SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The largest artificial reef project in the western hemisphere is ready to launch, with 18,000 tons of reef material, a unified construction contract, artificial reef modules and permitting from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for 36 reefs off the Collier County coast all in place.

Celebrations are planned Thursday and Friday, Jan. 8-9.

It was just two years ago that the Economic Recovery Task Force joined with local attorney Peter Flood to develop a business plan and work with Naples and Marco Island city officials and county government officials to apply for and secure $1.3 million in private BP grant funds. An additional $50,000 was secured in private donations, administered through the Community Foundation of Collier County.

“We are pleased to have been able to deliver on our promise to the community,” Mr. Flood says, adding the reef project is

SEE REEF, A18 ▶
I did not expect a recent journey to turn into a quest to discover the origins of a garden “whatnot,” but it did. “Whatnots” are bric-a-brac, purchased for a modest price that tend to morph and multiply into a vast clutter of collectibles. I know this about whatnots because my mother had this collector’s compulsion. Every tabletop in our family home hosted some mass-produced, ornamental statuary or ceramic dish. The most elegant pieces were on display on a coffee table that never knew a cup of coffee. A whatnot’s function is inconsequential to its purpose, much like the misappropriated coffee table in our living room. My mom had whatnot preferences. Her curio cabinet served as the Royal Palace of our family figurines. As a reluctant connoisseur, I was duly impressed. I asked how the two figures had come into his possession, noting they were of the quality to which all whatnots aspire but seldom achieve. Uncle Charlie’s preamble was circuitous and beguiling. As a teenager, I was cynical of the merits of whatnots and regarded them as dust-collectors, hardly worthy of admiration or desire. So I was determined to resist as an adult the collectible habit, cautious that I might become my mother. Nonetheless, I was genetically stricken. My downfall became garden statuary. This genre of whatnots impose their own limitations, given the copious amounts of concrete involved. Moves necessitated often leaving them behind, but I took satisfaction in knowing their status as garden fixtures was assured by the hefty commitment required to dispose of them. So it was destiny, I suppose, that garden whatnots are central to the story of the quest with which this column begins. I went to visit my husband’s 94-year-old uncle on the aforementioned trip. After a stay of several hours, and murmurs of appreciation to his wife for a butterscotch pie, I stood to take my leave. As I ventured out into a drizzling rain, Uncle Charlie called me back, beckoning me to follow him into the garage. We stepped gingerly through a narrow path between towers of boxes, and a butterscotch pie. I stood to take my leave. As I ventured out into a drizzling rain, Uncle Charlie called me back, beckoning me to follow him into the garage. We stepped gingerly through a narrow path between towers of boxes, and into a garage addition that served as his workshop. He wanted me to take a gander at his latest project, the repair of two very large terra cotta figurines lying brocken on his workbench. A car bumper had invaded their prior location by the garage entrance. Knowing Uncle, he spoke recriminations to the perpetrator while scooping the pieces up and then stored them away, to be forgotten until Uncle Charlie decided he had the time to repair the damage, a testament to his fortitude that only now does he have the time. His progress in putting the shards together was yielding impressive results. Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf were nearly resurrected, proportionate in scale to one another, appearing almost life size, although admittedly, it was the grandeur of their detail that tricked the eye. As a reluctant connoisseur, I was duly impressed. I asked how the two figures had come into his possession, noting they were of the quality to which all whatnots aspire but seldom achieve. Uncle Charlie’s preamble was circuitous (of which I also plead guilty) but the destination of his explanation took us to Rock City, the place where seven states are visible from atop its perch high on Lookout Mountain in Tennessee. If you have never seen a “See Rock City” sign, a big chunk of North America is missing from your travels. Anyway, Rock City is on the National Register of Historic places, founded by Frieda Carter and her husband. Frieda was German and had a special interest in fairies and folktales. She largely designed Rock City as a tourist destination and dubbed the ancillary gardens and walking trails “Fairyland.” The Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf in Uncle Charlie’s possession are duplicates of the terra cotta figures in Frieda’s Fairyland. Uncle Charlie bought his pair long ago from a collector in Indiana. He subsequently stumbled across the existence of the originals at Fairyland on a vacation visit to Rock City. Uncle Charlie implored me to discover who and where the terra cottas were made, a mystery worthy of Ms. Marple — and she didn’t have the Internet. I did the research and discovered the Fairyland figures were first created around 1860 and manufactured in Grafsenroda, Germany, by Phillip Griebel. However, the bigger discovery is that Griebel is famous for creating the mother-of-all whatnots, the garden gnome. Griebel’s descendants still make them, though most come from Poland and China now. After completing my quest, I realize how sadly lacking my life is without a garden gnome, a shortcoming that must be rectified. I am my mother’s child, after all. — Leslie Lilly is a native Floridian. Her professional career spans more than 25 years leading major philanthropic institutions in the South and Appalachia. She resides with her family and pugs in Jupiter. Email her at llilly15@gmail.com and follow Lilly on Twitter @llilly15bw
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Fighting for the climate in the heart of the world

The imagery is not lost on many Peruvians organizing for climate justice. Wilfredo Saavedra Marrero, president of the Environmental Defense Front of Cajamarca, told “Democracy Now!”: “It’s a farce. ... The representatives of the world are meeting in a place that is stained with blood. In the Pentagonito, that military base, they have extrajudicially executed our brothers and sisters.”

Outside, in the bustling city streets of Lima, a city of 9 million people with interminable traffic jams, grass-roots activists hosted their own “COP 20” this year, a massive, high-level meeting, as the science is clear: The world is warming rapidly, and without action, the details are being worked out. You can’t spell “climate” without L-I-M-A.

First, it’s necessary to understand the setting, and who is at the table and who is not. Inside, the summit proceeds in an orderly manner, with U.N. police standing watch and a rarified air of diplomatic decorum. It is hard to feel any sense of urgency. This is astounding, as the science is clear: The world is warming rapidly, and without action, catastrophic climate change will soon become irreversible.

The official COP 20 was held on the grounds of the Peruvian army headquarters — ominously named “El Pentagonito, the little Pentagon.” In this militarized zone, the U.N. climate summit occurs in a Potemkin village, with formal ceremonies and prearranged, preapproved protests.

There is no doubt that economic sanctions are a blunt and dubious instrument, and reasonable people can disagree about their wisdom (I’ve gone back and forth about the Cuban embargo through the years). But dictatorial regimes use them for a reason. All things considered, they want more economic wherewithal rather than less.

Cuba is deeply dependent on the largesse of its ideological partner Ven- ezuela, its irrational, left-wing policies have helped trash its economy. Just as the Cuban dictatorship faces the dire prospect of the collapse of Venezuela’s support, here comes El Yunque to cushion the blow. The Castro regime will take a cut of the increased trade, remit- tances and tourism that will spring from Obama’s concessions.

Consider tourism. The Cuban mili- tary has an enormously holding company called GAESA. One of its companies, Gaviota, operates an extensive network of hotels and resorts, according to the strategic consultancy Stratfor. Imagine if the Pentagon owned the Marriott and Hilton hotel chains. That is the Cuban tourism industry in a nutshell.

About a million Canadian tourists go to Cuba every year. In total, more than 2 million tourists visit annually, and yet the Castro regime is still standing. It is true, of course, that the embargo — which Obama can’t lift on his own, doesn’t end the Cuban regime. On the other hand, there is little reason to believe that lifting the embargo will end it. Why? Because Cuba hasn’t yet made Beijing any less repres- sive.

If Cuba is embroiled as a relic of the Cold War, but it is the regime itself that is a relic, an inhuman jackboot left over from the era when people actually professed to believe in workers’ par- adises. There are holdout believers, still. The liberal elite has often treated Fidel Castro as a cute, plucky figure of defi- ance, and even now, the government has determined apologists in the U.S. Congress.

If Cuba were a racist apartheid-style system rather than a communist dic- tatorship, no one would be so eager to do business with it. The good and great celebrate the Obama changes as the end of an era. But they will replenish the coffers of a Cold War regime that is stubbornly still standing.

— Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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The Saul I. Stern Cultural Series begins on Marco at JCMI

The Jewish Congregation of Marco Island opens the 21st year of the Saul I. Stern Cultural Series with Marvin Tokayer, retired rabbi of Japan, on Tuesday evening, Jan. 6. Rabbi Tokayer has spent a lifetime uncovering the roots of Jews in the Far East. Focusing on “Pepper, Silk and Ivory” (the title of his latest book, which was published in September), he will discuss the history of the Jews in Asia.

After service as an army chaplain in Japan, Rabbi Tokayer spent more than 10 years as rabbi of Japan and director of culture, religion and education for the Jewish Communities of the Far East. His books include “The Fugue Plan: The Untold Story of the Japanese and the Jews during World War II.”

The Saul I. Stern Cultural Series evening begins at 7:30 p.m. A question-and-answer period, book signing and reception with the rabbi will follow the program.

The series continues Feb. 28 with Harry Ettlinger, one of the original Monuments Men, a small group of Allied heroes in World War II who assisted in rescuing works of art and other important cultural artifacts from Hitler’s regime and returning them to their rightful owners.

Series tickets are $75 for patrons, $50 for JCMI members and $60 for non-members. Single tickets are $20 for JCMI members and $60 for non-

The story of Michael Stolowitzky and his nanny Gertruda Babilinska, the family’s devoted Catholic nanny, to make a fateful promise: that Gertruda would get Michael to safety in Palestine and raise him there as her own son. The book presents a story of extraordinary courage and moral strength in the face of horrific wartime events, and pays tribute to Gertruda’s commitment to Michael and his family.

A charming gentleman now in his 70s, Mr. Stolowitzky visits Southwest Florida in January to talk about his remarkable journey and the nanny who saved his life. He will make three presentations, signing copies of “Gertruda’s Oath” at each. Attendance is free, but reservations are required for each of the following:

- 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, at Lakes Regional Library, 15290 Bass Road, Fort Myers. RSVP to 333-4050.
- 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at Temple Shalom, 4630 Pine Ridge Road, Naples. RSVP to the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida, 263-9200.
- 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at South Regional Library, 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway, Naples. RSVP to 232-7542.

“Gertruda’s Oath” discussion groups are now being held throughout Southwest Florida. For dates, times and locations, visit holocaustmuseumSWFL.org.

Copies of “Gertruda’s Oath” are available for checkout at public libraries in Collier and Lee counties and are on sale at the Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Naples.

The One Book Southwest Florida reading program and Mr. Stolowitzky’s appearances are a collaborative effort by the following organizations: Collier County Public Library System, the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida, Temple Shalom, GenShoah of Southwest Florida (an organization for children of Holocaust survivors), Lee County Library System and the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties.

Michael Stolowitzky, the subject of “Gertruda’s Oath,” with various editions of the best-seller by Ram Oren.
Naples Winter Wine Festival announces Lifetime Achievement Award

Napa Valley winemakers Bart and Daphne Araujo have been named the first recipients of the Naples Winter Wine Festival Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of their passion for producing extraordinary wine and their longstanding commitment to improving the lives of children in need.

The award will be presented at the 2013 NWWF: Imagine the Possibilities, Jan. 23-25 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. For almost a quarter of a century, the Araujos have been involved with Napa Valley winemaking as owners of one of California’s most historic vineyard sites, the Eisele Vineyard. A fifth-generation Californian, Mr. Araujo has ties to ranching and farming and years of business experience that prepared him well for the task of developing and managing a world-class wine estate. Mrs. Araujo’s formal training in landscape architecture influenced all aspects of the estate, including the vineyard, winery, olive groves, and fruit and vegetable gardens.

“We couldn’t think of more fitting recipients for this inaugural award,” says Sandi Moran, vintner chair and co-chair of the upcoming festival. The Araujos first attended NWWF as featured vintners in 2002 and have returned every year since. In total, their donated auction lots have generated more than $1.1 million, and their wine has been a favorite among festival patrons.

“To be recognized by this extraordinary group for what we have accomplished in the world of wine is a singular honor,” Mr. Araujo says, adding the award “also reinforces the importance of wine as a catalyst for philanthropy.”

In July 2013, after receiving an unsolicited expression of interest, the couple sold their storied Araujo Estate and its Eisele Vineyard to the Pinault family, the French owners of Château Latour. They have acquired a new home in Oakville, Calif., with a cabernet sauvignon vineyard, and another property in the St. Helena appellation with more cabernet vineyards and a permit to build a winery. The first wines under their new label, Accendo Cellars, will be released in 2015.

Jan 6, 13, 20 & 27
LifeQuest Expo from noon to 2pm. Get a jump start on a healthy New Year! This expo will be held in The Village Church Auditorium on The Island at Shell Point and will showcase 50 booths representing all six dimensions of wellness: physical, emotional, spiritual, educational, community and social, and natural environment. Please call 489-8472 to reserve your place. For information call 489-8472.

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Jan 11
Tim Zimmerman & The King’s Brass at 6:15pm. Add some excitement to the New Year with a performance of classic hymn arrangements with a contemporary flair. The King’s Brass instruments blend together to create innovative worship that will be enjoyed by all generations. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased online at www.shellpoint.org/seasonofpraise, or by calling 454-2147.

Jan 13
Southwest Florida Symphony: Simply Classics at 7:30pm. Shell Point is pleased to partner with the Southwest Florida Symphony to present rich classics by three of Vienna’s brightest stars: Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. Join Conductor Nir Kabaretti and pianist Andrew Armstrong for an evening of emotionally-complex melodies. Tickets are $20. Visit www.shellpoint.org/concerts to reserve your place or call 454-2067.

Jan 14
The Hound of Heaven from 10:15 to 11:45am. Brian Oxley, the executive producer, shows two films focusing on the poem by Francis Thompson entitled The Hound of Heaven. One is an acclaimed and another property in the St. Helena appellation with more cabernet vineyards and a permit to build a winery. The first wines under their new label, Accendo Cellars, will be released in 2015.

*Please note: If you are unable to attend a class that includes a fee, kindly give 24 hours notice to receive a refund.
Linda Burke counts herself among the lucky few who find the ideal mate early on in life.

In her case, lightning struck on her first day of high school. That’s when she and fellow 10th grader Gary Lee Burke first set eyes on each other.

“He didn’t speak to me or anything, but that was it — it was all over,” Mrs. Burke recalls about that initial encounter in their hometown of Fruitport, Mich. They were smitten from the start, but shyness kept the love-struck teens from talking, much less dating, until their junior year.

What began with exchanged glances led to a story-book marriage of almost 45 years — a union cut short by Lee Burke’s unexpected death in April.

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“I have to be thankful that I found him and we had a good life together,” says Mrs. Burke. “Some people never find an appropriate partner.”

She describes him as being witty, lighthearted, loving, kind, compassionate and protective and a loyal friend.

“He was just a really good person. Even babies liked him,” she says with a chuckle. “I could hold a baby and it would scream. He would hold it and it would calm right down.”

The couple’s years together were highlighted by the love they shared for biking, hiking, history and the outdoors. That’s when she and fellow 10th grader Gary Lee Burke first set eyes on each other.

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“Even babies loved him.”

Ode to Burke

By Ken Andexler

The fight in Vietnam, carried on and on — the year was ’69, the draft was full blown — the boys became very rapidly men, and the men they became, when they slept in water up to their necks, with their guns and ammo above their heads. The Cong would cross their paths, two or so would be dead.

Ten or more — shh! Let ‘em pass.

The tank ride one day, his friend wanted to trade places, the bomb hit, and his friend ended up dead.

And on his new ride, a neighbor, his head blown apart — landed on his lip and across his face.

Death still did not pass Him for a body bag He lay in Him the helicopter ride to the morgue shook Him — “Hey! This one’s still alive!”

For why! For why? For why! For why? Forty-five years later those memories never faded, those war anniversary dates shook him dearly, again and again;

those times, He could not surrender.

A man, a friend, he’d do almost anything for any-one!

Kindness and gentleness surrounded his sound character!

But now, the blood in His heart filled His belly. His gut could take no more.

His heart finally collapsed, drained, from that Viet-

namese War.

His partner rushed Him in, forty-five years of pain, it finally, surrendered His mind.

He bled, He bled and the Gentle Man — a True Purple Heart recipient — capped the day in intensive care.

He saved so many lives in that useless war, His M-60 sliced the enemy in half.

He fought to save His own life and the others, too, that He spared.

For after all, it’s the government’s war, The Man’s War to Survive.

Today, I prayed that He could survive, get His butt out of bed, and walk the past no more.

But there are no body bags in Heaven for He, already, was headed there.

Some people live their lives loudly, the way a silence-piercing sound demands attention from any-one within earshot.

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Some people live their lives loudly, the way a silence-piercing sound demands attention from any-one within earshot.

Bombast, however, was not the way of Marianne Tirri Kramer, a petite, soft-spoken woman with a gentle smile who chose a more subtle, but no less powerful, path.

The owner of Sasso’s International Cuisine & Sea-food restaurant on Marco Island, Mrs. Kramer, 51, passed away in September after a brief illness.

Marianne Kramer

“She loved to smile, and she loved to see other people smile.”

In ways large and small, hers was a life in which advancing the lot of her fellow man was a priority, recalls her husband of six years, Fred Kramer, an attor-

To the Fort Myers Chapter of the Combat Infantryman’s Association for 24 years, Mr. Burke spent a lot of time at the Veterans Administration Bay Pines Outpatient Clinic in Naples, sharing expe-

Designing the putt-putt course, which opened in 2013, was a collaborative process for the couple.

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Their plans included eventually extending the gar-

dens from the course to the restaurant, which offers al fresco dining.

That feature will become a reality, vows Mr. Kram-

er.

“She enjoyed life,” was his response when asked to recount a story that illustrates who Marianne Tirri Kramer was as a person. “She loved to smile and she loved to see other people smile.”

Mr. Kramer is equally concise in describing the legacy she hoped to leave amongst those whose lives she touched: “She’d like to be remembered for just trying to do good and to make things better for oth-

ers.”
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The lives they led
REMEMBERING SOME WE LOST THIS YEAR

Renee Anderson Fiorenza
"She was the ultimate survivor.

Renee Anderson Fiorenza was blessed with an ability to uplift others with an all-embracing joie de vivre. "My mom was a very upbeat, fun, a really positive person," recalls her daughter, Melody Pickel. "She always saw the glass as half full. She just was a fun, personable person. She lived every day completely to the fullest."

Mrs. Fiorenza died unexpectedly in March, after being struck by a car in her North Naples neighborhood. The 86-year-old's sunny disposition stood in sharp contrast to the harshness she experienced as a girl who happened to be born Jewish in Berlin, during Adolph Hitler's rise to power.

Born Ellen Renate Barczinski in 1927, hers was a life of comfort and security that was turned upside down in the wake of Adolph Hitler's rise to power. Dr. Barczynski was imprisoned by the Nazis, but then released before the war's start. He then traveled to England in 1938 to prepare a place for his wife and three children.

After arriving in London in January 1939, Mrs. Fiorenza continued her schooling. Her mother eventually escaped to London as well, as did her two brothers, who fought with the English against Germany.

The entire family moved to England in 1940.

At 18, after the war's conclusion, she returned to Germany to work as a translator for the U.S. government. While there, she met her first husband, the late Blaine Anderson, who retired as a major in the U.S. Army.

After immigrating to Canada, she joined Mr. Anderson in America where they married and had two children, Melody and Mark.

Both Mr. Anderson and her second husband, Carl Fiorenza, preceded her in death.

Mrs. Fiorenza believed her mother's approach to life helped her survive the experiences of her youth. "She didn't look back, she didn't look forward," she says. "She was the ultimate survivor. That's what my husband (Gary) called her. She didn't let anything bad affect her. She just made the best of everything. She lived her life passionately every day."

Despite everything, Mrs. Fiorenza harbored no ill will toward the German people, although the trials she experienced weren't something she liked to discuss.

"She preferred to concentrate on what was happening right now and what was happening to other people," her daughter says. Intelligent and savvy, at the time of her death she was still active, making plans with friends and family.

Mrs. Pickel also describes her mother as having been loving and involved as a parent and as grandmother to her two children, Jonathan and David. "It wasn't like she had an apron on and was hugging and kissing," she adds. "It wasn't like she was the traditional grandmother who was baking you cookies. She wanted to know what you were doing and... could she help?"

Mrs. Fiorenza contributed her life story to the Oral/Visual History Project of the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida. The project preserves for posterity the testimonies of the region's Holocaust survivors, liberators, resisters and witnesses.

Over the years, she often attended programs at the museum and brought friends there, says Amy Snyder, the institution's executive director.

"The radiance of Mrs. Fiorenza's personality made a mark that still echoes through the facility. "She was very vivacious," Ms. Snyder says. "She always had something to say that brought a smile to your face. Every time I saw her, she had a smile on her face and was ready to go, whatever was happening."

Sascha Bonte
"He just loved life, and you can tell by how many people loved him."

