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At Renaissance Academy, the world is a classroom

BY EVAN WILLIAMS ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

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Writing from every corner of the Florida Weekly readership, the correspondents below offer both praise and criticism for the column, “Nothing to say,” which appeared in print last week. Some comments have been edited for length.

R.

So lately, I have been re-reading Horace, as an openly admitted escape mechanism. I need to pick up Langston Hughes and throw some cold water in my face. Well-quoted and written. Best regards,
— T. (Thomas Wallace, president, IDS Corporation)

Mr. Williams, Wonder if you have anything to say about this:

My name was Antonio West and I was a 13-month-old child who was shot at point blank range by two black teens who were attempting to rob my mother, who was also shot. A grand jury of my mom’s peers from Brunswick, Ga., determined the teens who murdered me will never face the death penalty ... too bad I was given a death sentence for being innocent and defenseless.

My family made the mistake of being white in a 73 percent non-white neighborhood, but my murder was not ruled a hate crime. Nor did President Obama take so much as a single moment to acknowledge my murder....

There is not a white equivalent of Al Sharpton because if there was he would be declared racist, so there is no one rushing to Brunswick to demand justice for me. There is no White Panther party to put a bounty on the lives of those who murdered me. I have no voice, I have no representation and unlike those who shot me in the face while I sat innocently in my stroller, I no longer have my life. So while you are seeking justice for Treyvon, please remember to seek justice for me, too...just like you did for Treyvon.

Thank you and God bless.
— Scott Vosit

Dear Mr. Williams,
Thank you for your commentary.
I think you may have been “cursed” by this Franciscan Benediction at some time:

“May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

“May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and the exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

“And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you do what others claim cannot be done.”

Peace and grace,
— Ayork

Roger,
While you were saying nothing while having absolutely nothing to say, I noticed you left out the entertainment industry, George Soros, the Clintons’ $300 million in speaking engagements, people like Harry Reid, multi-millionnaire, and Nancy Pelosi and many more politicians of both parties who had nothing before they began representing we the people. And how can we miss Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson making millions on race issues?
— OJ Atkinson Jr.

Roger, I enjoyed your opinion article about “Nothing to say.” Especially “If shareholders are getting a return, why fault a guy for getting paid?” asked Mr. DeCarlo.

“The thing is, a government or a company, either one, is not a government or a company; it’s you and me and Trayvon and George and Johnny and Dickie and Stevie and Jamie and Louie and Irene and Gracia.

“And every single one of them and all of us have choices...”

Why not push or entice your readers to use the voicing options available to our elected officials (by writing to them). Keep up the good work!
— Russ Tidaback

Dear Roger,
You got nothing to say. Well, I got something say.

I have something to say when: A young man chooses to start an altercation with a man with a gun, when he could have called 911 or ran home.

People refuse to accept the verdict of a jury in Florida and cry racism, yet celebrated an outrageous verdict in California from an admitted racist jury.

People are so angry about Trayvon but don’t even know the names of the four black kids killed in Chicago over the July 4th holiday weekend. Maybe their community organizers in that city didn’t do such a good job.

A government runs up a $9 trillion deficit and expects us to pay for its mistakes and bad judgment. Is that un-American?

Corporations sell, invest in things which save our lives, make our lives easier and essentially feed the world — yet this newspaper chooses to vilify them constantly. Exactly who pays for most things and pays for most people to have employment? Aren’t taxes taken out of salaries? Stores remove Paula Dean from their shelves within minutes, yet play music using the same words over their speakers? And sell a magazine celebrating a terrorist? Roger Williams has nothing to say about the salaries of civil servants living in the D.C. area and the outrageous benefit packages politicians receive nationwide.

Roger has nothing to say about a Congress without a budget.
I guess Roger and his Liberal friends can handle the consequences and choices when they mirror and support your socialist agenda.
— Ed Bennett

— O.T. Atkinson Jr.
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Let the light of Mandela shine on U.S. injustice

The world is grateful for the heroes of Robben Island, who remind us that no shackles or cells can match the strength of the human spirit.

"We don't need a lecture; we need a lesson," Cel Morris-Davis told me. He is a retired Air Force colonel, and was the chief military prosecutor at Guantanamo Bay. Until he retired, he said, he was "empowered to sign documents. It's not like I'm signing to use statements obtained through torture." He went on: "When President Obama and his administration released several African American prisoners from the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, he took Sasha and Malia to visit (Robben Island). And at the same time, he was releasing an African American man in tanama, where the majority have been cleared to be transferred out. There are stories that have been politically correct so much that we have cleared to be transferred home, and they still sit in prison." While Obama's two elections as president prompted many to declare a post-racial America, the Zimbabwean trial verdict last week exposes that fallacy. Phillip Agnew is the executive director of Dream Defenders, a network of black and brown youth and their allies in Florida who are fighting for equal rights and education. Following the verdict, he told me that they will continue what they do.

As the world celebrates Nelson Mandela’s 95th birthday, it is timely to reflect on his life, spent fighting for equality for the people of color who long suffered under South Africa’s apartheid-era prison off the coast of Cape Town. First Lady Michelle Obama said of the experience, "It was amazing to see Mandela’s cell, a tiny room about 6 feet wide — where he spent 18 of the 27 years he was in prison. He slept on a thin mattress on the floor, and when he stretched out to sleep at night, his toes touched one wall, while his head grazed the other. The walls were two feet thick with no decorations, and he was given a bucket to use as a toilet."

Dream Defenders mobilized immediately after Mandela’s acquittal, and descended on Tallahassee, the capital of Florida, where they occupied the offices of Republican Gov. Rick Scott. They want Scott to call a special legislative session to repeal Florida’s “Stand Your Ground” law, which expands a person’s right to use deadly force in a confrontation, and that are remaining until their concerns are addressed.

Wendy Davis, abortion extremist

Wendy Davis is the country’s most prominent defender of late-term abortions, what Rosa Parks was to desegregation, what Fannie Lou Hamer was to respect for the disabled, what Elizabeth Cady Stanton was to women’s suffrage, the Texas state senator is to abortion after 20 weeks of fetal development.

Texas just passed a law banning abortion after that point, a measure supported by the public and by common sense, but not by the stalwart Davis. For her trouble, she has been accorded fawning media coverage and showered with $1 million in donations, showing that abortion rights have hit the mainstream, so long as it is pro-abortion radicalism.

A ban after 20 weeks, near the end of the second trimester, represents a minor restriction on abortion by any reasonable standard. Many European countries, where we tend to consider lax on such matters, ban abortion well before 20 weeks. In Belgium and France, abortion is banned after 12 weeks.

Davis likes to say that less than 1 percent of abortions in Texas are taken after the 20th week or later, without realizing that how that damns her own case. By her own admission, she is not even willing to give up 1 percent of abortions.

The 20-week benchmark isn’t arbitrary. When he, the foremost research subject of fetuses feel pain, respected University of Utah expert Maureen Condic recently testified before Congress, he viewed fetuses “deserve the benefit of the doubt regarding their experience of pain and protection from cruel treatment.”

The public basically believes the same thing. In Texas, a University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll found that 99 percent of people support the ban. Nationwide, even a recent HuffPost/YouGov poll found that 99 percent support a ban after 20 weeks.

There is nothing outlandish or — assuming its supported — incapable of suicidally stupid rhetorical mistakes — politically risky about the Texas law. It includes an exception for the health of the mother and for extreme fetal abnormality.

Wendy Davis always couches her position, of course, in terms of reproductive “health.” In the very same breath, though, she opposes a provision of the Texas law requiring that abortion clinics meet the same standards as ambulatory surgery centers. Since abortion involves outpatient surgery, this would seem an incredibly ironic measure, especially given that Democrats favor the strict regulation of practically every other aspect of medical practice that has been studied from happening again.

The requirements, like wider hallways, aren’t frivolous. One of Kermit Gosnell’s “patients” bled to death because his clinic couldn’t properly accommodate a 15-year-old. In Zimbabwe, there is an abortion clinic in Houston have told horror stories reminiscent of Gosnell’s unlicensed enterprise.

If the balance of the Democratic Party weren’t invested in protecting abortion as a kind of secular sacrament — “sacred ground,” as Nancy Pelosi calls it — it would recoil from Wendy Davis in embarrassment. Instead, it lionizes her. And why not? She exemplifies its moral and political bankruptcy on this issue.

— Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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As executive and artistic director of the Naples International Film Festival, Shannon Franklin is charged with executing the vision of NIFF, helping select the films that will be screened and managing all the operational aspects of the four-day event (Nov. 7-10 this year). She is one of the festival’s few paid staff members and the only one who has a full-time position.

Shannon and her siblings were born in New Jersey but grew up in Naples, where their parents have owned and operated assorted small businesses for more than 30 years.

English and drama were Shannon’s favorite classes at Barron Collier High School. She started at the University of Florida with the intention to study medicine, but soon switched her major to theater performance. She studied improvisation in Chicago for a couple of years after college and spent the next 10 years in L.A., working in all areas of the entertainment industry: acting, voice-over, production, wardrobe styling. She also co-founded a small independent film production company.

Shannon met her husband of 12 years, Zach, in Los Angeles, where he worked as an actor, filmmaker and musician before deciding to go to law school. The couple moved to Shannon’s hometown running an arts organization, but also enjoyed working behind the scenes, and I frequently rely on both skill sets for my work with the film festival. “I feel incredibly blessed.”

Opening night for the fifth annual Naples International Film Festival takes place Thursday, Nov. 7, at Artis—Naples. Approximately 40 independent shorts, documentaries and full-length feature films will be screened at Silverspot Cinema throughout the festival weekend. For more information, go to www.naplesfilmfest.com.

— Bob Harden is the producer and host of “The Bob Harden Show” airing from 7-8 a.m. weekdays at www.choboharden.com.

Talking points with Rey Pezeshkan

As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? I fell in love with acting and film at a very young age, but I also had an interest in a variety of other things — fashion design, psychology and medicine among them.

First job: I was a hostess at the Naples Dinner Theatre.

Favorite thing about the Paradise Coast: Even as Naples has grown and developed over the years, it has managed to keep its charm and tranquility.

- Bob Harden is the producer and host of “The Bob Harden Show” airing from 7-8 a.m. weekdays at www.choboharden.com.
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of the cat show world.) Putting the fur back from Yucatan’s forehead, the judge said, “Look at the beautiful eye color,” Golden. “It just jumps out and says, I am so direct!”

The judge stretched Yucatan’s body out before the audience, continuing his flattery: “We have the proper markings here. Clarity where it should be. Beautiful markings under the belly. Nice boning. Excellent profile. Proper ear shape and set.”

“Is this a beautiful youngster. He will be a very exciting adult, I believe. Our best one!”

Arnold says. “I love the showing obsession. This is one of those culminating moments his owner Perry Arnold had been grooming him for — bathing with him with a brassing shampoo to bring out the bristle shades in his coat, putting him on a special diet of raw meat to keep his coat shiny, trimming his nails, cleaning his ears, taking him on car rides in his carrier ever since he was 3 weeks old so he could become accu-

smacks the arm of her cat-loving Persian takes sixth. The audience claps

The weekend of July 27-28, Yucatan had on the Las Vegas strip, Yucatan had already taken top prize in a couple. Now he was looking to take best kitten in the all-breed final.

The Vegas show had drawn 179 entries. Being a Vegas, an Elvis impres- sonator introduced the judges. Women walked among the stacks of each of the cat's winning, you may want to go to a cat show and spend $50 to $100 on the weekend,” he says.

Mr. Barnaby lives in Nokomis, north of Port Charlotte. Looking at cats, judging cats, sizing them up to see how close they came to the written standards of the breed, Mr. Barnaby was active in the CFA for more than 55 years. “That and 10 cents will get you a ride on a bus,” he jokes.

Applying to be a judge, Mr. Barnaby had to have the knowledge of raising several different breeds, so he raised Siamese, Abyssinians, manx, American shorthairs, Burmese, Persians. “Lord, I had a lot of cats at one point in my life,” he says. “Now I’m just down to a Bombay and a household pet.”

Mr. Barnaby says it takes money to have a winning cat, just like it takes money to have a winning dog. “If your cat’s winning, you may want to go to a cat show and spend $50 to $100 on the weekend,” he says.

Mr. Barnaby lives in Nokomis, north of Port Charlotte. Scouting past whose- ever took first, Ms. Arnold

Patti Arnold with retired show cat Sojourner

crashing with friends and chatting about cats.

Ms. Arnold has seven breeding cats, as well as a spay and a couple of neu-

ters she chose to keep for her own pets. She’s been showing cats since 1998. “I just came off a national win,” she says. “I just crash with the mom of a

child beauty queen as she speaks of her Sojourner, now home and retired. She named the breed for the cat in the nation, the third best cat in the southern region and the best in the nation for the 2012-13 season. Ms. Barnaby and her champion Sojourner entered two or three shows a month. Their expenses for the whole season surpassed $10,000. Her recent weekend in Vegas ran close to $800.

“I’m just a working girl, so (going to cat shows) lets me see a lot of differ-

ent places I probably wouldn’t see,” Ms. Arnold says. “It makes my job, my 9-to-5 Monday-to-Friday, worth going to. I love going to work,” because work funds her cat life.

Working for cats 

Mr. Barnaby works as an adminis-

strative assistant for the Lee County Department of Community Develop-

ment. She’s been there 25 years. Her kind of community involvement consists as a rehabilitation nurse through the Lee Memorial Health System, specializing in brain and spinal cord injury. But as a child beauty queen, Ms. Arnold knows there was such a competition for cats. She’s been showing cats for three years. She’s campaigning her cinnamon-spotted ocicat Dewey for a regional win this season. “Showing cats is a nice hobby away from nursing,” she says.

