely time of losing a cherished animal companion.

The timing of euthanasia should always be made with the best interests of the pet first and foremost.
Suddenly, I’ve become a Florida Keys diva and, trust me, I’m not complaining one bit. A couple of weeks ago, my husband had a work conference at the lovely Cheeca Lodge in Islamorada, so while he busied himself with classes and meetings and such, I kept myself entertained by bicycling the island, swimming, cocktails and shopping.

A few days after we returned home, my good friend Melinda, who’s been renting a condo in Key West for the month, invited me and our friend Lori down for a girls’ getaway. So before I had an opportunity to unpack from the upper Keys, I was happily boarding the Key West Express for the lower Keys.

My first time on the big (and super fast) boat was dandy — although I must say that the first two hours are better than the last two hours of the trip, by which time the initial excitement has worn off and you’re two hours of the trip, by which time the usual, you’ll consider riding the Conch Train, but when you actually see it go by with tourists on it, you’ll decide absolutely not to. And you’ll certainly go to Mallory Square for sunset to see if the whacky old Frenchman with the hoop-jumping cats is still there (and yes, he will be).

I had some new Key West experiences, too. Muddled cocktails at the tiny, sleek, deco Orchid Bar at the Orchid Key Inn (on Duval, just south of Truman) were fabulous. I’d never been to Blue Heaven, and now I see why everyone adores the little Bahama Village eatery and its courtyard filled with chickens. But, I really stepped out of my sparkly comfort zone when we went offshore fishing.

In her 9-to-5 life, Melinda runs her own public relations company, but in real life, she’s a skilled fisherwoman who can reel in a mahi-mahi with one hand while writing a press release on her iPhone with the other hand. And that’s only a slight exaggeration. She and her husband are in Key West for a month to fish — and even win tournaments of very big fish, which we hauled in with the help of very big birds that led us to LOTS of very big fish, which we hauled in with gaffs. Incidentally, the day before I left for the trip, Melinda had texted that I should bring something grimy to wear fishing that I “wouldn’t mind getting fish blood on.” I thought that was a funny joke. Guess what? That was no joke.

There is a thing called a “fishing gaff” that is used when your fish is big and heavy. I’m just going to let you Google that. All I can say is that I’m really glad I didn’t wear anything I would ever care to wear again.

In the end, I lost count of how many mahi-mahi and snapper we scored. I’m ticked to report that I didn’t get seasick (even when I bit the live bait for luck), and that I only helped a few times upon witnessing fish flapping around on the boat floor. In fact, I might even say that as far as fishing goes, I’m hooked.

— Ciao for now, my lovelies! Stay tuned for another divalicious diary entry next week.

Melinda Isley, Stephanie Davis and Lori Wilson with their respective catches.
10 physicians, 10 surgeons, 10 trauma nurses and specially-designed equipment are available to serve you 24/7, year-round. In your time of need, our trauma team is here for you with immediate and lifesaving care. www.LeeMemorial.org

If it wasn’t for the Trauma Center, I wouldn’t be alive and able to pursue my next adventure.
Crowd funding supports local projects, often personal ones

Creator of things, meet the general public. The public has money and it’s willing to pledge it toward projects it believes in.

That’s the theory behind Kickstarter, a New York City-based company that has introduced thousands of creative and entrepreneurial endeavors to “backers” on its website, www.kickstarter.com. The caveat: The project creator has to meet his fundraising goal in a limited time period of his choice or he gets nothing. Southwest Florida residents have used the Internet crowd-funding venue, “the Google of its kind,” as one user described it, with mixed success.

Since the company started in April 2009, roughly 43,000 individual campaigns nationwide have met their goals — 44 percent — a total value of $665 million. The projects span a broad spectrum, everything from tech gadgets to dance routines. The company retains a 5 percent fee of the funds collected and the creators retain full ownership of their ideas and products.

Local Kickstarter campaigns now under way include Fort Myers recording artist and Florida Gulf Coast University student Matt Mramer, 20, who is looking to raise money to finish recording a rap album.

In Naples, 27-year-old Paul Roncal, a biology major who graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, is finishing his design of a desktop saltwater aquarium.

SEE KICKSTART, B5

By Evan Williams
ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

Above: A screen shot from the Kickstarter campaign for the Hurricane board game.

Right: Stan Strickland shows off the game he is trying to fund on the Internet.

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The Kickstarter fundraising web page for local recording artist Matt Mramer.

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Most investors do not think about the safety of their portfolio assets when the equity/bond markets are stable or rising. Often becoming committed to gaining “just a little more” return, they ignore the task of keeping what they have. The safety of their investments should be the core objective.

Emotions can suddenly shift from contentment to fear, however, when portfolios suffer because of volatility or falling markets.

Why such an emphasis on safe assets?

They are “a cornerstone of modern financial systems. They provide a reliable store of value, serve as collateral in financial transactions, fulfill prudential requirements and serve as a pricing benchmark.” ("Global Safe Assets," June 2012, XIS BIS conference, Gourinchas and Jeanne.) According to the IMF’s “Global Financial Stability Report,” a supply of safe assets is needed for global financial stability.

Decades ago, the world was awash with safe U.S. assets: the U.S. dollar (once strong and rising), U.S. government bonds (once absolutely safe as credit was strong and yields were falling); and the U.S. equity market absolutely safe as credit was strong and yields on safe U.S. assets: the U.S. dollar (once strong and rising); and the U.S. equity market absolutely safe as credit was strong and yields.

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For all that professional money managers get paid, they routinely fall short of the performance you could get from a simple index fund, say S&P Dow Jones Indices put the massive failure of Wall Street managers into perspective.

Over the five years ending in December 2012, fully 75 percent of large-cap stock funds failed to match the returns of the S&P 500. That's a big black eye for the pros. Some might argue, though, that they could get an edge with large-cap companies. After all, analysts routinely scour the financial reports of most big U.S. companies, and it's unlikely that any one manager will have insight that somehow escapes others.

Conversely, small- and mid-cap stocks tend not to be followed as much by Wall Street analysts. You might therefore assume that active fund managers should be better able to capitalize on undiscovered opportunities in the small- and mid-cap space. Yet the numbers are even more dire for smaller stocks. Ninety percent of mid-cap stock funds trailed the popular S&P MidCap 400 Index, while the S&P SmallCap 600 Index did better than 82 percent of mid-cap funds.

As bad as those numbers are, what's even worse is that many investors fall short of even the small-cap funds' performance. That's because fund investors often jump in after a fund has generated a strong performance, then get out at the worst possible time — during or after a down period for the fund, as it takes discipline to stay in stocks during bad times. If you don't have that discipline, it's easier just to stick with an index fund and ride the ups and downs of the overall market. With actively managed funds charging more in fees, it's not surprising that most of them fail to match the returns of their index counterparts.

As daunting as it may be, avoiding being average, using index funds for your core portfolio can still leave you far better off than trying to buck the odds and beat the market.

### Name That Company

Tracing my history back to 1850 through five generations of family ownership, American Family Fireworks is America’s First Family Fireworks.* Based in New York, I’ve produced the big shows at seven consecutive U.S. presidential inaugurations and multiple Olympic Games. I’ve also commemorated the centennials of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Statue of Liberty, among many other events. In 1979, my owners became the first American family to win the gold medal for the United States at the prestigious annual Monte Carlo International Fireworks Competition. I developed the stringless shell, making fireworks safer by eliminating burning fallout. Who am I?

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

### The Motley Fool Fool Take

**Portfolio-Driving Stocks**

In 2013’s first quarter, Detroit’s Big Three accomplished something that had been decades in the making: They gained market share. Ford (NYSE: F) and General Motors (NYSE: GM) are promising more gains to come.

Ford’s CEO Alan Mulally’s “One Ford” vision is paying off big-time. The company is producing more vehicles, selling more vehicles, increasing revenue, because it’s running so efficiently. The good news for GM is that its turnaround is paying off big-time. The company’s stock performance has a leg up on Ford when it comes to its most important metrics:

Ford and GM investors are happy with Ford’s earnings, because it’s running so efficiently. It’s running so efficiently that somehow escapes others.

### My Smartest Investment

**Fell Into the Gap**

Decades ago, my investment club’s methods of seeking out undervalued and out-of-favor stocks led me buy shares of Gap Inc. (NYSE: GPS). I didn’t sell my shares primarily because of two factors: (1) I didn’t sell it just because it was a winner, and (2) it benefited from the power of compounded growth over long periods. I recommend holding at least a portion of your winners as long-term investments.

— M.R., Port Townsend, Wash.

The Fool Responds: While shares of Gap have experienced downturns and stagnant years, they have rewarded patient investors well, averaging gains of 18 percent over the past 25 years, 12 percent over the past 20 years and 11 percent over the past decade. It has been a dividend-paying stock for decades, too.

This is true of many solid, growing companies. You don’t have to find and invest in obscure companies to succeed. Those interested in forming or joining an investment club should visit better-investing.org or read “Invest Club Books for Dummies” by Guy Gerlach and Angele McQuade (available new or used at Amazon.com and Half.com).

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**Ask the Fool Investing Is Not a Game**

Q I’m new to the game of investing and have been lucky with some recent stocks. What low-priced stocks do you recommend?

A Don’t think of investing as a game. It can be fun and exciting, but it’s also serious business.

If you haven’t lost money in penny stocks, you’re actually quite fortunate. They’re notoriously volatile and risky, and have cost many people many dollars.

Some stock investors wrongly assume that since they’re not rich, they should focus on penny stocks, because they are cheap. Some might argue, because your capital gains tax rate would be 50 percent on the $5,000 gain, you’d face a $2,500 tax hit.

Note, though, that the long-term rate, for stocks held at least a year, and a day, is just 15 percent right now for most investors. On a $5,000 gain, that would come to just $750. If you’ve held your shares for almost a year, it might be worth it to hang on a little more. Learn more at fool.com/taxes.