Sascha Bonte's life was unfolding as normal during the summer of 2013. As always, the vital, upbeat 44-year-old maintained a busy schedule at his popular Marco Island shop, Sascha's Salon & Day Spa.

Mr. Bonte also found time for fun, taking part, that July, in the world's oldest and largest bike-touring event, (The Des Moines) Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa.

But that air of regularity — the sometimes pleasurable, sometimes not ebb and flow of life — slowly and inexorably began to change upon his return to Southwest Florida.

"I think he started to feel that something wasn't right in August," his wife, Patricia, says. "When he came back (from Iowa), he was very fatigued. And then the headaches started. He didn't think anything of it, but then his vision started to get bad. It got worse and worse and worse."

The eye doctor told him it was something neurologically.

Mr. Bonte thought overwork was the culprit, but it was instead something infinitely more serious: a brain tumor.

The diagnosis came after he consulted with doctors in his hometown of Stuttgart, Germany, where he'd traveled to spend the Christmas holidays with his wife and their son Daniel, then 15, who reside there.

An operation revealed a tumor, but complications from the procedure resulted in Mr. Bonte's death in September. He was 45.

The couple had been separated for three of their 15 years of marriage, but remained close.

"He was my best friend," says Mrs. Bonte. "We were like brother and sister. We always loved each other. When he got his diagnosis, when he was ill, he came to us. That shows you the kind of relationship we had. He knew he could always come to us."

A hair stylist for both women and men, Mr. Bonte was known for his sense of humor, generosity, honesty and compassion, and his love of fitness and motorcycles.

"His motto was live and let live," says Mrs. Bonte. "He didn't hold grudges. He just loved life, and you can tell by how many people loved him. He was very centered, ambitious, very hard working. I've never known a person who worked as hard as he always did."

The Bontes first met in Stuttgart, when Mrs. Bonte went to his salon there seeking a fix for a hair-coloring attempt gone wrong. Correcting the mistake took several visits and led to Mr. Bonte asking her out on a date. They dated for about one year before marrying in 1998. In 2002, the couple moved to Marco, where they reside.

In 2003, Mr. Bonte opened Sascha's Salon & Day Spa.

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LIVES
From page 9

Spa, where Jo Bromley of nearby Goodland was a longtime customer. “He was an awesome man,” Ms. Bromley says. “He was so energetic. He had no filter. What he wanted to say, he said — and nine times out of 10, it was funny.”

Ms. Bromley was his last client, getting her hair cut on Christmas Eve morning last year, mere hours before Mr. Bonte’s flight to Germany. She was not aware, until much later, of his health struggles and the difficulty they posed where his craft and his livelihood were concerned. “He was a genius at what he did,” she says. “His vision was so bad, he had to cut by feel. And let me tell you, it was a perfect haircut.”

In lieu of an obituary, Mrs. Bonte penned this farewell in her husband's honor, expressing what she believes he would say to those who knew him: “A lot has been written about me the last 12 years, and as you read this I will be in heaven with my parents. Now I would like to be able to have the last word concerning me. As the most of you know, my family and I moved to Florida in 2002. At that time I did not have my cosmetology license, so I started renovating houses. I can tell you all, it was not easy for me; all I wanted was to do hair. “My wish became reality after I bought a salon on Marco Island. The beginnings were very hard, as nobody on the island knew me or my talent yet. I had what I thought was a great idea to offer inexpensive children’s haircuts. I will now admit that I wanted to bait you moms into my shop to convince you that I could be the best hairstylist for you. “Needless to say, my plan worked. So month by month and year by year my client base grew. I thank you for the trust that you continued to show me through the years … I can truly say I consider you all part of the family. All families can be dysfunctional at times, but at the end of the day, we worked it out one way or the other. “All my co-workers, customers, Marco friends and Naples friends, I had the honor and the privilege to be a part of your life. You made me laugh and some of you made me cry, but you all enriched my life. “I was able to fulfill my biggest dreams of becoming a U.S. citizen and owning my own bike. Man, was I happy riding that machine. “I lived a life many people dream of, and collectively all of you helped make that happen … For that I am eternally grateful. The positive as well as the negative shape you to be the person you were intended to be. “I know some of you were confused by my behavior over the last year. By December 2013, the tumor had become the size of a lighter. I named it George, and he was removed successfully. The bad thing was, they took out much of my healthy brain tissue, and after extensive radiation and chemo, my brain developed a nasty virus for which there is no cure. The virus infects every healthy brain cell and shuts it down. The cancer did not kill me, but the treatment did. I kept on fighting till the end. “If you ask me would I do it all over again, I would answer, ‘Heck yeah, but only if I could play with the same actors and on the same stage again.’ Thank you all for being a part of my learning experience. We will meet again. Until then, live life to the fullest with no regrets. — Sascha”
Stella Thomas’ struggle to conquer the tumor relentlessly growing from her brain was a long one. As she endured the invader’s debilitating effects and those of the medical treatments it entailed, the wife, mother of three and grandmother of seven also strove to ease her loved ones’ concerns.

“She never complained, never complained,” Peter Thomas says of his wife of 68 years. “She just tried to reassure everybody. She didn’t want anyone to worry. But we sure did. I did.”

Mrs. Thomas battle ended on June 13, when she succumbed to complications of the tumor. She was 89.

“It went on for many years and then she went into dementia,” says Mr. Thomas, 91. “She was not the same at the end, but she was still herself. It was a terrible thing for me to go through, to see her suffer. She was at Avow (Hospice of Naples) and they were wonderful. But she finally died and I don’t think I will ever get over it. It’s like a part of yourself is gone.”

The Naples residents’ lives together began during high school in their hometown of Pensacola. Mr. Thomas first encountered the former Stella Barrineau when he spotted her at a dance. He was then 16 and working part time at a local radio station, the start of a career that has seen him become a renowned commercial voiceover artist and narrator for television.

He asked a buddy for her name and phone number and jotted both down on an envelope. The following night, on his radio show, he dedicated a recording of “You Are My Sunshine” to her and then recited Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s “Sonnet 43,” which opens with the lines, “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.”

That quixotic, inexplicable, crazy little thing called love had Mr. Thomas in its grasp.

“She was a beautiful dancer, so graceful,” he says. “There was a goodness about her, a genuine goodness, which I think she carried through her life. I just fell in love with her immediately. I’d just never met anybody that I felt that way about.”

When he was headed overseas to fight in World War II as a member of the U.S. Army, his last phone call was to her rather than his parents. “I couldn’t tell her where I was going,” he recalls. “I could just say, ‘Hello, darling, I love you.’”

They corresponded the entire time he was overseas. “All the way through, she would have the most encouraging letters,” he says.

After his return, they married in 1946. Mrs. Thomas played an integral role in her husband’s career during their marriage. (Over the years, his voice has been heard narrating such TV shows as “Forensic Files,” PBS’ “Nova” and “Mystery Detectives” as well as on advertisements for Burger King and on ESPN’s “Monday Night Football” previews.) He would read scripts to her, seeking her approval; she used her business degree from Florida State College for Women (now Florida State University) to handle his finances and run their household.

“We were like a team,” he says. “Now with her gone, I’m still going on, but it’s the hardest thing I’ve ever gone through. She was my star. Everybody that knew her loved her.”

Stella Thomas

“There was a goodness about her, a genuine goodness …”

Stella and Peter Thomas

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Guiteau Lanoue, Mixed Media
Cliche come to life

For her Advanced Placement World History class at Magnolia (Texas) West High School in December, Reagan Har- din constructed an elaborate diorama of a Middle Ages farm — which her dog ate on the night before it was due. Veterinarian Carl Southern performed the neces- sary scoping-out on Roscoe, extracting the plastic chicken head, horse body, sheep and pig, along with wire that held the display together. Warned Dr. South- ern: “Don’t put anything past your dog. We all say my dog would never eat that, and then the main thing he’ll eat.”

The entrepreneurial spirit

Meg C Jewelry Gallery of Lexington, Ky., introduced a limited line of Kentucky-centric gold-plated necklaces and earrings in June (recently touted for Christmas!) — each dangling with genuine Kentucky Fried Chicken bones. All stems were picked clean from KFC wings, washed, dried, sealed with var- nish and conductive paint, copper-elec- troformed, and then electroplated with 14k gold. Small-bone necklaces go for $310 (large, $600), and earrings for $200 a pair — and according to Meg C, acces- sorize anything from jeans to a lady’s best little black dress.

“Ethical” fur designer Pamela Paquin debuted the first of her anticip- ated line of roadkill furs recently — raccoon neck muffs (“I can literally take two raccoons and put them butt to butt (so they) clasp neck to neck”) that will sell for around $1,000. Raccoons yield “luscious” fur, she said, but her favorite pelt is otter. The Massachu- setts woman leaves her card with vari- ous New England road crews (“Hi, my name is Pamela. Will you call me when you have roadkill?!”) and does business under the name Petite Mort (“little death” in French, but also, she said, a euphemism for a woman’s post-orgasm sensations).

Not too long ago, “generous” job perquisites were, perhaps, health insur- ance and little more, but Silicon Valley startups now race to outdo each other in dreaming up luxuries to pamper work- ers. A November Wall Street Street Journal report noted that the photo-sharing ser- vice Pinterest offers employee classes in the martial art “muay thai” and in August brought in an “artisanal jam maker” to create after-work cocktails — a far cry from most workplaces, which offer, perhaps, a vending machine downstairs. (Several companies have hired hotel-concierge professionals to come manage their creative add- ons.) Not every perk is granted, though: Pinterest turned down an employee’s request to install a zip line directly to a neighborhood bar.

Chutzpah

Jose Manuel Marino-Najera filed a lawsuit in Tucson, Ariz., in December against the U.S. Border Patrol because a K-9 dog had bitten his arm repeatedly during an arrest. Marino-Najera, illeg- ally in the U.S., had been found sleeping under a tree near the Mexican border, holding 49 pounds of marijuana.

Ms. Emerald White, owner of four pit bulls declared “dangerous” by Texas City, Texas, after they mauled a neigh- bor’s beagle to death, filed a lawsuit in November against the grieving neigh- bor. White said she had been injured trying to restrain her dogs in the skir- mish, which had been facilitated by the neighbor’s failure to fix their common fence.

Fine points of the law

Gregory Graf, 53, has apparently escaped “capital” eligibility for death row in Pennsylva- nia despite confessing to murdering his stepdaughter in an attempt to have sex with her (an “accompanying” felony, which ordinarily would qualify him for “capital murder”). However, since Graf had videotaped himself in the act (as evi- dence recovered in December shows), he proved that the sex occurred after she was dead and thus that he was guilty instead of an accompanying misdemeanor (deceita- tion of a body).

Caitlyn Ricci, 21 and estranged from her divorced parents, availed herself this year of a quirky New Jersey law that requires divorced parents to provide for their children’s college educations (even though Caitlyn was a toddler at the time of the divorce, chose a more expensive out- of-state college, and already had a blem- ished community-college record). Mom Maura McGarvey (who claims to be espe- cially hard-hit by the tuition bill) and Dad Michael Ricci are helping sponsor “cor- rective” legislation — because, generally, parents are not required to pay for college (but in New Jersey, divorced parents are).

The continuing crisis

Historians at the Wellcome Collec- tion museum in London placed on dis- play in November their rendition of the “orgone energy accumulator” devel- oped in the 1940s by psychoanalyst Wilhelm Reich, who thought it could stimulate orgasms for those who sat inside one. (The device is thought to have inspired the “Orgasmatron” in the Woody Allen movie “Sleeper.” Among 1950s-era “testers,” Albert Einstein is said to have panned it, but not author J.D. Salinger.) The museum’s curator tried to lower expectations — that visi- tors should expect a historic sex “educa- tion” and not a sexual experience.
‘Cache in’ and enjoy the thrill of the search at Rookery Bay Reserve

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Geocaching has become a popular way of enjoying the outdoors since the international trend ramped up in 2000. Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is now using this technology to engage its visitors and has launched a new set of caches on the ground of its environmental learning center.

The modern-day treasure hunting technique uses GPS-enabled devices such as smart phones. Participants find their desired cache online, download and navigate to its set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the container, or cache, hidden at that location. Once a cache is found, the finder makes a note in the logbook and on the geocaching website, replaces a trinket inside with one of his or her own and takes away a greater understanding of the natural and cultural features in the area.

“Geocaching is a great way for us to reach out to different user groups,” says Jill Schmid, geographic information systems specialist for the Rookery Bay Reserve. “This is an audience that might not have found out about the reserve or our environmental learning center if our caches were not on the map,” she adds.

Four caches with varying levels of difficulty have been placed in the reserve. The first one was launched in the parking area in August and has had 14 "finds." One of the newest multi-caches includes “Pioneers in Paradise” near a cultural site on the Snail Trail. The other two caches, “CatBird Loop” and “Slash Pine,” take geocachers on a nature-filled walk along primitive trails.

Comments shared with other users on the Geocaching.com website include, “Great trails to hike on a super day!” and “Never been to the center before. We’ll be back for sure!” A cache-in, trash-out motto is encouraged to minimize disturbance to natural sites.

The Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center is at 300 Tower Road, off Collier Boulevard on the way to Marco Island. The reserve encompasses 110,000 acres of coastal lands and waters between Naples and Everglades National Park. It is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in cooperation with NOAA. For more information about the reserve, visit rookerybay.org.

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Groundbreaking ceremony launches expansion at Grace Place for Children & Families

More than 150 guests showed their support at Grace Place for Children & Families’ groundbreaking ceremony marking commencement of construction of the campus expansion project’s cornerstone building, the Van Domelen Education Center. The ceremony also honored William and Julia Van Domelen for their significant gift toward the building.

The two-story, 6,333-square-foot multi-use classroom building is part of a 16,000-square-foot expansion for new classroom and program space to serve more students, operate more efficiently and effectively and foster learning.

“Because of the Van Domelens’ incredible generosity, Grace Place is able to begin putting the expansion plans into action,” Stephanie Munz Campbell, executive director of the center, said.

Grace Place currently serves 800 children and families in Golden Gate City each week with programs designed to minimize the education gap between families in middle- and upper-income households and those families with household incomes that fall beneath these economic lines.

At the groundbreaking celebration, Eileen Connolly-Keesler, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Collier County, said recent statistics show that 30 percent of the resident of Golden Gate City live in poverty, with a per capita income of just below $15,000 compared to more than $26,000 for the rest of Florida. She also said the area has the highest population density in Collier County, higher even than Immokalee.

Language and literacy for children and adults are at the core of Grace Place’s educational programs, which include the nationally recognized Bright Beginnings program, which earned Grace Place the distinguished honor of becoming a Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy program provider. In addition, the center’s Friday Food Pantry serves 200 families a week with a bag of basics groceries and additional bakery items, frozen meat, dairy products and fresh produce.

For more information about Grace Place, including how to get involved as a volunteers or how to make a financial contribution to the campus expansion fund, call Barbara Evans at 234-2403 or visit graceplacenaples.org.

Carole Russell, Pat Stranahan and Gerri Miller

Russell Peterson, Bill Van Domelen, Byron Treice, Stephanie Munz Campbell and Leo King

To register for any of the above seminars, call 348-4180.

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Anticipated to generate an estimated $30 million annually after two years and to bring vital marine life habitats to an otherwise barren sandy bottom. "I'll tell you one thing," Mr. Flood says, "We are going to have a lot of fish." A reef deployment ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8. Parking for attendees at Marco Island Marina, 1402 N. Collier Blvd. A shuttle bus will provide transportation to the event at the reef staging area. The buses will begin running at 9:15 a.m. The 45-minute ceremony will include guest speakers, a ribbon-cutting for a fully loaded barge of reef material and photo opportunities for donors with their "piece of the reef." A flotilla and Blessing of the Reefs ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 9, 10 nautical miles offshore from Gordon Pass, at the site of Naples Reef No. 1 (latitude 26.032830° longitude 81.972576°). Area boaters are welcome to join the flotilla. For more information, email Russ Burland at russ@napleschamber.org.

For more information about the artificial reef project, including how to make a tax-deductible donation to benefit the effort, contact the Community Foundation of Collier County by calling 649-5000 or visiting cffcollier.org.
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Symposium will highlight ways to prevent, spot human trafficking

The inaugural Human Trafficking Symposium sponsored by The Women’s Fund of Southwest Florida and the Regional Resource Center on Human Trafficking takes place from 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Florida Gulf Coast University. Community leaders and professionals in law enforcement, social services, health care and education as well as representatives of community organizations are encouraged to attend. Registration is $25 and can be completed at womensfundflorida.org. A limited number of students and staff from nonprofits will be admitted free.

The symposium will include a keynote address from Bradley Myles, executive director and CEO of the Polaris Project, who has worked to combat human trafficking since 2002 and who is regarded as a leading anti-trafficking advocate. A panel discussion moderated by Kellie Burns of NBC-2 will include law enforcement, health care and legal and social services professionals.

According to statistics from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, one in three runaways is exploited for sex trafficking or pornography. NHTRC data indicates that 84 percent of human trafficking inquiries from Southwest Florida concern women and children, and 66 percent of human trafficking inquiries to NHTRC from Southwest Florida concern sex trafficking. If you suspect human trafficking or you are a victim in need of assistance, call (888) 373-7888 or text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233722).

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Chansen at age 11
Leukemia

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Call 239-343-6950 or visit ChildrensHospitalGoal.org
New York cedes to Florida, falls to No. 4 in population

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Florida is the place that counts, New York. The Big Apple is no longer No. 1. Or even No. 2.

By adding an average of 803 new residents each day between July 1, 2013 and July 1, 2014, Florida passed New York to become the nation’s third most populous state, according to U.S. Census Bureau state population estimates released Dec. 23.

Florida’s population grew by 293,000 over this period, reaching 19.9 million. The population of New York increased by 51,000 to 19.7 million, according to the bureau.

California remained the nation’s most populous state in 2014, with 38.8 million residents, followed by Texas, at 27.0 million. Although the list of the 10 most populous states in 2014, with 38.8 million residents, followed by Texas, at 27.0 million. Although the list of the 10 most populous states overall was unchanged, two other states did change positions, as North Carolina moved past Michigan.

Another milestone took place in 2014, with 38.8 million residents, followed by Texas, at 27.0 million. Although the list of the 10 most populous states overall was unchanged, two other states did change positions, as North Carolina moved past Michigan.

Another milestone took place in Georgia (ranked eighth), which saw its population surpass 10 million for the first time.

North Dakota was the nation’s fastest-growing state over the last year. Its population increased 2.2 percent, followed by the 1.7 percent growth in Nevada and Texas. Each of the 10 fastest-growing states was in the South or West with the exception of North Dakota.

Six states lost population between July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2014: Illinois (9972 or -0.08 percent), West Virginia (3,269 or -0.18 percent), Connecticut (2,664 or -0.07 percent), New Mexico (1,323 or -0.06 percent), Alaska (527 or -0.07 percent) and Vermont (293 or -0.05 percent).

The United States as a whole saw its population increase by 2.4 million to 318.9 million, or 0.75 percent.

In addition to the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the new statistics also include estimates for Puerto Rico.

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On July 1, 2014, Puerto Rico had an estimated population of 3.5 million, a decline of 47,000, or 1.3 percent, from one year earlier.

The Census Bureau produces population estimates each year, allowing the public to gauge the growth and demographic composition of the nation, states and communities. These statistics use administrative data to estimate population change between census years, using the decennial census count as a starting point. Local governments use estimates to locate services, and estimates are used by the private sector to locate businesses.

The Census Bureau also released estimates of the number of people 18 and older in the U.S., states and Puerto Rico.

During 2015, the Census Bureau will release estimates of the 2014 population of counties, cities and towns, and metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas as well as national, state and county population estimates by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin. For more information and charts, see census.gov/popest/data/datasets.html.
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New biblical scholarship class similar to seminary curriculum

A class in biblical scholarship begins Sunday, Jan. 4, immediately after the worship service at Moorings Presbyterian Church. Sponsored by the church and the Theological Center in Naples, the class will be led by Revs. Sam and Bunny Sewell from 11:35 a.m. to noon every Sunday. The Sewells, who have been teaching biblical scholarship in Naples for more than two decades, explain that the class is very different from Bible study in that it aims to provide a curriculum similar to that which is taught at accredited seminaries. Topics include how the Bible was written, how scholars reconcile apparent inconsistencies and how individuals can strengthen their faith by learning how the Bible applies to today’s world.

The primary resource for the curriculum is the Interpreter’s Bible, for which the instructors own the digital software and the 12-volume set. The complete set is also available in the church library. Participants in the class should bring their own Bible along with a notepad, pen or pencil and highlighter.

The contributors to the study materials reflect a wide range of Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish backgrounds and bring a wealth of fresh perspectives to biblical interpretation.

Attendance is free, although freewill offerings will be appreciated. Register by signing up in the foyer at Moorings Presbyterian Church or by calling or emailing the Sewells at 591-4565 or bunysam@bestselfusa.com.

ALUMNI NEWS

The Marco Island chapter of Sigma Chi alumni meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the Marco Island Yacht Club. Call 821-0825 to RSVP.