Stan Barnaby, a CFA judge for 49 years, says showing cats used to be an inexpensive hobby. Considering the cost of hotel, travel, and entry fees, he doesn’t know how people afford it today. “I used to be able to go to a cat show and spend $50 on the weekend,” he says.

Mr. Barnaby lives in Nokomis, north of Port Charlotte. Scouting past whose- ever took first, Ms. Arnold

Patti Arnold with retired show cat Sojourner

About: a judge inspects Yucatan at the Las Vegas show. Top right: Yucatan is a winner.

TOP CATS

From page 1

region seven of the Cat Fanciers’ Asso-

iation, the largest region in the south.

Ms. Kennedy — Dewey’s owner, Ms. Arnold’s commander and manager of the Platinum Coast show — says the local club has been around for “20s.” This year marks its 20th anniversary. Appar-

ently, the CFA world is big, having added regions in Europe and Japan. But where there was such a competi-

tive microcosm of cat lovers right here in Southwest Florida?

Best in Show awards will be pre- sented in four divisions: best premi-

er ship (meaning spays and neuters), best cat (meaning “intact” cats), best kitten and best household pet.

Local Girl Scouts will serve as ring stewards. Cat aficionados will snatch up homemade cat toys, plush pet beds, chichi cat condos and custom scratch-

ning pads.

But these competitors who string their cats’ blue ribbons around the rooms of their house, these competi-

tors who program the CFA cat show schedule on their iPhone calendars, these competitors who do not have children but speak to their kittens in baby talk, are very self-aware: Their children but speak to their kitties in
Half the cat shows in Florida were canceled this year because clubs are losing money.

No monetary reward begets the question: Why do people do it? What is their reward?

“Some people find it rewarding to walk up at the annual (CFA) meeting and collect one of the Top 20 awards,” Mr. Barnaby says. “Sometimes I wonder if it doesn’t become all about them instead of being all about their cat.”

Now retired, Mr. Barnaby still holds himself to the conduct of a judge. Not wishing to say anything negative about cat shows, expand on the extremes some competitors go to or share any backstabbing stories of sabotage, he starts backpedaling his words: “I can’t answer that question. I don’t know anymore.”

Mr. Barnaby always said as long as he enjoyed judging, he would keep on doing it. He’s sorry he didn’t make it to 50 years. Health-wise, he says he couldn’t do it anymore. He has a mild case of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and an old back injury that’s rearing up again. But he never stopped enjoying the people, handling all the cats and then deciding which one was better than the rest.

“It’s competitive, but it’s a friendly atmosphere,” he says. “People go for the joy of being with other people who share their same interest … you meet so many people, all different kinds of people you enjoy being with. I guess that’s probably why I’ve been with it for so long. They don’t judge you for how much money you have or you don’t have.

“They might be jealous you have a better cat than they have; but hey, that’s the breaks.”

Naples cat breeder Ann Jucha has been showing cats since 1994. She says her mother forever asks her the same question: “Why do you do it, honey? You’re not winning any money.”

She answers her bluntly. “Because I’m insane, Mom. That’s why.”

Ms. Jucha co-owns Ms. Arnold’s national champ Sojourner. Contributing to his show funds entitled her to his breeding rights.

“It’s so hard to keep a cat in condition for a whole season,” says Ms. Jucha, boosting the feat of their national win. “Cats get tired like people do. They go off their food and get underweight … With females, their hormones come into play. When a female’s in season, she doesn’t eat. She’s crabby. Males start calling and spraying like, ‘I don’t want to eat. I want to breed.’ You couldn’t imagine how hard it is to keep a cat in top condition all season.”

But she did it. And she’s not doing it again this year.

“I’ve scaled way back. I’m semi-retired,” she says. “I’m not showing this year.”

She agrees with Mr. Barnaby that cat shows are dying.

“First of all, the economy,” she says. “A lot of people don’t have the disposable income they had at one time, and showing cats is not cheap,” she says. In addition, she says, animal rights activists are making many regions and municipalities un-breeder friendly. “But people that show cats … these are the people that are breeding with the right intention.”

Ms. Jucha says she doesn’t breed or show cats to make money. So why does she do it?

“Self-gratification,” she says, making the truth behind cat shows really quite human.

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**The 20th anniversary Platinum Coast Cat Fanciers Show:** “Fun in the Sun:

>> When: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 27-28

>> Where: Araba Temple, 2010 Hanson St., Fort Myers

>> Cost: $7 adults, $5 children; kids under 4 are free

>> Info: http://flcatshows.com

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The Everglades Region/Florida Chapter of the Club Managers Association of America holds its 16th annual charity classic gala and golf tournament Sunday and Monday, Oct. 6-7, at Shadow Wood Country Club. Proceeds will benefit Barbara’s Friends, The Golisano Children’s Hospital Cancer Fund. This year’s sponsor is D. Garrett Construction Inc.

For information about sponsorship packages, call Lori Cook North at 287-0780 or e-mail lori@eventfulinc.com.

First National Bank of the Gulf Coast has announced the beneficiaries of its fifth annual charity golf tournament. Blessings in a Backpack of Southwest Florida and The ABLE Academy will split the proceeds of the tournament that takes place Saturday, Oct. 12, at Hideout Golf Club. Blessings in a Backpack provides elementary school students who are on the federal free and reduced meals program with a backpack of food to take home for 38 weekends during the school year.

The Applied Behavioral Learning Enterprises (ABLE) Academy is dedicated to the study of human behavior and development and its effective application on children with developmental disabilities.

For information about tournament sponsorship opportunities, call Heather Tice at 325-3750.

Donors who give $100 to the Harry Chapin Food Bank via WCI Communities at www.WCIGolf.com will receive a complimentary foursome at one of three WCI golf courses in Southwest Florida. For each $100, the food bank can distribute $600 worth of food and supplies. The offer is available through Sept. 15; the round of golf must be played by Sept. 30. Tee time reservations are available two days in advance at Raptor Bay Golf Club and The Colony Golf & Country Club in Bonita Springs and at Pelican Preserve in Fort Myers.

For more information, visit www.WCIGolf.com or contact Bob Radunz at 390-4703 or BobRadunz@wcicomunities.com.

Registration is now open for volunteers to help with the CME Group Titleholders, the final event of the 2013 LPGA Tour season, which takes place Nov. 18-24 at Tiburon Golf Club at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. Golf knowledge is not required for volunteers, who pay $65 and receive an official CME Group Titleholders golf shirt and headwear, a volunteer badge valid for weeklong tournament access, four complimentary grounds tickets for guests of the volunteer’s choice and meals and beverages during assigned shifts.

To register or for more information, call 593-3900, e-mail kyler.oshea@octagon.com or visit www.cmegrouptitleholders.com and click on Volunteer Information.
Sheriff's captain named James V. Mudd award recipient

Bishop Capt. Rod Bishop of the Collier County Sheriff's Office has been named the James V. Mudd Fellowship Award recipient by the The Leadership Collier Foundation. Sheriff Kevin Rambosk will present the award at a public ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 2, at the Great er Naples Chamber of Commerce, 2390 Tamiami Trail.

The annual award was created to honor former Collier County Manager Jim Mudd and to acknowledge his outstanding public service leadership. The fellowship acknowledges an outstanding leader whose contributions mirror those of Mr. Mudd's devotion to enhancing leadership and stewardship.

“Capt. Rod Bishop exemplifies the Mudd principles of public service: Always preserve your integrity as you focus on your mission in life: to serve our country, state and county with the constant quest for excellence to the best of your ability,” Mike Reagen, president and CEO of the chamber, says. “He is among Collier’s finest, who by truly keeping us safe — but out of sight and mind for most of us until we need them — make this among America’s best places to live, work and visit.”

Capt. Bishop joined the CCSO in 1992 as a road patrol deputy in Immokalee. He became a detective and has risen through the ranks, first as a sergeant followed by lieutenant and commander in the Criminal Investigations Division. Earlier this year he was promoted to captain of the CID, which includes the Major Crimes Bureau, General Crimes Bureau, Crime Scene Bureau, Bureau of Technical Services and Financial Crimes Bureau. He is also the supervisor of the agency’s Hostage Negotiation Team, of which he has been a member since 1995.

Originally from Michigan, Capt. Bishop moved to Collier County with his parents at age 7. He earned a degree in criminology from Florida State University.


The public is invited to the Aug. 2 award ceremony. Attendance is free, but registration is required. E-mail Amanda Beights at Amanda@napleschamber.org or call the chamber at 262-6376.
trip to Sicily, and another to the French countryside, in April and May.

Each tour takes guests to a mixture of destinations well-known and sometimes obscure. Participants may also take two trips as one, back to back.

"While I wouldn’t call these study tours, there’s a heavy emphasis on culture," Mr. Guerra said.

Fort Myers residents Robert and Joan Pascotto, he a retired heart surgeon and she a retired nurse, have been on trips organized by Mr. Guerra to Italy, Brazil and Turkey. Among other features, the adventures include local art history guides who are, fortunately, fluent in English.

"That puts a very nice icing on the cake to get so much education and exposure," Mrs. Pascotto said, "on top of the wonderful time, wonderful meals, wonderful atmosphere," Mr. Guerra said.

In addition to destinations such as Sicily and France, Mr. Guerra is considering planning a trip next year to Myanmar, a lesser-traveled Asian country bordered by Thailand.

"It’s a place most Americans would never go," he said. "Most people in Southwest Florida have probably been to Paris; they’ve been to Rome; they’ve been to London. I’m sort of trying to branch out a bit."

One of the trips Mr. Guerra led in past years took participants to Turkey. He described one day when the group took a private boat along the coastline with its turquoise waters, stopping at whim to take a dip or feast on freshly caught seafood prepared by the captain. That evening their tour guide played the Saz, a Turkish instrument similar to a guitar. "We literally sang and danced all night long on the deck of the ship," Mr. Guerra recalled.

In May 2012, a group led by the Academy’s program manager, Dr. Chris Gallagher, PhD., traveled to China. They were also able to cross the border into Tibet because of their skilled local guide, even while political tensions rose to a high point after monks there set themselves on fire to protest Chinese rule. Dr. Gallagher still keeps in touch with the guide, Mei-Mei Zhang (Vicki to her in English) of the Healthcare Network.

"The group also saw high profile cultural destinations such as the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square and the Yangtze River. "It was truly the trip of a lifetime," Dr. Gallagher said.

Most of the participants on the trips are retirees enrolled in the continuing education program. Some may include their younger guests, ranging in age from upper 30s to a youthful 89, Mr. Guerra said.

"We’ve had mothers, daughters, fathers, sons going along; sisters, grandmothers, aunts and nieces go," he said. "It’s always an interesting mix."
This is my hospital.

-Justin Warner, MD
General Surgery

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TO YOUR HEALTH

Need for blood donors remains

Donations of blood slow to a trickle during the summer months in Southwest Florida, but the need for 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 319 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. Aug. 12.

Here are some additional stops for the bloodmobile coming up:

■ Thursday, July 25: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Bellasera Hotel, 221 Ninth St. S.
■ Saturday and Sunday, July 27-28: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Semblar Plaza, corner of Naples Boulevard and Airport-Pulling Road, near Panera Bread
■ Monday, July 29: 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 4 What Interactive, 1040 Collier Center Way
■ Monday, July 29: 3:30-6:30 p.m. at Naples Walk Plaza, southeast corner of Vanderbilt Beach and Airport-Pulling roads
■ Thursday, Aug. 1: 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Marco Healthcare Center, 40 Heathwood Drive, Marco Island

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 624-4220 or visit www.givebloodbcr.org.

HEALTHY LIVING

Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida awarded $176,000 in federal funding

BY KAYDEE TUFF

Special to Florida Weekly

“$176,000 is a good start and certainly an indication that Healthcare Network will be leading the way in providing quality managed health care for a growing population of Collier citizens,” says Louis Traina, director of the Healthcare Network Foundation.

Healthcare Network does this with a staff of 275, including 42 medical and dental professionals plus medical students from Florida State University College of Medicine and the University of Florida College of Dentistry.

Other significant educational partners include Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology Dental Assistant Program and Nova Southeastern School of Osteopathic Medicine.

“Most people have no idea of the many facilities and services we offer,” Dr. Akin says. “That’s why we recently conducted a rebranding to reintroduce ourselves as we move the network toward becoming a patient-centered medical home that facilitates partnerships between patients and their physicians.

“It’s what’s best for the patient, and it’s the way health care should be provided.”

The Healthcare Network serves the community with 13 care centers in North Naples, East Naples, Golden Gate, Marco Island and Immokalee, as well as the NCEF Pediatric Dental Center on the Collier campus of Edison State College and Ronald McDonald Care Mobile.

Funding for the Healthcare Network comes from patient fees and reimbursements, federal grants and generous philanthropic support. More than 96 percent of funding goes directly to patient care.

“Without private support, many of our managed care and preventative services, such as basic dental care for pregnant mothers, would not exist,” says Emily Watt, chair of the Healthcare Network Foundation.

“These are vital services that greatly impact the lives of children and families of Collier County.”

For more information on the Healthcare Network and how you can be part of the solution, contact Mr. Traina by calling (858)-3111 or e-mailing ltraina@healthcareinf.org.

— Kaydee Tuff is the communications-marketing coordinator for the Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida Foundation.
New study suggests that moving more may lower stroke risk

Here’s yet another reason to get off the couch: new research findings suggest that regularly breaking a sweat may lower the risk of having a stroke.

A stroke can occur when a blood vessel in the brain gets blocked. As a result, nearby brain cells will die after not getting enough oxygen and other nutrients. A number of risk factors for stroke have been identified, including smoking, high blood pressure, diabetes and being inactive.