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

### BUSINESS MEETINGS

- **Young Professionals of the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce** have a Wake Up Networking event from 7:45 a.m. Tuesday, July 9, at Toast, 24600 S. Tamiami Trail. Attendance is free; food and beverages are available. Register at 262-6376 or visit www.bonitachamber.com.

- **Wake Up Naples** for members and guests of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce takes place from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 10, at The Westin. Guest speaker will be Brian Woods, Collier County clerk of courts. Call 262-6767 or go to www.napleschamber.org/events.

- **The East Naples Merchants Association** holds its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, at the Old Marco Pub & Restaurant, 105 Bald Eagle Drive on Marco. $5 for members, $10 for others. Call 294-4930 or visit www.eastnaplesmerchantsassoc.com.

- **HR Collier** members meet at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, at Westendree, Country Club. Guest speaker Carol McDaniel, senior vice president at Kenexis Consulting, will present “Hire More Ugly People: Removing Bias from the Interview Process.” Cost is $25 for members, $30 for guests. Reservations must be made at www.hrcollier.org by July 12.

- **The Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce** holds its next Business After Five summer gathering at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, at the Old Marco Pub & Restaurant, 105 Bald Eagle Drive on Marco. For more information, call 435-9440 or 643-3600 or visit www.marcoislandchamber.org.

- **Job Search Support Group** meets from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Mondays at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, 2890 Tamiami Trail N., every Thursday. To make an appointment for a free session, call Suzanne Specth at 745-7040.
“One of the biggest hurdles Kickstarter allows you to overcome is finding a source of capital,” Mr. Roncal said. “I hate the notion of a handout,” he said.

It took Mr. Nelson, the jewelry designer, said Kickstarter provides support to creators, offering instructions and advice for how to run a successful campaign. Since he began making jewelry (often with detailed sports emblems) for his girlfriend, he started filling other requests for friends. But it takes him a day or more to produce a piece, hand carving and painting it.

Backers, pledges, gifts

After the Kickstarter staff approves a project, creators sell their project on the site in writing and with a short video. As an incentive, project creators pick “gifts” to give backers, depending on how much they pledge. The gifts cannot be money or gift certificates, since project creators are not paying people back for their financial support. For backers, the satisfaction is in helping bring to fruition endeavors they believe in — and of course, getting the gifts. Pledges range from only a few dollars to thousands. The gifts usually become more personal and even lavish for the highest pledges, things like meeting the director and star of a movie for dinner, having a part in it or getting a script autographed by the entire cast of a production. The gifts are as diverse as the projects themselves.

“You gather a crowd, you know, your backers, and you just take the journey with them, which is a pretty cool feeling,” said Mr. Roncal, the aquarium designer.

At first concerned that accepting such financial help on Kickstarter might seem like a “copout,” tap artist Mr. Mramer (who goes by the stage name MSI2) changed his mind after seeing Mr. Roncal decided on 33 days, but many people choose around a month. Many people choose around a month. Mr. Mramer decided on 33 days, but says now he would rather have set it at only a few weeks, because with the shorter time period there’s more urgency for people to pledge and not a lag in the middle. When the clock runs out, creators get the money if they’ve met the goal. By making it all or nothing, it protects the creator and the backers from being obligated to take part in an underfunded project.

Making a pledge

One of the most consistent criticisms local creators have of Kickstarter is that in order to pledge money, backers have to sign up through Amazon’s payment system. It’s not as simple as just clicking on the pledge button. “They don’t want to go to that much trouble; they just want to buy the game,” said Mr. Strickland of his hurricane preparedness game. Many have successfully raised thousands of dollars while others struggled to get the word out or didn’t connect with their audience. Either way, the campaign can be an exhilarating ride for creators and backers alike, Mr. Roncal said.

He’s enthusiastic about the site, and for good reason. At press time, Mr. Roncal had smashed his goal of $7,000. He had 109 backers who in total pledged $17,609 for him to start the business building small-scale saltwater aquariums, PJ Reefs — and he still had 17 days before his time ran out. Lowest pledges of $1 receive “backer-only updates that document this project.” His $800 level backers receive a “deluxe” aquarium kit including the lamp, jar and ecosystem. “I think that connection with the person that’s actually helping you — there’s a feeling, a sense that you’re buying something, but at the same time you’re helping someone — and there’s this personal connection with all these backers you have,” he said.

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NETWORKING

Vi at Bentley Village hosts the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

“Like” us on Facebook at Fort Myers Florida Weekly to see more 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.

1. Ken Gutshall and Suzanne Ward
2. Maureen Fegan and Jeanette Simmermon
3. Marjorie Johnson and Kelly Kelso
4. Andrew Singh and Andrea Adams
5. Jacob, Shana and Emily Helsel
6. Joe Chambers and Vicki Tracy
7. Cindy Burgess and Rob Roberts
8. Mary Johnson and Carole Helsel
9. Lisa Wilson, Greg Sullivan and Susan O’Malley
10. Ben Suciu and Chris Davis
11. Robert Zella and Eric Stewart

Chelsea Birczak and Ellie Connot
NETWORKING

Olde Cypress welcomes the Collier Building Industry Association

1. Michelle and Mike McLeod with Nick Kouloheras
2. Sam Saad III and Paul Messino
3. Paul Messino, Tatiana Gust and Susi Husty
4. Andreas Boral, Christian Mejia and Robby McGinnis
5. David White, Sue Christopher and Stacy Herring
6. Karl Fry and Andy Bringardner
7. Charity Strassel and Alex Pando
8. Jennifer Loftstrand and Amelia Vasquez
9. Ted Nance and Kathleen Curatolo
10. Jeff Jerome and Courtney Strong

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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.
House Hunting:
29071 Amarone Court in Mediterra

This beautifully finished and professionally decorated four-bedroom plus den home is located in a private 12-home community. Visitors are immediately impressed as they enter the foyer opening to the formal living room with a seamless glass picture window overlooking the pool, spa and lake view. A large kitchen with center island, top-grade stainless appliances and breakfast bar opens to the family room and creates a relaxing environment for entertaining. The pool and spa on the lanai have an outdoor kitchen with granite counters and stainless refrigerator. Decorated to the finest detail, this home is fully furnished and is an excellent value. The Mediterra club offers several membership options to fit various needs and lifestyles. This property is listed at $1,299,900 by Thomas Ostrander of Engel & Völkers Olde Naples. To arrange a private showing or for more information, call (860) 384-9077, e-mail htom@snet.net or visit www.evusa.com.
Foreign homebuyers continue to see U.S. as a smart investment

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

International home sales in the U.S. declined in the past year, but are at their second highest level in recent years and are more than 6 percent of total existing-home sales in value. According to the National Association of Realtors’ “2013 Profile of International Home Buying Activity,” interest in U.S. properties continues to grow, signaling that America continues to be regarded by international buyers as a great place to own property.

The survey, which asked Realtors to report their international business activity within the U.S. for the 12 months ending March 2013, showed that total international sales were $68.2 billion, down approximately $14 billion from the previous year. The decline is attributed to a number of temporary factors, including economic slowdowns in a number of major foreign economies, tighter U.S. credit standards and unfavorable exchange rates.

“Foreign buyers are experiencing hurdles not only abroad, but also here in the U.S. when it comes to purchasing property,” according to Gary Thomas, NAR president and broker-owner of Evergreen Realty in Villa Park, Calif. “Difficult economic conditions, particularly in Europe, have impacted foreign buyers, but several factors in the U.S. have also affected their purchasing power here. Tight credit standards have made financing challenging for immigrants, and low housing inventories have made finding a house difficult. However, none of these factors appear to be permanent.”

Throughout a five-year time frame, more than 70 percent of Realtors reported a constant or increasing level in the number of international clients contacting them; 27 percent reported having worked with international clients this year.

Although Realtors reported buyers from 68 countries, five counties account for the bulk of purchases: Canada (23 percent), China (12 percent), Mexico (8 percent), India (5 percent) and the United Kingdom (5 percent).

Canadian buyers were reported to purchase properties with a median price of $183,000, with the majority purchased in Florida, Arizona and California. Chinese buyers tended to purchase property in the upper price ranges with a median price of $425,000 and typically in California. Sixty-two percent of Mexican buyers purchased property in California and Texas, with a median price of $156,250.
PREMIER SOTHEBY’S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

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200 North Collier Boulevard, Suite 101
Marco Island, FL 34145

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310 Broad Avenue South
Naples, FL 34102

FIFTH AVENUE | 239.455.8770
716 Fifth Avenue South
Naples, FL 34102

ESTUARY SALES CENTER | 239.261.3148
1225 Great River Trail
Naples, FL 34105

THE VILLAGE | 239.261.6661
4950 Gulf Shore Boulevard North, Suite 100
Naples, FL 34108

THE GALLERY | 239.659.0009
4101 Tamiami Trail North, Suite 108
Naples, FL 34103

RENTAL | 239.262.4242
1395 Panther Lane, Suite 200
Naples, FL 34104

MERCATO SALE CENTER | 239.594.9400
908 Third Street, Suite 710
Naples, FL 34102

VANDERBILT | 239.594.9494
525 Vanderbilt Beach Road
Naples, FL 34102

BONITA BAY SALES CENTER | 239.495.1105
2695 Country Club Drive
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

THE PROMENADE | 239.948.4000
2601 South Bay Drive, Suite 200
Riveria Beach, FL 33440

SANIBEL | 239.472.2735
1640 Periwinkle Way, Suite 1
Sanibel, FL 33957

CAPTIVA | 239.395.5947
1705 Andy House Road
Captiva, FL 33924

VENICE | 941.412.5224
4001 S Tamiami Trail
Venice, FL 34285

PLAZA AT FIVE POINTS | 941.364.4000
530 Central Avenue, Suite 100
Sarasota, FL 34236

LAKEWOOD RANCH | 941.907.9541
1414 Lakewood Main Street, Suite 101
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

LONGBOAT KEY | 941.385.3500
444 Bay View Road
Longboat Key, FL 34228

SOUTH TAMPA | 813.217.2888
282 South Moody Avenue
Tampa, FL 33609

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Gorgeous 3 + den with 3.5 baths. Move-in ready and stunning in every respect. Private and quiet custom home, 14’ ceilings, large living areas, impact glass, oversized lanai with fantastic pool & spa with open cabana area. $1,399,000

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Truly have it all on 10 lush acres! 3 / 3.5, beach, tennis, direct Gulf access and views! $1,195,000

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West of Crayton! 4 / 4, elegant simplicity, large tropical lot, deeded City Park Green Space across the street. $1,095,000

Genoa – Just $599,900. Plus FREE designer furniture package. 3 BR, 3 BA with formal living room and dining room. Plus large great room, heated pool and spa. Perfect for growing families!