The Naples chapter meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at the Club Pelican Bay. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 529-5239.

The Harvard Club of Naples welcomes all residents of Collier County and western Lee County who have a connection with Harvard University.

For information about club membership and the season’s full schedule of events, call 793-7887 or go to harvard-clubofnaples.org. Here some of what’s coming up in the next few weeks.

Sunday, Jan. 11: 3-5 p.m. at Gallery on Fifth in Mercato – Power Flower: Meet the Artist Giovanni DeCunto, 815 S.ighth Street in Mercato.

Saturday, Jan. 24: 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Club Pelican Bay, Mixer by the Decades.

Wednesday, Jan. 28: 11:30 a.m. at the Club Pelican Bay – “Transfer of Wealth” luncheon with guest speaker Eileen Connolly-Kesler, executive director of the Community Foundation of Collier County.

Tuesday, Feb. 3: 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Pelican Marsh Community Center – The Harvard-Yale-Princeton Economic Forum.

The Cornell Alumni Association of Southwest Florida hosts its next luncheon meeting Tuesday, Jan. 13, at Wynademere Country Club. Guest speaker will be Carmen Rodriguez Villa, the author of the newly released book “Mariano’s World.” From Jan. 1, 1959 (the ascension of Fidel Castro to power), to Oct. 22, 1962, more than 250,000 Cubans sought political refuge in the United States. “Mariano’s World” tells the story of these migrations through the lives of two families.

For luncheon reservations or more information, visit cornellalumniasso- ciationofsouthwestflorida.com, call Jon Peter Vollmer at 250-9444 or email jhvollmer@sothebysrealty.com.

The Greater Naples Delta Gamma alumni chapter welcomes all Delta Gammas in Naples, Bonita Springs and Marco Island, Estero, Fort Myers and Sanibel-Captiva. For more information, call 992-2119 or email naplesdeltaGam- ma@gmail.com.

The Naples area chapter of Gamma Phi Beta alumnae meets regularly for lunch and a program at a variety of venues in Collier and Lee counties. All Gammas who are living in or visiting Southwest Florida are welcome. For more information, call 594-8420.

Alpha Delta Pi alumnae are invited to join the ADPi alumnae chapter of Naples, Bonita Springs and Marco Island for monthly luncheons and occasional evening events held at various area locations. For more information, call 404-394 or email sflaaldpipilum@gmail.com.

Email alumni news to cpiacet@ floridaweekly.com.
CLUB NOTES

Fans and alumni and fans of Ohio State University are invited to join members of the Naples Buckeyes to watch the Sugar Bowl game against Alabama starting at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 1, at any of the following locations in Naples: Bokamper’s, Staci Tomato’s, Harold’s Place or Gatsby’s.

Club members meet for happy hour from 5-6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. The Jan. 15 gathering is at Bellasera Hotel. RSVP by calling Sandy Ritchie at 287-4936 or emailing sritchie55@yahoo.com.

The club is also planning a Buckeye Valentine Party for Thursday, Feb. 12, and the annual Buckeyes in Paradise gala on Saturday, March 21. For details and more information about the club, visit naplesbuckeyes.com.

The Naples Garden Club invites the public to “The Curious Gardener” a program featuring award-winning freelance writer and garden stylist Helen Yoest, from 1-3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5, at Naples Botanical Garden. Ms. Yoest’s work has appeared in numerous national publications, and she has written several books including “Plants with Benefits: An Uninhibited Guide to the Aphrodisiac Herbs, Fruits, Flowers & Vegetables in Your Garden” and “Gardening with Confidence, 50 Ways to Add Style for Personal Creativity.” Her curiosity about plants, soil and design come together in her entertaining and informative presentation. Autographed copies of her books will be available for purchase. Admission is free for Naples Garden Club members, $20 for others. Reservations are required and can be made online at naplesgardenclub.org.

The Naples Christian Women’s Connection meets for its next luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at Quail Creek Country Club. All are welcome. Noreen McGarry will be the inspirational speaker; Quail Creek chef Jeffrey Bowles and his pastry and sous chefs will present a cooking demonstration. Cost is $23. For reservations, call 592-0229. For more information about the club, visit cwcfl.net.

The Gulf Coast Sailing Club welcomes members and guests to its next meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the River Park Community Center. Guest speaker Steve Colgate, an Olympic sailor, America’s Cup racer and founder of the world-renowned Offshore Sailing School, will discuss his 60 years on the water, including details of his first visit to Cuba in 1955 for a race from Cuba to Spain and his most recent trip to the island nation in 2014 as a member of the National Marine Manufacturers Association. Attendance is free for Gulf Coast Sailing Club members and $15 for others. Pizza and soda will be served. Pay at the door; no reservations required. For more information about the club and its programs, visit gulfcoastsailingclub.org or email communications@gulfcoastsailingclub.org.

The Collier County Men’s Republican Club (women welcome) meets for buffet breakfast and a program from 7:45-9 a.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at Pelican Marsh Golf Club. Cost is $20 for members, $25 for others. RSVP by emailing patriotart@centurylink.net. For more information, visit collierrerepublicanmensclub.com.

How can I create my legacy?

We know the answer and, every day, we meet with donors and their families and their financial advisors to more clearly understand the charitable legacies they want to honor and the charitable impact they hope to achieve. We believe the Community Foundation of Collier County will play a significant role in providing leadership on critical community issues. It’s what we do.

MEET OUR PHYSICIANS

Penny J. Orr, OD ▪ Nina Nordgren, MD ▪ Rick Palmon, MD ▪ Leonard Avril, DO ▪ Brian Marthus, DO

− Corrected Surgery − All Laser Cataract Vision Correction
− Corneal Transplantation
− Eye Exams (adult & pediatrics)
− Dry Eyes
− Glaucoma
− Optical Shop & Contacts
− Medicare Assignment
− Accepted
− Lens Financing Available

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT!

Meet those who give with those who need.
CLUB NOTES

■ The Naples Doll Club holds its annual show and sale Friday and Saturday, Jan. 16-17, at New Hope Ministries, 7675 Davis Blvd. Exhibitors will have antique, modern and miniature dolls and accessories on display and for sale. Doll appraisals will be available for $5.

Friday hours are 1-5 p.m., and admission is $8; Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and admission is $5. Admission for children under age 12 is $3 both days.

For more information, call (574) 780-0993 or 530-0010.

■ Volunteer members of the Naples Orchid Society are at Naples Botanical Garden from 1-4 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month to offer expert, free advice to orchid aficionados. Bring your ailing orchid, or a photograph of it, so they can better diagnose the problem and recommend what to do to ensure better and more blooms. Garden admission not required.

The next dates are Jan. 3 and 17.

The society’s regular monthly meetings take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the second Thursday at Moorings Presbyterian Church. Guest speakers Jan. 8 will be Ken and Judy Russ of Deerfield Beach, who will discuss backyard gardening with orchids. Guests are always welcome. For more information, visit naplesgarden.org or naplesorchidsociety.org.

■ Naples Ship Modelers is an informal group dedicated to the hobby of building wooden ship models. Members meet at 9:30 a.m. on the first and third Saturdays of every month at the Landmark Naples community in North Naples. The next meetings are Jan. 3 and 17. Members share their knowledge and building techniques and welcome new members. For more information, call Dick Ritchie at 594-0868 or email dcr Ritchie@comcast.net.

■ The Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 1067, Naples, is one of approximately 1,700 chapters worldwide. Members are pilots, student pilots, plane builders and aviation enthusiasts. The EAA Young Eagles program introduces youths ages 7-18 to aviation.

Meetings take place at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month in the pilots’ lounge at Naples Municipal Airport. The next meeting is Jan. 7. The club also holds a pancake breakfast from 8-11 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month (Jan. 11). For more information, visit eaal067.com.

■ Pilot Club of Naples/Naples Pilot Foundation meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Perkins, 3885 Pine Ridge Road in Naples. The next meeting is Jan. 8. Pilot International focuses its charitable and educational efforts on brain-related disorders and disabilities, including traumatic brain injuries, dementia and autism. Guests and new members are always welcome at meetings. Reservations are not required. Attendees order from the menu and pay for their meals. For more information, call Sue Lester 289-8308.

■ The Greater Naples Branch of AAUW holds its monthly meeting Sat- urday, Jan. 10, at Hodges University. A reception and networking begin at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting and program are from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Guest speaker Jane Billings, executive director of Friends of Foster Children of Southwest Florida, will discuss “Project Enrichment and the Education Train.”

Guests are welcome. Reservations are not necessary. For more information about the Naples AAUW branch, visit aauwflh.org.

■ The Naples chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, in the Kapnick Center at Naples Botanical Garden. Guest speaker George Wilder, herbarium curator and botanist at the Garden, will discuss “The Biology of Roots.” Admission is free, and reservations are not required. For more information, visit naplesfnpschapters.org.

■ Those who write poetry or who simply enjoy listening to and reading poetry are invited to meet at The Norris Center from 4-5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, and Mondays, Feb. 9 and March 9. After the formal meeting, those who are interested can continue the evening with dinner at a Fifth Avenue restaurant. For more information, call (440) 554-1344 or email formulawriting@hotmail.com.

■ The Naples chapter of PFLAG, Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, a support, education and advocacy group for families with gay or transgender members, meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting is Jan. 15. Call 963-4670 for location.

■ Coastal Chess clubs in Naples and Marco Island welcome players of all levels for casual games and occasional tournaments. Marco meetings are from 9 a.m. to noon every Monday at the Lutheran Church, 525 N. Collier. Naples meetings are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday in the clubhouse at Moorings Park, off Goodlette-Frank Road just south of Pine Ridge Road. For more information, call Wade Keller at 389-2525, email wk@kellerpublishing.com or visit chess7a.net.

■ Naples Nites Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at Perkins on Pine Ridge Road at Interstate-75. The next meetings are Jan. 13 and 27. All current and former Lions are welcome. For more information, call Dan Sams at 352-2837.

■ The Naples Civitan Club meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at Perkins on Pine Ridge Road. The next meetings are Jan. 14 and 28.

The newly chartered Marco Island Civitan Club meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at Mario’s Restaurant at 845 Bald Eagle Drive. The next meetings are Jan. 13 and 27.

The international service club focuses on assisting people with developmental disabilities and finding the cause, cure and better treatments of brain disorders including autism, Alzheimer’s disease and Down syndrome. For more information about the local clubs, call 774-2623 or email naplescivitan@aol.com.

perfect sipping

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Members of the Marco Island Shell Club meet from 9-11:30 a.m. every Tuesday at the United Church of Marco to craft shell art that will be sold during the clubs annual sale in March. Proceeds from the sale benefit scholarships for marine science students at FGCU. The church is at 320 N. Barfield Drive. Newcomers are always welcome at crafting sessions. For more information, call 963-4694.

The Democratic Women’s Club of Collier County welcomes members and guests to its meetings from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of the month in the Walden Oaks Professional Center, 6710 Lone Oak Blvd. The first meeting of the new year is Jan. 17. For more information, email dwpresident@gmail.com.

The Collier County Stamp Club meets from 7-9 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Naples Airport Office Building, 200 Aviation Drive. The next meeting is Jan. 22. Stamp trading will follow the program. All stamp enthusiasts are welcome. For more information, call 348-9845.

Pearls of Naples invites women who are interested in socializing at restaurants, movies, art fairs, theaters and more to explore membership in the club. Members are required to attend at least five business luncheons, held monthly on the third Thursday at various clubhouses and venues in Naples. For more information, visit pearlsofnaples.org and click on “How to Join” or email 3rd_vice_president@pearlsofnaples.org.

The Southwest Florida chapter of the Kiwi Club, a social and charitable organization of present and former flight attendants of American Airlines, TWA and other airlines acquired by or merged with American Airlines, meets on the fourth Saturday of every month at various locations. The next meeting is Jan. 24. The local chapter supports Pace Center for Girls-Collier at Immokalee and the Collier County Hunger & Homeless Coalition. New members are always welcome. For more information, call 761-962-5511.

The Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance welcomes members and guests to its monthly meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, 1225 Piper Blvd. An orchid raffle will be held as part of the evening. Admission is free. For more information, call 498-9741 or email info@gulfcoastorchidalliance.com.

The Naples base of the U.S. Submarine Veterans (USSVI) meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the American Legion Post 303, 2767 Imperial Shores Blvd. in Bonita Springs. The next meeting is Jan. 27. Membership is open to active duty and retired submariners who have earned the Qualified in Submarines designation. The local USSVI base commander is John Dykhuis of Naples. For more information, visit ussvi.org/base/naples.asp.

— Email club news to Cindy Pierce at cpierce@floridaweekly.com.
HEALTHY LIVING

Give blood—the gift that can save lives

The gift of life—saving blood is truly the perfect color, size and shape for a local patient in need. The Community Blood Center encourages everyone age 16 and over to take time out to donate every eight weeks.

The Community Blood Center in Naples is at 311 Ninth St. N. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday. The center will be closed Jan. 1.

The center in Bonita Springs has closed, but the CBC bloodmobile parks at Sunshine Plaza from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. The next date is Jan. 12. Here are some other places the CBC bloodmobile will be in the coming weeks. A complete schedule is at givebloodcbc.org. Successful donors will receive a free movie ticket.

Friday, Jan. 2: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Coastland Center near the food court entrance.

Sunday, Jan. 4: 9 a.m. to noon at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 9801 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs.

Tuesday, Jan. 6: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Waterside Shops.

Sunday, Jan. 10: 1-6 p.m. at Regal 16 cinemas, Coconut Point.

Sunday, Jan. 11: 9 a.m. to noon at First Baptist Church of Naples, 3000 Orange Blossom Drive.

Basically, anyone who is 17 years of age or older, weighs at least 110 pounds and is in good health (no cold, flu or sore throat symptoms) can give blood (16-year-olds can donate with a parent present). Contrary to popular belief, senior citizen status does not disqualify a person. There is no upper age limit. Donors can give every eight weeks.

Between now and April 30, blood donors can get in on the “Ultimate Go For 3” frequent donor contest to qualify to win a $50 gas card or auto detail, an iPad or a weekend getaway package inclusive of a hotel stay, spa package, dinner and two-day use of a BMW convertible courtesy of Germain BMW. Call 624-4120 or visit the website above for more information.

Music lessons help kids tune in to more than their instruments

Children who play the violin or study piano could be learning more than just Mozart. A University of Vermont College of Medicine child psychiatry team has found that musical training might also help kids focus their attention, control their emotions and diminish their anxiety. Their research is published in the Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry.

Dr. James Hudziak, professor of psychiatry and director of the Vermont Center for Children, Youth and Families, and colleagues including Matthew Albaugh, Ph.D., and graduate student research assistant Eileen Crehan, call their study “the largest investigation of the association between playing a musical instrument and brain development.”

The research continues Dr. Hudziak’s work with the National Institutes of Health Magnetic Resonance Imagine Study of Normal Brain Development. Using its database, the team analyzed the brain scans of 232 children ages 6 to 18.

As children age, the cortex — the outer layer of the brain — changes in thickness. In previous analysis of MRI data, Dr. Hudziak and his team discovered that cortical thickening or thinning in specific areas of the brain reflected the occurrence of anxiety and depression, attention problems, aggression and behavior control issues even in healthy kids — those without a diagnosis of a disorder or mental illness.

With this study, Dr. Hudziak wanted to see whether a positive activity, such as music training, would influence those indicators in the cortex.

The study supports The Vermont Family Based Approach, a model Dr. Hudziak created to establish that the entirety of a young person’s environment — parents, teachers, friends, pets, extracurricular activities — contributes to his or her psychological health.

“Music is a critical component in my model,” he says.

The authors found evidence they expected: that music playing altered the motor areas of the brain, because the activity requires control and coordination of movement.

Even more important to Dr. Hudziak, however, were changes in the behavior-regulating areas of the brain. For example, music practice influenced thickness in the part of the cortex that relates to "executive functioning, including working memory and attentional control, as well as organization and planning for the future,” the authors write.

A child’s musical background also appears to correlate with cortical thickness in brain areas that play a critical role in inhibitory control, as well as aspects of emotion processing.

The findings bolster Dr. Hudziak’s hypothesis that a violin might help a child battle psychological disorders even better than a bottle of pills. “We treat things that result from negative things, but we never try to use positive things as treatment,” he says.

Such an approach may prove difficult to accomplish. According to the study's authors, research from the U.S. Department of Education indicates that three-quarters of U.S. high school students “rarely or never” take extracurricular lessons in music or the arts.

“Such statistics, when taken in the context of our present neuroimaging results,” the authors write, “underscore the vital importance of finding new and innovative ways to make music training more widely available to youths, beginning in childhood.”
Cold weather increases potential for carbon monoxide poisonings

Carbon monoxide poisoning is a year-round threat. However, as temperatures drop, the potential for CO poisonings rises. There have been several recent incidents leading to hospitalizations and even deaths in Florida.

CO is a highly poisonous gas produced by burning fuels such as gasoline, natural gas, propane, kerosene, charcoal and wood. CO from these sources can build up in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. The risk of illness or death increases with the level of CO in the air and the amount of time exposed. Dangerous CO levels can result when home appliances are not properly maintained or when used incorrectly.

“Carbon monoxide can silently cause illness and death within minutes of exposure,” says Dr. Kendra Goff, a toxicologist for the Florida Department of Health. “It is invisible, tasteless, odorless and non-irritating, which is why exposure,” says Dr. Kendra Goff, a toxicologist for the Florida Department of Health. “It is invisible, tasteless, odorless and non-irritating, which is why exposure can build up in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces, especially sleeping areas.

Anyone who suspects symptoms of CO poisoning should go outside without delay and seek prompt medical attention. If a person has collapsed or is not breathing, call 911 for emergency medical assistance immediately from a safer location such as outside or from a neighbor’s home. Children, pregnant women and individuals with heart conditions are most vulnerable.

Here are some tips to help prevent CO poisoning:

- Never use a gas stove or oven to heat the home.
- Never burn charcoalinside a house, garage, vehicle or tent, including in a fireplace.
- Avoid using unvented gas, propane or kerosene heaters in enclosed spaces, especially sleeping areas.
- Inspect the exhaust system of each fuel-burning appliance every year, including in a fireplace.
- Never use a portable generator or a fuel-powered tool indoors or in other enclosed or partially enclosed areas.
- Always place portable generators outdoors on a dry surface far away from doors, windows, vents and air conditioning equipment that could allow CO to enter. Orient the generator so that it is placed with the exhaust port pointing away from the home.
- For more information about suspected poisoning emergencies, call the Florida Poison Information Center at (800) 222-1222.

The Parkinson Association of Southwest Florida invites members and guests to ‘Life Happens: Key Life Lessons and How to Realize a More Fulfilling and Happy Life,” from 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at Hodges University.

Guest speaker Richard London is an author and the host of the online talk show “Parkinson’s Chat with Richard London.” Using the philosophy of his “A Handbook for Life” seminars, he has developed a thriving real estate investment business and started several computer companies, while overcoming multiple financial and physical obstacles.

Mr. London has two children and is happily married to his wife of 28 years. Incorporating the concepts of his seminars has also enabled him to enjoy several very fulfilling avocations. He’s a third degree black belt and has practiced and taught martial arts for more than 27 years. He also has his commercial pilot’s license and was a major in the Civil Air Patrol.

But most importantly, he says, he cherishes his relationships with everyone he comes in contact with. At 19, he was in a motorcycle accident that put him in and out of hospitals for 10 months. He has had a total of nine operations as a result of his accident. In 2003 he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and two years later learned he has Parkinson’s disease.

“Life is a test,” he says. “It’s a test of perseverance, a test of faith and a test of will. I’ve decided to pass the test. Admission to Mr. London’s presentation is free, but reservations are requested. Call the Parkinson Association of Southwest Florida at 417-3465 or email pasfi@aol.com.

The Parkinson Association presents Richard London with ‘Life Happens’
PET TALES

Top new pet products — and a bonus item — to improve your life with your dogs and cats

BY DR. MARTY BECKER

The multibillion-dollar pet industry keeps coming up with ways to make our lives with animals better. Some are toys, some are veterinary products, some are home and pet-care items. I see them throughout the year as I travel to trade shows and veterinary conferences, and I try them out myself when possible or get my colleagues’ input. Here are 11 new products that I think are winners.

■ KittyKaddy Double Diner and Torus Ceramic Diner. As I age — I just turned 60 and feel stiffer — it becomes harder to bend over. That’s when devices like this, which let you fill and clean pet food and water bowls without bending over, catch your eye. A long, detachable handle allows you to pick up the bowls easily.

■ Zen Clipper. Most nail clippers either crush part of the nail when cutting or make it too easy to cut too close and hit a blood vessel or nerve. Ouch! The Zen Clipper slices the nail 360 degrees at once while preventing you from trimming too much.