A recent study, published in the journal Stroke, used data from the Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke study. REGARDS is a large, long-term study funded by the NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to look at the reasons behind the higher rates of stroke mortality among African-Americans and other residents living in the southeastern United States.

Epidemiological studies such as REGARDS provide an important opportunity to explore race, genetics, environmental and lifestyle choices as stroke risk factors,” said Claudia Moy, Ph.D., program director at NINDS.

The researchers reported data for more than 27,000 participants who were stroke-free at the start of the study and followed for an average of 5.7 years. One-third of participants reported exercising less than once a week. Study subjects who were inactive were 20 percent more likely to experience a stroke or TIA than participants who exercised four or more times a week.

The findings revealed that regular, moderately vigorous exercise, enough to break a sweat, was linked to reduced risk of stroke. Part of the protective effect was due to lower rates of known stroke risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity and smoking.

“Our results confirm other research findings but our study has the distinct advantage of including larger numbers, especially larger numbers of women as well as blacks, in a national population sample so these provide somewhat more generalizable results than other studies,” said Virginia Howard, Ph.D., senior author of the study from the School of Public Health, University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The researchers also looked at the data according to gender. After the researchers accounted for age, race, socioeconomic factors (education and income) and stroke risk factors, the results revealed that men who exercised at least four times a week still had a lower risk of stroke than men who exercised one to three times per week. In contrast, there was no association between frequency of exercise and stroke risk among women in the study. However, there was a trend toward a similar reduction in stroke risk for those who exercised one to three times a week and four or more times a week compared to those who were inactive.

“This could be related to differences in the type, duration and intensity of physical activity between men and women,” said Dr. Howard. “This could also be due to differences in the perception of what is intense physical activity enough to work up a sweat.”

The results should encourage doctors to stress the importance of exercise when speaking with their patients. The study suggests that men should consider exercising at least four times a week.

For more information about stroke, visit www.stroke.nih.gov.

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Youth Haven collecting school supplies

Youth Haven is collecting school supplies to help ensure that the children and teens served by the emergency shelter go back to school with the tools they need. In addition to the Youth Haven campus at 5867 Whitaker Road, drop-off locations are:

- Fit & Fuel Bicycle Café, 839 Vanderbilt Beach Road (in the Pavilion Shopping Center). Hours: 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

- Fifth Third Center (beginning Monday, July 29, 999 Vanderbilt Beach Road. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The following supplies are welcome:
- Pens, pencils, loose-leaf paper, three-ring binders (2 inches and larger), heavy-duty backpacks, crayons and colored markers, spiral notebooks, dividers and folders with pockets.
- Gift cards for school uniforms (Target, Walmart, Marshalls and TJ Maxx) are also welcome.

For more information, call Aileen Carroll at 687-5155 or e-mail aileen.carroll@youthhaven.net.

Bigham Jewelers offers conference room for meetings

Bigham Jewelers announces that its conference room is now available to nonprofits, advisory boards and other community groups at no charge. In the Bigham Jewelers Galleria at 2425 Tamiami Trail N., the conference room can accommodate up to 10 people and has a high-definition video screen that is compatible with most laptops.

The room is available by reservation during Bigham Jewelers’ regular hours of operation, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call Ursula Pfahl at 454-2800 or e-mail umpfahl@bighamjewelers.com to reserve the space.

Registration open for free ‘Thinking Outside the Box’

Reservations are now being taken for the fourth annual Thinking Outside the Box seminar about marketing and fund-raising for local nonprofit organizations. The free seminar takes place from 8:30 a.m. to noon Friday, Aug. 16, in the Community Room at the Naples Daily News, 1100 Immokalee Road.

In keeping with this year’s theme of “Making the Leap,” the following speakers will encourage attendees to leap forward in their thinking and actions: Sue Huff, owner of E. Sue Huff & Associates Marketing & Management Consulting; Paul Kessen, president, Allegro of Naples; Jim Henderson, president, William C. Huff Companies; Kelly Capsile, real estate agent and philanthropist; Robin Calabrese, Naples News Media Group; and Scott Robertson, Scott Robertson Auctioneers.

Staff, board members and volunteers from area nonprofits are welcome. In order to ensure representation from as many organizations as possible, attendance is limited to two people per organization. Continental breakfast will be provided courtesy of Costco.

Reservations can be made by submitting the name of the nonprofit organization and the names, e-mail and phone numbers of each person requesting attendance via e-mail to esuehuffinc@gmail.com.

Heart Association raises over $2.5 million

The American Heart Association, Southwest Florida Market, announced its final fundraising figures for fiscal year 2012-2013. In Lee and Collier counties, the organization raised $2,005,868 for lifesaving cardiovascular research, education and awareness. An additional $549,231 was raised in Sarasota, Polk and Charlotte counties, which were included in the Southwest Florida Market for FY 2012-2013, bringing the market’s fundraising total to $2,555,099.

This record-breaking fundraising year reflects the efforts of the organization’s many faithful supporters and volunteers, said Leslie Amick, Southwest Florida Market vice-president.

To support the American Heart Association in its mission or become a volunteer, call 495-4900.

Travel expo on tap at the Strand

“Get on the Bus: A Charity Luncheon and Travel Expo” to benefit Champions For Learning (formerly the Education Foundation of Collier County) is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8, at The Club at The Strand. The afternoon presented by Trendy Tours and CI Travel will feature dozens of travel-related booths from major cruise lines, tour companies, attractions and an array of silent auction items and raffle prizes.

Tickets for $49 include a sit-down lunch, a travel tote bag and a raffle ticket for fabulous raffle prizes. Reservations are required and can be made by call 449-5065 or e-mailing trendytours@aol.com.

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PET TALES

Lost and found

The kindness of neighbors can help stray pets find their way home

BY GINA SPADAFORI

In the couple of weeks on either side of the Fourth of July, I lost one pet and found another. Both stories had happy endings because both the owners and the finders knew what to do. One pet made it home because of a high-tech strategy, the other because of a low-tech one.

First, the pet I found, a healthy young yellow Labrador. I worried that I’d have to find him a home, since he didn’t have a collar or tag. I live in an area more rural than suburban, and I feared he might have been dumped by owners hoping a farmer had room for a nice dog. But then, a lucky break: One neighbor mentioned to another that she’d seen a new cat wandering not far from my house, and that he seemed to be spending his days near yet another neighbor’s outdoor aviary. That neighbor confirmed my cat was trying to eat his birds, and after two tries, I caught Ilario in a live-release trap. He was thin, dirty and scared, but he was alive after a month on the lam.

Score that one for low-tech: Even though Ilario had a microchip and ID tag, he was too frightened to be approached, not even by me. But with the help of my neighbors and a Havahart trap, I have my cat back.

The lessons? Cover your bases with collar, tag and microchip, and don’t give up when your pet goes astray. And if you find someone one’s pet, don’t assume he’s been dumped because he isn’t wearing a collar. Start looking for an owner by taking the animal to a nearby veterinarian or shelter to be checked for a microchip.

And don’t give up on the possibility of a reunion. Although the Labrador had escaped from his family less than 24 hours before I found him, my own pet had been missing for almost a month before he was noticed by the neighbors.

Ilario had been missing for almost a month when neighbors helped get him home.

hours before I realized he was missing. He was microchipped and wearing a collar ID tag, and I reported him missing to the neighbors, the microchip registry and the county. As the days then weeks passed with no sign of him dead or alive, I sadly figured that he had been grabbed by one of the neighborhood coyotes.

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And don’t give up on the possibility of a reunion. Although the Labrador had escaped from his family less than 24 hours before I found him, my own cat was missing for almost a month before he was noticed by the neighbors. Finally, be a good neighbor. Many pets, especially cats, don’t roam far from home. If we all work together, we can get more pets reunited with the families who are missing them. If you see a pet who seems to be lost, help that animal and its owner. We can all use more happy endings — don’t you think? ■
I’m certain that there was a time when high school reunions were something to look forward to: A reason to work out, to buy something new and fabulous to wear, to color your hair, and to look into Crest White Strips. Unfortunately, I believe the world of social media has destroyed the anticipation for the simple American pleasure of the traditional high school reunion. OK, I’m not saying that Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter have sucked all the fun out of a reunion, but they’ve certainly killed the surprise element.

Last week, I was invited to the Cypress Lake High School 1980-something reunion (that’s all I’m going to say about the year — ahem). It wasn’t my class reunion, but it was just one year removed, so I decided to stop by the kick-off soirée at The Edison on Friday night to check out how people a year younger than me were doing.

For having graduated in 1980-something, everyone looked pretty fabulous — but then again, I knew they would — and even cute videos of their kittens. So, I seen their 3-D ultrasound pictures — I seen regular pictures of them, I’ve seen pictures of his kids — but not only have social media, it would have been great to see does he, for that matter. Before social media, I know too much. And so I voted for Mitt Romney — and I’ve not heard about the reunion in the first place. So, there’s that...

After decades, the conversation at the bar goes more like this: “Hey, good to see you! I saw your truck — really nice!” “Thanks! Love the view from your condo. Your sunset photos are awesome.” “Thank you. So... um - let’s see... Oh, I know — what made you name your cat ‘Fluffy?’ I meant to ask in the comment section, but someone sent me a text as I was getting ready to type it, so...” And so it goes. Still, I think there’s that initial thrill of seeing an old friend, laughing together, enjoying an evening. And there’s certainly no putting on airs, unlike the days of Romy and Michelle, LinkedIn proves that you didn’t invent Post-It Notes (your work history is public knowledge). But, I think I’d prefer

If you’re headed to a reunion shindig, you’ll want to clean out your closet to make room for new frocks, so thank goodness for Love That Dress! Collection Parties, which are happening weekly all over Lee and Collier counties this summer to benefit the PACE Center for Girls.

First and Lee streets at 5 p.m. Thursday, July 25, promises to be a fun and fashionable happy hour! In Lee, head downtown to the Goodwill Boutique on First and Lee streets at 5 p.m. Thursday, July 25, to donate dresses, socialize up a storm, and enjoy an after-party at The Sky Bar down the street at 7 p.m. — complete with celebrity bartenders, including moi!

— Ciao for now, my lovelies! Stay tuned for another divalicious diary entry next week.
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Oldie-but-goodie news: The market in residential real estate is waxing on the southwest coast, like a new moon.

Oldie-but-goodie wisdom: Since the residential market drives the commercial market, it should be coming back, too, right?

The short answer is, Yes.

“The entire Southwest Florida region has seen an uptick in valuations on commercial properties across the board,” says Kelli Eastman-Billings, sales director at Land Solutions. “Especially around Corkscrew and Immokalee roads north to...
College plan needs to start early for kids to succeed in shifting economy

With unemployment refusing to move below 7 percent and given that the U.S. recovery faces strong headwinds from sequestration and possibly deeper budget cuts, it should give serious pause to those under 22 in trying to figure their future employment.

In our new normal economic environment, what is the correct path to obtain sound employment? What path should be taken in schooling/training?

The parents of these students should also be analyzing the same set of circumstances in order to live well.

Gone are the days when parents would allow their children to go to their dream college and take courses that “enrich” them. College has become too expensive; jobs too few upon graduation. Finding a job with core interpersonal and communication skills… which certainly makes sense for financial services employers. But the jobs being created in this recovery are different from the mix of jobs characteristic of pre-2008, which required a skill set, etc. The Georgetown University report paints a picture of our employment future. There will be some 35 million job openings between 2010 and 2020 of which 24 million will be newly created and 11 million will come from retirements. Beyond the big picture, the study breaks down employment over the 2010 to 2020 period by sector of the U.S. economy. The largest increase in the number employed will be in financial services at 5.9 million jobs — yes, the too-big-to-fail banks will be big employers.

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Health care ranks second at 4.1 million. In the 2-3 million jobs range, there are several industries: professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; government and public education; and wholesale and retail trade. Manufacturing gains in job growth at less than 500,000 jobs over the 10-year period. Efficiencies within manufacturing makes it a low-growth job sector.

What education is needed for these jobs? By 2020, “65 percent of all jobs will require some form of post-secondary education or training.” This is 9 percent higher than 2000. Some “35 percent of the job openings will require at least a bachelor’s degree, 30 percent of the job openings will require some college or an associate’s degree and 36 percent of the job openings will not require education beyond high school.” The number of jobs for high school grads will shrink.

The study took a look at the skills required for the various jobs. Physically intensive skills were of increasingly less importance: close to a majority of new jobs required intensive listening, speaking and reading skills. Besides these skills, employers highly value leadership, analytics and administration. Outside of math and engineering geeks, the job openings will not require education beyond high school. The number of jobs for high school grads will shrink. The number of jobs for high school grads will shrink.

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It’s recommended that students and parents to look at the employment metrics before deciding a college location, field of endeavor and sector of industry to which they will seek employment. It will also be helpful to start early developing the needed communications skills for their industries that are not gained overnight or through one semester of courses. There is a lot that parents can do to hone these skills in simple ways. At the dinner table, parents can engage their children in discussions that force them to ask questions, explain topics in top-down fashion, read a news column or debate some of its contents. Parents must lead their children to keep America strong and competitive in the world.

— To view the entire study from the Georgetown Public Policy Institute, visit http://cew.georgetown.edu/recover2020.

— Jeannette Showalter, CFA is a commodities broker with Worldwide Futures Systems, 577-8006. Find her on Facebook at Jeannette Showalter, CFA.
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I've made many smart investments, such as a 450 percent gain in three years — along with bad ones, such as a 10 percent loss in three days along the way. I learned discipline, how to keep calm under fire and to have respect for others. Discipline has allowed me to let my children learn tough lessons, even when my love for them might otherwise have led me to bail them out, which would have robbed them of a chance to learn lessons in an uncomfortable setting. I'm not a no-trainer, but many of us lack it. Arrogance and racism show a lack of respect for others — and are wrong.