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3:30 - 9:30 p.m. Blood Mobile near Reebok Outlet Store (south side of Mall)
6:00 p.m. Various Children’s Entertainment, Face Painter and Balloon Animals
6:00 p.m. Live Music by Simple Jack and Superbot
DUSK Spectacular Fireworks Display by the Lake

Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Coolers, tail-gating and personal fireworks are not permitted. Additional parking at Germain Arena and Miromar Design Center.

SIDEWALK SALE • JULY 3 – JULY 7

Save even more off already low factory outlet prices! • Miromar Outlets will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Independence Day

SAVE UP TO 70% OFF RETAIL PRICES

MiromarOutlets.com • (239) 948-3766 •
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Tour 40 model homes across 8 incredible communities.

**With an amazing selection of under construction & move-in-ready homes now available!**

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**Paseo**

**FLATS**
- **San Clemente #7904** | 2 bed/2 bath | 1,404 sq. ft. | $174,990
  - Choose Your Own Options!

**TOWNHOMES**
- **Santa Isabella #8403** | 2 bed/2.5 bath | 1,520 sq. ft. | $182,755
  - Includes $17,765 in Options
- **Carmel #5902** | 2 bed/2.5 bath | 1,531 sq. ft. | $186,015
  - Includes $16,025 in Options
- **Coronado Villas #113** | 2 bed/2 bath | 1,575 sq. ft. | $371,790

**From the $160s.**
**Up to $15,000 Towards Options/Upgrades* on Select Multi-Family Homes.**

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**Fiddlers Creek**

**SINGLE FAMILY HOMES**
- **Majorca – Scottsdale II #6** | 3 bed/3 bath | 2,719 sq. ft. | $909,425
- **Isla del Sol – Chesterfield #29** | 4 bed/5.5 bath | 4,224 sq. ft. | $1,645,475

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**Qualwest**

**SINGLE FAMILY HOMES**
- **Esclata – Marlowe #10** | 4 bed/4.5 bath | 3,239 sq. ft. | $1,205,725
- **Tamworth – Ponte Vedra Grande #MM1** | 4 bed/4.5 bath | 3,525 sq. ft. | $1,332,855
  - Fully Furnished

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**Le Palais Royal**

**SINGLE FAMILY HOMES**
- **Cordoba – Barcelona #50** | 4 bed/3.5 bath | 2,219 sq. ft. | $954,000
- **Lakoya – Jasmine II #80** | 3 bed/3.5 bath | 2,876 sq. ft. | $754,590
- **Ley Island Estates – Carrington #7** | 4 bed/3 bath | 2,685 sq. ft. | $619,990

**From the $800s.**
**$15,000 Towards Options/Upgrades.**
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**Olde Cypress**

**LANTANA SINGLE FAMILY HOMES**
- **Montessa II #66** | 3 bed/2 bath | 2,327 sq. ft. | $562,385
- **Ruffino II #72** | 3 bed/2.5 bath | 2,585 sq. ft. | $624,680

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**$25,000 Towards Options/Upgrades.**
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**Only 3 Remaining!**
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**Mediterra**

**SINGLE FAMILY HOMES**
- **Buena Vista – Ponte Vedra II #2** | 4 bed/4.5 bath | 3,239 sq. ft. | $1,221,215
  - Fully Furnished, Leaseback Available
- **Lipari – Muirfield III #3** | 4 bed/3.5 bath | 3,255 sq. ft. | $1,235,090
  - Fully Furnished, Leaseback Available
- **Cellini – Grand Calais #11** | 4 bed/4.5 bath | 3,597 sq. ft. | $1,498,635
  - Fully Furnished

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Directions: I-75 to Exit 111 (Immokalee Road). East 9 miles to Oil Well Road/CR 858, turn right onto Oil Well. Community 1 mile on left.
### A Sampling of Our New Listings

**Sunday, July 7, 2013**


**Old Naples, 625 5th Ave S, $1,495,000** - Completely remodeled w/ 5 master suites, gym, media room, pool, spa, beach access, on-site parking plus private beach access. 3/3.5. 3,083 sq ft. Close to shopping, restaurants, beach. 4 stories. MLS#: 213016117. Contact: 239.566.9185.

**Old Naples, 625 5th Ave S, $1,495,000** - Completely remodeled w/ 5 master suites, gym, media room, pool, spa, beach access, on-site parking plus private beach access. 3/3.5. 3,083 sq ft. Close to shopping, restaurants, beach. 4 stories. MLS#: 213016117. Contact: 239.566.9185.

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239.514.5050 MorayaBay.com

Oral representations cannot be relied upon as correct stating representations of the developer. For correct representation, make reference to the advertisement and to the documents required by Section 718.503, Florida Statutes, to be furnished by a developer to a buyer or lessee.
Florida Weekly’s Open Houses

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

$300,000
1 • PELICAN BAY - BARRINGTON CLUB • 7099 Barrington Circle #201 • $329,000 • Premier Sotheby's International Realty • Carolyn Weinand • 239.209.5678
2 • OLD NAPLES - BUNTOWNER • 518 2nd Street North #501 • $330,000 • PSIR • Carol Sheehy • 239.340.9500
3 • FOREST GLEN • 718 Jungle Plum Drive East • $345,000 • PSIR • Jesse Moreno • 239.404.0865
4 • MERCATO - THE STRADA • 9123 Strada Place • From $399,000 • PSIR • Michelle Thomas • 239.860.7176
5 • FIDDLER'S CREEK - MARENGO • 842 Avila Circle #102 • $399,000 • PSIR • 239.209.6500
6 • TIBURON - BOLERO • 2608 Bolero Drive #905 • $440,000 • PSIR • John D'Amelio • 239.961.5996
7 • MIROMAR LAKES - MIRASOL • 10718 Mirasol Drive #401 • $450,000 • PSIR • Lynda Kennedy • 239.564.1579 • Also Available: #202 $399,000
8 • TIBURON - VENTANA • 2728 Tiburon Blvd East #205 • $469,000 • PSIR • V.K. Melhado • 239.216.6400
9 • HAWKSBRIDGE • 375 Hawkbridge Drive #204 • $469,000 • PSIR • V.K. Melhado • 239.216.6400
10 • PELICAN BAY - TAVIRA • 2691 Country Club Drive • From $500,000 • PSIR • 239.405.0562
11 • PELICAN BAY - ST. RAPHAEL • 3401 Via Veneto Blvd #1305 • $500,000 • PSIR • Martin Strong
12 • SPANISH WELLS • 9922 Treasure Cay Lane • $579,000 • PSIR • Jane Bond • 239.995.9185
13 • THE MORRINGS - LUCERNE • 300 Gulf Shore Blvd. North #604 • $619,000 • PSIR • Larry Roorda • 239.860.2584
14 • VANDERBILT BEACH - PHOENICIAN SANDS • 2950 Gulfshore Dr #202 • $775,000 • PSIR • Pat Callis • 239.209.0562
15 • THE DUNES - GRANDE PRESERVE • 280 Grande Way • From $799,000 • PSIR • Call 239.994.2100 • Open Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm & Sunday 12-5pm
16 • PELICAN BAY - THE RIDGE • 23015 Ridge Oak Drive • $800,000 • PSIR • Fern Ritzac • 239.431.1376
17 • VANDERBILT BEACH - PERSIMMON BAY • 2701 Piano Drive • $850,000 • PSIR • Paul Graffy • 239.217.0401
18 • PINE RIDGE • 10731 Mirasol Drive #401 • $450,000 • PSIR • John D'Amelio • 239.961.5996
19 • OLD NAPLES - VILLA VERONA • 284 4th Avenue South #301 • $1,050,000 • PSIR • Larry Roorda • 239.860.2584
20 • OLDE NAPLES SEAPORT • 1001 10th Avenue S, #203 • $1,190,000 • Naples Estate Properties • Emily K. Bu & Tade Bua-Bell • 239.465.4645
21 • NAPLES BAY RESORT • 1540 5th Avenue South, #203 • $1,250,000 • Naples Estate Properties • Emily K. Bu & Tade Bua-Bell • 239.465.4645
22 • NAPLES BAY RESORT • 1540 5th Avenue South, #203 • $1,250,000 • Naples Estate Properties • Emily K. Bu & Tade Bua-Bell • 239.465.4645
23 • BONITA BAY - ROOKERY LAKE • 3940 Pinebush Court • $2,395,000 • PSIR • Marty Meade • 239.465.4645
24 • FIDDLER'S CREEK - ISLA DEL SOL • 1582 Isla Del Sol Way • $2,995,000 • PSIR • ML Meade • 239.465.4645
25 • THE MOORINGS - RIVIERA • 1659 Chinaberry Court • $2,795,000 • PSIR • Aysim Eserdag/Nick Serve • 239.340.6891
26 • GREY OAKS - ESTUARY • 2211 Gordon River Trail • From $2,190,000 • PSIR • Call 239.269.5678
27 • BONITA BAY - VANDERBILT • 3401 Via Veneto Blvd. #1005 • $2,395,000 • PSIR • Celine Julie Godof • 239.293.4851
28 • PELICAN BAY - ST. RAPHAEL • 3401 Via Veneto Blvd. #1005 • $2,395,000 • PSIR • Celine Julie Godof • 239.293.4851
29 • OLD NAPLES • 152 5th Avenue North • From $2,950,000 • PSIR • Naples Estate Properties • Emily K. Bu & Tade Bua-Bell • 239.465.4645
30 • QUALE WEST • 4430 Wainscott Drive • $2,450,000 • PSIR • Naples Estate Properties • Emily K. Bu & Tade Bua-Bell • 239.465.4645
31 • BAYNAN ISLAND AT GREY OAKS • 1609 Chilnchiber Court • $2,795,000 • PSIR • Naples Estate Properties • Emily K. Bu & Tade Bua-Bell • 239.465.4645
32 • PODOVA AT MEDITERRA • 3723 Bello Drive • From $2,950,000 • PSIR • Naples Estate Properties • Emily K. Bu & Tade Bua-Bell • 239.465.4645
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**Film depicts Everglades City’s drug-smuggling days**