■ Tidy Cats LightWeight. Do you feel like you get a workout every time you pick up a container of cat litter? The folks who originated cat litter 50 years ago feel like you get a workout every time you use their product. This litter is easier to clean up and it’s less likely to make your house smell.

■ Muffin’s Halo. I have a blind 14-year-old golden retriever, Shakira, who looks a little funny running aroundAlmost Heaven Ranch in angel wings and a halo, but the halo protects her face and eyes the same way a face guard does on a football helmet. Now I don’t have to worry that she’ll hurt herself running into things.

■ Ultra Duramune and Bronchi-Shield Oral. These vaccines for dogs improve comfort level in two ways. Ultra Duramune has only half the volume of normal vaccines, so the injection doesn’t last as long, and Bronchi-Shield Oral slides down the throat, preventing the gagging that often occurs during intranasal canine cough vaccines.

■ Planet Dog Orbee-Tuff Maze. Talk about a brain teaser! This twist on a puzzle toy engages a dog’s senses of sight, hearing and smell as he works to release the treats inside.

■ Apogee. There’s almost nothing worse than an itchy dog. This anti-itch medication is so powerful that the misery some dogs have endured for years is gone after the first dose. (Tip: Always read the label with your veterinarian to make sure a particular medication is appropriate for your dog.)

■ Chuckit! Max Glow Kick Fetch. Nobody wants to come in from playing just because it’s dark, and that includes dogs. This ball not only glows in the dark, it has a special grooved design that makes it easy to pick up. Play on!

■ Bissell PowerGlide Pet Vacuum. Everybody needs a vacuum cleaner, but this one has special features for pet owners: It picks up more dirt and hair, swivels around your furniture (where pet hair often collects), and has a filtration system to help reduce allergens. Plus $10 from each purchase ($20 in December) goes to the Bissell Pet Foundation to help homeless pets. That’s a win-win.

These products help pets and their people live better.

PET TALES

Top new pet products — and a bonus item — to improve your life with your dogs and cats

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These products help pets and their people live better.
THE DIVA DIARIES

Here’s to a hangover-free New Year’s Day

To which I innocently responded, “What’s ‘hung over’? What does that mean?”

It’s a miracle that Karen didn’t kill me that morning.

It wasn’t until I began to age that I understood her misery. Karen only had a few glasses of cheap chardonnay at the club, but it didn’t matter, because it seemed the older you get, the harder you hang. I know. The couple of Cosmos that used to give you a little headache the next morning now infect you with full-on Vodka Flu for two days afterward. It is, obviously, not fair. But neither are colonoscopies — something else that most 25-year-olds have never heard of.

So, as we prepare to welcome 2015, it’s time for your Diva, as a public service to her dear readers, to roll out her annual list of New Year’s Eve preventive measures and New Year’s Day hangover cures. Some revelers will need a little bit of each, I’m certain.

■ Don’t drink. Forgo the grape and offer instead to be the designated driver. I’ve always maintained that there’s a special place in heaven for designated drivers — and not just for ensuring safer roads for all, but for putting up with obnoxious drunk people. Also, it is fully within your rights to hold blackmail photos/videos of your friends’ party antics and post them on Facebook should they ever dare cross you. Biggest advantage: No hangover.

■ If you do imbibe, eat a hearty meal before the party. I’m not talking about sushi or salad. You can start your diet on Jan. 1. I’m talking about REAL FOOD, food that soaks up alcohol — a bacon, double-cheeseburger and fries, perhaps, or macaroni and cheese and a loaf of bread, or an entire tuna noodle casserole with spaghetti on the side.

■ Eat, people. EAT. Drinking (even a little) on an empty stomach will make you tipy in a New York minute and might even make you feel like you were roofied the next morning (you weren’t roofied, I promise — you just forgot to eat).

■ Between each festive beverage, enjoy a refreshing glass of ice water. Because hangovers are mainly the result of dehydration, water is your friend.

■ Never mix, never worry. If you’ve been sipping white wine all evening, don’t switch to a chocolate martini at 9 p.m. To avoid regrets the next day, dance with the one that brought ya’ all through.

■ If you find yourself ringing in 2015 with a vengeance and forget to follow any of my experienced advice, then before you stumble into bed, take 500 milligrams of vitamin B complex with a BIG glass of water and two Advil.

■ And, finally, whatever you do: Don’t drink and drive, not even a short distance, under any circumstances. There are lots of serious reasons not to, but here’s some extra motivation: There’s usually plenty of checkpoints all over Southwest Florida on New Year’s Eve, and if you’ve only had a “couple glasses of wine,” you’re probably not going to pass a breathalyzer test, and if you refuse to take the test, you spend the night in the pokey anyway. So, plan ahead. Seriously.

Instead, order a room service dinner (in the Uptown Plaza near Sam’s Club) and eat in for the night. An entire tuna noodle casserole with spaghetti on the side, perhaps, or macaroni and cheese and a loaf of bread, or an entire tuna noodle casserole with spaghetti on the side. It’s a miracle that Karen didn’t kill me that morning.

■ Cheers!

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

Stephanie DAVIS
sdavis@floridaweekly.com
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Average price of gas in Florida per gallon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price per Gallon</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>$3.75</td>
<td>Feb. 2014</td>
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— Source: aaa.com

ND STILL, FUEL PRICES KEEP FALLING!
Throughout the country, the state and the region, there’s an incredulous note with wary overtones in comments about prices at the pumps, which are now hovering at or below the mid-to-low $2 range for regular gasoline, or the $3 range for diesel.
A complex set of economic, political and cultural factors have caused the drop in fuel prices, the experts say, including the relative wealth or poverty of nations that rely on oil, and must buy it; the willingness of Saudi Arabia to continue producing even when the price drops (which is a way to put pressure on its fellow-nation

PUMPED
Low fuel prices driving spending

BY ROGER WILLIAMS
rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

“I don’t know whether it’s the season or the economy ... but sales for us are up — people have the extra dollars in their pockets when gas is so much cheaper.”

— Karen Christie, Maverick Meats

SEE PUMPED, B4

Rolf Wirth, 1010.jpg

Seasonal soirees
Businesses, associations have holiday parties all around town. B8-9

Ask the Fool
What is a stock dividend, and how many shareholders do companies usually have? B6

House Hunting
See what $450,000 can buy in four SWF markets. B11

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Port Royal to Bonita Beach, The Bua Bell Group brings over 28 combined years of experience serving the luxury market of Naples.
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Emily K. Bua 239.659.6115 or Tade Bua-Bell 239.595.0097
Remember, the challenge is to not create financial resolutions; the challenge is to implement them. You need to consider your own behavior in pursuing the best way to implement change. It might be other than one change per month. It might be that you enlist a person who will hold you accountable for your change. It might be that you establish rewards for yourself with each change successfully implemented. It might be that you team with a person who has the same goal(s).

This is comparable to advice given to those who have a large amount of weight to lose. It is best that the sedentary person suddenly not commit to every day in the gym training for a marathon; it is not best accomplished by those with unrestrictive eating habits to move to a very restrictive caloric intake. Start off slow and keep a steady course.

— Jeannette Showalter, CFA is a commodities broker with Worldwide Futures Systems. Find her on Facebook at Jeannette Showalter, CFA.

— Trading futures and options on futures and Forex transactions involve substantial risk of loss and may not be suitable for all investors. You should carefully consider whether trading is suitable for you in light of your circumstances, knowledge and financial resources. You may lose all or more of your initial investment. Opinions, market data and recommendations are subject to change at any time.

April might be dedicated to selecting three to four expenses that you can curb to lower levels or you can negotiate with the provider of a service to lower dollar amounts (e.g., cell phone; insurance; cleaning; auto care; etc.)

May might be focused on paying off credit card debt on a monthly basis. And so forth for the following months.

Certainly by October, you would want to make a reassessment of your gift purchasing in November and December.

How you compose your list is unique to you.

Be not discouraged if all 12 goals are not achieved. If you are young, accomplishing one major goal in each of your next 10 years will put you on a path that will lead to a healthier financial life.

For parents who want to impact their child's future financial life, you might jointly figure with your child (elementary, middle, high school, college or post college) what might be a good financial goal of theirs to which you can contribute or help — provided they are all in themselves.

Every person's financial situation is unique.

There are distinct positives and negatives to everyone's financial position. Everyone has different challenges to face, behaviors, attitudes, disciplines etc.

Most advisers suggest that individuals should list their resolutions for the coming year. Not all of those will be accomplished, but it will hard to accomplish any changes unless you have at least identified goals and listed them as a visual reminders.

Possibly before making the 2015 list of resolutions, it would be useful to reflect on 2014. Reflect on how successfully you accomplished last year's resolutions and, if successful in any regard, congratulate yourself. You might also reflect on any changed financial behaviors in 2014 even if they were not on last year's list of financial commitments. It might well be that during that year, you observed better financial behavior in others and adopted it, that you read about better behavior and implemented it, that you were chastised about poor financial behavior and you amended your ways.

Looking back is a good idea because success has a way of building on itself. It encourages and affirms your ability to implement positive changes. Otherwise, creating another new year's list of financial goals might be dreaded. It might seem overwhelmingly negative — just another chance for failure, just another chance to see all your prior year's shortcomings revisited.

Many financial new year resolutions are not hugely difficult to understand: e.g. save money in your retirement plan; pay off credit card debt; don't charge on your credit card more than you can pay off in full on a monthly basis; curb gift giving and spending; list all of your monthly expenses and scrutinize ways to save or reduce expenditures; don't chase investments or hot deals; etc.

These things are easily understood, the challenge is the not so simple to implement and effect consistent improved behavior.

There are many ways to rise above the often overwhelming aspects of change in financial behaviors.

First, make your new year's solutions for each of 12 months to be implemented.

For instance, you might decide that January will be dedicated to figuring a monthly budget and February might be dedicated to matching your actual expenditures to your estimated monthly budget.

March might be dedicated to funding your retirement plan and, if applicable, getting a health savings account. Insertion of expenses that will well serve your prospective financial health expenditures to be healthy, eat well and exercise.

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competitors in OPEC to help play a role in price regulation’s technological changes; and more production of shale-oil in the US, to name just some that have been cited by market observers recently.

Those are causes. The consequences, in turn, can be either good or bad internationally, where destabilization of governments can work to the benefit or the detriment of Americans and westerners. But in the United States — and especially in Florida, which has just surpassed New York to become the nation’s third most populous state — they are almost universally considered positive, both by individuals and by companies whose business relies on transportation.

Business owners with small or large fleets in the Sunshine State say they are driving more if they need to, using savings at the pumps to refurbish or increase their stock, and spending the extra money they don’t pour into the fuel industry on better equipment or holiday shopping or other economy-boosting needs.

“Moving season is May through September, and during the season the gas prices were catastrophic, so that equals our rates going up,” explains Jameson Olsen, a spokesmen for All My Sons Moving & Storage in West Palm Beach.

“But now we’re out of season and the fuel is down, so we can give better rates.”

And not only better rates, but faster service, since the company can put more trucks on the road and people who pay the less-expensive plan that offers pick-up on an exact date and delivery out-of-state within 45 days can expect their deliveries a lot more quickly than that.

“Rather than driving to California once or twice a month, we can go three or four times, for example,” Ms. Olsen adds. “And the standard industry rate calculated for gas costs on a move is 22 percent, but we can drop that to 10 percent. Isn’t that crazy? That’s the power of fuel prices.”

Result to consumer? On a $10,000 move, it makes it a little easier to do that.”

— Jameson Olsen, All My Sons Moving & Storage

“When gas prices drop it allows us to do more charitable work. We’re the Palm Beach sponsor of Toys for Tots, and we’re doing stuff all the time. So lower fuel prices work in our favor because we love doing charity. And it makes it a little easier to do that.”

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Result to consumer? On a $10,000 move, instead of paying about $2,200 for fuel, the consumer might only pay $1,000 for fuel. Which might mean more money in that consumer’s pocket for holiday spending, for example.

And people were spending like crazy just the day before Christmas, as Ms. Olsen might say — which meant other people were working to help them spend.

In Lee County, Phil Christie, co-owner with his wife Karen Christie, and his daughter, Morgan Christie, of the specialty shop Maverick Meats, was driving back from Punta Gorda, where he’d just delivered $300 of meat to the crew at Roy’s Trailers.

Mr. Christie had purchased a trailer to deliver $300 of meat to the crew at specialty shop Maverick Meats, was driving with his wife Karen Christie, and his people were working to help them spend.

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Report shows robust workers’ compensation market in Florida

The workers’ compensation market in the Sunshine State is competitive, well capitalized and robust, with lower amounts of loss. That’s the finding of the 2014 Workers’ Compensation Annual Report released to the state legislature by the Office of Insurance Regulation. The report notes that six of the market’s 10 largest writers are now based in Florida, up from four the year before, writing 28 percent of premiums.

The private market writes more than 95 percent of workers’ compensation in the state, making Florida one of the most competitive markets of the largest states in the country and one of only two that do not rely largely on state-created residual market entities.

The analysis found that the market is still buoyed by reforms passed by the 2003 Florida Legislature and this year’s two that do not rely largely on state-created residual market entities.

The Florida Small Business Development Center at FGCU offers one-on-one law, is among the presenters.

The Florida Office of Insurance Regulation, which files rates on behalf of 254 workers’ compensation insurers in Florida, made it clear at our public rate hearing in October that these court cases could potentially increase costs,” Insurance Commissioner Kevin McCarty says. “Indeed, they could affect the system itself and Florida’s ability to retain its economic competitive advantage in this area.”

The Florida Office of Insurance Regulation has primary responsibility for regulation, compliance and enforcement of statutes related to the business of insurance and the monitoring of industry markets. The office is required by law to annually evaluate competition in the workers’ compensation market and to investigate and use data in its review of such rate filings. For more information about the office, visit floir.com or follow the office on Facebook.

Small Business Development Center planning for inaugural CEO Law Forum

The Florida Small Business Development Center at Florida Gulf Coast University will host its inaugural CEO Law Forum from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU.

Attendees will have meet one-on-one with presenting business attorneys and will be able to attend breakout sessions on topics including trademarks, strategies to estate and business planning, commercial litigation, effects of divorce on businesses, accounts receivable, collections and intellectual property. The program is designed for owners and managers of established businesses.

Parren Law Firm is the Supreme Court Title Sponsor for the event. The firm’s Christina Harris Schwinn, whose primary areas of practice are employment law, business transactions, community association law and real estate law, is among the presenters.

Registration is $99 and includes a light breakfast and lunch. Sign up at fsbdcwfl.org.

The FSFBC at FGCU offers one-on-one, confidential, no-cost consulting and low-cost workshops for business throughout Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties. It is designated by the state as Florida’s principal provider of business assistance.

More information, contact Amanda Stirn by calling 745-3706 or emailing astirn@fgcu.edu.
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If you’re looking for a seemingly under-valued stock with a fat dividend, check out Enerplus (NYSE: ERF). It’s a North American oil, gas and natural gas liquids exploration and production company, which, not surprisingly, has been whacked by falling oil prices that can lower its top- and bottom-line results.

Still, there’s a lot of growth potential in Enerplus, even with oil prices at multi-year lows. Enerplus has employed hedging techniques to shield some of its production, offering an interesting growth play. Meanwhile, Enerplus’ juiciest assets are sitting in the oil-rich Williston Basin, which spans North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Saskatchewan. Whether it’s selling at the wellhead, in Cushing, Oklahoma, or shipping by rail to Louisiana to take advantage of the Breit-West Texas Intermediate spread, Enerplus has a number of options available to get the best possible price for its assets.

Enerplus has also been a leader in “downspacing”—putting more than one well in a space where, traditionally, only one well would operate. This method could give Enerplus a way to quickly boost its yield and profits.

Enerplus offers investors a monthly dividend with an annual dividend yield recently near 10 percent. It’s not without risk, especially if oil prices keep falling, but with a forward-looking price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio near 11, well below its five-year average, Enerplus is inviting.

High school students can apply for summer leadership program

The Leadership Collier Foundation, an affiliate of The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, is accepting applications for the Class of 2015 Young Leadership Collier program that empowers students to become effective leaders, showcases Collier County, and invites the participants to consider coming back to their community to begin their careers and families.

From June 13-19, participants will interact in daily sessions designed to give them hands-on experience in local government, health care, business and the arts. Tuition is $500. The deadline for applications is Feb. 4. Applications can be found online at napleschamber.org. For more information, contact Amanda Beights, vice president of the Leadership Collier Foundation, by calling 403-2903 or emailing Amanda@napleschamber.org.

The leadership alumni involved to hear about ‘Turtles on the Town’

The Leadership Collier Foundation Alumni Association hosts a panel discussion about “Turtles on the Town,” a collaboration of the Collier Community Foundation of Collier County, the Collier Coastal Preserve, the Southwest Florida and United Arts Council of Collier County, during a lunch meeting Thursday, Jan. 29.

President Alden will learn about the importance of community involvement in the areas of conservation and the arts, which are crucial to the region’s continuing development. The panelists are Ann Hughes, Community Foundation director of donor services; Suzanne Schweikhardt, executive director of the Southwest Florida Con- servancy of Southwest Florida; and Katie Schwenkdick, executive director of the University Arts Council; and Robin Duvall, consultant for “Turtles on the Town.”

The lunch takes place at the Profession- al Development Exchange, 661 S. Palm Ave., Naples. Cost is $15 for Leadership alumni, $20 for others. Registration and networking begin at 11:30 a.m. For more information, visit napleschamber.org/events.

Understand your options to an extended period of time. There’s no official definition, but many feel a gain (or drop) of at least 10 percent is needed to qualify. (A smaller drop is often called a “correction.”)

• Capital appreciation: One of the two components of total return (along with dividend yield), capital appreciation reflecting how much the underlying value of a security has increased. If you bought a stock at $30 per share and it has risen to $33, you’ve got 10 percent appreciation on your investment.

• Capital gain/loss: The difference between the price at which an asset is sold and its original purchase price (for “basis”). Buy a stock for $10 and sell it for $15, and you’ve got a capital gain of $5, less trading costs.

• Liquidity: A measure of how quickly an asset can be sold at a fair price and converted to cash, such as mutual funds and most major stocks. Illiquid assets include stocks with low trading volume, real estate and commodities.

• Market timing: An investment strategy based on predicting short-term price changes in securities, which is virtually impossible to do.

Stocks & Bonds 500 Index: An index of 500 of America’s biggest publicly traded companies. The S&P 500 is considered a good measure of the overall U.S. stock market, and indeed, it represents about 80 percent of the market.

• Treasury bill (T-Bill): A short-term debt obligation issued by the U.S. government, with a maturity of one year or less. It’s sold at a discount, so that you collect no coupon payments but receive the full value at maturity.

Learn more terms at investopedia.com and investorwords.com.

If you’re looking for a seemingly under-valued stock with a fat dividend, check out Enerplus (NYSE: ERF). It’s a North American oil, gas and natural gas liquids exploration and production company, which, not surprisingly, has been whacked by falling oil prices that can lower its top- and bottom-line results.

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Do you have an embarrassing lesson learned the hard way? Bull it down to us, and send it to The Motley Fool c/o My Dumbest Investment. Got one that worked? Submit to My Smartest Investment. If we print yours, you’ll win a Fool’s cap!

Last week’s trivia answer
I began as a grocery store launched in Indianapolis in 1831. In 1991, I was the first grocery store to feature a bakery. Today I’m one of the biggest grocers, with more than 2,600 locations in 34 states and more than 375,000 employees. My formats include grocery stores, multi-department stores, discount stores, convenience stores and jewelry stores. Under my roof is the City Market, Dillons, Food 4 Less, Fred Meyer, Fry’s, Harris Teeter, Jay C, King Soopers, QFC, Ralphs, Smith’s and my well-known name. I can make millions but publicly traded ones typically have very few dollars left over in assets if the company went out of business.

Which can be calculated via the company’s price for its assets.

Tell us how you_interact in daily sessions designed to give you hands-on experience in local government, health care, business and the arts. Tuition is $500. The deadline for applications is Feb. 4. Applications can be found online at napleschamber.org. For more information, contact Amanda Beights, vice president of the Leadership Collier Foundation, by calling 403-2903 or emailing Amanda@napleschamber.org.

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BUSINESS MEETINGS

- A Job Search Support Group meets from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce. Contact Karen Klukiewicz at kluk77@comcast.net or visit napleschamber.org.
- Consultants from the Small Business Development Center at Florida Gulf Coast University are available at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, 2390 Tamiami Trail N., every Thursday (not Jan. 1). To make an appointment for a free session, call Suzanne Specht at 745-3704.
- The next members-only Accelerated Luncheon hosted by the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce takes place from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at AZN in Mercato. $20. Reservations are required by Jan. 5. Call Judi Menard at 298-7928 or email judi@napleschamber.org.
- Wake Up Naples for members and guests of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce takes place from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the Hilton Naples. Fidelity Investments is the morning’s sponsor. Sign up at napleschamber.org/events.
- The next Business After Five for members and guests of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce takes place from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at Hacienda Lakes of Naples. The evening’s host is Esplanade at Hacienda Lakes. $10 for chamber members ($15 at the door), $25 for others. Sign up by Jan. 12 at napleschamber.org/events.
- The Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce holds its next Business After Five networking event from 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Marco Island Fish Co. Call 394-7549 or visit marcoislandchamber.org.
- The Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce holds a mini-trade show at its next Business Before Business meeting from 8-9:15 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Holiday Inn Fort Myers Airport next to Gulf Coast Town Center. Thirty-five chamber members will showcase their products and services to fellow members and guests. Call Chelsea Birczak at 992-2943 or email Chelsea@bonitaspringschamber.com. — Email business meeting announcements to cpierce@floridaweekly.com.