I also learned to be responsible for myself — socially, spiritually, physically and financially. When I became disabled and no one would sell me health insurance, the Veterans Administration gave me coverage — because I'd served my country. That was by far my best investment.

The Fool Responds: There isn't much we can add to that. We're big believers in people taking financial responsibility for themselves, but you've gone well beyond that.

Last week's trivia answer

I trace my roots back to a New Orleans eatery founded in 1972. Today, I'm the world's second-largest fast-food chain devoted to chickens, based on total units. (I also offer seafood.) I have more than 2,000 locations in the U.S. and 28 other nations. I used to also own Cinnabon, with more than 2,000 locations in the U.S. and 28 other nations. I also offer seafood. I have more than 2,000 locations in the U.S. and 28 other nations. I used to also own Cinnabon, with more than 2,000 locations in the U.S. and 28 other nations. I also offer seafood.

Write to Us!

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

BUSINESS MEETINGS

- A Job Search Support Group meet from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Mondays at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce. Contact Karen Klukiewicz at kkkl727@comcast.net or visit www.napleschamber.org.

- Consultants from the Small Business Development Center at Florida Gulf Coast University are available at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, 3290 Tamiami Trail N., every Thursday. To make an appointment for a free session, call 239-596-1771.

- SCORE Naples and the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce present “Managing Your Brain” from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 27, at chamber headquarters, 2340 Tamiami Trail N. SCORE counselor and presenter Richard Yanke, the owner of Executive Management Services, will discuss how thought processes such as visualization, positive imaging and the elimination of fear can develop to enhance the chances of starting, maintaining and growing a business. Registration is $35 (free for students and veterans). Call 262-6576.

- The East Naples Merchants Association meets for Business After Hours at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8, at Physicians Regional-Collier Boulevard. For more information, call 455-9410 or 456-3600 or visit www.astreplesmerchantsasso.com.

- SCORE Naples and the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce present a workshop titled “Business Law Simplified” from 9-10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 8, at chamber headquarters, 2340 Tamiami Trail N. Presenter George Mantzidis, Esq., will discuss laws and regulations in the mind when starting, building and selling a business. Registration is $35 (free for students and veterans). Call 262-6576.

- Wake Up Naples for members and guests of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce takes place at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 14, at the Hilton Naples. Guest speaker will be Jack Wert, executive director of the Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention and Visitor Bureau. Call 262-6576 or go to www.napleschamber.org/events.

- The Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce holds its next Business After Five event from 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21, onboard the Marco Princess for members and guests (cash bar). Call 394-7549, e-mail mmarinzo@ marcoislandchamber.org or visit www.marcoislandchamber.org.

- The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual trade show from 7-9 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Course. For information about sponsorships and exhibits, e-mail RachelBowden@napleschamber.org.
Business owners invited to share stories of overcoming adversity

Owners of small businesses who have successfully overcome adversity are invited to apply for the 19th annual Southwest Florida Blue Chip Community Business Award.

BB&T-Oswald Trippie and Company and BB&T Bank coordinate and sponsor the program to recognize successful small businesses as well as to share their stories as models for other entrepreneurs.

The competition is open to companies that meet the following criteria:

- For-profit business
- Operating under the same ownership for at least three continuous years
- Principal office located in Collier, Lee or Charlotte counties

Applicants must be nominated by their community or be nominated by someone else. Assistance is available to draft applications. Independent judges will select one business from the field of applicants to receive the 2013 award. Winners will be recognized Thursday, Nov. 7, during a luncheon ceremony at Harborside Event Center in downtown Fort Myers.

Great Florida Bank, Florida Community Bank set to merge

Florida Community Bank, a banking subsidiary of Bond Street Holdings, has announced a merger with Great Florida Bank that will, upon closing, result in creating Florida’s fourth largest independent banking institution.

The transaction is expected to be completed by the end of the fourth quarter of 2013, subject to customary conditions, including receipt of regulatory approvals and the approval of Great Florida stockholders.

“The transaction with Great Florida Bank is truly a game changer for our company, as we have been eager to expand our presence in Miami, Florida’s largest metro market,” says Kent Ellert, president and CEO of Florida Community Bank. “Consistent with eight previous acquisitions, this merger will significantly enhance our Florida footprint and will provide a foundation for us to augment our commercial lending team to further generate organic growth.”

M. Mehdi Glimsheni, president and CEO of Great Florida Bank, called the merger “a win for our stockholders, customers and banking franchise” and a “highly attractive strategic alignment for all of our constituents.”

When the transaction is completed, Florida Community Bank will have approximately $4.4 billion in assets, with 67 locations along both Florida coasts and in southeast Florida.

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP acted as Florida Community Bank’s legal counsel in connection with the merger.

Leadership Collier Class of 2014 announced

The Leadership Collier Foundation, in coordination with the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, announces the Leadership Collier Class of 2014.

Leadership Collier was formed by the chamber in 1988 to develop a network of informed citizens prepared to assume leadership roles in the community. The primary objective of Leadership Collier is to educate local business leaders about the societal and economic challenges facing the community today.

The nine-month program begins in September for the following participants:

- Sharon Ardyre, Collier Enterprises Management; Derrick Ayers, Fifth Third Bank; Carla Belanger, De Marco Tile; Capt. Rodney Bishop, Collier County Sheriff's Office;
- Melissa Blazier, Collier County Supervisor of Elections; Bradley Boersma, Fifth Third Bank; Michelle Borders, MyEnviro.com; Ron Boyce, AMIkids Big Cypress;
- Russell Burland, Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce;
- Alberto Chavez, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Lisa Church, The Education Foundation-Champions for Learning; Keith Damer, Bank of Southwest Florida; Tamika McGirl, NCH Healthcare System;
- Michelle Kappert, AmeriCare Home Health Services; Stephanie Kissinger, Waste Management Inc. of Florida; Jaime Lopez, Bar- ron Collier Companies; Debra Mahr, Hunger and Homeless Coalition; John McGill, NCH Healthcare System;
- Michelle McLeod, First Citizens Bank; Felix Mehler, Cohen & Grigsby, P.C.; Charlotte Miller, Florida Power & Light Company; Lisa Morse, Collier County Public Schools; Tamara Lynne Nicola, Tamara Lynne Nicola, P.A.; Bruce Register, Collier County Board of County Commissioners; Scott Rosenblum, First National Bank of the Gulf Coast; Kath- erine Schweikhardt, Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida; Tamiكا Seaton, city of Naples; Paul Selvidio, Community School of Naples;
- Becky Sharon, Vertigo Group; Scott Sherman, Arbirex; William Sutton, John R. Wood; Kathy Swingley, Collier Coun- ty Public Schools; Michael Timmer- man, Fishkind and Associates; Victoria Tracy, The Arlington of Naples; Pablo Vonemmila, Stonegate Bank; Christine Wheeler, Hodges University; and Shad White, Wells Fargo Advisors.

Through the work of the LCF Alum- ni Association, graduates continue to build alliances, foster goodwill and civic leadership that will strengthen Col- lier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi- zations, local government boards and our schools while enhancing Collier County through nonprofit organi-
B6 | BUSINESS | WEEK OF JULY 25-31, 2013

COMMERICAL

From page 1

Daniels. And the truth of it, in brief, is also promising: Commercial real estate prices overall are higher than they were, and the demand as fiscal year 2014 begins is more pressing than it has been in recent years.

“If you look at it by food groups or asset classes — industrial, retail, office, land, multi-family — everything is moving better than it was two or three years ago,” says Gary Tasman, founder and executive director at Cushman & Wakefield Commercial Properties South-west Florida.

“Retail, which didn’t get hit nearly as hard as other categories (in the recession), is going better. But industrial has come back extremely strong. In terms of product availability of finished spaces for sale or lease, there is very little inventory available.”

Especially in mid-range space. “There’s a lot of demand for industrial space in 8,000 to 15,000 square feet — and why?” asks Tom Woodyard at Woodyard & Associates. “Because residential growth.”

Mr. Woodyard puts it) — but engineering firms don’t bring the nice high-wage jobs we look for, they are a necessary piece of the puzzle.”

Meanwhile, lease rates in Collier County are running about $8 a square foot compared to $5.26 a square foot in Charlotte, and $5 a square foot, on average, in Lee, says Ms. Sands. Complexities

The reality of such a market, however, is more complex than what’s certain that the old formula for residential and commercial real estate suggests, according to experts in the region. Current success of the real estate market is, “It’s back” according to Mr. Wallace, president of Independent Development Services Corp.

His short answer to a question about the current health of the commercial real estate market is, “It’s better,” adds Mr. Wallance. “We’re seeing a significant increase in prices around south Lee County. But the other thing is, it will help others take note of Hertz moving down and investigating why” — and by the way, he adds, Hertz executives have been vacationing in the region for years. They like it.

Ms. Eastman-Billings at Land Solutions, however, adds this thought: “The Hertz deal has impacted west Florida — both positively and negatively. From a positive standpoint, it draws more attention to the area from business owners who want to grow or relocate. Negatively, this has caused land owners to artificially inflate the values above reasonable market rates.”

More significant, perhaps, is the federal government’s Small Business Administration-backed 504 loan program, delivered by licensed direct lenders such as Mr. Wallace’s BDS Corp. in conjunction with banks, or other private-sector lenders.

In an era when banks and loans are now more scrupulously monitored than they were a few years ago, and traditional loans may have significant down payments (25 or 30 percent) for commercial investors, the 504 program may seem like a godsend, to some. It works like this. “The bank does the first position mortgage of approximately 50 percent,” explains Mr. Wall- lace. “And a certified development company, like us does the percent. Then, for a $1 million loan (for example), a borrower could come in with only 10 percent equity, $100,000, which is less than before. Our portion (the 40 percent) is done on a 20-year, fully fixed, fully amortizing loan with a fully-fixed rate, so it’s 5 percent for the life of the loan.”

The kind of thing that will boost capital intensive borrowers who people putting up significant facilities, he says, such as hotels, automotive car repair centers, dentist offices with labs, surgical centers and health clinics.

And that, in turn, may help break a pattern characterized by watching a newsletter from the city of Cape Coral, early this week.

“The likes of Starbucks, Wal-o’s, Mr. Jimmey Johns, Firestone and Dairy Queen have developed or are in the throes of developing in Cape Coral,” says Dana Brunett, economic development director.

In other words Barista’s Coffee take note of this development activity and examine our market and realize we’re too big to ignore.”

Development Center at FGCU. Assistant director of the Small Business Development Center at FGCU. Assistant director of the Small Business Development Center at FGCU. Assistant director of the Small Business Development Center at FGCU. Assistant director of the Small Business Development Center at FGCU.

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Board Appointments

Officers serving on the board of directors for Friends of Rookery Bay for the term beginning July 1 are: Craig Schel- cter, science consultant and former science coordinator for Collier County Public Schools; Julie Edmister, Ph.D., former campus dean at Edison State College, vice president; Gina Los- tracco, assistant vice president and financial center manager with Fifth Third Bank; treasurer; and Steve Mutart, retired real estate attorney, secretary.

New board members appointed for three-year terms are: Lisa Koehler, intergovernmental representative at the Big Cypress Basin Service Center of the South Florida Water Management District; Shelby Evans, a former research management specialist at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Reserve; Robert Klus, program manager for Parker Aerospace; and Curt Witthoff, science and education coordinator with Collier County Public Schools.

Tom Brand and Kent Shoemaker have been selected to serve three-year terms on the board of trustees for the Guadalupe Center. Mr. Brand spent 41 years with Pfizer where he was ultimately appointed vice president of Pfizer Corporate Engineering. He also serves on the board for The Shelter for Abused Women & Children. Mr. Shoemaker is CEO of the Immokalee-based Lippman Produce, the largest tomato and vegetable grower in the nation.

The following new members have been appointed to serve three-year terms on the board of directors for the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce: Derrick Ayers, senior vice president and affiliate CFO of Fifth Third Bank-South Florida; Marvin Easton, retired IBM consultant; Dr. Emad Saltanian, medical director of the Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida.

The following have been appointed to the chamber board for one-year terms: Julia Edmister, former vice president and senior client manager, Bank of America; Derrick Ayers, Kent Shoemaker, CEO Lippman Produce; and David Torres, president of the Hacienda Development Group, developer of the Hacienda Lakes of Naples.

Jeff Gargiulo has been elected to serve on the board of directors for Lipman Produce. Mr. Gargiulo owns and operates Gar- giulo Vineyards in Napa Valley and is the chairman of the board for Lipman Produce, a producer of fresh produce and a foodservice distributor in San Francisco. He and his family owned Gargiulo Tomato for decades before selling the company, which still bears his name. He served as president and CEO for Sunkist Growers and is a past chairman of the Produce Mar- keting Association.

Angels Undercover announces the follow- ing new members of its board of directors: Gina McCabe, account executive at WAVV-FM; Lisa Morse, coordinators of communications and community engage- ment, Collier County Public Schools; and Claudia Polzin, director of development, Classical South Florida. Angels Undercover provides underserved, socks and school uniforms for underprivileged elementary school students in Collier County.

Cindy Bledsoe and Matt Nations have joined the staff at Naples United Methodist Church as director of children’s ministries and director of young adult ministry, respectively. Ms. Bledsoe was born and raised in South Africa and was a professional tennis coach before entering the ministry. She comes to Naples United Methodist Church from Northside Church in Atlanta. She holds a master’s degree in theological studies from Clemson University and a bachelor’s degree in sports management from the University of the Free State in South Africa. Mr. Nations earned a bachelor’s degree in exercise science at the University of Central Florida and serves as the director of international missions for Beautiful Feet, a nonprofit organization committed to helping people around the world in need.