Sleepy Everglades City plays a strong supporting role in "Square Grouper: The Godfathers of Ganja," the 2011 documentary that takes its name from the nickname given to bales of marijuana thrown overboard or out of airplanes in South Florida in the 1970s and ‘80s.

Dave Johnson, retired Collier County deputy sheriff, remembers the times well and will discuss the film at a screening beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 9, at the Marco Island Historical Museum. Admission is $3 for MIHS members, $5 for others.

Mr. Johnson grew up on Marco and served the Collier County Sheriff’s Office for 35 years, retiring with the rank of captain in 2009. During the days of square grouper, he patrolled Marco Island, East Naples and Everglades City.

In sharp contrast to the brazenly violent “Cocaine Cowboys” of the 1980s, marijuana smugglers were cooler, calmer and typically nonviolent. “Square Grouper” paints a vivid portrait of the culture and its major players: the smuggling, Miami-based Black Tuna Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion Gang, the pot-dealing Ethiopian Zion 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In her latest collection of essays, “Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake,” author Anna Quindlen relays the story of a man who went to see a doctor for help with his depression. The physician took out a prescription pad, jotted down a note and passed the paper to the man. “Get a dog,” it said.

I laughed when I read this. I’m not a dog person. I can’t imagine shackling myself to the daily schedule of walks and feedings, the weekly baths and monthly trips to the groomer, the yearly shots and check-ups, all the weighty obligations that come with owning a dog. I look at my neighbors with their yappy canines and think, That can’t be the prescription for a happy life.

But I’ll admit that some dogs might be worth it. There is a dog here where I’m spending the summer, Homer, who has more depth and intelligence than many men I’ve dated. Two days ago I think he saved my life.

Homer and I were hiking up a mountain path just off the main road. The day was clear and warm and the leaves on the chestnut trees overhead sent up a soft murmur. Where the path crossed an old dirt road, I quickened my step. Rusty pick-up trucks lined the drive and the track ran down to a creaky farmhouse. It was the kind of place that would have mean dogs under the porch. I followed at a fast pace as Homer ran ahead, up the rocky trail and into the woods. Suddenly a ferocious barking came from my left. I turned and a big dog, deep-chested and square-jawed, pounded up the road toward me. He never slowed, never stopped, but ran at a terrifying tilt. I called out from some instinctual place, a cry that I didn’t know I would make until it issued from my mouth.

“Homer,” I screamed.

He bounded down the mountain trail and flew across the dirt road. I froze as he threw himself on the bigger dog. The two rolled in the dirt. I ran as fast as I could across the road and up the incline of the path.

I stopped to look back and the two dogs had squared off. The bigger dog lunged and Homer leapt back. He turned and followed me up the trail. The big dog started to chase after us, but someone down the road called his name. He hesitated, and Homer and I sprinted up the path. I looked over my shoulder twice, but the dog had disappeared.

We ran until our legs burned and our lungs ached. We didn’t pause until we were home. Then we collapsed on the stone terrace beside each other. I shook as I realized Homer had saved me from serious harm. My heart swelled in my chest.

Sigmund Freud famously said that the keys to a happy life are love and work. But our problem comes from where to find that love — our families are complicated, our romances complex. But dogs with their deep, easy and loyal love might just be the solution we need.

SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

The surprising prescription for a happy life

In her latest collection of essays, “Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake,” author Anna Quindlen relays the story of a man who went to see a doctor for help with his depression. The physician took out a prescription pad, jotted down a note and passed the paper to the man. “Get a dog,” it said.

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The cast of "Shrek: The Musical"

Kate Marshall, Chuck Caruso and Rendell DeBose form an unlikely alliance in "Shrek: The Musical."

**SHREK**

From page 1

but roles for character actors.

"Acting-wise, this is a stronger cast than, (say), '42nd Street,' where the singers and dancers don't get to say that much," Mr. Bernier says. "This show has a lot of individual characters you get to know. It's an ensemble."

The only ingénue is Fiona, and even she has some great comedic lines, he adds.

One of the reasons he felt drawn to the show and feels so comfortable directing it is because he's a character actor himself. Broadway Palm audiences will know Mr. Bernier from previous shows there: He played the taxman in "Love, Sex and the IRS" and Uncle Max in "The Sound of Music." He was also in "Sugar Babies" and "42nd Street."

In 1990, he played gangster Moonface Martin in the national tour of "Anything Goes."

His experience with side-kick and character roles — but "never the ingénue," he jokes — makes his role as director of "Shrek: The Musical" much easier, he says.

He describes the show as not only appealing to the eye, but one that makes adults and kids alike laugh.

"Some of the humor will go over the kids' heads," he says. Although some might think of it as just a big children's show, it's really "a full-blown musical," he adds, complete with beautiful ballads, memorable tunes "and a very large dragon."

He fell in love with the show when he saw it at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers. "My first reaction was, 'I want to direct the show,'" he says.

The musical, of course, is based on the 2001 DreamWorks animated "Shrek" movie, which was based on the aforementioned book by William Steig. It's about a smelly, green ogre who lives in a swamp and has no friends. Over the course of the story, he falls in love with a beautiful princess named Fiona and develops a friendship with Donkey.

"Freak Flag," the other characters inspire Pinocchio, who then has an epiphany that, "We have magical powers, we are stronger and we're capable of bigger things," Mr. Cona says. His character even proclaims: "I'm wood, I'm good, get used to it!"

The musical has parallels to what's going on in society today, he adds. "People are different, whether it's sexuality, or a way of life, or ethnicity, or how they look," he says. "I think it's a very powerful message — a message that everyone needs to learn and see and appreciate."

It's especially timely, he says, with the recent Supreme Court ruling that struck down the Defense of Marriage Act, giving gay married couples the same rights as heterosexual couples. "The biggest message of 'Shrek' is being OK with yourself, loving yourself," Mr. DeBose says. "As soon as you can accept yourself, you can bring other people into your life and accept them as well."

Mr. DeBose says he was a huge fan of John Tartaglia, who played Pinocchio in the original Broadway production of "Shrek: The Musical."

"I got to see clips from the Broadway production," Mr. Cona says. "I've always envied (Mr. Tartaglia's) work as a puppeteer and a stage actor. When I saw some of his performance, I was inspired to have a shot at it. It's such a fun role, and a great character."

Mr. DeBose says he was a huge fan of Eddie Murphy (in his role), but "I'm wood, I'm good, get used to it!"

The biggest message of 'Shrek' is being OK with yourself, loving yourself," Mr. DeBose says. "As soon as you can accept yourself, you can bring other people into your life and accept them as well."
SQUARE GROPER

From page 1

Church in Jamaica, and Everglades City, the fishing village that was perfectly situated to serve as the go-between. The DEA’s highly publicized raids in 1983 and 1984 led to the arrest of almost 80 percent of the city’s adult male population. Produced by Rakon-tur & Magnet Releasing and directed by Billy Corben, “Square Grouper: The Godfathers of Ganja” was an official selection of these 2011 film festivals: SXSW, Full Frame Film Festival, Philadelphia Cinefest, Florida Film Festival and Newport Beach Film Festival. It was also featured at the 2011 Denver High Times Medical Cannabis Convention. Running time is 100 minutes.

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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Thursday, July 4

**Red, White & Blue** – Naples Botanical Garden celebrates Independence Day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. with $4 admission for guests wearing red, white, and blue. 643-7275 or www.naplesbotanical.org.

**Patriotic Tunes** – The Village on Venetian Bay celebrates Independence Day from 4-7 p.m. with entertainment by the Suncoast Brass Quintet and the Blue Wave Duo. www.venetianvillage.com.

**Indie-pendence Fest** – Mercato presents indie rock by Andrew Stamps and The Freestyles from 6-9 p.m. The fun also includes lawn games and face painting. www.mercatoshops.com.

**Jamming with Jebry** – Jebry’s Jazz Jam takes place from 6-9 p.m. at New York Pizza and Pasta House, 11140 Tamiami Trail N. 594-3300.

**More Music** – The Wholotones take the stage at 10 p.m. at IIWI Beach Bar & Grille, 18510 Tamiami Trail N. 596-5731.

**Rock Out** – Konnie & Kirk perform from 6-9 p.m. by the pool at Jack’s River Bar, 475 North Road. 213-1441 or www.floridamarinaclubs.com.

**Piano Music** – Lynn Carol tickles the ivories from 6-9 p.m. today and July 7 in the lounge at Capers Kitchen & Bar, 2460 Vanderbilt Beach Road. 431-7438.