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180 Central Avenue LISTED AT $5,950,000
- 5,327 square feet under air; 7,421 square feet total
- 5 bedrooms plus den and flex space, 6 full baths, 1 half bath
- 3 homes from the beach with Southern exposure
- Luxurious outdoor living/entertainment area

40 3rd Street North LISTED AT $4,250,000
- 3,994 square feet under air; 5,305 square feet total
- 4 bedrooms plus den, 4 full baths, 2 half baths
- 2 blocks from the beach
- Beautiful outdoor living area

20 3rd Street North LISTED AT $3,995,000
- 3,811 square feet under air; 5,549 square feet total
- 4 bedrooms plus flex space, 6 full baths, 1 half bath
- 2 blocks from the beach
- Stunning outdoor living area

509 1st Avenue South LISTED AT $3,375,000
- 3,047 square feet under air; 3,940 square feet total
- 4 bedrooms plus flex space, 4 full baths, 1 half bath
- 4 blocks from the beach with Western exposure
- Gorgeous outdoor living area

2075 Crayton Road LISTED AT $3,350,000
- 4,190 square feet under air; 5,923 square feet total
- 4 bedrooms plus den, 4 full baths, 2 half baths
- Oversized Moorings lot with Southern exposure
- Spacious outdoor living area

Dante DiSabato
Broker Associate
Dante@Encore-Realty.com
239.537.5351

2240 Venetian Court, Naples, FL 34109
Encore-Realty.com

All information is subject to change without notice.
NETWORKING

Keller Williams Realty holiday party at McCormick & Schmick’s

Brian Samay, Mona Johns and Robert Johns

Standing: John Murdock, Courtney Fosnight and Mike Wesson. Seated: Suzanne Vucicevic and Dawn Hoffman

John Schemm, Kimmy Keys and Jimmy Keys

Gloria LaRoche, Don Spillane and Jane Spillane

Denise Masnjak, John Murdock and Meagan Labruzzo

Luke Allen and Dawn Allen

Courtney Fisher and Meagan Labruzzo

Andrea Romero and Brandon Romero

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NETWORKING

The Naples Concierge Association holiday social at Lamoraga

Margaret Rodgers and Diane Markelson
Justin Kowalik, Ellen Kreider, Chris Lucas, Coline Cycling and Jane Fash
Mark Singh
Casey Neilsen, Christine Prange and Judy Neilsen
Margaret Cruz, Hanae Regnard and Ellen Kreider
Diane Markelson, Renee Alvorado, Margaret Rodgers and Judy Neilsen

The Membership Directors Association of SWF holiday party

Kristina Saly and Sara Seltzer James
Pat Schulz and Ann Marie Ashline
Danita Osborn, Jennie Taylor, Melissa Hansen, Renee Easley and Holly Stephens
Kacie Shields, Sue Weber and Alesia Galuppo
Renee Easley, Francine Cavaseno and Vicki Stephenson
Leonard Katz and Angela Katz
Kathie Pedit and Meredith Chase

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grey Oaks</th>
<th>S/4</th>
<th>$1,599,000</th>
<th>Luisa Macias 865.033.0339</th>
<th>FloridaMoves.com/214018749</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pine Ridge</td>
<td>S/5</td>
<td>$1,750,000</td>
<td>Luisa Macias 865.033.0339</td>
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<th>3/2</th>
<th>$374,900</th>
<th>Louisa Macias 885.033.0339</th>
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<td>Bonita Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estero</td>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>$529,000</td>
<td>Louisa Macias 885.033.0339</td>
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<th>$999,981</th>
<th>Gero Geilenbruegge 866.600.6008</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marco Beach</td>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>$599,000</td>
<td>Sherry Santucci 866.600.6008</td>
<td>FloridaMoves.com/214018749</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imperial Golf Estates</td>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>$439,900</td>
<td>Kenney Ashland 865.033.0339</td>
<td>FloridaMoves.com/214018749</td>
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<tr>
<td>Firano at Naples</td>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>$255,000</td>
<td>Kenneth Ashland 865.033.0339</td>
<td>FloridaMoves.com/214018749</td>
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| Naples Fifth Avenue | 239.262.7131 | Naples Park Shore | 239.262.7131 |

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What $450,000 will buy in SWFL

**27161 Serrano Way, Bonita Springs**
A single-family home in a charming gated community along the Imperial River, this beautifully maintained, three-bedroom-plus-den, two-bath home has never been occupied since built in 2007. It’s in move-in condition with an open floor plan and volume ceilings. Its location offers total privacy in a large pool area, and there is a lake view to the front. The community has a clubhouse, swimming pool and park with canoes on the river frontage.

The property is listed at $450,000 by John R. Wood Properties, johnrwood.com.

**334 Prather Drive, Fort Myers**
Located just off palm tree-lined McGregor Boulevard, this four-bedroom, 2½-bath home is truly unique. Bringing the outside in with soaring ceilings, windows and French doors, it’s a home bathed in sunshine with large living and dining areas perfect for entertaining. Outside you’ll be captivated by a two-story pool area with a soaring balcony and spiral staircase for an elegant outside experience. The home has newer windows and air conditioning.

The property is listed at $445,000 by Royal Shell Real Estate, royalshellrealestate.com.

**45 Ocean Drive, Punta Gorda**
This fantastic three-bedroom, two-bath waterfront home in Punta Gorda Isles has a large pool and deep-water sailboat access to Charlotte Harbor. Just 10 lots from the water, you’ll find the home has a spacious, open floor plan with updated kitchen, formal living room/dining room and separate family room. The gourmet kitchen features rich wood cabinetry, decorative pendant lighting, a pass-through window to the lanai and stainless steel appliances. Every room in the home has a pool and/or canal view. An extended concrete dock is steps from the back door. The property is listed at $445,000 by RE/MAX Harbor Realty, wesellpg.com.

**2930 Aviamar Circle, Naples**
This is a new property built by Lennar Homes — the Victoria floor plan including two bedrooms plus den and two baths in the Fiddler’s Creek community of Millbrook. Standard features include tile throughout main living areas, granite countertops, stainless appliance package, crown molding, beautiful lake views, a swimming pool, spa and an outdoor kitchen. Fiddler’s Creek has a long list of amenities including a resort-style pool, top fitness center, tennis courts and more.

The property is listed at $450,000 by Real Estate Discount Club, realestatediscountclub.com.

VISIT WWW.DAVIDNA Naples.COM FOR INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER MEDITERRA PROPERTIES
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<th>Property</th>
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Gary L. Jaarda 239.248.7474 |
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**AQUALANE SHORES**  
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Bridge Free Access to Gulf of Mexico  
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Gary L. Jaarda 239.248.7474 |
| **SAINTS-IRVING** |  
Stunning Lake and Sunset Views  
$1,145,000  
MLS 214056844  
Linda Ramsey 239.405.3054 |
| **SANCTUARY** |  
Panoramic Golf & Bay Views  
3 Spacious Bedrooms, 3 Full & 1 Half Baths  
$1,530,000  
MLS 214008979  
The Taranto Team 239.572.0066 |
| **BONITA BAY** |  
**THE DUNES**  
Panoramic Golf & Bay Views  
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$809,000  
MLS 214005198  
Greg Martinovich 239.564.5717 |
| **BONITA SPRINGS** |  
**VERONA**  
Large Estate Home Lot  
Build the Home of Your Dreams  
$879,000  
MLS 214050966  
Steve Suddeth & Ben Maltz 239.784.0693 |
| **BAY VILLAS** |  
**PINNACLE**  
4 BR 4 Den, 3.5 BA, Large Lanai, Pool & Spa  
Open Floor Plan, Beautifully Maintained  
$999,000  
MLS 214059816  
Cathy Lieberman & Cindy Reiff 239.777.2441 |
| **FIDDLER'S CREEK** |  
**MENAGGIO**  
3 Bedroom, 3 Bath  
Beautifully Turnkey Furnished  
$865,000  
MLS 214032353  
Kurt Petersen 239.777.6404 |
| **PARK SHORE LANDINGS** |  
**LUXURY**  
2BR 2BA, 1,372sqft, Strong Rental History  
Access Bridge From Venetian Village  
$678,000  
MLS 214054343  
Doug Haughey 239.961.1561 |
| **ESTERO** |  
**EMERALD WOODS**  
4 Bedrooms, 4 Baths, Den & Bonus Room  
Private Entrance & Overlooks Preserve  
$499,000  
MLS 214060225  
Mike Fagan, The Fagan Team 239.340.5455 |
| **BONYTA BAY** |  
**CREEKSIDE**  
3 BR 3 BA Waterfront Townhouse  
Inversion: Existing One Year Lease at $3,000/mo.  
$879,000  
MLS 214050966  
Steve Suddeth & Jennifer Nicolai 239.784.0693 |
| **ROOKERY POINTE** |  
**SPANISH GULF**  
2 BR 2 BA, End Unit  
Recently Renovated Amenities  
$265,000  
MLS 214052078  
Bette Pitzer 239.560.2627 |
| **PELICAN BAY** |  
**COPPERLEAF AT THE BROOKS**  
2 BR 2 BA, Strong Rental History  
Updated Kitchen & Baths  
$205,000  
MLS 214059343  
Barbara Irons 239.821.2510 |
| **SAGA POINTE AT THE BROOKS** |  
**NEW LISTING**  
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Bundled Golf Included  
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MLS 214032070  
Bette Pitzer 239.560.2627 |
| **NEW LISTING** |  
**WADEYWOOD**  
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It will be chic, uber chic. Casual yet contemporary. And oh, so cool. Something Coastal comes this way...
Taylor Morrison recently celebrated the groundbreaking at Oyster Harbor in Fiddler’s Creek. The gated community will have 16 homes ranging in size from 1,689 square feet to 3,486 square feet; floor plans range from two to four bedrooms, and two- or three-car garages are included.

Above: Ryan Fulmer, John Asher, Angela Wisdom, Steve Kempton, Sal Simonetti, Jennifer Sutton and Stephen Reiter.

Right: Tony DeNardo of Fiddler’s Creek and Steve Kempton of Taylor Morrison West Florida.
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Community features, amenities and pricing are approximate and subject to change without notice. The information used and presented herein or on methods provided to you or any other individual to provide general information about proposed plans of WSR-Bonita Bay, LLC. These proposed plans may be subject to changes and are subject to change without notice. Land uses, public and private facilities, and other factors are subject to change. Information about proposed plans of WSR-Bonita Bay, LLC may be obtained from a developer or its agents. Nothing in these materials obligates WSR-Bonita Bay, LLC or any other entity to build any facilities or improvements, and there is no guarantee that any displayed or described proposed future development will be implemented. Nothing herein shall constitute any representation or warranty or may otherwise be relied upon by any person or entity for any reason whatsoever.

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BE WELL ADDRESSED.
Seven new homes underway by WCI in Porto Romano at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club

WCI Communities has surpassed the 50-percent sold milestone in Porto Romano at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club. WCI is the exclusive builder of the final 22 homesites in the enclave of 55 luxury single-family homes overlooking lakes and three holes of Miromar Lakes’ Arthur Hills Signature golf course.

Buyers can select from two three-bedroom golf villa designs, the Inverness and the Augusta. Construction has begun on the final seven homesites, with three Inverness homes and four Augusta homes underway.

The two-story Inverness is the largest golf villa floorplan, with 2,782 square feet of living space. It offers a den, four full baths and a second-floor loft. The Inverness has 3,521 total square feet, including a two-car garage and 3,039 square feet of lanai.

The Augusta offers a flex room, two full baths and a powder room under 2,286 square feet of air-conditioned living space. It features coffered ceilings in select rooms, a two-car garage and 3,039 total square feet.

Golf villas at Porto Romano have kitchens with island breakfast bars and closet pantries. Master suites have large walk-in closets and bathrooms with tiled glass-enclosed showers, vanities with his-and-her sinks. The Augusta also has a separate garden tub.

Both home designs offer a choice of architectural elevations that include barrel tile roofs, arched entry towers, decorative paneled garage doors, stone banding and shutters. Pricing starts in the $570,000s.

Porto Romano residents enjoy the award-winning amenities at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club, featuring more than 700 acres of freshwater lakes for swimming, boating and waterskiing, and three miles of lakefront beach. The Beach Club offers a grill with indoor and outdoor seating, a library, wine room, theater and boat docks. The community also offers a spa and fitness center, seven-court tennis club and The Golf Club, featuring the private Hills-designed course and 15-acre practice facility.

For more information about the golf villas in Porto Romano at Miromar Lakes, call 498-8070 or visit wcicommunities.com.

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SAN MARINO
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1-75, Exit 128 east to Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy., south 1/2 mile.

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Florida Weekly’s Open Houses

Open Houses are Sunday 1–4, unless otherwise marked

>$200,000
  1 • WORTHINGTON • 13250 Sherburne Circle #4102 • $364,900 • Premier Sotheby’s International Realty • Sarah Baty • 239.287.9063

>$400,000
  2 • WYNDEMER • VILLA FLORESTA • 127 Via Napoli • $488,000 • PSIR • Robert Hollister • 239.250.6131

  3 • WYNDEMER • VILLA FLORESTA • 212 Via Napoli • $439,000 • PSIR • Catherine Bordner • 239.560.2921

  4 • VERONA WALK • 7303 Carducci Court • $459,000 • PSIR • Jon Peter Vollmer • 239.250.9414

  5 • BONITA BAY • MONTARA • 3441 Montara Drive • $499,900 • PSIR • Jane Gruenhagen • 239.450.6437

>$500,000
  6 • BONITA BAY • WATERFORD • 2601 Devonshire Court #201 • $555,000 • PSIR • Roxanne Jeske • 239.450.5210

  7 • THE MOORINGS • BEAU CEDES • 239.595.6500 • Open Houses are Sunday 1–4, unless otherwise marked

>$600,000
  8 • NAPLES BATH & TENNIS • Osprey Circle • $685,000 • PSIR • Debbi/Marty McDermott • 239.564.4231

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ORANGE BLOSSOM

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
By Nancy Stetson

Ding-Dong!
Hello!
I would like to share with you about the most amazing musical; it’s the hottest ticket in Southwest Florida, despite its unlikely topic: Mormon missionaries in Uganda. It’s “The Book of Mormon: The Musical,” the Broadway show critics everywhere are raving about.

Ben Brantley of The New York Times proclaimed it “the best musical of this century,” a sentiment echoed by Kurt Andersen of NPR, who said it is “by far the best new musical of the 21st century.” Christine Dolen of the Miami Herald described it as “vulgar, hilarious and sweetly touching.” The show won nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical and Best Score.

SEE MORMON, C4 ▶

HELLO

Broadway’s hottest, most controversial musical is bound for Southwest Florida

COURTESY PHOTO / (C)

New coffee-table volume filled with island’s history, personalities and attractions. C19 ▶

‘Mack & Mabel’
TheatreZone reprises its first production to launch its 10th anniversary season. C5 ▶

Marco by the book

Run away to Germain Arena for the circus

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Find out what it takes to build The Greatest Show On Earth when Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey brings “Built To Amaze!” to Germain Arena Friday through Sunday, Jan. 2-4.

With high energy, hijinks and hilarity, the audience will be transported by the appearance of colorful circus machinery unleashed from shipping crates right before their eyes. Ringmaster Andre McClain leads the show alongside award-winning comedic clown Davis Vassallo.

Mr. McClain is the first ringmaster to be featured on all three traveling units of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey. He is also an accomplished animal trainer, cowboy, rodeo star and country singer/songwriter. He began riding bucking ponies and steers at the age of 5 and joined Ringling Bros. in 2002.

SEE CIRCUS, C21 ▶

The Dish

Jimmy P’s deli turns out a beefy-tasting burger. C29 ▶
SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

Southwest Florida low on the list for romance and fun

On a recent night in downtown Fort Myers, a man leaning against a lamp-post said to me, “You’re not from around here, are you?”

I smiled and kept walking, tossing back over my shoulder. “Actually, I am.”

Which is true; my Floridian roots run deep. But still, his comment delighted me. Most of us from down here like to pretend we’re not.

I’m always struck by how people born and raised in other parts of the country describe Southwest Florida. They use words like “paradise” and “gorgeous,” and they ask enviously what it was like to grow up here. Those of us from this part of Florida, though, usually just shake our heads.

But why? What’s so bad about it? We have beaches, pleasant weather all year round, fine dining, good shopping. What’s missing?

Romance, for starters.

Anyone who has been single in Southwest Florida will tell you that finding someone to love in this area can be tough. When I tell people in other cities about our dating scene, they always roll their eyes and ask, “How hard can it be?”

Now, finally, I have statistical proof that the dating life in this area is a struggle. When the online personal finance site Wallet Hub just released its findings for the best and worst cities to be single in the United States, using data from the Census Bureau and other agencies, Wallet Hub crunched numbers for the 150 most populated U.S. cities. To decide each place’s “Romance & Fun” ranking, researchers weighed factors such as the percentage of single people, the number of restaurants per capita, nightlife options, crime rate and online dating opportunities. So how’d we do in Southwest Florida?

Technically, we didn’t make the most populated cities list — no Fort Myers, no Naples.

But there, sitting down at the bottom, ranked 145 out of 150: Cape Coral, only slightly more fun and romantic than Brownsville, Texas, and Peoria, Ariz.

I laughed when I first saw this. It’s one thing to claim that dating is hard here; it’s another to see actual evidence.

Still, I like to think we’re not completely doomed, the singles who call this corner of paradise home. Statistics are hard to stare down, but just because something’s a challenge doesn’t make it impossible.

In 2015, this bright New Year already upon us, I think we should all shoot for a touch more faith (no matter what the data says). I’d encourage the singles among us to get out more, to try new things, to circulate in a different dating pool. People write me frequently, men and women with a lot of to offer who haven’t found the right person, and I always want to put them together, to say, “Look. They’re out there. Keep searching.”

It’s true that we might not be as romantic or fun as, say, Boise, Idaho, (No. 22), or Lincoln, Neb., (No. 68), but at least we have a pretty coast and warm days even in January. I like to think we also have a relentless optimism, and that — more than anything — will see us through.

— Artis Henderson is the author of “Unremarried Widow” published by Simon and Schuster.
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“The Book of Mormon” National Tour Company

MORMON

From page 1

Original Score, as well as the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical and the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Broadway Musical — to just mention a few.

“The Book of Mormon” plays both the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers (Jan 6-11) and Arts—Naples in Naples (Jan. 13-18).

“I don’t think it’s ever been done before (having the same show play consecutively at the two venues),” says Mann Hall General Manager Scott Saxon.

“It’s something we’ve talked about and sort of felt this was a good opportunity to try it. It’s a show that’s really popular; let’s play a week at both places. We were both confident it would be successful.”

And they were right: Seats are sold out at Arts—Naples, but some remain available at the Mann Hall. Limited tickets only seats will be available by lottery at both venues on each day of performance.

Specialists in shock

Written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone, creators of the animated TV show “South Park,” and Robert Lopez, co-composer and co-lyricist of Broadway’s “Avenue Q,” “The Book of Mormon” tells the story of two 19-year-old missionaries sent to Uganda to convert the people there to Mormonism.

“It deals with the journey that two Mormons take, after they graduate from high school and go off to do their missionary work,” says actor James Vincent Meredith, who plays Mafala, a Ugandan. “It’s their religion. But also just saying what I say in that song, I wasn’t sure if they could cotton to it. I read (the script) two or three times. I kept thinking, ‘How is this being produced? How are they allowed to do it?’ It goes after everyone. The misnomer with the show is that it only makes fun of Mormonism. But they make fun of every one. That’s what got me excited about auditioning.”

But still, there was that big number he has to sing every night, cursing God from the stage.

“The thing that kind of allowed me to make my peace with it is that the struggles that these people are going through… are real,” Mr. Meredith explains. “An epidemic, so many diseases going around, that are taking brothers, sisters, mothers, daughters, fathers, uncles. There is such frustration by the people… it’s a very sensitive response: ‘What the bleep, God? Why is this happening to me? Why is this allowed to happen?’ Why do I have this family member this day and two weeks later they’re gone?”

“I think when you have no answers, are frustrated and there’s nothing you can do about it, about sickness, oppression from the warlord… I can understand why this song would spring up from such frustration.”