Nonprofit Organizations

Lois Gomez has joined Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast as community resource director for Collier County. She previously worked as program manager for The Immokalee Foundation and as volunteer manager for Hope Hospice and Community Services in Naples. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast serves children ages 6-18 in Sarasota, Manatee, DeSoto, Highlands, Hardee, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Glades and Hendry counties.

Sarah Layton has been named devel- opment director of Susan G. Komen Southwest Florida. She will be respon- sible for the develop- ment of sponsorships and external market- ing for events includ- ing the Pink Promise Luncheon, the Stiletto Sprint and Race for the Cure. She earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Clemson University and a master’s in international affairs with a minor in public administration and emergency manage- ment from Florida State University.

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Real estate market continues upswing in Collier

The Naples area real estate market continues to improve in all sectors as shown by key indicators: an increase in pending sales, closed sales and median closed prices, according to the latest report from the Naples Area Board of Realtors. NABOR tracks home listings and sales within Collier County (excluding Marco Island).

Numbers for the second quarter of 2013 surged ahead of second quarter 2012 in pending sales by 11 percent and in closed sales by 6 percent. The area experienced a 13 percent increase in the overall median closed home price, which rose from $220,000 in the second quarter of 2012 to $249,000 in the current reported second quarter.

SunshineMLS statistics show a 16 percent reduction in inventory overall from 6,310 in the second quarter 2012 down to 5,282 properties in the second quarter 2013, the lowest it has been since NABOR began tracking in January 2007 (inventory then was 10,864).

Normally there are more homes available for sale than there are closed sales each month, but right now the available properties are being gobbled up as fast as new listings are being added to the market,” says Gerald Murphy, district manager and managing broker of Coldwell Banker.

The median closed price of single-family homes increased 26 percent, from $232,000 in the second quarter 2012 to $338,000 in the second quarter 2013. In addition, the condo median closed price increased 8 percent, from $199,000 in the second quarter 2012 up to $207,000 in the second quarter 2013.

Brenda Fioretti, managing broker at Prudential Florida Realty, says the distressed market (foreclosures and short sales) “is becoming a negligible factor in home sales” and adds that SunshineMLS statistics show a decrease in distressed sales from 56 percent of the total closed sales in August 2010 to 15 percent of total closed sales in the most recent quarter.

The NABOR 2013 Second Quarter Report provides comparisons of single-family home and condominium sales (via the SunshineMLS), price ranges and geographic segmentation and includes an overall market summary.

NABOR also released its June monthly report providing annual comparisons of single-family home and condominium sales (via the SunshineMLS), price ranges, and geographic segmentation. It also includes an overall market summary. See the full report at www.NaplesArea.com.
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Cape Coral home goes for $5.3 million

Cape Coral’s largest home at 5832 Armada Court, recently sold for $5.3 million. The property sold for $5.1 million and the furniture represented $200,000 in the sale, making it the second highest residential real estate transaction this year in Lee County according to the Multiple Listing Service.

Ted Stout, Realmark Realty broker, listed and sold the home.

The buyer is a retired entrepreneur from Naples who was represented by Jutta Lopez, sales associate with Premier Sotheby’s International Realty.

“The luxury market is coming back; over the last year, we have sold three of the top five residential homes in Cape Coral,” Mr. Stout said.

The home tops out at 18,404 total square feet. The estate is situated on four lots and features the main house, guesthouse, caretaker’s quarters, six bedrooms, six full baths, three half baths and three fireplaces.

For more information, contact Ted Stout at 313-8020.

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9. OLD NAPLES - VILLA VERONA • 280 6th Avenue South #103 • $1,075,000 • PSIR • Marty/Debbi McDermott • 239.564.4238

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10. OLD NAPLES - PARKSIDE OFF 5TH • 601 7th Avenue South #203 • $1,195,000 • PSIR • Richard Culp • 239.292.2200

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11. BONITA BAY - LUCERNE • 1897 Chinaberry Court • $2,120,000 • PSIR • George Safrany • 239.692.9449 • Sunday 1-4pm

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13. VANDERBILT BEACH • 389 Channel Drive • $2,670,000 • Naples Estate Properties • Emily K. Busa & Tade Busa-Bell • 239.465.6466

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A SAMPLING OF OUR NEW LISTINGS

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2013

Naples Cay, 516 Sanibel Dr. $460,000 - Single level townhouse. Initial floor plans include large master bedroom, 2 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and a 2-car garage. Contact: 239.266.9356.

Naples, 615 Banyan Rd. Rare offering for charming home on 1 of the premier lots in Old Naples. Only 53 lots to build on, each 40’ or acr., rented lot boasts beautiful North Lake view. 34345 263 (H7410) Bill East, 772-662-2119.

Naples, 591 16th St S. $349,900 - Beachy, exterior pest control. New SS appliances. 3/2 is what you find in this home overlooking serene pool & lake views. 34302 4-615 (H7411) Laryn Leppa, 772-642-5713.

Naples, 20725 Sanibel Rd. $259,000 - Beautiful floor plan features diagonal tile throughout, close to the beach & Tennis center. Gorgeous view is located on the other Fort Royal Club membership eligibility. (L1427) Stan Horsey 625-8300.

Naples, 4401 Gulf Shores Blvd. $350,000 - Spectacular beach residence with sunny, southwesterly Gulf views from every room. Open floor plan with remodeled kitchen and master suite and dressing area. 34109 3,090 (H7427) Beth Mayfield 523-2056.

Park Shore, 4401 Gulf Shores Blvd. $499,000 - Open floor plan features diagonal tile throughout, close to the beach & Tennis center. Gorgeous view is located on the other Fort Royal Club membership eligibility. (L1427) Stan Horsey 625-8300.

Pelican Bay, 9530 Point View Dr. $1,940,000 - OPEN VIEW THE VIEW! This PULLEY updated JEWEL offers a spacious 5 star panoramic 270 degree views. Gulf view in every room. This turnkey property needs nothing. 4 beds 3.5 baths 3,900 sq ft. Rogers 625-5406.

Saddle Ridge, 135 7th St N. Rare opportunity. Walking distance to beach, close to shopping & restaurants. Pristine, small assoc. (elevator building) in great location close to beach, downtown Naples & restaurants. 2nd floor, 2 bed, 2 bath condo. 34102 2,000 (H7412) Bruce Miller, 206-0684.


Pelican Bay, 3374 Riviera Lakes Ct - Open Great Floor plan features diagonal tile throughout, close to the beach & Tennis center. Gorgeous view is located on the other Fort Royal Club membership eligibility. (L1427) Stan Horsey 625-8300.

Marco Beach, 1206 1st Ave N. $2,900,000 - Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath beachfront home. Fully furnished 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath beachfront home. 3,000 sq ft. Strong rental history and bookings already in place for 2013-2014 season. 2 beds 2.5 baths 1,399 sq ft. (L1429) Maggie Sanders, 269-4499.

Bonita Beach, 5 Bluebill Ave. $2,800,000 - Unobstructed Gulf Views from this Corner Unit. Fantastic investment opportunity with strong rental history and bookings already in place for 2013-2014 season. 2 beds 2.5 baths 1,400 sq ft. (L1429) Maggie Sanders, 269-4499.

Vanderbilt Beach, 7 Bluebill Ave. $1,990,000 - Oceanfront townhome in beautifully updated building with incredible views. 2 beds 2 baths 1,500 sq ft. (L1429) Maggie Sanders, 269-4499.

Golden Gate Estates, 2625 6th Ave. $1,399,000 - Gorgeous ocean view of Gulf. Few homes on 2.5 acre lot. The guest house is magnificent. Pool, indoor dog area, dock, 6 garages, over 5000 sf. in living total or More! 4 beds 3.5 baths 6600 sf. Lauren Bellis, 539-9938.

Naples Cay, 81 Seagate Dr, #603 - Subtle beachfront sophistication. Spacious residence with lake & fountain view. Oversized lanai facing south. Easy to show. 3/2 (H7455) Bruce Miller, 206-0684.


Marco Beach, 3161 Rustica Pointe Ct - Beautiful detached villa. Spacious & bright 1st floor condo in gated downtown Naples Bay Resort. Idyllic location close to beach, downtown Naples & restaurants. 2nd floor, 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage. 3,300 sf. (L1429) Maggie Sanders, 269-4499.

Marco Beach, 1357 Rustica Pointe Ct. - Open Great Floor plan features diagonal tile throughout, close to the beach & Tennis center. Gorgeous view is located on the other Fort Royal Club membership eligibility. (L1427) Stan Horsey 625-8300.

Port Royal Club, 1650 Winding Oaks Way #102 - Membership included with this furnished 1st floor condo in gated downtown Naples Bay Resort. Idyllic location close to beach, downtown Naples & restaurants. 2nd floor, 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage. 3,300 sf. (L1429) Maggie Sanders, 269-4499.

Bonnita Bay, 516 Sanibel Dr. $549,900 - Spectacular beachfront home. Fully furnished 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath beachfront home. 3,000 sq ft. Strong rental history and bookings already in place for 2013-2014 season. 2 beds 2.5 baths 1,399 sq ft. (L1429) Maggie Sanders, 269-4499.

Naples, 3010 Riviera Lakes Ct - Open Great Floor plan features diagonal tile throughout, close to the beach & Tennis center. Gorgeous view is located on the other Fort Royal Club membership eligibility. (L1427) Stan Horsey 625-8300.

Naples, 5455 16th St N. $695,000 - Beautiful 1st floor condo in gated downtown Naples Bay Resort. Idyllic location close to beach, downtown Naples & restaurants. 2nd floor, 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage. 3,300 sf. (L1429) Maggie Sanders, 269-4499.

Naples, 379 Burnt Pine Dr - Beautiful 2-story plan with golf & wooded preserve views, large master suite, walk-in closet, 2nd floor den, 4th BR, oversize pool & lanai on secluded cul-de-sac. Golf, Private Beach, Sand & Gulf views. 3 beds 2.5 baths 3,240 sq ft. (L1429) The DiNardo Team, 499-2988.

Naples, 3310 Riviera Lakes Ct - Open Great Floor plan features diagonal tile throughout, close to the beach & Tennis center. Gorgeous view is located on the other Fort Royal Club membership eligibility. (L1427) Stan Horsey 625-8300.


Naples, 1975 Braemar Pk Dr. $325,000 - Membership included with this furnished 1st floor condo in gated downtown Naples Bay Resort. Idyllic location close to beach, downtown Naples & restaurants. 2nd floor, 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage. 3,300 sf. (L1429) Maggie Sanders, 269-4499.

Naples, 965 Sandpiper St, #J-203 - Rare opportunity. Walking distance to beach, close to shopping & restaurants. Pristine, small assoc. (elevator building) in great location close to beach, downtown Naples & restaurants. 2nd floor, 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage. 3,300 sf. (L1429) Maggie Sanders, 269-4499.

Naples, 1366 1st Ave S - Rare opportunity. Walking distance to beach, close to shopping & restaurants. Pristine, small assoc. (elevator building) in great location close to beach, downtown Naples & restaurants. 2nd floor, 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage. 3,300 sf. (L1429) Maggie Sanders, 269-4499.
Improvised groups make it up as they go ...

SOMETHING STRANGE WAS GOING ON IN JIM GRISWOLD’S LIVING room in Cape Coral last Thursday. For starters, the television was off. Grown-ups were standing around, reading aloud, making things up, playing nonsense make-believe. On this night, Mr. Griswold was the host for a rehearsal of Random Acts Of D, an improv comedy troupe that he founded with his girlfriend Randi Watkins.

Two members of the troupe were standing between Mr. Griswold and the kitchen. Shawn Genther had just been handed a script of a play that had been plucked out of a box of scripts. At random he was asked to read page 18.

Lucy Harris’ role was to pretend she was preparing for two dinner guests, Lucy and Desi of “I Love Lucy” fame. Mr. Genther was reading with a British accent from “Being There,” which was Improv groups make it up as they go ...

BY GLENN MILLER
Florida Weekly Correspondent

THE FORT MYERS BEACH FRIENDS OF THE ARTS SUMMER FILM SERIES PRESENTS A SERIES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED, SHORT INDEPENDENT FILMS ON TUESDAY EVENINGS, JULY 30 AND AUG. 27 AT BAY OAKS RECREATION CENTER, 2731 OAK ST., FORT MYERS BEACH. DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 p.m. AND THE SCREENING STARTS AT 7 p.m. ADMISSION IS $5.

HERE’S WHAT’S SHOWING JULY 30:

■ “Tommy and Theresa,” directed by Fort Myers Beach-based filmmaker Mark Stolzenberg – A wacky comedy about a man who will go to astonishingly great lengths to win back the woman he loves. The characters are a husband, a wife, a therapist and a film director.

■ “Dear Danielle,” directed by Amy Lyn Howell – The life of Landon is influenced and calmed by writing letters to a little girl he met as a child.

■ “Loose Ends,” directed by Donald Reynolds – Pairs of strangers attend a group therapy session, precariously unaware of what their stories have in common.

■ “With These Hands,” directed by Fort Myers Beach filmmaker John G. Helm – A film that raises awareness for the struggles at hand in the agriculture industry.

■ “Killer 3D,” directed by Steve Vallo – An intense ride to the grittier side of life in the underworld, this short is about two friends (a hitman and his dealer) who have a deal going down.