**Salute to Vets** – Paul Todd and Paul Todd Jr. perform a musical salute to the troops at 7 p.m. tonight and July 6 at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers. $35. 482-4849 or www.bbmannpah.com.

Saturday, July 6

**Farmers Market** – The Third Street South Farmers Market takes place from 7:30-11:30 a.m. in the parking lot behind Tommy Bahama. www.thirdstreetsouth.com.

**Flamenco Guitar** – El Gato Solea plays from 7-10 p.m. at Cafe Luna. 467 Fifth Ave. S. 213-2212 or www.cafelunanaples.com.

**Reggae Tunes** – The Sheffield Crew performs reggae tunes starting at 10 p.m. at South Street City Oven & Bar. 1410 Pine Ridge Rd. 435-9335 or www.southstreetnaples.com.

Sunday, July 7

**Two to Tango** – Alicia Repun leads a tango class from 7-8 p.m. followed by milonga for all levels until 11 p.m. $15. 1673 Pine Ridge Road. 788-4124 or www.pablorepunmango.com.

**Live Tunes** – The Chicago Mob performs from 8-10 p.m. under the stars at Gulf Coast Town Center. Free. 267-0783 or www.gulfcoasttowncenter.com.

**Brain Teasers** – Join the Renaissance Academy at FGCU at The Brooks in Bonita Springs for “Short Circuit Your Brain,” a challenging and entertaining short class in training your eye to pick out the not-so-obvious, from 1:30-3 p.m. at the Commons Club at the Brooks. $25. Register at 434-4737.

**Live Tunes** – Kerry West plays from 7-10 p.m. at Cafe Luna. 467 Fifth Ave. S. 213-2212 or www.cafelunanaples.com.

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**Live Tunes** – Kerry West plays from 7-10 p.m. at Cafe Luna. 467 Fifth Ave. S. 213-2212 or www.cafelunanaples.com.
WHAT TO DO


■ Art Opening – The Samaniego Art Gallery hosts an opening reception for an exhibit of contemporary art by five international artists working in various media at 6 p.m. July 12. 2220 5th St. 481-7040 or Arturo@samaniego.comcastbiz.net.

■ Cooking School – Get cooking when Sea Salt hosts “How to Shop and Create a Menu” beginning at 11:30 a.m. July 13. $65 includes lunch and two glasses of wine. Reservations required. 434-7258 or www.seasaltnaples.com.

■ Art, Music & More – Mercato cel-


■ History Lecture – Collier County Museum presents “Florida’s Final Frontier: The History of Transportation to Collier County” at 2 p.m. July 17. Free. 252-8476 or www.colliermuseums.com.


■ Cooking Tapas – The Good Life of Naples holds a cooking class featuring Spanish tapas from 6-8 p.m. July 18. $55. 2355 Vanderbilt Beach Road. Reservations required. 514-4663 or www.goodlifenaples.com.

■ Summer Sippin’ – Tony’s Off Third Wine & Pastry Shop hosts a tasting of more than 25 wines selected by wine director Sukie Honeycutt from 5:30-7 p.m. July 19. $20 per person, with $10 coupon toward purchase of featured wines. 262-7999 or www.tonysoffthird.com.

■ Another Tasting – Decanted Wine & Beer hosts a locals appreciation wine tasting from 2-4 p.m. July 20. Free to all locals, $5 per person for out-of-town friends and family, 1410 Pine Ridge Road. 431-7040.

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ARTS COMMENTARY

It’s big, it’s epic, it’s undeniably popular. It’s ‘Les Miz’

Based on Victor Hugo’s 1862 novel of the same name, the musical “Les Miserables” attempts to reduce more than 1,400 pages of plot, dialogue and social commentary to three hours of song.

Like a shameless northern relative who thinks Florida looks like a great place to visit in the winter, the musical has been here often. The 25th anniversary national production has come through town twice in the past year and a half — first to the Arts — Naples (when it was the Philharmonic Center for the Arts) and then to the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers. The students at Fort Myers High School did it this spring, and The Naples Players nabbed the rights for their big summer production, which runs through July 29 at the Sugden Community Theatre (the KidzAct teens will put on their own production at the Sugden Aug. 2-4).

“Les Miz” is a challenging musical for any community company to tackle, but Naples Players once again prove they’re more than equal to the task.

The show has a cast of zillions, and director Dallas Dunnagan and music director Charles Fornara found talented singers that the directors wanted to be prepared should someone be unable to perform.

The story, which takes place over 17 years in multiple locations in 19th century France, is so complicated, a lengthy synopsis runs in the program book. The Naples Players during a rehearsal for “Les Miserables.”

Tenor Dave Gipson, a seasoned stagehand with The Naples Players, makes his Sugden stage debut as Valjean. He does a credible job throughout, but I especially liked his performance of “Bring Him Home” in Act II. Michael Freshko, who played Fred in “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels,” plays Javert. He was directed to sing his lyrics in a very rigid, measured way, to reflect his unbending, uncompassionate nature, and I found myself wanting to glimpse the person behind the badge.

Laura Needle, as Fantine, received wild applause opening night for her performance of “I Dreamed a Dream.” And Kellie Cullinan charmed as the young woman Cosette. (Three girls — Kylie Campbell, Sophia-Bella Carrasquillo and Preslie True — alternate playing the child Cosette and the child Eponine. Unfortunately, the program does not specify who is playing which roles on which nights.)

Bryan Ernst has a small but impressive role as the Bishop of Digne. Personifying grace and forgiveness, he stands out in sharp contrast to Javert’s harsh judgment and his commitment to the law.

Mark Vanagas and Mary Anne McAvoy McKerrow provide much-needed comic relief as the scheming, unscrupulous innkeepers, M. and Mme. Thenadier. (He even steals gold out of the teeth of the dead.) Their rousing “Master of the House” brings much-needed lightness and frivolity to this deadly serious musical.

Mr. Vanagas always knows how to disappear inside his characters, and his Thenadier is so despicable you can’t help but be amused by him. And though Ms. McKerrow is the skinniest Madame Thenadier I’ve seen, she matches her stage husband’s comedic punch perfectly.

With some playing multiple minor characters, the ensemble singing is especially powerful, and when a group of 15 or more performers start singing together, it’s electrifying. Mr. Fornara directs an orchestra of 14 that’s so fabulous, I wish they could do it justice, and the singing is outstanding.

However, the production seems to have two volumes: loud and louder. At times I felt like that man in the ads for Maxell cassette tapes; the sound was so loud, I’m sure my hair must have been blown straight back from the force of it. I wish there had been more peaks and valleys, musically, rather than a constant bombardment of loudness. The singers are miked, but I found myself wanting to glimpse the person behind the badge. Their rousing “Master of the House” brings much-needed lightness and frivolity to this deadly serious musical.

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The costumes — some rented, some home made — are top notch. Scenic designer Matt Flynn adeptly handles the show’s numerous settings, particularly the watercolor-and-black-marker drawings projected on the rear of the stage. And the set of the barricade — a wall of doors, tables, chairs, crates, bannister railings — is so impressive, it received applause on opening night.

If you love “Les Miz,” you will most likely love this production. The Players do it justice, and the singing is outstanding. If you’re not a big fan of the musical, though, you might find it a little too melodramatic for your taste. It can be very overwrought, like an opera. Many people die in this story, and no fewer than five characters sing — and sing and sing — before they finally expire. And then, near the end, the dead come back to sing some more.

While the musical moves swiftly from scene to scene with its new orchestrations, it somehow also seems to take a long time.

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LEO (July 23 to August 22) Be sure you’re part of the discussion involving your suggestions. Your presence ensures that you can defend your work, if necessary. It also helps gain your colleagues’ support.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A misunderstanding needs to be dealt with, or it can grow and cause more problems later on. Be the bigger person and take the first step to clear the air.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Set some strict guidelines for yourself so your heavier-than-usual work schedule doesn’t overwhelm the time you need to spend relaxing with loved ones.

SCORPIUS (October 22 to November 22) You might feel a little uncomfortable being among people you hardly know. But remember that today’s strangers can become tomorrow’s valuable contacts.

CAPRICORN (December 23 to January 19) Realizing that someone else is taking credit for what you did is bound to get anyone’s goat, but especially yours. Be patient. The truth soon comes out.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Forget about opposites attracting. What you need is to find someone who thinks like you and will support your ideas, even if others say they are out of the ordinary.

FISCEUS (February 19 to March 20) Workplace problems can affect your financial plans. Be prudent and avoid running up bills or making commitments until things begin to ease up by the 26th.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your persistence pays off as the information you demanded starts to come through. The pace is slow at first, but it begins to speed up as the week draws to a close.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) An welcome bit of news jolts the Bovine, who would prefer that things proceed smoothly. But it’s at most a momentary setback. A Leo brings more welcome tidings.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your intuition helps you communicate easily with people and understand their needs.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Reward yourself for all that you’ve accomplished despite some annoying situations that got in your way. Enjoy a well-earned getaway with someone special.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your intuition helps you communicate easily with people and understand their needs.

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‘White House Down’

The highlights come with the mere ambition of certain sequences, particularly in the irony that although most of the story is set indoors, Mr. Emmerich still sledgehammers in a car chase on the South Lawn that ends inside a swimming pool. If nothing else, the director tries to give us as much bang for our buck as possible.

Performances in action movies are often an afterthought, and that’s the case here for the most part — with the exception of Mr. Foxx. As an Oscar winner (‘Ray’) with the presence to do any-

German-born director Roland Emmerich can’t stop destroying 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. First he incinerated the White House in ‘Independence Day’ (1996), then he washed it away in a tsunami in ‘2012’ (2009). Now he returns to the president’s place with ‘White House Down,’ a visual feast for the eyes that’s a ‘roid-raging mess-up of ‘Die Hard’ and ‘Air Force One.’