Reaction to the number is usually positive, although once in a while, people walk out. “I understand that,” the actor says. “It’s a bit of a surprise. It takes some people aback. But the lion’s share of the audience is definitely with us.”

As for his religious parents, they came to see the show in Chicago. (Mr. Meredith grew up in Evanston, a suburb just north of the city, and acts in Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theatre Company. He also appeared on Broadway in “Superior Donuts,” which originated at Steppenwolf. “The Book of Mormon” is his first musical.)

“They are definitely religious and I had concerns,” he says about having his parents in the audience. “I was probably the most nervous for that show. I’m a grown man with a wife and kid of my own, but you always want your parents to be happy. I wasn’t sure how they’d take it. ‘Believe it or not, they enjoyed it.’

An equal-opportunity offender

Cody Jamison Strand, who plays Elder Cunningham, one of the two lead missionaries, had a similar situation.

“He comes from a line of ministers: Not only is his father an Assemblies of God minister in South Dakota, but his grand-father is also one.”

As for Mr. Strand himself? “I didn’t hear the calling,” he says simply. But still, he adds, you don’t have to be a “South Park” fan to find it funny.

“I think you can say more through a musical than you can in a movie or a TV show,” he says. “What’s nice about a musical is that it’s more athletic. It’s non-verbal. It’s very difficult to say what we say in a musical.”

He did hear the call to become an actor, however. Ironically, Elder Cunningham is the first role he played on Broadway. After that, the 25-year-old actor joined the Chicago cast and is now touring with them.

His father, he says, “has seen the show about 14 times” and really likes it, though, “He always says they could use the F word about half the amount of time (that they do.)”

In his bio, Mr. Strand dedicates his performance to his grandparents, including his pastor grandfather Bob. “I come from a long line of pastors, and here I am, singing ‘hasa diga eebowai’ every night.”

“The song, he says, is vital to the show. “It’s important dramatically that the moment it happens in the show,” he says. “If it didn’t, there would be no story. If all of Uganda accepted our message from the beginning, our show would be very short. They needed a place to go. Every issue that is talked about in the song is really happening.”

One of his favorite things to do is go online and read the one-star negative reviews on Yelp. “I find it hilarious,” he says. “They harp on that song and say, ‘It’s not funny to make fun of that stuff.’ We’re not making fun of it. We’re pointing it out.

“I think you can say more through a satire than you can be serious. (Mormonism) is the lens that they use to talk about all organized religion. (The writers are) the masters of satire.

The musical, he says, “touaches on everything and leaves no stone unturned. That’s what people like about it: It’s an equal opportunity offender.”

Predicting local reaction

So how will conservative Southwest Florida audiences respond to the show? It’s difficult to predict.

Mr. Saxon saw “The Book of Mormon” on Broadway and found it "incredibly funny," he says. "It's hysterical. It's smart and very, very funny.

"What gets lost sometimes in the fact that it's so funny is that it's a big, old-fashioned musical, with big production numbers, and big, good songs. It's a great Broadway musical. I think that gets lost sometimes when people talk about the controversial things. It deserved the Tony it won (for Best Musical)."

Not only did the show make him laugh, but those around him were also laughing hysterically as well, he says. And though it's been a couple of years, he can still hum some of the tunes.

The show has “a very ‘South Park’ sensibility to it,” he adds. “They skewer everybody.

But, he adds, you don’t have to be a “South Park” fan to find it funny.

“I think the vast majority of the people will love it, will be talking about it, raving about it, 99.9 percent. Southwest Florida appreciates a great show, and this is what it is: a great show.”

In the know

“The Book of Mormon: The Musical”
>> When: Jan 6-11
>> Where: The Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall
>> Cost: $58.18 to $158.88
>> Info: 481-4849 or bbmannpah.com
limited seats are available.


>> Limited seats at both venues are available day of show via lottery for $25 cash.

"I come from a long line of pastors, and here I am, singing ‘hasa diga eebowai’ every night."

— Cody Jamison Strand, who plays Elder Cunningham
The original 1924 Broadway production starring Robert Preston and Bernadette Peters received eight Tony Award nominations, including Best Musical, but did not win any. Although the production closed after only eight weeks, the songs were praised and subsequent productions, especially in Berlin, have had success.

Patrick Summer makes his TheatreZone debut as Mr. Sennett. He has appeared on Broadway in "Beauty and the Beast" (Gaston), "Titanic" (Barrett and Farrell) and the revival of "42nd Street" (Jillian Marsh).

Songstress Carolann Sanita, most recently seen in TheatreZone’s production of “Godspell” and last year’s “High Society,” plays Mabel.

Andrea Wright and Gerrit Vander Meer play the actress Lottie and director William Desmond Taylor, who features Mabel in his dramatic roles and is a romantic foil toward Mr. Sennett. The ensemble cast includes Alex Jorth, Joseph Strickland, Jarret Ditch, Cristopher Lewis, Kayley Stevens, Juliet Jewett, Dana Cohen and Whitney Winfield.

Up next at TheatreZone will be Stephen Sondheim’s musical thriller “Sweeney Todd,” playing Feb. 5-15. The season continues with “Brooklyn: The Musical” (March 5-15) and Neil Simon’s “They’re Playing Our Song” (April 20-30)

For more information or to purchase tickets, call (888) 966-3352 or go to theatrezone-florida.com.

Love letter gets ‘Up Close and Personal’

The Marco Island Center for the Arts presents columnist Randall Kenneth Jones with “A Love Letter to Southwest Florida” from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, as part of its “Up Close and Personal” series. Mr. Jones blends humor and insight with surprises gleaned from his “Business Class” column in the Naples Daily News.

Tickets to “A Love Letter to Southwest Florida” are $20 and can be purchased by calling 494-4221 or visiting marcoislandart.org. The Marco Island Center for the Arts is located at 1000 Winterberry Drive.

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**TheatreZone reprises its first show as 10th anniversary season opener**

TheatreZone’s 10th anniversary season opens with “Mack & Mabel,” the first show ever produced by the company in 2005. Opening night 2015 is Thursday, Jan. 8, and the show runs through Jan. 18 in the G&L Theatre at Community School of Naples.

With book by Michael Stewart and music and lyrics by Jerry Herman, “Mack & Mabel” is about the tumultuous romantic relationship between Hollywood director Mack Sennett and star Mabel Normand. In a series of flashbacks, he relates the glory days of Keystone Studios from 1911 when he discovered Normand and cast her in dozens of his early “two-reelers,” through his creation of Sennett’s Bathing Beauties and the Keystone Cops to Mabel’s death from tuberculosis in 1930.

Mr. Sennett’s biggest stars. In a series of flashbacks, he relates the glory days of Keystone Studios from 1911 when he discovered Ms. Normand and cast her in dozens of his early “two-reelers,” through his creation of Sennett’s Bathing Beauties and the Keystone Cops to Mabel’s death from tuberculosis in 1930.


Commissioned by Charles Staadecker as a birthday gift to his wife, Benita, “Becky’s New Car” was written by Steven Dietz. Becky Foster (Erin Laughlin) is in middle age, middle management and a middling marriage. One night, wealthy businessman Walter Flood (Kevin Kenneally) enters the car dealership where Becky works and the curves in the road begin. He offers her the chance of a lifetime — and the audience is offered a chance to ride shotgun down roads with unexpected turns.

In addition to Ms. Laughlin and Mr. Kenneally, the local cast includes Andrew Ciliberto as Becky’s husband, Joe; Sean O’Shea as the Fosters’ son, Chris; Alex Costello as Becky’s co-worker Steve; Valentina Cioci as Walter’s daughter, Kenna; and Kathleen Barney as Ginger, a neighbor of Walter’s. Greg Madera directs for The Marco Players.

Showtime is 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7-25. Tickets for $23 and $25. Call 642-7270 or go to themarcoplayers.com.
WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

THEATER

The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged) – By Theatre Conspiracy on select dates Jan. 3-24 at the Alliance for the Arts, Fort Myers. 936-3239 or theatrecconspiracy.org.

One Slight Hitch – By Florida Repertory Theatre Jan. 6-28 at the historic Arcade Theatre, Fort Myers. 322-4488 or floridarep.org.

Becky's New Car – By The Marco Island Players Jan. 7-25 at the Marco Island Performing Arts Center. See story page C5.


Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike – By Gulfshore Playhouse Jan. 17-Feb. at The Norris Center. (866) 811-4111 or gulfshoreplayhouse.org.


Foot Race – Start the new year off on the right foot by stepping out for the Gulfcoast Runners’ Dave Cranor 5K at 7:30 a.m. at Lowdermilk Park. Cham- pagne at the finish line. Free. 434-9786 or gcrunners.org.

Polar Plunge – No wetsuits allowed. Now take the plunge! Registration, with proceeds benefit Collier County Drug Court Kids. 495-0939 or gcrunners.org.

Book Talk – Discuss “Gertruda’s Oath: A Child, A Promise and a Heroic Escape During WWII” by Ram Oren at 2 p.m. at South Regional Library. 8065 Airport Road N. 597-1900 or napleshistoricalsociety.org.

Paddle in the Mangroves – Friends of Collier-Seminole State Park lead guided canoe trips every day from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. $10. 842-6499 or floridastateparks.org.


MONDAY 1.5

Paddle in the Mangroves – Friends of Collier-Seminole State Park lead guided canoe trips every day from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. $10. 842-6499 or floridastateparks.org.


Buongiorno, Naples – The Naples Italian American Foundation debuts its weekly Italian language courses. $60 per six-week session for non-members. 7035 Airport Road N. 597-5210 or naplesitalianfoundation.org. See story on page A12.

Climate Change Lecture – Michael Savarese presents “The Influ-ence of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise on Southwest Florida’s Coast” at 7 p.m. at the Marco Island Historical Museum. 180 South Heathwood Drive. $5. 389-6447 or themihls.org.

Welcome to the South – The Ital-i-an Cultural Society hosts a screening of “Benvenuti al Sud” (2001) at 6:45 p.m. at The Norris Center. The film is a delight-ful spoof on the northern Italians’ view of the southern Italians, particularly Neapolitans. $5. 414-3323 or italicultu-ralsociety.com.

Ringmaster Andre McClain and Ringling Bros. Circus bring “Built to Amaze” to the big top at Germain Arena Friday through Sunday, Jan. 2-4. (800) 745-3000 or germainarena.com.

Pasta and Film – The Naples Italian American Foundation screens “Viaggio Sola” (2013) at 5:30 p.m. A luxury hotel critic ponders the question: Does a dream job mean a dream life? $15 for dinner and movie, $5 for movie alone. 7035 Airport Road N. 597-5210 or naplesitalianfoundation.org.

Films for Film Lovers – Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs presents a screening and discussion of “A Separation” (Iran, 2011) at 7 p.m. A married couple faces with a difficult decision — to improve the life of their child by moving to another country or to stay in Iran and look after a deteriorating par-ent who has Alzheimer’s disease. 310, 10150 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8899 or artcenterbonita.org.

TUESDAY 1.6

Historic Palm Cottage – Docents lead tours through Palm Cottage from 1-4 p.m. today through Saturday, $8, free for members of the Naples Histori-cal Society. 137 12th Ave. S. 261-8614 or napleshistoricalsociety.org.

Dogs in the Garden – Naples Botanical Garden admits furry friends (on leashes and with their owners) from 9-11 a.m. for the Arts Naples Spring Players Jan. 22-24. 495-8899 or artcen-terbonita.org.

Foot Race – Start the new year off on the right foot by stepping out for the Gulfcoast Runners’ Dave Cranor 5K at 7:30 a.m. at Lowdermilk Park. Cham-pagne at the finish line. Free. 434-9786 or gcrunners.org.

Polar Plunge – No wetsuits allowed. Now take the plunge! Registration, with proceeds benefit Collier County Drug Court Kids. 495-0939 or gcrunners.org.

The Wonder of It All – Everglades Wonder Gardens welcomes visitors for discounted admission of $5. The 3-acre botanical garden in Bonita Springs has a flamingo pond, orchid trail, garden center, art gallery and more. 27180 Old 41 Road. 291-5991 or evergladeswondergardens.com.

Go, Crab, Go – Pick your crab and check in when the crab racing starts at noon at Rita’s English Pub. 5047 Tamiami Trail E. 775-9800 or naplesenglishpub.com.

SUNDAY 1.4

Sip ‘n’ Shop – Head to Waterside Shops and enjoy bloody Marys, mimo-sas and live entertainment in the pavil-ion from noon to 3 p.m. today and every Sunday through April. Proceeds from the month of January benefit the Found-a-tion for the Developmentally Dis-abled. 598-4605 or watersideshops.com.

Jazz Concert – The Stu Shelton Trio plays the lawn at Mercato at 2 p.m. Free. 254-1080 or mercatoshops.com.

Band Concert – The Music Makers Show Band performs at 2 p.m. in the bandshell at Cambier Park. Free. 348-3675 or musicmakersshowband.org.

Gala Concert – Gulfshore Opera presents tenor Michael Fabiano and soprano Joyce El-Khoury at 8 p.m. at Artis—Naples. $25-$160. 597-1900 or artisnaples.org.

Grammy Award-winner Vanessa Williams takes the stage at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at Artis—Naples. 597-1900 or artisnaples.org.
WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

WEDNESDAY 1.7

Downtown Stroll – Enjoy a guided walking tour of Old Naples led by a docent from the Naples Historical Society. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Historic Palm Cottage, 137 12th Ave. S. Reservations required. 201-8504 or napleshistoricalsociety.org.

Mah Jongg – Naples Elks Lodge hosts mah jongg starting at 8 a.m. All are welcome. $2. H250 Tamiami Trail E. (845) 649-5002

Survivor’s Story – Michael Stolowitzky, the subject of the book “Gerritura’s Oath” (see Book Talk, above), comes to Southwest Florida as part of the inaugural One Book Southwest Florida reading program. Mr. Stolowitzky tells his story at 7 p.m. tonight at Temple Shalom (4630 Pine Ridge Road; 263-9200 or napleswestern.org) and at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at South Regional Library, 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway. 252-7542 or collierlibrary.org. See story on page A6.

Italian Social – The Naples Italian American Foundation hosts an Italian dinner. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. Proper dress required. $25 for members, $30 for non-members. 7035 Airport Road N. 597-5210 or niafoundation.org.

COMING UP

Love Letters – Local columnist Randall Kenneth Jones presents a thought-provoking presentation about Southwest Florida at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at the Marco Island Center for the Arts. 1010 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island. 394-4221 or marcoislandart.org.

Art Reception – Trudy Labell Fine Art hosts a meet-the-artists reception at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9. Reservations required. 2425 Tamiami Trail N. 434-7778 or trudylabellfineart.com.

Musical Comedy – Jimmy Keys takes the stage at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at the Marco Island Historical Museum. $25. Tickets can be purchased at the museum gift shop, 180 South Heathwood Drive. 389-6447 or themihs.org.

CAPA Concert – Bayshore Performing Arts Center presents the Chrysalis Chamber Players at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at Florida SouthWestern State College-Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs. 10150 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or capa.org.

Tied-Up in Knots – Karen Knotts, daughter of Don Knotts of “The Andy Griffith Show” fame, shares stories about growing up with Barney Fife as her dad at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at The Norris Center. $22. 755 Eighth Ave. S. 213-3049 or naplesgov.com.

Florida’s Finest Tenors – The Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs hosts Florida’s Finest Tenors for a performance of Broadway, opera and standard favorites at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at Florida SouthWestern State College-Collier Campus. $25 for adults, $20 for students. 775-2800 or bayshorecapa.org.

Seminole Celebration – The Seminole Tribe of Florida celebrates the 119th anniversary of the Big Cypress Reservation with a festival at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Grounds starting at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, and featuring a 6:30 p.m. concert with country stars Montgomery Gentry and Gary Allen. $54. Exit 49 off I-75. (863) 902-3200 or bigcypresscelebration.com.

Art Show – Naples Artcrafters hosts a juried fine art and craft show from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Cambier Park. 213-307 or naplesartcrafters.com.

Naples Elks Lodge hosts mah jongg starting at 11 a.m. All are welcome. $2. H250 Tamiami Trail E. (845) 649-5002

Seminole Celebration – The Seminole Tribe of Florida celebrates the 119th anniversary of the Big Cypress Reservation with a festival at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Grounds starting at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, and featuring a 6:30 p.m. concert with country stars Montgomery Gentry and Gary Allen. $54. Exit 49 off I-75. (863) 902-3200 or bigcypresscelebration.com.

Art Show – Naples Artcrafters hosts a juried fine art and craft show from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Cambier Park. 213-307 or naplesartcrafters.com.
WHAT TO DO

Cluster Pluckin’ – The Neapolitan Oyster presents the sixth annual Cluster Pluckin’ concert with a variety of bluegrass bands and musicians at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at The Norris Center. $25 in advance, $30 at the door. 213-3049 or naplesgov.com.

Renaissance Academy Open House – Learn all about the winter program offerings and the FGCU Renaissance Academy open house from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, at the FGCU Naples Center, 1910 Fifth St. S. Free. 425-1272 or fgcu.edu/academy.

Church Concert – Virtuoso Catherine Weinfeld-Zell is featured on oboe and French horn at Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11. Free. 375 Galleon Drive. 262-6581 or trinitybythecove.com.

Author Lecture – Friends of the Library of Collier County host Ross Powers, author of “Flags of our Fathers,” at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at the Country Club of Naples. Breakfast included with ticket. $35 for members, $45 for non-members. 185 Burning Tree Drive. 262-8135 or collierfriends.org.

Dinner and a Film – Artichoke & Co. provides light bites during a screening of “Chico & Rita” (Spain, 2010) starting at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at the Center for the Arts. $30 per couple. Chico is a young piano player with big dreams, and Rita is a singer with an extraordinary voice. Music and romantic desire unite them, but their journey — in the tradition of the Latin ballad, the bolero — reflects heartache and torment. 10150 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8899 or artcenteronbonta.org.


One-Woman Show – Local actress Bobbi Basswitz presents “The Lady with All the Answers,” a play based on the life of advice columnist Ann Landers, at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at Temple Shalom. $25 for members, $28 for non-members, $50 for sponsorship. 4630 Pine Ridge Road. For reservations, call the Temple Shalom Sisterhood at 859 Sonoma Court, Naples, FL 34119.

Historic Tea – Kosher State Park hosts an afternoon tea at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13. $30. 992-0311 or floridastateparks.org.

Marilyn Presents – Marilyn’s on Fifth Avenue features a Grammy fashion show from 5:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, $75, with proceeds to benefit the Neighborhood Health Clinic. 355 Fifth Ave. S. 266-4460 or marilyntheiman.com.

Gentle Yoga – Golden Gate Community Center hosts a yoga class at 6 p.m. on Tuesday starting Jan. 13. $45 per six-week session or $3 per class. (414) 218-8888.

Psychic Dinner – Medium Gary Spivey, often referred to as “the modern-day Nostradamus,” brings his talents to Seminole Casino Immokalee Casino. $25. (800) 218-0007.

Doll Show – Naples Doll Club hosts a show and sale from 1-5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at New Hope Ministries Church, 7657 Davis Blvd. FREE. Email mydolls_2@yahoo.com for more information.

Art Lecture – The Naples Italian American Foundation hosts art historian Edith Coleman for a talk on what to look for in a work of art at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. $10. 7035 Airport Road N. 597-5210 or foundationitaliana.org.

Wild Art – Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park hosts its 17th annual Wildlands and Wildlife Art Show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. 82-467 for park entry. 957-396 or delnorwiggins.org.

A Psychic Good Time – Medium Gary Spivey, often referred to as “the modern-day Nostradamus,” brings his talents to Seminole Casino Immokalee Casino at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. $20. (800) 218-0007 or seminoleimmokaleecasino.com.

Pets on Parade – Third Street South holds its sixth annual Parade on Third Parade and Petfest from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18. This year’s costume theme is “Working Your Tail Off. Pets Dressed for Work.” Begins center stage, the costume contest begins at 10 a.m. behind Tommy Bahamas, and the parade begins at noon. 434-6533 or thirdstreetsouth.com.

Japanese Film – The Jewish Congregation of Marco Island screens “The Outrageous Sophie Tucker” (USA, 2014) at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18. The documentary focuses on the tumultuous early days of the woman who ruled the 1920s Flapper era and became one of the “Red Hot Mamas” in her 60-year showbiz career. 991 Winterberry Road, Marco Island. 642-0800 or marcojccmi.com.
WHERE TO GO

Norwegian Film – The Renaissance Academy of FGCU presents a screening and discussion of “Headhunters” (Norway, 2011, action/thriller) starting at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, at the FGCU Naples Center. Pre-registration strongly recommended. 1001 Fifth Ave. S. Free. 426-3272 or fgc.edu/racademy.

Music to Touch the Heart – Voices of Naples performs at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, at St. Leo Catholic Church. Free, but donations appreciated. 28290 Beaumont Road, 425-2882 or voicesofnaples.org.