■ “Miss Conception,” directed by Karl Bergstrom – A New York Art Gallery employee decides to steal from her boss and move across the country to start her own gallery. Her plan unravels during her journey to buy art in Florida with an assistant who discovers her plan.

For more information, call Georgia Reinmuth at 463-3600, ext. 242, or e-mail georgia@thefishtalemarina.com.

Head to the Beach for locally produced indie shorts

■ “The Conjuring” Horror done the right way. C11

BY GLENN MILLER
Florida Weekly Correspondent

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INSIDE

Bantam roosters
Anthropological observations of civilized men. C2

Society photos
Opening reception for “Orange You Glad It’s Summer” at Harmon-Meek Gallery. C21

‘The Conjuring’
Horror done the right way. C11

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In the artists’ retreat in France where I’m spending the summer, there are just enough people to cause trouble. Now that I’m spending the summer, there are just someone else here shadow it.

I saw him — his other qualities over-touch vain — I’d swear his hair is expensive cologne. If he’s a nice car and he wears well, he drives a

He dresses

in the earlier was here 40s, who his early here now, a group, and the Frenchmen acts as if they were part of his personal harem. But the Belgian with his dyed locks and expensive linen shirts — he has other ideas. They’re like two bantam roosters scratching in the yard. They circle and crow and make a fuss, their chest feathers all puffed out. It might be very serious if they weren’t both so ridiculous.

The problem is that

There’s a man here now, a Belgian in his early 40s, who was here earlier in the summer. He’s appeal-ing in a bourgeois sort of way. He dresses well, he drives a nice car and he wears expensive cologne. If he’s a touch vain — I’d swear his hair is two shades darker than the last time I saw him — his other qualities overshadow it.

The problem is that someone else here seems to have laid claim to the place.

The Frenchman has been at the retreat for nearly four months, and it’s clear that he considers himself the leader of our little pack. He’s less vain than the Belgian, certainly, but he preens in his own French way. There are several young, pretty women in this new group, and the Frenchmen acts as if they were part of his personal harem.

But the Belgian with his dyed locks and expensive linen shirts — he has other ideas. They’re like two bantam roosters scratching in the yard. They circle and crow and make a fuss, their chest feathers all puffed out. It might be very serious if they weren’t both so ridiculous.

Last night we gathered for dinner, all 12 of us around one table like some large, unlikely family. There were candles lit and flowers put in vases and too many bottles of wine uncorked. The Belgian drank and drank while the Frenchman sat beside him and glowered. Midway through his second bottle of wine, the Belgian draped an arm around the woman next to him. She seemed amenable to this for a time, but when he started rubbing her back and leaned in close, she turned away. Disapp-pointed, the Belgian looked across the table at me. He smiled drunkenly and reached out to take my hand. I shook my head, no. The Frenchman radiated anger and I thought, surely, the two men were headed for a confrontation.

The Belgian left the table briefly and returned with a bottle of whiskey from his room. He poured glasses for everyone and in the process served himself a healthy dose. Not long afterward, the meal ended and some of us began clearing away the plates. The Belgian stood on wobbly legs and proceeded to tumble backward into the love seat. He spit out a slew of profanities, and as people moved to help him stand he pushed them away and brushed himself off.

“I just lost my balance,” he quipped. But then he tried to take another step and pitched forward into the wood box. He rolled around in the kitchen for a few seconds before the Frenchman was there, helping him to his feet, speaking gently in a low voice. The Belgian turned docile and leaned heavily on the other man’s arm. The two of them stood there for a time like old comrades before the Frenchman eased the Belgian up the stairs, leaving the rest of us below as if we had never mattered at all.

SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

Like two bantam roosters

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originally a novel later made into a movie starring Peter Sellers.

The incongruity of preparing dinner for Lucy and Desi as Mr. Genther read in a British accent strikes at the heart of improv comedy — improvisation. Ms. Harris rambled on about dinner and her guests while Mr. Genther read totally unrelated material. Ms. Harris had to improvise a script as Mr. Genther read.

A few years ago, troups such as this one were rare in Southwest Florida. Mr. Griswold and Ms. Watkins moved to Cape Coral from Mexico about 2½ years ago. They had been part of an improv group there called The Spanish Improv, the only English language comedy improv troupe in Mexico. They hoped to join a local improv group.

“We searched high and low for a group to join when we moved to the area and there wasn’t one,” Mr. Griswold said. “There was Naples and maybe Orlando or Tampa but there was nothing here.”

Naples has boasted improv comedy for several years. Mike Santos, 31, certainly knows the local improv world. He was co-founder and played in Naples City Improv through its lifespan from 2008 to 2012 and now runs Stage2 Improv with his wife Judith.

He knows what performing improv is like.

“You’re your own director, own choreographer and write your own script,” Mr. Santos said.

Nothing is scripted. On its website, Stage2 Improv describes itself as an “improvisational theatre group featuring scenes, games and songs that are created right before your very eyes!”

“That’s with an exclamation mark!”

Some actors don’t like the winging-it-on-your-own aspect of improv, according to Jim Corsica, who teaches the art form at the Naples Performing Arts Center.

“They wouldn’t touch it with a 10-foot pole,” he said.

Once, improv was something just for larger cities. Mr. Corsica said when he moved to Naples in 2006 there weren’t any improv troupes in the area. He and Mike and Judith Santos founded Naples City Improv in 2008. “It was the first real group in the area,” said Craig Price, who is performing arts director of the Center for the Arts of Bonita Springs and was a performer with that initial troupe.

Now, the improv troupes are sprinkled around Southwest Florida. Stage2 Improv performs at the Sugden Theatre in downtown Naples. The Naples Players Improv Troupe operates out of the Naples Performing Arts Center, Mr. Price teaches improv at the Bonita Springs center and has a Bonita Springs-based troupe called Improv Anonymous.

Scripting on the fly

Television shows such as “Whose Line Is It, Anyway?” and Drew Carey’s “Whose Line Is It, Anyway?” have popularized the improv genre. Live local shows follow essentially the same format: the improv group introduces a sketch theme, parameters for the sketch and the group takes suggestions from the audience. Once that’s done, the sketch begins and the pieces fall where they may. Acting in plays and performing improv, Mr. Santos said, is “completely different.” He knows that from experience. Mr. Santos is from the tiny upstate New York town of Marathon and has resided in Naples for 10 years. His bio on the Stage2Improv website lists acting credits such as lysander in “Midsummer Night’s Dream” and Paul in “Barefoot in the Park.”

As lysander and Paul, of course, there were scripts and directors and blocking. In improv, he and everybody on the stage has to come up with their material off the top of their heads.

“There’s always that sense of failure,” said Mr. Santos, who works for the Naples Players at the Sugden Theatre as a technical director. “Is this going to work? And when it does, he said, “it’s almost magical.”

When he and others in his troupe are clicking it’s like a basketball player getting hot and hitting jump shot after jump shot with unerring accuracy.

“You have those moments when you’re shooting three-pointers all night,” Mr. Santos said.

Mr. Price also said there are differences between acting in plays and performing improv.

“You almost have to unlearn what you learned on stage,” Mr. Price said.

Secrets for being funny

One thing is essential for anybody signing up for improv workshops:

“Bring your own wit,” Mr. Price said.

The audience and players often have a relationship that is more intimate than performing a play.

“If it looks like you’re having a good time, the audience is having a good time,” Mr. Santos said.

Mr. Santos said he often looks at the audience to gauge the ages of the folks who will be watching.

“We do it only because we are family friendly,” he said. Audiences are part of the show because suggestions come from the folks in the seats. Sometimes, Mr. Corsica said, the suggestions are slow in coming. Other times? Not so much.

“The more you do something, the better you get at it,” Mr. Griswold said reading scripts at the get-togethers helps group members hone their skills, timing and familiarity with each other.

“The more you do something, the better you get at it,” Mr. Genther said. Improv skills are used by people who don’t even know they’re doing it.

“Life is improv,” said Mr. Genther, whose acting credits include movies and performing with the Charlotte Players.

Mr. Griswold provided an example from his days in Mexico and as a member of the Spanglish Improv troupe. “There was a senior actress and a really good one, card-carrying all her life,” Mr. Griswold said. “She really knew her stuff and we were good friends. We were in a couple of plays together with Randi and we saw her in the supermarket one day and we said, ‘Are you coming to our class?’ And she says, ‘Oh, no, I can’t make up stuff. I have to have a script.’

‘You don’t have a script right now and she says ‘I’ll be there.’ And she was good.”

Now, the skills that Mr. Griswold and Ms. Watkins honed in Mexico are on display here in Southwest Florida, along with those of other improv performers in troupes up and down the coast in theaters and restaurants and at least one living room.

In the know

Basic Improv Rules

(Courtesy of Jim Corsica)

1. Do not deny (block progress of the game).

2. Do not ask a question.

3. Do not pick up on other player’s intelligence.

4. Keep it cleanish.

5. Do not argue or seem angry (unless in character.)


7. In judgment games, do not argue or seem angry (unless in character.)

8. Remember stage picture.

9. Help the performance. We’re all in it together. This is not stand up.

10. Be heard.
The Fort Myers Film Festival continues its popular Missed it Mondays series on July 29, screening award-winning films that you may have missed during the festival. The evenings will take place at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center at 7 p.m. located at 2301 First St. Fort Myers. Tickets are $6. The schedule is as follows:

■ Monday, July 29: “Waterhole Cove,” directed by Brett Ryan Bonowicz. 82 min.
■ Monday, Aug. 5: “Love at a Certain Age,” directed by Logan Hendricks.

Then, starting Monday, Sept. 9, the popular indie series TGIM will begin, with judges and films in consideration for our 2014 year. Kick off the season with indie films, indie music and indie fun with judges John Scoular, Lane Elder and Darrell Nutt. The event is hosted by Eric Raddatz and co-host Melissa DeHaven, with musical guest Official Outcome.

Watch as they judge films submitted to the Fort Myers Film Festival and have your say as to whether or not they make the grade to make final programming. Attendees are encouraged to grab dinner first at Firestone's or Ford's and hit the afterbuzz at Twisted Vine Bistro where late night happy hour prices are on tap and the intellectual conversation continues. The Fort Myers Film Festival reminds you this year to “Stay Indie, My Friends.” For more information, go to www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com or join www.facebook.com/fortmyersfilmfestival for updates and events.

Monday indie film nights are back with Missed it Mondays; then TGIM...
**WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO**

**Theater**

- **Stage2 Improv** – By The Naples Players at the Tobyde Studio July 25-27. 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.
- **Les Mis** – By The Naples Players through July 28 at the Sugden Community Theatre. 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.

**Thursday, July 25**

- **Master Gardener** – Expert gardener Mike Malloy welcomes questions about plant identification and problems and offers landscaping advice from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Naples Botanical Garden. 4820 Bayshore Drive. 325-1351 or www.naplesgarden.org.
- **Matinee Time** – Catch a free screening of “Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon,” starring Basil Rathbone, at 1 p.m. at the Collier County Museum. 3331 Tamiami Trail E. 252-8476 or www.colliermuseums.com.
- **Village Nights** – The Village on Venetian Bay hosts live entertainment from 5-8 p.m. 4200 Gulf Shore Blvd. N. www.nvietnianvillage.com.
- **Summer Flavor** – The Good Life of Naples hosts a cooking class featuring “Summer Salads & Soups” from 6-8 p.m. $55. 2355 Vanderbilt Beach Road. Reservations required. 213-1441 or www.decantedwines.com.
- **Stand-Up Guy** – Jonathan Kite takes the stage tonight through July 28 at the Off the Hook Comedy Club, Marco Island. 389-6910 or www.ofthehook.comedy.com.

**Friday, July 26**

- **Wine Tasting** – Decanted Wine & Beer hosts a Blind wine tasting “From 6-7 p.m. 1410 Pine Ridge Road. 434-1814 or www.decantedwines.com.
- **Piano Music** – Lynn Carol tickles the ivories from 6-9 p.m. in the lounge at Capers Kitchen & Bar. 2460 Vanderbilt Beach Road. 431-7438.
- **Rock Out** – Ronnie & Kirk perform from 6-9 p.m. by the pool at Jack’s River Bar. 475 North Road. 213-2441 or www.fioridamarinabchubb.com.

**Saturday, July 27**

- **Live Tunes** – Jerry Pellegrino plays from 8:30 p.m. at Café Luna. 467 Fifth Ave. S. 213-2212 or www.cafelunanaples.com.
- **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.
- **Canning 101** – The Good Life of Naples offers a class featuring canning tips and techniques from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. $30. 2355 Vanderbilt Beach Road. Reservations required. 54-4463 or www.goodifenaples.com.
- **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. 3673 Pine Ridge Road. 788-4184 or www.pablorepuntango.com.
- **Live Tunes** – The Kappo Kings perform from 8-10 p.m. at the stars at Gulf Coast Town Center. Free. 267-0783 or www.gulfcoasttowncenter.com.

**Sunday, July 28**

- **Dogs Days** – Naples Botanical Garden welcomes canines and their owners from 8-11 a.m. 4820 Bayshore Drive. 325-7275 or www.naplesgarden.org.
- **Flamenco Guitar** – El Gato Solea plays from 7-9 p.m. at Café Luna. 467 Fifth Ave. S. 213-2212 or www.cafelunanaples.com.
- **Live Reggae** – Flambeau takes the stage at 10 p.m. at South Street City Oven & Bar. 1410 Pine Ridge Road. 435-9313 or www.southstreetnaples.com.