This is an action movie for action junkies, a mindless fantasy excursion that tears apart of one of the safest places in the world — and does so with gusto. Former soldier and current Capitol Police Officer John Cale (Channing Tatum) wants to leave his job protecting the Speaker of the House (Richard Jenkins) so he can join the Secret Service and impress his daughter Emily (Joey King), who hates him. Unfortunately, his Secret Service interview is with a former flame (Maggie Gillenhan) who can’t look past how grossly unqualified he is for the position.

Rejected, John and Emily take a tour of the White House. While smarty-pants Emily banters with the tour guide (Nicolas Wright), the White House is attacked by terrorists, leaving her and 61 hostages at the mercy of Emil Stenz (Jason Clarke) and his mercenary crew. John, however, is able to escape with President James Sawyer (Jamie Foxx), after the head of the Secret Service detail (James Woods) fails to fulfill his duty.

Sure, the premise is laughable and the White House falls far too easily, but if you’re not willing to play along with James Vanderbilt’s script, odds are you wouldn’t have bought a ticket in the first place. What is relevant about the script is that it’s neither insultingly dumb nor overly contrived, two virtues that are essential to keeping the audience engaged when machine guns aren’t firing (which is rare). The fact that the story holds together also forgives the cheesy dialog (for example: Sawyer, who’s wearing basketball sneakers, saying, “Let go of my Air Jordans!” to the bad guy clenching his feet). As for the action, it’s stupendous. The visual effects are weak in the opening.

The Bling Ring

(Sofia Coppola (“Lost in Translation”).)

Although the film works because most of it is an insightful look at how (some) modern teenagers view the world, Ms. Coppola misses a few opportunities to be truly daring. Rated R.

Is it worth $10? Yes

‘Monsters University’

(Voices of Billy Crystal, John Goodman, Steve Buscemi) Pixar’s latest takes us back in time to Mike (Mr. Crystal) and Sulley (Mr. Goodman) during the college days, when Mike wants to be a scarer and Sulley refuses to study. There are amusing moments and the kids will get a kick out of it, but the plot is by-the-book in terms of college-based stories. Rated G.
The Metropolitan Opera’s “Live in HD” summer encore presentation takes place on Wednesday evenings at movie theaters across the country. Participating cinemas in Southwest Florida are the Hollywood Stadium 20 in Naples, Coconut Point Stadium 16 in Estero, Bell Tower 20 in Fort Myers and Town Center Stadium 16 in Fort Charlotte.

Tickets are $12.50. Screenings begin at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.metopera.org.

Here’s what’s coming:

- **July 10:** “Armida”
  This mythical story of a sorceress who enthralls men in her island prison has inspired operatic settings by a multitude of composers, including Gluck, Haydn, and Dvorák. Renée Fleming stars in the title role of Rossini’s version, opposite no fewer than five tenors. The original “Live in HD” transmission is from May 1, 2010; running time is 3 hours, 5 minutes.

- **July 17:** “La Traviata”
  Natalie Dessay stars as Verdi’s most beloved heroine in Willy Decker’s stunning production, first seen at the Met in 2010. Matthew Polenzani is her lover, Alfredo, and Dmitri Hvorostovsky sings his stern father, Germont. Met Principal Conductor Fabio Luisi is on the podium. The original “Live in HD” transmission is from April 14, 2012; running time is 2 hours, 28 minutes.

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CALLS TO ARTISTS

- **Upcycle! Art Fest** – The inaugural Upcycle! Art Fest, taking place April 26-27 on Sanibel Island, is calling for entries from all artists who work with repurposed material. Those who apply by Oct. 30 will receive a $50 refund on their registration when the show is over. For more information, visit www.UpcycleArtFest.org.

- **Sixth annual Show of Shows** – The Naples Art Association is accepting artwork registrations for its sixth annual Non-Juried All Artist Members Show of Shows Exhibition, which will be on view in The von Liebig Art Center Sept. 9-Nov. 9. Registration deadline is 3 p.m. Aug. 14. Visit www.naplesart.org.

- **Naples Art Association Festivals** – Here’s the lineup for the coming season of art festivals presented by the Naples Art Association. For registration details, call 262-6517 or visit www.naplesart.org:
  - Downtown Naples New Year’s Art Fair: Jan. 4-5 along Fifth Avenue South. Deadline to apply is Oct. 2.
  - Naples National Art Festival: Feb. 22-23 at Eighth Street South and Cambier Park. Deadline to apply is Nov. 6.
  - Mercato Fine Arts Festival: March 1-2 at Mercato. Deadline to apply is Nov. 13.
  - Downtown Naples Festival of the Arts: March 22-23 along Fifth Avenue South. Deadline to apply is Nov. 20.

- **Friends of Rookery Bay and the United Arts Council eighth annual Juried Painting Exhibition** – Following Rookery Bay’s environmental mission, work with a central theme of landscape is preferred but not required. This exhibit is open to artists in Collier and Lee counties, both full-time and seasonal. This year’s juror is Geoff Hanel, painting and drawing instructor at Florida Gulf Coast University. Exhibit hangs Nov. 19-Jan. 30 at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center. Deadline for receipt of electronic entries is Oct. 11.

  For entry rules and more information, e-mail abrowne@uaccollier.com.

- **Naples-based Boulderbrook productions** invites artists to apply online for 11 festivals taking place in the 2013-14 season throughout Collier, Lee and Sarasota counties as well as in Panama City Beach and Pompano Beach.

  Festival organizer Richard Sullivan seeks fine artists working in all media, including painting, photography, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, glass, fiber and metal. Here’s the schedule:
  - Oct. 26-27: Naples Downtown Fall Art Fest
  - Nov. 9-10: Pier Park Masters Art Festival, Panama City Beach
  - Nov. 15-16: Seminole Casino Immokalee Craft & Music Festival
  - Nov. 29-30: Sanibel Masters Art Festival
  - Dec. 7-8: Pompano Beach Masters Art Festival
  - Jan. 18-19: Naples Masters Art Festival, The Shoppes at Vanderbilt
  - Feb. 1-2: Sarasota Masters Art Festival
  - Feb. 15-16: Old Art & Jazz Festival at Lely Resort, Naples
  - March 15-16: Peace River National Art Festival
  - March 22-23: Boca Grande Art & Wine Festival
  - April 19-20: Balloons Over Paradise Festival, Seminole Casino Immokalee

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Shmoo:Antiques

Remember the Shmoo? It started one of the biggest assortment of collectibles in the 20th century. The animal was first seen in a “Li’l Abner” comic strip in August 1946, and it became a sensation. Al Capp, the artist, had invented an animal that laid eggs and glass bottles of milk, tasted like whatever you liked to eat and purposely died when someone seemed hungry. Its button eyes made terrific suspender buttons, and its skin could be used for leather or lumber. They gave rides, played with children and were so amusing people stopped watching television. They multiplied quickly so there was always a good supply, and they needed no food, just air. A Shmoo was shaped like a large upside-down comma with feet, but had no ears, arms or noses. The Shmoo became a collecting sensation in the 1940s and ’50s. There were dolls, toys, planters, sheet music, wallpaper, clothing, books, jewelry, clocks, salt-and-pepper sets, banks and even air fresheners and earmuffs. All are collected today. But while they were lovable and wanted only to bring happiness, Shmoos (the plural of Shmoo) brought misery to the comic-strip people of Dogpatch. Because there was no need to work, society changed. Grocery and meat stores closed, and the owners organized squads to kill the Shmoo until they were thought to be extinct. But they managed to come back in later comic strips. And collectors search for them today.

Q: Grand Rapids Desk Co. made our mahogany roll-top desk. It is 46 inches tall, 40 inches wide and 28 inches deep. We were told when we bought it that it had been used at the old Angus Hotel in St. Paul, Minn. What can you tell me about the desk and its value?

A: The Grand Rapids Desk Co. was in business in Grand Rapids, Mich., from 1893 to 1898. The company moved to Muskegon, Mich., in 1898 following a fire at the Grand Rapids factory, but it kept the same corporate name. If the company mark on your desk reads “Muskegon,” the desk was made after 1898. Grand Rapids Desk Co. manufactured desks and other office furniture in mahogany and oak. Many were sold to hotels in the Midwest. From 1911 to 1971, the Angus Hotel occupied a Victorian apartment building built in 1887 at the corner of Selby and Western avenues just west of downtown St. Paul. The fact that your desk may have been used at the hotel probably does not increase its value, except to a St. Paul collector. But high-quality antique roll-top desks like those made by the Grand Rapids Desk Co. are valuable. One auctioned for...

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This Shmoo has helped mankind as a “household deodorizer.” It sold for $183 in a Hake’s auction in York, Pa., in 2012. It is only 5½ inches tall and has its original foil label.

Q: I have an old wooden crank-type wall telephone handed down in our family. The nameplate on it says: “B-R Electric & Telephone Mfg. Company, Manufacturers of the Celebrated K-C Telephone, Kansas City, Mo., Portland, Oregon.” Please tell me something about this company.
A: B-R Electric Co. and Kansas City Telephone Manufacturing Co. merged in 1903 to form B-R Electric & Telephone Manufacturing Co. B-R continued to market the phones using the Kansas City (K-C) brand name. A phone like yours with the same nameplate recently auctioned for $85. Of course, price depends on condition as well as age and manufacturer.

Q: My antique flow-blue platter belonged to my great-grandmother. She brought it to America from Germany in the 1860s. The oriental pattern includes two houses and other buildings, two figures and two large birds flying above the treetops. The printed mark on the underside of the eight-sided platter is a phoenix bird above the words “Chusan” and “J. Clementson.” The word “Clementson” also is impressed. Please tell me history and value.
A: Your platter was made in England by Joseph Clementson and possibly dates from as early as the 1840s. Clementson operated his pottery at the Phoenix Works in Shelton, Hanley, in the famous Staffordshire District from about 1839 to 1864, but the phoenix bird mark was introduced in the 1840s. Several English manufacturers of flow-blue china (patterns with deliberately smudged blue designs) made oriental patterns named “Chusan,” but the designs are not identical. Your platter, if in excellent condition, would sell for $150 to $200.