Stomp Meets “Glee” – Vocal Trash brings its innovative blend of vocals, dance and recycled instruments to the Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs at 8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18. $30 for non-members, $35 at the door. 10150 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or artcenterbonita.org.

Concert – Pianist Michael Baron and clarinetist Julian Milkis perform a combination of baroque and jazz at 3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at FGCU’s Bower School of Music. $10, $9 for FGCU students. 180 South Heathwood Drive. 389-6447 or themihs.org.

French Film – Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs presents a screening of “Chicken with Plums” (France, 2011) at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19. Since his beloved violin was broken, Nasser Ali Khan, one of the most renowned musicians of his day, has lost all taste for life. Finding no instrument worthy of replacing it, he decides to confine himself to bed the rest of his days. $10. 590-7292 or fgcu.edu.

MLK Parade – A parade honoring slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther Kind Jr. steps out at 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19, from Broad Avenue in downtown Naples. The route proceeds north on Third Street South, turns right on Fifth Avenue and finishes at Cambier Park. 455-2886 or fifthavenuesouth.com.

History Lecture – Michael Lasser talks about songs during the Great Depression in “Building a Dream: Working and Living in Songs of the Great Depression” at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Marco Island Historical Museum. $5. 180 South Heathwood Drive. 389-6447 or themihs.org.

Mind Candy – Seminole Casino Immokalee hosts mentalist and illusionist Wayne Hoffman at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22. $20. (800) 218-0007 or seminoleimmokaleecasino.com.

Chickee Chat – The Naples Historical Society hosts former Naples Daily News Editor Jeff Lytle at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 23. Reservations required. $5 for non-members, 261-8644 or napleshistoricalsociety.org.

Smashing Singer – TheatreZone brings Megan Hilty, who has performed on NBC’s “Smash” and on Broadway in “Wicked” and “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes,” to the GSI Theatre at Community School of Naples for performances at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, and 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24. $30, $13275 Livingston Road. (888) 966-3352 or the-theatrezone-florida.com.

Fireworks – Watch Florida’s largest land-based fireworks show at Seminole Casino Immokalee at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24. (800) 218-0007 or seminoleimmokaleecasino.com.

Art Fest – Art Fest Naples comes to Fleischmann Park Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 24-25. 634-2337 or artfestnaples.com.

Down ‘n’ Dirty – The Swamp Buggy Winter Classic starts at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at the Florida Sports Park and ends the next evening with a mud bath for the 2015 Swamp Buggy Queen. 8250 Collier Blvd. 774-2701 or thefloridasportspark.com.

Empty Bowls – Fight hunger and fill your belly at Cambier Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24. In exchange for a $15 donation that benefits Harry Chapin Food Bank, you get a handcrafted bowl to fill with the soup of your choice from dozens of area restaurants. 334-7007 or emptybowlsnaples.org.

Book Signing – Karen Harper discusses and signs copies of the latest installment in her Cold Creek Trilogy suspense series at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at Barnes & Noble in Waterside Shops. 798-5200 or bn.com.

Opera Concert – The Italian Cultural Society presents a concert of opera favorites at 3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at First Congregational Church of Naples. $42. 6630 Immokalee Road. 434-3323 or italian-cultural-society.com.

Art After Hours – The Baker Museum at Atkins—Naples stays open from 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, for docent-led tours, entertainment and more. Free. 597-1900 or artinsnaples.org.

Writer Out Loud – Essayist Amy Bennett Williams reads her works on stage at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, in the Moe Auditorium at FGCU. $30-$50. (888) 809-0909 or wcuu.org/events.

Bring on the Boats – Marine Industries Association of Collier County hosts its annual boat show Thursday through Sunday, Jan. 29-Feb. 1, at Florida Sports Park. $10, $20 for VIP. 8250 Collier Blvd. 682-0900 or naplesboatshow.com. ['' Email calendar listings and high-resolution photos to Lindsey Nesmith at lnesmith@floridaweekly.com. Please send Word or text documents and jpgs. No pdfs or photos of flyers. Deadline for calendar submissions is noon Monday.]

Chez Boet restaurant welcomes renowned medium Francesca Kimpton at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13. Ms. Kimpton host the UK television show “Revelations” and travels the world lecturing, teaching and conducting psychical research. Reservations required. 641-6117 or chezboetnaples.com.
**ARTS COMMENTARY**

It was a good year for good reads

*nStation Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel. ($24.95, Knopf.) It has appeared on some end-of-year best-of lists, and justifiably so. It was also a New York Times Bestseller and a 2014 National Book Award Finalist.

This poignantly written novel set in the near future examines a world when much of the population has died of a highly contagious virus. Its survivors include a traveling orchestra whose members also perform Shakespeare. *Station Eleven* is a celebration of life and the arts, a fervent assertion that even in the very worst of times, the arts can survive — and help us survive, too.

Over the holidays, I devoured Michael Faber’s latest novel, *The Book of Strange New Things* ($28, Hogarth). This 500-page story is about a British pastor, Peter, who travels to a planet galaxies away to minister to its native population, who call his Bible the “book of strange new things.” He’s transported there by a mysterious creature that has a colony on the planet and whose intentions are unclear.

Despite the setting, I wouldn’t consider this book stereotypically science-fiction. There are no aliens using humans as host bodys, no military troops blowing things up, no interplanetary wars. Mr. Faber’s main characters are fully realized people with rich internal lives and thoughts. They ponder their mortality, the purpose of their existence, their relationships.

There are layers upon layers in this novel. Mr. Faber pays tribute to the ’60s and ’70s Marvel Comics writers, pencilers and inkers by basing some of his characters’ names on theirs. And while he was writing it, Mr. Faber’s wife of almost 30 years, Eva, was diagnosed with cancer. (She died in July 2014.) That adds a poignancy to the book’s couple who are separated by galaxies and growing more distant, and to their musings on mortality (“The Book of Strange New Things” also contains one of the best eulogies I’ve ever read or heard.)

As Mr. Faber said in an interview with The Independent in November: “... When your partner is dying of a disease that you don’t have and you know that you are going to outlive her, they are on a different planet. They’ve already gone somewhere where you can’t follow. The book ended up embodying that, even though it wasn’t planned.”

Faber’s cleverly designed black cloth cover with gold lettering on the spine and golden gift-edged pages looks similar to many King James Bibles. The paper cover shows two hands set against a backdrop of outer space and twinkling stars. Have they just separated, or are they reaching out to each other? (They also call to mind, somewhat, the almost-touching hands in Michelangelo’s “The Creation of Adam.”)

*Smoke Gets In Your Eyes* and Other Lessons from the Crematory* by Caitlin Doughty ($24.95, WW. Norton) is admittedly not for everyone. The author, a licensed mortician, writes about the first time working in a crematory in California while in her 20s, and her unusual, sometimes touching, sometimes funny experiences.

One reviewer called the book “alternately heartbreaking and hilarious, fascinating and freaky, vivid and morbid.”

In this culture, which seems to go to great lengths to avoid any discussion or acknowledgment of death, Mr. Doughty is brave enough to talk about the subject with openness and humor.

*Florence Gordon* by Brian Morton ($22.95, Riverruns) was a pleasant surprise. Mr. Morton’s titular character, Florence Gordon, is a 75-year-old writer and icon of the Second Wave Women’s Movement. She lives in New York City and is tough, smart and brutally honest. She even walks out on her own surprise birthday party because she’d rather be home, writing.

Here’s how the novel opens: “Florence Gordon was trying to write a memoir, but she had two strikes against her: She was old and she was an intellectual. And who on earth, she sometimes wondered, would want to read a book about an old intellectual? Maybe it was three strikes, because not only was she an intellectual, she was a feminist. Which meant that if she ever managed to finish this book, reviewers would inevitably dismiss it as ‘strident’ and ‘shrill.’

And in the second chapter: “She wasn’t a woman who wanted to recapture her youth. In part this was because she found the life she was living now so interesting.”

Pretty surprising prose from a male writer, who continued to surprise me, page after page. I really liked his portrait of this tough, difficult, independent woman.

I’m making my way through Anne Lamott’s latest collection of essays: *Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace* ($22.95, River- runs). I’ve been reading Ms. Lamott ever since her debut novel, “Hard Laughter,” was published in the early ’80s. Revealing, poignant, funny and sometimes rueful, her essays are a fresh, unique take on spiritual matters. She writes about the difficulty of finding a romantic partner at age 60 and her disas- terous foray onto Match.com. She writes about how difficult it is to forgive — and not forgiving is like drinking rat poison and then waiting for the rat to die.” Elsewhere, she calls her lack of forgiveness “leprosy of the insides” and warns that, if left untreated, “it can take out tissue, equilib- rium, soul, sense of self.”

And her take on resentment: “Resen- tments make even the best of us feel supe- rior. I’ve always found a kind of comfort in them, as if they were wise monkey moms, a place to hold on that is better than nothing.”

Ms. Lamott sees the spiritual in every- day life and talks about everyday life in spiritual terms. ■
PUZZLE ANSWERS

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Tuesday, January 13, 2015
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@ 7:30 p.m.

For tickets call THE BOX OFFICE at
239-213-3049

WIRLEY FIELDS

HOROSCOPES

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Although family matters might demand much of the Sea Goat’s attention this week, you’ll want to try to make time to handle those all-important workplace situations as well.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A recurring unresolved issue might need to be revisited before you can move forward. Consider asking someone familiar with the situation to act as an impartial counselor.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Ignore pressure to make a decision. Keeping your options open is still the wisest course, at least until you’re sure you’ve learned all you need to know about the matter at hand.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) That lower-than-acceptable performance you’re getting from others in your group might be the result of miscommunication. If so, correct it before serious problems arise later on.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) An unexpected situation could call for a change of plans. If so, you might feel that this is unfair. But it’s best to make the needed adjustments now. There’ll be time later for rescheduling.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) The new year brings opportunities you might want to look into. Some might be more interesting than others. But take time to look at all of them before you make any decisions.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It’s a good idea to be careful about expenses until you’ve worked out that pesky financial problem. You might find it advisable to get some solid advice on how to proceed.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Romance looms large over the Lion’s aspect. Single Lions looking for love should find Cupid very cooperative. Pairs might well find some lingering uncertainties about a decision. If so, take that as a warning that you might not be ready to make that move yet. More study would be in order.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Music is a dominant theme for Sagittarians right now, and it should remind you to make a greater effort to restore some much-needed harmony in that very special relationship.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A personal relationship could face added stress because of a situation involving someone close to both of you. Be supportive and, above all, try to avoid playing the blame game.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Music is a dominant theme for Sagittarians right now, and it should remind you to make a greater effort to restore some much-needed harmony in that very special relationship.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A personal relationship could face added stress because of a situation involving someone close to both of you. Be supportive and, above all, try to avoid playing the blame game.

BORN THIS WEEK: You’re capable of great loyalty to those around you, which is one reason you can count on devotion from friends and family.
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**CALUSA RIDGE COTTAGE**
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**FLORIDIAN**
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**CASA DE LEONES**
Historic setting, beautiful gardens, $1,425,000

**SANDPIPER COTTAGE**
Beachfront home, mostly furnished, $1,275,000

Dream: Twin Family Cottages

**PINEAPPLE COTTAGE**
Remodeled, private dock, furnished, $795,000

**SEA LEVEL COTTAGE**
Includes both sides, mostly furnished, $1,295,000

**MANGROVE COTTAGE**
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FILM CAPSULES

The Gambler ★★★
(Mark Wahlberg, Jessica Lange, John Goodman) A literature professor (Mr. Wahlberg) gets into serious gambling debt and doesn’t seem to care if he can find a way out. Wahlberg gives an unexpectedly layered performance in this tasteful drama that has a few surprises up its sleeve. Rated R.

Top Five ★★★½
(Chris Rock, Rosario Dawson, Gabrielle Union) A comedian (Mr. Rock) spends time with a reporter (Ms. Dawson) to promote his latest film as his marriage to a reality TV star (Ms. Union) looms. The story lacks flow, even feeling like a stand up comedy routine at times. But it’s also funny and has heart (literally — Kevin Hart has a cameo). Rated R.

Life Partners ★★★
(Leighton Meester, Gillian Jacobs, Adam Brody) Best friends Sasha (Ms. Meester) and Paige (Ms. Jacobs) fail to connect after Paige starts dating Tim (Mr. Brody). The dramedy has unexpected depth along with its humor, and as a result this is an enjoyable watch. Rated R.

The Theory of Everything ★★★½
(Eddie Redmayne, Felicity Jones, Emily Watson) Astrophysicist Stephen Hawking (Mr. Redmayne) meets and marries Jane (Ms. Jones) while they’re students at Cambridge. The catch is he has motor neuron disease, which doesn’t affect his brain but does deprive him of muscle control, leaving him a prisoner in his own body. A genuinely heartwarming story and phenomenal performance from Mr. Redmayne make this a surefire Oscar contender. Rated PG-13.

Rosewater ★★½
(Gael Garcia Bernal, Shohreh Aghdashloo, Claire Foy) In Iran, journalist Maziar Bahari (Mr. Bernal) is arrested and tortured for 118 days after he’s accused of being a spy. Writer/director Jon Stewart (“The Daily Show”) gets a solid performance from Mr. Bernal, but the film doesn’t have an engaging visual style and therefore is dull at times. Unrated: Would be an “R” for language, not graphic torture.

Interstellar ★★★½
(Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Michael Caine) With humans no longer able to survive on earth, a father of two (Mr. McConaughey) pilots a spacecraft into a wormhole in the hope of finding a new place for mankind to live. There are a few unnecessary elements, but overall this is a substantial, impressive work from Christopher Nolan (the “Dark Knight” trilogy, “Inception”). Rated PG-13.

Big Hero 6 ★★★
(Voices of T.J. Miller, James Cromwell, Ryan Potter) Robotic engineering prodigy Hiro (Mr. Potter) needs the help of friends with superpowers to track down the villain who stole his creation. The animation is bright and crisp in 3D, the action rollicks and there’s a good amount of humor throughout. Disney Animation (“Frozen”) does it again. Rated PG.
LATEST FILMS

‘Unbroken’

Is it worth $10? Yes

Indomitable human spirit is on full display in “Unbroken.” I know it’s cliché to describe a movie as inspiring, but if this one doesn’t convince you of the power of sheer determination and to live life to the fullest, nothing will.

Based on the book by Laura Hillenbrand (“Seabiscuit”), “Unbroken” tells the true story of Louis Zamperini, a record-setting high school track star turned Olympian turned World War II hero. It’s not the accolades themselves that are the most impressive, however, it’s the way they were achieved that will turn heads and open hearts.

As a child, Louis is a rascal. But his brother Pete (Alex Russell) gets him into track and field, and soon Louis (Jack O’Connell) sets a national high school record and is competing in the ’36 Berlin Olympics. When the war comes, he joins the Air Force and serves as a bombardier in the Pacific, which is where his plane crashes due to engine failure. Stranded on a lifeboat with fellow soldiers Phil (Domhnall Gleeson) and Mac (Finn Wittrock), they battle sharks, weather and enemy ships before being captured and taken to a Japanese POW camp.

Sometimes when a situation goes from bad to worse it can almost feel comical, but there’s none of that here. This is a straight drama with minimal comic relief. Louis, who becomes the target of torment for a Japanese officer nicknamed the “Bird” (Miyavi), seems to get stronger with every adversity. As we see him continually get knocked down and back up again, even the hardest of hearts will have trouble not being moved by his courage.

Consider: At any point after he’s stranded on the lifeboat, Louis could’ve freaked out, given up and wanted to die already, and it would’ve been hard to blame him. But it’s always Louis who keeps his head, doesn’t let others get too far down and is willing to absorb the brunt of the punishment. He’s a born leader.

So how did the directorially inexperienced Angelina Jolie accomplish such a stellar piece of filmmaking? She had tremendous passion and vision for the project, of course, but perhaps more importantly, she surrounded herself with some of the top talent in the business.

Joel and Ethan Coen (“Fargo”) and Richard LaGravenese (“The Fisher King”) wrote the script, the great Roger Deakins (“Skyfall”) was the cinematographer and Alexandre Desplat (“The King’s Speech”) created the emotional musical score. When you have proven veterans who know how to do it right, it’s a tremendous asset, and no doubt Ms. Jolie trusted her collaborators to be on top of their game. And they are.

“Unbroken” isn’t perfect — a better sense of elapsing time would have assisted overall comprehension and appreciation for Louis’ peril — but it is extremely captivating. Just don’t get too carried away with believing every thing you’re seeing really happened. The credits come with the standard disclaimer that some characters were composited or invented and that “a number of incidents (were) fictionalized.”

Does this matter? I don’t think so. Ms. Jolie’s responsibility is to tell the story as well as she can; sometimes, when reality doesn’t mesh well with narrative clarity, filling in blanks becomes necessary. What ultimately matters is the final result on screen and our reaction to it, and the results are startling. Expect to see “Unbroken” as a major player on Oscar night.

Louis Zamperini died July 2, 2014; he was 97. Director Angelina Jolie says she was able to show him some scenes from the film before his death.

In the know

>> Louis Zamperini died July 2, 2014. He was 97. Director Angelina Jolie says she was able to show him some scenes from the film before his death. 

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KOVEL: ANTIQUES

Tobacco cabinet’s full intent remains a mystery

BY TERRY KOVEL AND KIM KOVEL

“Vernacular Tobacco Cabinet” was the name of this piece in a November 2014 Garth’s auction. It doesn’t seem to be made by a skilled cabinetmaker. Although it looks like two pieces, the back construction shows that it was made to be one piece — a fitted cabinet at the bottom behind the ad and an empty space behind the mirrored door. Few collectors know how it was used. The cabinet is a little over 5 feet high. The ad of Old Judge Cigarettes identifies the probable maker, Goodwin & Co., an American tobacco manufacturer from New York City working before the Civil War. Old Judge was one of its brands. The company merged with others and became part of the American Tobacco Co.

Collectors today like their tobacco cards picturing baseball players; one set called “Old Judge,” issued in 1887-1890, was 1 7/16 by 2 1/4 inches. A larger set, called “Old Judge Cabinets,” issued from 1888 to 1889, was 4 1/2 by 6 1/2 inches. The mirrored section of the wooden cabinet seems to be missing some sort of shelf or racks, probably pipe racks. The lower part has cubby holes, drawers and partitions that may have held loose tobacco, a mixing bowl, humidor, pipe cleaners and cards. The ad, showing a convict held in the stocks, dates from about 1900. An unusual piece, it sold for $780.

Q: I inherited my mother’s black Catalin Mah Jong set, which she got in the 1940s. Some of the paint has worn off some of the Jokers and Flowers. What is it worth, and how can I sell it?

A: Mah Jong originated in China, and early sets imported into the U.S. had ivory, bone or bamboo tiles. Catalin, a polymer developed in the 1930s, has the look of ivory at a lower price. Sets made in the 1920s didn’t include jokers. Sets made since 1971 include eight jokers and eight flowers. Collectors want sets that have the full set of tiles, in good condition;

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Axiom salon face designed by Kelli Smith, ASID

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The convic is trying to smell the smoke from the dancing girls cigarette in this Old Judge cabinet ad. The wooden tobacco cabinet sold at auction for $780 by Garth’s Auctioneers in Delaware, Ohio, in Nov. 2014.
you can’t buy single tiles to replace lost ones. The backs won’t match. Mah Jong sets often sell online. The value of your set is reduced a little because of the missing paint. A full set in a box sells for $200-$250.

Q: I have a blue-and-white plate with a picture of Paul Revere on it and a border of fruit and flowers. I found it in an old steamer trunk in my grandmother’s attic. I’m over 80 years old, so I think the plate was made about 1800. The back of the plate reads “Ride of Paul Revere Apr. 18, 1775. Staffordshire, England,” and it’s marked “RM CO.” in a diamond shape. How old is it, and what is it worth?

A: This mark was used by Rowland & Marsellus, an importer in business in New York City from 1893 to about 1937. Several factories in Staffordshire, England, made historical blue souvenir plates and other chinaware decorated with American scenes. Historical scenes, important buildings, landmarks, cities and colleges were transfer-printed onto the china. Plates with rolled edges are the most wanted. Rowland & Marsellus used a diamond-shape mark from about 1893 to 1900. Your rolled-edge plate is worth about $55.

Q: I recently acquired an old bottle marked “J. Hindle & Co.” with what looks like a picture of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Indianapolis on it. What is the history of this, and what is it worth?

A: J. Hindle & Co. (Ltd.) was formed in 1894 as successor to James Hindle of Hull, England. This isn’t the Indianapolis monument, it’s the Wilberforce Monument, located in Hull. The monument was erected in 1834 to honor William Wilberforce, an English politician who worked to abolish the slave trade. J. Hindle & Co. manufactured aerated water and other beverages, and was listed as an “agent” for other manufacturers. Your bottle is worth $15-$20 or less.