**Tuesday, July 30**

- **Catering Class** – Sur La Table offers a cooking class from 6-8 p.m. featuring “4 Grill Recipes Every Cook Should Know” $69. Reservations required. 327-1463 or www.surlatable.com.
- **Local Jam** – Artist/Songwriter Devon Meyers performs from 6-9 p.m. at Pelican Larry’s. 1046 Pine Ridge Rd. 649-0800 or www.pelicanlarrys.com.
- **Live Music** – Bill Colletti and Sharon Vail perform from 6-9 p.m. at Capers Kitchen & Bar. 2460 Vanderbilt Beach Road. 431-7438.

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**Special Events**

- **Ride & Dine** – Naples Pathways Coalition and Barratella team up for an evening of riding and dining. The hour-long bike ride begins at 5:30 p.m., ending at Barratella for drinks and dinner. Ten percent of the tab goes to Naples Pathways Coalition. Reservations required, saxbona@aol.com.
- **Foreign Film** – The Renaissance Academy of FGCU presents a screening and discussion of “Flame and Citron” (Denmark, 2008) at 1 p.m. The drama is about two members of the anti-Nazi Danish resistance during the World War II. Not rated. $5. 1010 Fifth Ave. S. 434-4737.

**Monday, July 29**

- **All That Jazz** – Fred’s Food, Fun and Spirits hosts a jazz jam with Jeb and friends from 6-9 p.m. 2700 Immo- kalce Road. 431-7928 or www.fredsdiner.com.
- **Live Tunes** – Kerry West plays from 7-10 p.m. at Café Luna. 467 Fifth Ave. S. 213-2212 or www.cafelunanaples.com.

**Tuesday, July 30**

- **Kids’ Flick** – Regal Hollywood Station 20 presents a screening of “Racing Stripes” (PG) for $1 at 10 a.m. as part of its Summer Movie Express series. 6006 Hollywood Blvd. 597-4232 or www.regmovies.com.
- **Movie Time** – Catch a free screening of “Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon,” starring Basil Rathbone, at 1 p.m. at the Marco Island Historical Museum. 180 S. Heathwood Dr., Marco Island. 642-1440 or www.thehmsb.org.
- **More Movies** – Catch a free screening of “Alpha and Omega” beginning at 8:30 p.m. under the stars at Gulf Coast Town Center. Bring blankets or chairs for seating. 267-0783 or www.gulfcoasttowncenter.com.

**Wednesday, July 31**

- **Cooking Class** – Sur La Table offers a cooking class from 6-8 p.m. featuring “4 Grill Recipes Every Cook Should Know” $69. Reservations required. 327-1463 or www.surlatable.com.
- **Local Jam** – Artist/Songwriter Devon Meyers performs from 6-9 p.m. at Pelican Larry’s. 1046 Pine Ridge Rd. 649-0800 or www.pelicanlarrys.com.
- **Live Music** – Bill Colletti and Sharon Vail perform from 6-9 p.m. at Capers Kitchen & Bar. 2460 Vanderbilt Beach Road. 431-7438.
WHAT TO DO

■ Hurricane History – The Collier County Museum hosts the program “SW Florida Hurricane History” at 2 p.m. Free. 333 Tamiami Trail E. 252-8476 or www.colliermuseums.com.

■ Movie Matinee – Catch a free screening of “Little Shop of Horrors” (1960), starring Dick Miller, Myrte Val and Mel Welles, at 1 p.m. Aug. 1 at the Collier County Museum, 333 Tamiami Trail E. 252-8476 or www.colliermuseums.com.


■ Live Tunes – The Drunk Monkeys perform from 8-10 p.m. Aug. 3 under the stars at Gulf Coast Town Center. Free. 267-0783 or www.gulfcoasttowncenter.com.

■ Family Movie – Catch a free screening of “Escape From Planet Earth” at 8:30 p.m. Aug. 6 under the stars at Gulf Coast Town Center. Bring blankets or chairs for seating. 267-0783 or www.gulfcoasttowncenter.com.


■ — Submit calendar listings and high-resolution photos to events@florida weakly.com. E-mail text, jpgs or Word documents are accepted. No pdfs or photos of fliers. The deadline for cal-endar submissions is noon Sunday.
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'The Conjuring'

And for the love of mercy, if you think you see a ghost, don’t follow it alone!

It takes about an hour for the Perrons to ask the Warrens to come to their home, but once they do writers Chad and Carey Hayes (they’re twin brothers) throw a few twists into the mix to keep things lively. More importantly, the pace quickens as the story kicks into gear in terms of tempo and scares.

Although Wan is expert at keeping us in suspense before delivering the well-timed scares, everything in the film has an eerie ambiance. Even day-time scenes are a bit dark, and costumes and production design are 70's tacky but never flashy. Also note the “vertigo” effect used at times when we view the outside of the house, making it appear unnaturally bigger when it should remain normal size. This allows the house to overwhelm the screen, almost as if the demons residing there are trying to look big and intimidating to spook newcomers away.

'The Conjuring’ is rated R, but in no way is it gory or hyper-violent. This is a story of ghosts and demons, and to Wan’s credit, the slow start was necessary in order to fully appreciate the payoff. Anyone who enjoys a good scare will not want to miss this.

'70's tacky but never flashy. Also note that's already been done so many times it's nearly impossible to come up with something new, execution is key. Lighting, sound, camera angles and more are essential in making us jump and scream. When done well, it doesn't matter if the audience has seen it before, a good jolt will get them every time. When not done well, moviegoers tune out and start to laugh.

Although this one is sluggish at times, ‘The Conjuring’ is ultimately done quite well.

Based on the real-life exploits of paranormal investigators Ed Warren and his wife Lorraine, director James Wan’s (“Insidious”) story follows a haunted house premise that leads to demonic possession and exorcism.

In 1971, the Perron family — head-ed by father Roger (Ron Livingston) and mother Carolyn (Lili Taylor) and including five daughters — moves from Rhode Island into an aban-doned Massachusetts home they purchased at auction.

Soon birds are flying into win-dows. Pictures fall from the wall. Carolyn wakes up with bruises. Doors close at random. The smell of rotting flesh is omnipresent. Feet are pulled during sleep. "Get out of the house!" we think, only to learn later that doing so wouldn’t solve this problem.

For help, the Perrons call upon renowned demonologist Ed (Patrick Wilson) and the clairvoyant Lorraine (Vera Farmiga), who kindly do not charge for their services. They do, how-ever, inform the Perrons of how perilous their situation is. And rest assured, it’s a doozy.

At 112 minutes the first hour is slow, with the story trotting through familiar paces while not bringing much creativ-ity. Worse, some characters make the mistake of doing things characters in a horror movie should never do. For example, Roger ventures to the previ-ously boarded-up and still very dark basement with only a match in his hand. We know he owns a flashlight because father Roger (Ron Livingston) and mother Carolyn (Lili Taylor) and including five daughters — moves from Rhode Island into an aban-doned Massachusetts home they purchased at auction.

Soon birds are flying into win-dows. Pictures fall from the wall. Carolyn wakes up with bruises. Doors close at random. The smell of rotting flesh is omnipresent. Feet are pulled during sleep. “Get out of the house!” we think, only to learn later that doing so wouldn’t solve this problem.

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At 112 minutes the first hour is slow, with the story trotting through familiar paces while not bringing much creativity. Worse, some characters make the mistake of doing things characters in a horror movie should never do. For example, Roger ventures to the previously boarded-up and still very dark basement with only a match in his hand. We know he owns a flashlight because he’s referring to what he and Lorraine have been asked to investigate. He’s referring to what became known as ‘The Amityville Horror.’

Wan’s (“Insidious”) story follows a story of ghosts and demons, and to Wan’s credit, the slow start was necessary in order to fully appreciate the payoff. Anyone who enjoys a good scare will not want to miss this.

'White House Down’ has 10:00am - 2:00pm Courtyard next to Florida Blue. Not a member? It's just $5 to join! Visit the Mall Office for details.

'70’s tacky but never flashy. Also note that’s already been done so many times it’s nearly impossible to come up with something new, execution is key. Lighting, sound, camera angles and more are essential in making us jump and scream. When done well, it doesn’t matter if the audience has seen it before, a good jolt will get them every time. When not done well, moviegoers tune out and start to laugh.

Although this one is sluggish at times, ‘The Conjuring’ is ultimately done quite well.

Based on the real-life exploits of paranormal investigators Ed Warren and his wife Lorraine, director James Wan’s (“Insidious”) story follows a haunted house premise that leads to demonic possession and exorcism.

In 1971, the Perron family — headed by father Roger (Ron Livingston) and mother Carolyn (Lili Taylor) and including five daughters — moves from Rhode Island into an abandoned Massachusetts home they purchased at auction.

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Pacific Rim stars Charlie Hunnam, Idris Elba, Rinko Kikuchi. After giant monsters destroy the world, mankind’s last hope rests in those who operate the large robots capable of fighting back. Big, loud and entertaining, this one is legit feast for the eyes and ears. Rated PG-13.

White House Down (Channing Tatum, Jamie Foxx, James Woods) A policeman (Mr. Tatum) who wants to be a Secret Service agent is the only person who can save the president (Mr. Foxx) after terrorists attack the White House. It could be a bit tighter, but on the whole, it delivers the action, and suspense we expect. Rated PG-13.

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KOVEL: ANTIQUES

Pinning meaning onto brooches

Q: I have a 1920s tea cart made by the Paalman Furniture Co. of Grand Rapids, Mich. It's in excellent condition. Can you tell me its value?

A: Tea wagons, also called “tea carts,” became popular in the early 20th. They have a tray top, one or two shelves below and wheels so they can be pushed from the kitchen to dining room. Some have leaves that can be extended for use as a table. Paalman Furniture Co. was one of the best-known makers of tea wagons. The company was founded by John H. Paalman in 1916. He worked for several other furniture companies and was a designer and manager for Stickley pottery of the 1900-1950s era as well as later studio pottery. The best pieces of well-known art pottery like Rookwood and Weller can sell for more than $10,000 — too expensive for most collectors.

Q: About 25 years ago, I bought a solid copper lithographic printing plate at a yard sale. It weighs 15 pounds and is 10 by 6½ inches. The image is a navigational aid for the “Mahukona Harbor and Approaches” of Hawaii. It’s also marked “No. 4101 C&GS.” Does the plate have any value?

A: Copper printing plates like yours were made to print surveying charts for the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. The survey that resulted in the manufacture of your plate was done in 1910. Today the U.S. surveying agency, which manages a national coordinate system for mapping, charting and other engineering applications, is called the National Geodetic Survey. It’s part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Survey plates as old as yours and in excellent condition can sell for $250 or more.

Q: I have an Ada Lum cloth doll with embroidered Chinese features and a long braid in the back. It is dressed in blue “pajama-style” jacket and pants, woven sandals and a straw hat. There is a tag on the doll’s wrist that says “Farmer, an original Ada Lum Doll” and “Made in Hong Kong.” Can you tell me something about the maker?

A: Ada Lum began designing and making dolls in Shanghai in the 1940s. At first she made them just for friends, but as more people wanted them she started a business making dolls. When the Communists took over in 1949, Ada Lum and her family fled to Hong Kong, where she continued her business and employed other Chinese refugees. At first she worked out of her home, but by 1962 she had a shop in the Mandarin Hotel. Her dolls were popular during the 1950s and ’60s and many were bought by American tourists. Ada Lum died in 1988. Value of your doll: about $75.

Q: I have a sugar and creamer set from the Pine Ridge Sioux Indians. I was a designer and manager for Stickley pottery lines. The best pieces of well-known art pottery like Rookwood and Weller are sold for more than $10,000 — too expensive for most collectors.

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I did some research. Olive Cottier is also marked with a pine tree design. “O. Cottier” and “Pine Ridge Sioux.” It was purchased at a yard sale about 20 years ago. On the bottom it is signed "Humler & Nolan in Cincinnati.”

This Ferock vase has an unfamiliar mark, but its Arts and Crafts design and important history brought an auction price of $2,760 at Hunter & Nolan in Cincinnati.

Tips: Save your broken dishes, vases and other decorative china to make mosaic stepping stones or tabletops for your garden. Chipped vases can still be used for flowers or turned upside to make toad homes.

Terry Kovel answers as many questions as possible through 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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CELEBRITY EXTRA

‘True Blood’ set to return for more supernatural fun

BY CINDY ELAVSKY

Q: I was a little hesitant about watching season six of “True Blood” because, in my opinion, it really jumped the shark last season. But I can say now that I am happy I stuck with it, because this season has been really good so far. Will there be a seventh season?
— Anna-Marie P., via e-mail

A: HBO just announced that the vampire/werewolf/shapeshifter/fairy/witch drama will be back for a seventh season, which will premiere summer 2014. I recently spoke with a member of the Shreveport wolf pack — Jamie Gray Hyder, who plays Alcide’s other girlfriend, Danielle — and she too is excited about what the rest of the season has to offer.

“There are some pretty big things that are going to go on that I don’t even know that much about,” Jamie told me, “If it’s a scene I’m not in, I don’t know what happens; I’m watching along with everyone else. But tensions are going to be heightened, and the stakes are going to continue to be raised. We’ve got the vampires versus the government, and now we have this ‘Billith’ creature, and the potential for things to completely implode is very real.

There are a handful of episodes left of season six of “True Blood,” which airs Sunday nights at 9 p.m. And I’m sure we’ll all be surprised by who survives to see a seventh season — and who does not.

Q: With Joy Behar leaving “The View,” who will they get to replace her?
— Tina F., Phoenix, Ariz.

A: Barbara Walters, who is the only original panelist left on the show and who plans to retire in 2014, announced that Jenny McCarthy will take over Joy’s empty chair when the show begins its 17th season on Sept. 9.