Tip: Some vintage and antique dishes have overglaze decorations that will eventually wear off. All gold trim is overglaze and could even wipe off a plate hot from the dishwasher.

— 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.
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Florida Weekly
WEEK OF JULY 4-10, 2013
CONTRACT BRIDGE

Famous Hand
BY STEVE BECKER

This deal occurred in the semi-final of the 2000 women’s world championship in the match between Denmark and the United States. The Americans won the match handily and then lost to the Netherlands in the final by the narrowest margin in world championship history — half an International Match Point.

The deal illustrates the basic principle that when a partnership has determined during the bidding that it holds the majority of the high cards, and the opponents wind up playing at a high-level contract, a trump lead is frequently very effective.

The bidding shown took place when the U.S. pair of Jill Meyers and Randi Montin were East-West, respectively.

North’s four-notrump bid was the “unusual notrump,” promising length in the minors. After South stated her preference for clubs, Meyers doubled, ending the auction.

Montin then led a trump, with devastating effect. Trine Bilde, South, won with the ten and led a diamond to the king and East’s ace. East returned a trump, taken in dummy, and Bilde tried to cash the diamond queen, ruffed by East. Regardless of how declarer proceeded, the contraction could only lose four of the eight points.

At the other table, the bidding was exactly the same, except that East conservatively declined not to double five clubs. West then led the king of spades rather than a trump.

Renee Mancuso, South, took the spade ace and led a diamond to the king and ace. East cashed a heart and returned a spade, ruffed in dummy. Declarer then embarked on a complete crossruff, scoring eight trumps, the spade ace and the diamond queen (which East unaccountably failed to ruff) to finish down one, -50. The net gain of 750 points gave the U.S. a 13-IMP pickup on the deal.

C16

National Association of Wedding Professionals
Intern Scholarship Program fundraiser

Totally 80’s Night
Tuesday, July 9th 2013 from 6pm to 9pm at Bellasera Resort
Tickets are $20 for NAWP members and $30 for non-members.
RSVP to:
Paige.simpson@sunstream.com

The bidding:
East South West North
KJ 87 32
A K 75
J 97 32
A
14

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Florida Weekly
WEEK OF JULY 4-10, 2013

Contract Bridge

Famous Hand
BY STEVE BECKER

This deal occurred in the semi-final of the 2000 women’s world championship in the match between Denmark and the United States. The Americans won the match handily and then lost to the Netherlands in the final by the narrowest margin in world championship history — half an International Match Point.

The deal illustrates the basic principle that when a partnership has determined during the bidding that it holds the majority of the high cards, and the opponents wind up playing at a high-level contract, a trump lead is frequently very effective.

The bidding shown took place when the U.S. pair of Jill Meyers and Randi Montin were East-West, respectively.

North’s four-notrump bid was the “unusual notrump,” promising length in the minors. After South stated her preference for clubs, Meyers doubled, ending the auction.

Montin then led a trump, with devastating effect. Trine Bilde, South, won with the ten and led a diamond to the king and East’s ace. East returned a trump, taken in dummy, and Bilde tried to cash the diamond queen, ruffed by East. Regardless of how declarer proceeded, the contraction could only lose four of the eight points.

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THIS WEEK ON WGCU-TV

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 8 p.m.
A Capitol Fourth

Tom Bergeron (‘Dancing With The Stars’) hosts America’s national Independence Day celebration live from the U.S. Capitol. Join an all-star cast for this musical and fireworks extravaganza.

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 10:30 p.m.
Dunk City: We Are FGCU

Fort Myers skyrocketed into the national spotlight as the FGCU Eagles men’s basketball team made a historic run to the Sweet Sixteen. The impact it has had and will continue to have on the university and the community is told through players, coaches, fans and media.

SATURDAY, JULY 6, 9:30 p.m.
Keeping Up Appearances

Hyacinth Bucket is a character with few, if any, saving graces. Long-suffering husband Richard gets the brunt of it.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

8 p.m., Secrets of Althorp: The Spencers

Althorp House has hosted some of the kingdom’s most distinguished guests, and its rooms have witnessed scenes of great celebration, the first earl’s secret wedding to his sweetheart and most recently, the marriage of the current earl, who takes viewers on a personal tour.

9 p.m., Masterpiece Mystery

Endeavour, Season 1: Girl

DC Morse and DI Thursday investigate burgled gas meters, the sudden death of a young secretarial student and a string of post office robberies. Could Morse’s future on the force be in jeopardy?

MONDAY, JULY 8, 8 p.m.

Antiques Roadshow

Vintage Rochester

From 1998 when items appraised included a painting by Frank Zappa, a van Munster violin and a Minton vase. One of these items increased more than five times in value.

TUESDAY, JULY 9, 8 p.m.

Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery

Follow the voyage from St. Louis to the Pacific. Hear the story of the entire corps — not just the two famous captains, but also the French-Canadian boatmen, Clark’s African-American slave and the Shoshone woman, Sacagawea.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 9 p.m.

Secrets of the Dead

Ultimate Tut

Blending 3D graphics and forensic investigation, the program takes a 21st-century approach to history, following new research and insights into why Tutankhamun’s tomb was the only one to remain intact and the enigma around how he died.

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THE 5 DANGERS WITH HEEL PAIN

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

If you said yes to 2 or more, you need to see us now

1) Walking on hard surfaces causes a sharp, stabbing pain
2) Walking differently to avoid putting pressure on the heel causing hip and back pain
3) Constantly wasting money on custom store bought insoles
4) Wearing higher and higher heels to avoid pain
5) Constant ache in the Achilles tendon

SAVE THE DATE

The Naples Zoo holds its 2013 Children’s Gala: “Carnivale of the Animals” for kids and their grown-ups from 5:30-8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Zoo. The evening will include “wild” games and prizes, a family-friendly silent auction, dinner and a presentation by world-renowned storyteller Jim Weiss.

Tickets are $85 for children, $65 for adults. Those who purchase tickets by Sept. 1 qualify for a chance to win a teddy bear breakfast for the family. Call 262-5409, ext 144. Ask about sponsorships and special tables that include an intimate fairy tale story time with Mr. Weiss and other benefits.

Humane Society Naples holds its Strut Your Mutt costume parade and contest for best-dressed pets (and owners) on Saturday, Oct. 19, at Germain BMW. Admission is free; registration for the costume contest (Most Original, Scariest, Celebrity Lookalike, Cutest and Best Group/two or more pets) is $10.

The society’s 15th annual Tea & Fashion Show is set for Thursday, Dec. 5, at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort. This year’s theme is “Passport to Paris.” Co-chairs are Philip Douglas and Doug Olsen. Visit www.humanesocietynaples.com for information about tickets and sponsorship opportunities as the dates draw near.

Naples residents Sen. Garrett and Diana Richter have taken the helm for the 2013 NCH Hospital Ball set for Saturday, Oct. 26, at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort. The annual gala has generated more than $5 million for projects that vary from the NCH Heart Institute to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Tickets are $500 per person, and a variety of sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, call Miriam Ross at the NCH Healthcare System Foundation at 239-203-35 e-mail foundation@nchmd.org.

The fifth annual Naples International Film Festival is set for Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 7-10. The red carpet opening night gala and screening take place Nov. 7 at Artis—Naples, while features, documentaries and film shorts of all genres will be screened at Silverspot Cinema at Mercato Nov. 8-10. Check www.naplesfilmfest.com for details as the date draws near, or call 775-3456.

Literacy Volunteers of Collier County stages the annual Dancing with the Stars for Literacy beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8, at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. Notable Neapolitans partner with professional dancers from the Naples Academy of Performing Arts to dance two-minute routines before a panel of judges. Performers also compete for a prize awarded to the dancer who raises the most money for LVCC.

Tickets are $175 per person. Advertising sponsorships, table sponsors and a silent auction produce additional funds for LVCC. For more information, call 262-4448 or visit www.colliertiliteracy.org.

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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.

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3. Claudia Polzin and MJ Scarpelli
4. Brad Heiges and Sue Huff
5. Susan Gibben, Isabella LeVan and Don Greet
6. Liz Poletti and Natasha Lidow
7. Joyce Everett and Tricia Battaglia
8. Kathleen Mincherio and Isabella LeVan
9. Marilyn Varco and Scott Peterson
10. Aimee Schiehe, Jerry Goldberg and Carol Shaw
11. Jim and Rita Albaugh
12. Lori Loper
13. Ron Daran and Isabella LeVan
14. John Long and Andrea Clark Brown
15. Dorothy Mills
Behind the scenes at the Sugden with The Contemporaries

1. Kristin Vaughn, Michael Shue, Mark and Suzanne Klym, Mike Dal Lago
2. Michael Shue and Matt Sutton
3. Monica Biondo and Robin Hamilton
4. Nicole Black, Brian Roland, Veron Emnis, Brandy Magill and Karl Rowhorst
5. Mike Dal Lago, Randall Demman and Andrew Rens

The Friends International Women’s Club at Tiburon

Seated: Ingrid Jansons, Marsha Wolfson and Joyce Lanford. Standing: Lis Poitne and Natasha Lidow

Therese Zahner, Marina Berkovich and Peggy Sealston

Kathy Taylor, Ursula Vogel and Rosie Taylor

Liliana McGuire and Marina Berkovich

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BERNADETTE LA PAGLIA / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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BERNADETTE LA PAGLIA / FLORIDA WEEKLY
PAST REPASTS

Here are some capsule summaries of previous restaurant reviews:

➤ Albertro's on Fifth, 868 Fifth Ave. S., Naples; 430-1060
Serving Northern Italian cuisine — not the heavy, marinara-drenched fare that dominates Italian restaurants in Southwest Florida — Albertro's is a breath of fresh air. Chef-owner Alberto Varetto hails from Torino and presided over the kitchen of the venerable Sale e Pepe on Marco Island for more than 10 years. You'll find no mass-produced pasta here. Only freshly made ribbons of pappardelle and tagliatelle are good enough to be laced with Varetto's ragouts; only hand-folded envelopes of agnolotti, raviolini and tortelloni are worthy of being stuffed with meats, cheeses and herbs. Flavor pairings such as plump strawberries. Beer and (basic) wine served.

Food: ★★★☆☆ Atmosphere: ★★★★☆ Reviewed April 2012

➤ Alpine Restaurant, Galleria Shoppes at Vanderbilt, 2355 Vanderbilt Beach Road; 524-9499
Step into Alpine Restaurant and be instantly transported to that lovely part of the world filled with snow-capped mountains and comforting food. There's rib-sticking goulash and hearty schnitzel, plus lighter options, charming service and a dining room that seems lifted whole from some cozy Austrian village. Start off with a bowl of goulash, filled with beef, pork and vegetables or, even better, the sauerkraut soup, with strands of sauerkraut, smoked pork, potatoes and mushrooms. The chicken version of Alpine schnitzel (pork is another option) is marinated, grilled then topped off with provolone and a fried egg. Served with bacon-laced farmers potatoes and a medley of green beans, red peppers, peas and water chestnuts, it's a satisfying meal that guarantees leftovers. The knedlo-pyro-zelo, a traditional Czech dish, features pork, dumplings and sauerkraut and is delicious. A fitting finish is the aptly named Triple Yummy crepe, a delicate pancake filled with Nutella, bananas and strawberries. Beer and (basic) wine served.

Food: ★★★★★ Atmosphere: ★★★★☆ Reviewed January 2013

➤ Big Hickory Seafood Grille, 26107 Hickory Blvd., Bonita Springs; 992-0991
For years, the restaurant has been known for pairing seafood with uniquely delicious — grouper and bananas, for example — and thus showcasing the flavors of Florida and the Caribbean in innovative ways. Its location exploits the rustic charm of a marina that dates to 1969 and affords an impressive view of bay waters, mangrove islands and the fished and feathered inhabitants of each. The apple mango grouper is among the restaurant's recent fruit-and-vegetable combination and it upholds the tasty tradition. The fish was nicely bronzed and its thick flakes perfectly moist; the sweetness of the apple-mango salsa served on top was nicely contrasted by a tart passion fruit sauce. Some dishes seem overpriced, such as the better-than-average conch fritters at $14 for a half-dozen, but the generously portioned shrimp and lobster scampi is worth every penny at $25. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★★★☆☆ Atmosphere: ★★★★★ Reviewed June 2012

➤ Maguro Sushi & Steak House, 895 Wiggins Pass Road, Naples; 591-0003
Easy accessible but not so easy to find, Maguro is worth seeking out. Tucked into an outparcel at the corner of U.S. 41 and Wiggins Pass Road (sharing a parking lot with Beall’s, Petco and other big-boxers), Maguro offers well-executed sushi and cooked entrees in one dining room and the full teppan-yaki show and meal in another, both drenched in cool blue lights. The drink menu is inventive, too. The lychee martini is a standout. As for the food, everything we tasted, from the yellowtail nigiri to the Snow White roll (shrimp tempura and sliced cucumber, seaweed and rice topped with white tuna and unseasoned coconut, finished with spicy mayo and coconut sauce) to the miso soup, vegetable tempura and the shrimp and salmon hibachi combo, was carefully prepared and plated. The coconut boba — with layers of coconut cream, coconut custard and coconut icing — proved an excellent finale for two. Full bar.

Food: ★★★★★½ Service: ★★★☆☆ Atmosphere: ★★★★★ Reviewed February 2013

➤ Michelob's Champion Ribs, 371 Airport Pulling Road, Naples; 643-7427
Michelob's signature spice rub enhances its slow-smoked Danish baby backs, a mustard and paprika blend presented in shakers on every table just in case you want an extra punch of flavor. There are also two bottled sauces to slather on the meaty bones — one tangy with mustard (complex and well balanced) and one smoky-sweet (tasting heavily of Liquid Smoke). All of which is enough to satiate anyone with a serious hankering for good ribs. The baby backs truly stood out from the rest of the meal. The flesh was tender enough to slip off easily and had those crispy edges that just add a little extra texture to the experience. The barbecued chicken had rubbery skin and lacked much in the way of seasoning. A smoked pork dinner had an ample stack of sliced meat but was somewhat dry. Among the side dishes, the smoky-sweet baked beans studded with chunks of pork were a real standout. Full bar.

Food: ★★★½ Service: ★☆☆☆☆ Atmosphere: ★☆☆☆☆ Reviewed July 2012

Key to ratings
★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★★ Superb ★★★★★★ Outstanding ★★★★☆☆ Very good ★★★☆☆☆ Good ★☆☆☆☆ Fair ★☆☆☆☆☆ Poor ★☆☆☆☆☆☆ Poor
He was followed almost immediately by The manager who seated us asked us if it was our first time there. When we said yes, he spent several minutes describing the establishment and its graciousness. The manager who seated us was upbeat.

The Counter culture is one the whole family can embrace

It’s a given that burgers, fries and a soda are the three major food groups embraced by America’s kids. It’s hard to deny them their staple foods, yet parents feel guilt loading them up with the stuff of fast-food chains, which is notoriously laden with salt and meat for which none of the big chains lays claim to sourcing from animals that are humanely raised free of hormones and antibiotics. But The Counter does. It offers 100 percent natural Angus beef, from humanely raised cows that are devoid of hormones and antibiotics. This recent arrival at Mercato also uses trans-fat free oils and offers vegan veggie burgers along with a dozen cheeses, 32 topping options, 23 sauces, six buns (including gluten free) and even a salad in lieu of a bun. (The company claims more than 32,000 possible combinations. I’ll take it’s word for that.) Talk about having it your way!

Also available are fries (regular, chili or sweet potato), fried dill pickles, crispy onion strings and, for the health-conscious, side salads and grilled vegetables. Perhaps my favorite innovation here is that mille-shakes and malts come kid-friendly or in an adult version, which can include a shot of any alcoholic beverage in the house.

The Counter truly offers something for everyone in a lovely setting that will satisfy kids (who won’t have to be shushed into submission) and adults (who long for a break from hard plastic seats and a barrage of movie co-promotions and mascots). The bright dining room boasts roomy booths, banquets, high seats at the bar and a spacious outdoor dining space (weather permitting). Walls have framed photos of what appear to be local waters, bicyclists and other soothing outdoor scenes. A bar filled with immaculate and well-placed bottles of beer, wine and distilled beverages takes up most of one wall, while large windows dominate the front and part of one side. The effect is cheerful, and the mix of voices, many of which came from the multi-generational groups of diners, was upbeat.

The staff here gets special mention for its graciousness. The manager who seated us asked us if it was our first time there. When we said yes, he spent several minutes explaining the structure of the menu. He was followed almost immediately by Melanie, our effervescent and ultra-sharp server who added still more to our Counter culture education.

The Fifty-Fifty offers customers a chance to taste two crunchy treats by picking from sweet potato fries, crispy onion strings and regular fries for their choice of cheese, up to four toppings (a few premium ones cost another $0.50), sauce and bun. Fries, onion strings and such range from $2 for a single order of fries to $6.50 for the Fifty-Fifty, with plenty of sweet potato fries and crispy onion strings for sharing. For kids, two mini burgers with cheese and applesauce or fries are $6 grilled cheese, ham-and-cheese or PB&J sandwiches are $4–$6.

Considering what we were contem- plating eating, we reluctantly skipped the adult milkshakes and sampled two of the specialty house drinks: a tasty Margarita Frosco and the Dazzle (Bombay Sapphire gin, pineapple juice, ginger ale, lime and a touch of grenadine). Both were expertly mixed, icy cold and delicious on a hot sum- mer evening. The menu prices them at $9, but we were charged $8 each, which I’m supposing was a happy hour price.

The sweet potato fries and crispy onion strings were excellent, properly fried, devoid of grease, with good flavor on their own but made better by the three sauces served with them: ranch, smoky barbecue and a mildy spicy horseradish sauce. This is considered an appetizer, so be careful not to fill up before the main attraction. Constructing a burger from all those ingredients might prove too taxing — or unnecessary — for some diners. In that case, consider an offering such as the Old School burger ($9), which suited my din- ning companion just fine. It’s 1/3 pound beef with Tillamook cheddar, lettuce, red onion, pickle, tomato and red relish. Ordered medium well, it came out with just a pink center and proved a good choice as to remain on the bun when you picked it up.

I ventured into unknown territory, starting with a turkey burger and add- ing Grayeye, cole slaw, grilled pineapple, roasted corn and black bean salsa, sautéed onions and ginger soy glaze on a wheat bun. Wow! What a great combination and, once again, the items were layered on the bun so that it didn’t crumble at first taste. The slaw and sauce came on the side and, because the slaw wasn’t creamy, it was easy to add to the mix while I used the sauce as a dip.

I can’t imagine really desiring dessert after all that food, but perhaps skipping the fries and onion strings might make it more likely. We genuinely tried (and failed) to polish off a large chocolate brownie ($5), which was served warm with ice cream ($2), chocolate and caramel sauces and whipped cream. We had a few bites but couldn’t make much of a dent. Our server offered to box it up for us to take home. Uh, no thanks. I didn’t want to hear it calling to me from the refrigerator at midnight.

The Counter is clearly different from the herd of burger joints that line Amer- ica’s burgess. Kids are going to love it — and, better yet, so will the parents. You can count on that.

For a sweet finish, the oversized brownie comes with ice cream, caramel and chocolate sauce.

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