Q: Can you tell me what Mira Sorvino has been up to lately? She is one of my favorite actresses.
— Heidi R., via e-mail

A: The USA Network just revealed that the Oscar winner has signed on to a multi-episode arc of “Psych,” beginning with the seventh episode of the eighth season, which is rumored to be the show’s final season. She will play the Santa Barbara PD’s newest head detective, Betsy Brannigan, who is being described by USA as “incredibly sweet, adorably reserved and yet certified badass.”
BEACH READING

‘Into the Abyss: An Extraordinary True Story’

By Carol Shaben
(Grand Central Publishing, $25)

REVIEWED BY LARRY COX

Carol Shaben, an award-winning Canadian journalist, was working in the Middle East when she learned that her father had been in a plane crash. Six passengers aboard the 10-seat Navajo Chief were killed in the crash, including Grant Notley, leader of the New Democratic Party in Alberta, Canada. The four survivors huddled in deep snow and sub-zero temperatures before finally being rescued. Ms. Shaben’s father was one of the survivors.

Later, after watching her father struggle to process the horrific event, she decided the only way to fully understand what had happened was to write about it. The result is a book that is guaranteed to keep readers on the edge of their seats.

Through personal interviews with the survivors and her retelling and exploration of the events of that night, Ms. Shaben offers a rare insight into the minds and hearts of the four men who survived against insurmountable odds. For Ms. Shaben, the book was necessary so that she could make sense of the ordeal the survivors faced and ultimately make peace with her father.

24-year-old rookie pilot, Erik Vogel, was under pressure to complete the flight. Aboard was Carol’s father, Larry Shaben, Canada’s first Muslim cabinet minister. The passengers also included Constable Scott Deschamps and Paul Archbault, his prisoner who was shackled and in custody.

Against regulations, Constable Deschamps removed the handcuffs from his prisoner shortly before the ill-fated flight departed. Ms. Vogel was inexperienced, behind schedule and was concerned about the snow blowing across the tarmac. His job was on the line, and despite not having a copilot, he agreed to do the flight. About an hour after takeoff, the plane went down in the icy darkness.

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A200 releases single on iTunes

Southwest Florida modern rock band A200 released its new single, “I’m not perfect,” on iTunes this week. The five-member group includes Ed Ziehm, drums and vocals; John House- ly, lead guitar and vocals; Vic Jimenez, bass and vocals; Bob Tabarrini, guitar and vocals; and lead singer Jason Polly. Although collectively they have been performing for more than six years with nearly 20 years on the Southwest Florida music scene combined, their music has played as far away as Canada to the north, throughout the Midwest, with CDs and merchandise sales in Ireland, France and Germany. Each band member has a distinct musical career in and out of Florida, including lead guitarist John Houseley who toured with the hard rock band Blackfoot. With all five accomplished singers, they are able to offer a wide range of material in their performances.

The band has shared the stage with Papa Roach, Buck Cherry, Chevelle, Alice in Chains’ Jerry Cantrell, and heritage acts like ZZ Top, Cheap Trick, Joe Walsh, the Smithereens and Blues Traveler. Most recently, A200 opened for The Legends of Rock, Quiet Riot, Skid Row and Great White. And, as late as last week, A200 was the featured new artist on Bubba the Love Sponge’s national show out of Tampa.

For more information and the band’s tour schedule, visit http://a200rocks.com.
This deal occurred in a pair championship. The contract at every table was three notrump, and in each case declarer failed to make it. However, subsequent analysis showed that the contract should have been made.

The play was fairly uniform at the various tables. West led a heart, and declarer won East’s jack with the queen. After cashing four club tricks, declarer led either a spade or a diamond. West took the ace of whichever suit was led and returned the king of hearts.

South could now have cashed eight tricks, but at some tables, when he attempted to establish a ninth trick, West took his other ace and ran his hearts to put the contract down two.

All the plays seem so normal that it is difficult to see where declarer went wrong. But the fact is that each declarer missed an opportunity to make the contract.

The winning play is to allow East to win the opening heart lead with the jack! Once South does this, the contract cannot be stopped.

Let’s assume East returns a diamond. West takes the ace, but what can he do next? If he returns a heart, declarer scores the queen and finishes with 10 tricks; with any other return, South drives out the spade ace and wins up with nine tricks.

It can be argued that ducking the jack of hearts is easy to do when all 52 cards are in view, but actually the play can be supported by simple logic.
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Six Cultivated Gardens including a Children’s Garden with splash fountain, Butterfly House, Walking Trails and 90-Acre Preserve.

FGCU’s Bower School students earn accolades

A rising piano virtuoso at Florida Gulf Coast University added another international title to her resume this summer, while fellow students in the Bower School of Music brought home statewide awards.

Priscila Navarro, the 19-year-old senior piano major from Peru who made her Carnegie Hall debut in March, won first place at the 15th biennial International Beethoven Sonata Competition. She was the youngest of 12 semifinalists invited to take part in this worldwide contest in Memphis, Tenn., for musicians up to age 36. Most competitors were graduate or doctoral students representing schools such as Juilliard, the Peabody Institute, Cleveland Institute of Music and foreign institutions.

It was Ms. Navarro’s third recent win at the international level. In October, she will compete as a semifinalist in the Liszt International Competition in Baltimore.

Three other piano majors in the school recently earned accolades from the Florida Music Teachers Association. Freshman Jason Gomez, who hails from El Salvador, won the association’s Gray Perry Piano Competition, earning the title of best freshman or sophomore piano student in the state. Incoming sophomores Manuel Molina and Pedro Che, both from Peru, won the Byrd Memorial Piano Duo Competition as best piano duo in the state.

For more information, contact Dr. Michael Baron at 590-7209 or mbaron@fgcu.edu.
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SOCIETY

NIFF Film Society at Silverspot Cinema

1. Bill and Rita Boemer, Noreen Mellen and Mike Finkle
2. Dennis White and Lori Frantz
3. John and Reed Bobko
4. Shannon Franklin, Frank Russo and Ellen Goldberg
5. Jennifer Jensen, Karen Leaders, David L. Orr Jr. and Bille Jean Mounts
6. Joleen and Kevin Kaczmarek
7. Bill Hoffman, Christina Jordan, Shannon Franklin and Hank Sorrick

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3. Joseph and June Rothe
4. Liz and Jim Jesse
5. Ray Stafheit
6. Mary Beth Janis and Juliana Monk

Patrick Sogue and Lynn Hurley

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Southwest Florida’s grape footprint is gaining a foothold in Bordeaux, with a focus on small growers and classics.”

Yet there’s also renewed emphasis on the far-flung regions and obscure grape varieties. Typically noted) are as follows:

- **Best of Award of Excellence:** 850 winners. These restaurants exceed the requirements of the award of excellence by displaying vintage depth with vertical offerings of several top producers from major regions or excellent breadth over several winegrowing regions. Typically they offer 400 or more selections, superior presentation, and some offer more than 1,000 selections.

- **Grand Award:** 73 winners. The top level award is awarded to restaurants with “uncompromising, passionate devotion to the quality of their wine program.” Typically they have more than 1,500 selections, with a serious breadth of top producers, outstanding depth in mature vintages, a selection of large format bottles, excellent harmony with the menu, and superior organization, presentation, and wine service. There are two perennials in Florida: HMF (formerly L’Escalier) at The Breakers in Palm Beach, and Bern’s Steak House in Tampa.

Local restaurants that won awards this year (Awards of Excellence, unless otherwise noted) are as follows:

- Boca Grande: The Gasparilla Inn Main Dining Room, The Pink Elephant and The Temptation Restaurant
- Bonita Springs: Angelina’s Ristorante, Best of Award of Excellence
- Captiva: Keylime Bistro
- Estero: Blue Water Bistro (recognized for inexpensive wine pricing), Ruth’s Chris Steak House
- Fort Myers: Bistro 41 (new), Sunshine Grille
- Fort Myers Beach: Bayfront Bistro
- Marco Island: Sale e Pepe, Marco Beach Ocean Resort — Best of Award of Excellence; Taza Steak & Lobster House
- Naples: Agave Southwestern Grill

For complete information on all award winners, go to www.winespectator.com/restaurants.
Cuisine

Even in the slow season, new restaurants are popping up

Karen Feldman
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Yes, it’s sleepy summer time, when restaurants traditionally close — either for vacation or for good — but there’s a fair amount of activity afoot in the area this year.

■ Taps Restaurant Bar & Lounge recently opened in Mercato. With branches in Tampa and Winter Park, this is the third location for this establishment that offers 60 wines by the half-glass, glass and bottle as well as 350 beers. Looking for a lager, ale, wheat beer, pilsner, pale ale, lactic, porter or gluten-free brew? Odds are Taps has it.

The menu is interesting as well, with various brushetta and tapas options, plus Italian sausage sliders, chipotle apricot barbecue chicken sandwiches, Grandma’s baked macaroni, salads, Belgian waffles and a lot more.

■ Taps is open for lunch and dinner at 9115 Strada Place. Check it out at http://tapswineandbeer.com or its Facebook page, Taps Restaurant Bar & Lounge - Naples.

■ Delicious Raw, a fresh fruit and vegetable juice bar, is bringing fruit and vegetable juices, smoothies and wellness shots to Fifth Avenue South. All are handmade to order and have no additives or preservatives.

Delicious Raw sits on the corner of Fifth Avenue South and Eighth Street and is a shared extension of The Cafe on Fifth Avenue, a European-style cafe serving breakfast and lunch. The menus of Delicious Raw and The Cafe are available at both locations. Delicious Raw is open 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. every day. For details, call 430-6555.

■ Mereday’s at Naples Bay Resort is expected to open any day now in the space previously occupied by L’Orient and Olio before that. The contemporary American restaurant takes its name from owner Charles Mereday, who comes with some intriguing credentials that include a degree from Johnson & Wales at Charleston; training at the acclaimed Ryland Inn, Whitehouse, N.J.; a turn as executive chef at the exceptional soul food restaurant and jazz club, Zanzibar Blue, in Philadelphia; and ownership of Old Stone Farmhouse in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

The restaurant’s Facebook page promises “contemporary American cuisine based on the finest, freshest, often rarely-available ingredients sourced from all over the world.” Naples Bay Resort is at 1500 Fifth Ave. S. Call the resort at 530-5110 or visit the restaurant’s Facebook page.

■ Rusty Bucket Restaurant and Tavern plans to open its first Florida location in Mercato in early 2014, bringing traditional American food, an extensive beer selection, a family-friendly atmosphere and an emphasis on great service.

The restaurant will seat 150 in the main dining room with 75 more seats in a covered terrace that will feature an outdoor bar, TVs, fans and misters. Bars will offer craft and import beers, wines and cocktails. TVs will afford plenty of options for watching the big games with friends and family.

Signature dishes include fried pickles, wings, mini burgers with grilled onions and yellow cheddar on potato buns, blackened salmon salad, double baked cheeseburger, black bean quesadilla, chipotle apricot barbecue chicken and Olio burger, barbecued ribs, fish and chips, root beer floats and triple chocolate cake.

With a full bar, Rusty Bucket will offer 24 beers on tap as well as 80 craft and imports beers, plus 20 wines by the glass and bottle and a wide range of cocktails.

The restaurant will be open daily for lunch and dinner and is expected to hire about 100 people. For details, visit www.myrustybucket.com or connect on Facebook.

Dine out to beat breast cancer

Battle breast cancer by dining out Thursday, July 25. Dozens of restaurants from Fort Myers to Naples have signed on to donate a portion of proceeds to Susan G. Komen Southwest Florida in support of local breast health/breast cancer programs and breast cancer research. The amount donated varies by restaurant but ranges from 50 to 90 percent of revenue.

To see which restaurants are participating, visit www.komenswfl.org. Note that some chain restaurants require that you present a flyer available on the site so be sure to print it out and take it along.

Many independent restaurants will take part as well, including Naples Flatbread & Wine Bar, Masa, Bha! Bha! Persian Bistro, Campiello, Bleu Flatbread & Wine Bar, Masa, Bha! Bha! Persian Bistro, Campiello, Bleu Provence, Barbarella and Sea Salt. For details, call 708-0041.

Quick bites

■ For the love of tequila and dogs: At 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 28, Agave Southwestern Grill & Tequila Bar will present a four-course tequila dinner featuring Herradura tequila and a menu by Executive Chef Juan LaRosas. It’s $50 per person plus tax and gratuity. Dine at Agave any Wednesday in August and the restaurant will donate a percentage of all sales to support The Humane Society Naples. Discount Pet and Supplies is matching the donation pound for pound with dog food. Agave is at 2380 Vanderbilt Beach Road in Naples. Call 598-3473 or visit www.agavenaples.com.

■ Farewell, McCabe’s: You have until Sept. 3 to bid a fond farewell to McCabe’s Irish Pub & Grill. That’s when owner Phil McCabe is closing it to completely gut it and turn it into a contemporary restaurant that will match the sleek restyled Inn on Fifth in which it’s situated. Look for the new and as-yet-unspecified new concept to open around Christmas.

■ Celebrate farmers: In honor of National Farmer’s Market Week, the Indoor Farmer’s Market & Emporium will give away reusable, eco-friendly shopping tote bags to the first 450 customers to arrive starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 10. There’s a limit of one per family. Totes will be weighed at the exit and those containing more than 10 pounds of fruits and vegetables will be entered to win a $100 gift certificate good for a future visit. The market is in the Shops at Vanderbilt, at the northwest corner of Airport-Pulling and Vanderbilt Beach roads in North Naples. It’s open noon-6 p.m. Fridays and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays.

■ Discounts for teachers: Osteria Tulia is offering teachers a 20 percent discount on their food when they show a valid ID card now through Aug. 18. The offer is limited to groups of four or smaller. The restaurant is at 466 Fifth Ave. South. For details, call 211-2073.

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