Q: I have an autographed 8-by-10-inch glossy black-and-white photograph of boxer Gene Tunney. It’s in perfect condition and is about 75-80 years old. Does it have any value? If so, where should I try to sell it?

A: The price an autographed picture will bring depend on the fame of the celebrity, rarity and authentication; autographs of many celebrities and sports stars have been faked. American boxer Gene Tunney (1897-1978) was the world heavyweight champion from 1926 to 1928, when he retired from boxing. Autographed pictures of Tunney are fairly common. Some sell for $20 to $40, while some that are declared real by a recognized authentication service sell for over $100. You can sell it to an autograph dealer or at an auction. It’s difficult to sell it online because there are so many fakes.

Tip: Keep heirloom fabrics like quilts, tablecloths or christening gowns away from scented candles, cigarette smoke and cooking smells. They all cause damage.

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

NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY WEEK OF JANUARY 1-7, 2015
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FRIDAY: REPOTTING ORCHIDS
SATURDAY: LIVE LOG MAKING

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REVIEWED BY EALISH WADDELL
‘Small Move, Big Change’ by Caroline L. Arnold (Penguin Books, $16)

It’s that time of year when we flip the calendar page and start to think about ways to improve our lives. And yet, the vast majority of us will never follow through on our new year’s resolutions. Perhaps, argues Caroline Arnold in “Small Move, Big Change,” it’s because we’re setting our sights too far away.

A huge, vague goal like “lose weight” or “exercise more” is abstract and overwhelming, making it difficult to know where to begin, much less stick to once the January zeal has worn off. Arnold suggests instead a simpler and more effective way of accomplishing big goals: breaking them up into chunks that she calls microresolutions.

It’s a classic technique, but Ms. Arnold’s modern approach calls for a little soul-searching as well. One-size-fits-all goals often fail to take into account an individual’s particular needs and abilities. She advocates committing to tiny goals that are personalized, targeted, specific and realistic — essentially, goals so easy to achieve that you’d feel silly not doing them. This combines the benefit of immediate results with the high of instant gratification, a mix that can be surprisingly powerful.

Ms. Arnold presents herself not as a guru, but as a fellow pilgrim on the self-improvement journey. Writing in a clear, friendly and accessible style, she shares copious examples of real-life situations translated into workable (and nonworkable) microresolutions, alongside supportive quotes from experts both scientific and philosophical.

Learning to craft effective goals is both an everyday tool and a lifelong art. A key factor is the identification and breaking of negative or resentful mindsets that are standing in the way of positive change. And that’s a skill that can carry through into every aspect of life, no matter what the date on the calendar.
To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the “new” Marco Island, Michael Coleman has assembled an attractive volume that blends history, colorful personalities, and a generous assortment of photographs illustrating the natural and manmade beauties of the place named by Trip Advisor as the number one U.S. island travel destination. A foreword by Herbert Rosser Savage, the distinguished architect of many of Marco’s private homes and public buildings as well as the Marco Beach Hotel (refashioned as today’s Marriott), sets the book’s buoyant tone and previews some of its key stories. Mr. Coleman’s own prefatory note provides brief biographical notes on his contributors and offers thanks to many others, including the Marco Island Historical Society, for making the book possible. His overview whets the appetite for the society, for making the book possible.

Just as interesting are the vignettes about Tommie Barfield, who successfully lobbied for better roads and schools in the area and worked with Barron Gift Collier, the major landholder, to split off huge Collier County from Lee County. She was a dynamic, forceful woman who received the governor’s appointment to be the new county’s first superintendent of public instruction.

Remember that we are talking about a mosquito-infested frontier whose pioneers needed great resolve. The doctors Louis and Mary Olds were among those pioneers. A delicious chapter of the book is Betty Perichizzi’s incorporation of sections from Mary’s diary and letters into a fascinating narrative of early 20th century Marco life. Mary’s poetic wonder at the area’s natural beauty leaves us wanting more.

The big story, of course, is the Mackle Brothers’ dream of a tropical residential wonderland. This experienced team of developers was smitten with the potential of a spectacular island community with affordable residential sections, mostly on canals; hotels and other resort amenities; and spectacular beaches. They aimed not at vacationers, but rather at retirees.

The scale of the proposed enterprise demanded extensive infrastructural work. The brothers advertised widely and well, and they received a lot of interest across the nation. Magazines and newspapers ran feature stories about the mecca-in-the-making. Models were built and a five-phase plan developed. People were ready to purchase. And they did.

Marco became a celebrity vacation spot, justifying, in 1972, the creation of Marco Island Airways with five daily round trips between Marco and Miami. Condominiums sprang up. Everything was going according to plan — until court battles on environmental issues and unanticipated rulings by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers brought the grand vision of Polynesia on the Gulf to its knees. As a chapter titled “The Curse, the Kidnapping, and the Corpse” points out, other entrepreneurs had also had their dream projects die, but none fell so hard with so much at stake as the Mackle brothers.

The more recent history of Marco Island — today’s Marco — is said to have begun when the locals voted to incorporate as a city. White year-rounders continued to arrive, the resort industry invests more and more in the charming, relaxed, semi-exclusive isle. Mr. Coleman and his associates have provided a rich taste of Marco Island yesterday and today. The generous gallery of photographs includes occasional “now and then” comparisons that underscore the theme of ongoing change.

To purchase a copy, go to marcoislandbook.com or stroll into one of these Marco Island establishments: either branch of Sunshine Booksellers, Marco Island Historical Museum, Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce, Over the Reef, Town Center, Rose Marina gift shop, Barry Howe Photography at Farm er’s Market and Shells by Emily. The book is also at Marriott, Hilton and Marco Beach Ocean Resort gift shops.

Mr. Coleman and his contributors will sign copies at the Marco Island Histori cal Museum from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31 — exactly 50 years after modern Marco Island opened its doors to the world.

— Phil Jason, Ph.D., United States Naval Academy professor emeritus of English, is a poet, critic and freelance writer with 20 books to his credit, including several studies of war literature and a creative writing text.
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Dr. Craig Eichler
Craig J. Eichler, M.D. is a board-certified dermatologist and has been in practice since 1993. He specializes in general dermatology and dermatologic surgery. Dr. Eichler is a past president of the Florida Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery (2005) and honored as the Florida Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Practitioner of the Year Award in 2012.

Dr. Stephen Ducatman
Stephen H. Ducatman, M.D. is a board-certified dermatologist and has been in practice for 30 years. He specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the skin, hair and nails, as well as cutaneous surgery. Dr. Ducatman is a fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology and a member of the Collier and Lee County Medical Societies.

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Since then his repertoire has expanded from pre-show host to presenting and demonstrating the bond he has with animals from horses and miniature hoof stock to camels.

The fun at “Built to Amaze!” starts with the all-access preshow an hour before show time, where everyone is invited to the arena floor to meet the cast of performers and perhaps pick up some dance moves from them, try on custom costumes, attempt some juggling with help from the famous Ringling Bros. clowns and even watch the painting pachyderms create a masterpiece.

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**In the know**

‘Built to Amaze’

- When: 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2; 11 a.m. and 3 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3; 1 and 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4
- Where: Germain Arena
- Tickets: $16 and up
- Info: (800) 745-3000 for individuals; (866) 248-8740 for group rates and information

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**Casting calls for women and kids**

The Naples Players will hold auditions for “Love, Loss and What I Wore” starting at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Sugden Community Theatre. No appointments are necessary.

Five women age 19 and older are needed. Depending on availability, casting might expand or some actresses might play multiple roles. Those auditioning are asked to prepare a monologue of their choosing from the script (five monologues are available at naplesplayers.org/auditions).

An intimate collection of stories, monologues and vignettes, “Love, Loss and What I Wore” takes a light-hearted and heartfelt peek into the lives of women and the clothes that conjure memories of their most significant life moments. As the women muse over their most revered clothing and accessories, they reveal the intricacies of the mother/daughter relationship, the truth about the men they loved and lost and their ability to remain strong in the face of adversity.

Rehearsals begin Feb. 16 and performances are April 1-25. For more information, call 434-7340, ext. 10, or visit naplesplayers.org.

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**And for the kids**

KidzAct, the youth theater program of The Naples Players, will hold auditions for ages 12 and older to perform in “High School Musical Jr.” Saturday afternoon, Jan. 10, at the Sugden Community Theatre.

Students should prepare 16 bars of a song to sing and should bring the sheet music (an accompanist will be provided) or a recording without vocals. They will also learn and perform a short choreographed movement and they might be asked to read from the script. Students unable to make the scheduled audition day and time should call to determine if additional audition times have been added.

“High School Musical Jr.” follows the students of East High as they learn to deal with issues of first love, friends and family while balancing classes and extracurricular activities. Performances will be Friday through Sunday, May 22-24. Audition appointments are required. Call 434-7340, ext. 39, or visit naplesplayers.org.

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CELEBRITY EXTRA

‘Vikings’ poised to conquer

BY CINDY ELAVSKY

Q: Was “The Blacklist” canceled? I haven’t seen it in a while.
A: The James Spader-starring NBC drama was not canceled; it merely went on winter hiatus. The addictive series will be back with all-new episodes beginning Super Bowl Sunday, which is Feb. 1.

Q: Can you tell me when “Vikings” will be back? It seems like it’s been gone forever!
A: You don’t have much longer to wait. The History Channel’s hit historical-fiction drama will return at 10 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19. The new 10-episode third season begins with Ragnar (played by Travis Fimmel) as king, and follows the great responsibility that now rests on the shoulders of the former farmer. With the promise of new land from the English, Ragnar leads his people to an uncertain fate on the shores of Wessex. King Ecbert (Linus Roache) has made many promises, and it remains to be seen if he will keep them. But even the restless wanderer, Ragnar is searching for something more — and he finds it in the mythical city of Paris.

Rumored to be impenetrable to outside forces, Ragnar and his band of Norsemen must come together to break down its walls and cement the Vikings’ legend in history. The gripping family saga of Ragnar, Rollo (Clive Standen), Lagertha (Katheryn Winnick) and Bjorn (Alexander Ludwig) continues as alliances and loyal friendships are tested, faith is questioned and relationships are strained.

“Vikings” tells the extraordinary tales of the lives and epic adventures of these warriors, and portrays life in the Dark Ages, a world ruled by raiders and explorers, through the eyes of Viking society.

Q: I remember a while back you reported that David Letterman was going to retire and Stephen Colbert was to take his place. Do you know when this will happen?
A: CBS has announced that David Letterman’s final show as host of “The Late Show” will be May 20. Letterman has been a prominent fixture in late-night television for decades, and upon his retirement in May, he’ll hold the record as the longest-tenured host in late-night talk-show history.

— Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or email her at letters@cindyelavsky.com.

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THIS WEEK ON WGCW-TV

Downton Abbey, Season 5 premiere, Jan. 4

THURSDAY, JAN. 1, 8 P.M.
Downton Abbey Rediscovered
Relive treasured moments from the first four seasons of “Downton Abbey” and get a sneak peek at what’s in store for the Crawleys and the staff in Season 5.

FRIDAY, JAN. 2, 9 P.M.
Tommy Emmanuel
A legendary Australian guitarist whose professional career spans five decades plays all that and more. He plays all and Edith plays with fire.

SATURDAY, JAN. 3, 10:30 P.M.
Father Brown
The show examines why, despite the nation-
dergery to stop gun violence, Washing-
ton hasn’t acted.

SUNDAY, JAN. 4, 8 P.M.
ADD or ADHD is a national health crisis that continues to grow — yet it remains one of the most misunderstood and incorrectly treated illnesses today. Psychiatrist Daniel Amen and his wife nurse Tana Amen explain seven types of ADD based on extensive brain imaging research.

MONDAY, JAN. 5, 9 P.M.
The Great British Baking Show
Follow amateur bakers whose goal is to be named the UK’s best. Each week, they tackle a different skill, the difficulty of which increases as the competition unfolds. Cookbook writer Mary Berry an artisanal baker Paul Hollywood serve as judges for the resulting cakes, breads, pastries and desserts.

TUESDAY, JAN. 6, 10 P.M.
Frontline
Gunned Down: The Power of the NRA
Frontline investigates how the NRA uses its political power to stop gun regulation in America. With first-hand accounts of school killings in Newtown and Columbine and the shooting of Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, the show examines why, despite the national trauma over gun violence, Washington hasn’t acted.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7, 11 P.M.
Healing ADD
With Daniel Amen, MD and Tana Amen, RN
ADD or ADHD is a national health crisis that continues to grow — yet it remains one of the most misunderstood and incorrectly treated illnesses today. Psychiatrist Daniel Amen and his wife nurse Tana Amen explain seven types of ADD based on extensive brain imaging research.

THURSDAY, JAN. 8, 9 P.M.
Healing ADD
With Daniel Amen, MD and Tana Amen, RN
ADD or ADHD is a national health crisis that continues to grow — yet it remains one of the most misunderstood and incorrectly treated illnesses today. Psychiatrist Daniel Amen and his wife nurse Tana Amen explain seven types of ADD based on extensive brain imaging research.

FRIDAY, JAN. 9, 9 P.M.
Frontline
Downton Abbey Rediscovered
This is the 50th anniversary of the legendary guitarist’s professional career. A working-class prime minister is elected and old attitudes start to change. Robert is snubbed by the village. Baxter tells all, and Edith plays with fire.

SATURDAY, JAN. 10, 10:30 P.M.
Father Brown
SUNDAY, JAN. 11, 11 P.M.
ADD or ADHD is a national health crisis that continues to grow — yet it remains one of the most misunderstood and incorrectly treated illnesses today. Psychiatrist Daniel Amen and his wife nurse Tana Amen explain seven types of ADD based on extensive brain imaging research.

MONDAY, JAN. 12, 9 P.M.
ADD or ADHD is a national health crisis that continues to grow — yet it remains one of the most misunderstood and incorrectly treated illnesses today. Psychiatrist Daniel Amen and his wife nurse Tana Amen explain seven types of ADD based on extensive brain imaging research.

TUESDAY, JAN. 13, 10 P.M.
The Great British Baking Show
Follow amateur bakers whose goal is to be named the UK’s best. Each week, they tackle a different skill, the difficulty of which increases as the competition unfolds. Cookbook writer Mary Berry an artisanal baker Paul Hollywood serve as judges for the resulting cakes, breads, pastries and desserts.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14, 11 P.M.
ADD or ADHD is a national health crisis that continues to grow — yet it remains one of the most misunderstood and incorrectly treated illnesses today. Psychiatrist Daniel Amen and his wife nurse Tana Amen explain seven types of ADD based on extensive brain imaging research.

THURSDAY, JAN. 15, 12 A.M.
ADD or ADHD is a national health crisis that continues to grow — yet it remains one of the most misunderstood and incorrectly treated illnesses today. Psychiatrist Daniel Amen and his wife nurse Tana Amen explain seven types of ADD based on extensive brain imaging research.

FRIDAY, JAN. 16, 12 A.M.
ADD or ADHD is a national health crisis that continues to grow — yet it remains one of the most misunderstood and incorrectly treated illnesses today. Psychiatrist Daniel Amen and his wife nurse Tana Amen explain seven types of ADD based on extensive brain imaging research.

SATURDAY, JAN. 17, 12 A.M.
ADD or ADHD is a national health crisis that continues to grow — yet it remains one of the most misunderstood and incorrectly treated illnesses today. Psychiatrist Daniel Amen and his wife nurse Tana Amen explain seven types of ADD based on extensive brain imaging research.

SUNDAY, JAN. 18, 12 A.M.
ADD or ADHD is a national health crisis that continues to grow — yet it remains one of the most misunderstood and incorrectly treated illnesses today. Psychiatrist Daniel Amen and his wife nurse Tana Amen explain seven types of ADD based on extensive brain imaging research.
Naples Botanical Garden celebrates the Elenor and Nicholas Chabraka Visitor Center with cocktails, dinner and dancing under the stars Thursday, Jan. 8. Tickets start at $300. Call 643-7275 or visit naplesgarden.org.

Harmon-Meek Gallery hosts the second annual Visionaries of the Visual Arts dinner and awards ceremony Tuesday evening. Jan. 13, at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club. Three individuals will be recognized for their contributions to the visual arts in Southwest Florida. Andy Lowe of Suffield Academy in Connecticut will be the keynote speaker. Honorary chair of the evening is Joan Loos; co-chairs are Kristine Meek and Julianne Meek. The event begins at 6:30, with dinner served at 8. Tickets are $375, with all proceeds benefiting art programs for children and at-risk youth through the Harmon-Meek Gallery Fund at the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. Mail checks made payable to the Southwest Florida Community Foundation to Harmon-Meek Gallery, 599 Ninth St. N., Suite 309, Naples, FL 34102. For more information, call 261-2637.

The Fire & Ice gala to benefit the Guadalupian Center of Immokalee takes place Wednesday, Jan. 14, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. Tickets for the evening of dinner, dancing and a live auction are $500. Sponsorships are available. Call 657-7711 or visit guadalupiancenter.org.

The David Lawrence Center hosts “Signatures of Greece: An Elegant Evening at the Parthenon” Saturday, Jan. 17, at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort. Honorary co-chairs are Marissa, Burt and Jay Harrison. Co-chairs are Caryn Buechel, Renae Burgess and Jenny Haire. Tickets are $500, $1,000, $5,000 VIP patrons, and $10,000 for a premier sponsor table of 10. For sponsorship information, please reserve a ticket, call Paige Simpson at 304-3505.

A luncheon to benefit Youth Haven is set for Wednesday, Jan. 28, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. Judge Glennda Hatchett of TV’s “Judge Hatchett” the national spokesperson for Court-Appointed Special Advocates, will be the guest speaker. CASA volunteers train to represent abused and neglected children. Honorary luncheon chairs are Jim and Liz Jesse; event chairs are Brenda O’Connor and Stacey Herring. Tickets are $300. Major sponsors include Arthrex, Sharon and Dolph von Arx, Cruising with the Chefs/ Lisa and Rodney George and Jenny and Kermit Sutton. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, call Shelly Long at 687-555 or email shellylong@youthehaven.net.

Champions For Learning hosts its inaugural Night of Champions in celebration of its 25th year and to honor community leaders who are connecting Collier County students to their future from 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. For information about tickets and sponsorship tables, call Marylee Tirrell at 643-4755 or email mtirrell@championsforlearning.org.

Political analyst, journalist, actor, producer, writer and MSNBC news program commentator Lawrence O’Donnell will lend his voice in support of women’s rights on behalf of Planned Parenthood of Collier County at the organization’s 11th annual Choice Affair the evening of Friday, Jan. 30, at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. The event begins at 6 p.m. at the Naples Beach & Golf Club, followed by dinner and the program at 7 p.m.

Tickets range from $350 per person to $15,000 for a premium table for 12, including six seats at the Morning After Brunch, with two of those seats at Mr. O’Donnell’s brunch table. For tickets or more information, call Shannon Starr at 262-4933, ext. 100.

Naples Art Association hosts its inaugural Night of Champions in celebration of dinner, dancing and a live auction at the Meek Gallery, 599 Ninth St. N., Suite 309, Naples, FL 34102. For more information, call 643-0395.

Fun Time Early Childhood Academy holds its annual gala Friday, Feb. 6, at the Naples Beach & Golf Club. “Set Sail for Fun Time” is the evening’s theme, and honorary “captains” are Chris and Bill Barnett. For information about tickets and sponsorship opportunities, call 261-8284.

The inaugural For the Love of Art gala to benefit the Naples Art Association is set for Saturday, Feb. 7, at Grey Oaks Country Club. The evening will include presentation of three new awards: the Gulfshore Life Emerging Art Leader Award for a new and/or young artist or arts leader in the community; the Hibbard Award for an individual who has shown visionary leadership and a commitment to advancing and enriching the arts in the community; and the Impact Award for a business or business professional who has demonstrated significant leadership in the arts and culture of the community, through involvement or support of, innovative programs and creative partnerships.

For information about sponsorships, email Maureen.christensen@naplesart.org. For tickets, email Chelsea.Ziton@NaplesArt.org or visit naplesart.org.

The Gulfshore Playhouse holds its fifth annual Bubbles, Baubles and Broadway gala Monday evening, March 9, at The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. Event chairs are Naomi Buck, David Drobis and Adriya Starkey. Scott Robertson will serve as auctioneer, and entertainment will be provided by a Tony Award-winning actor. Tickets are $300 for general admission and $500 for VIPs. For more information, visit gulfshoreplayhouse.org.

The inaugural Kind Mariners Ball to benefit the Freedom Waters Foundation takes place the evening of Saturday, March 7, at the Naples Sailing & Yacht Club. Tickets are $300. For more information, call Mike Donahue at (603) 250-3200, email info@kindmarinersball.org or visit kindmarinersball.com.

Gulfshore Playhouse holds its fifth annual Bubbles, Baubles and Broadway gala Monday evening, March 9, at The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. Event chairs are Naomi Buck, David Drobis and Adriya Starkey. Scott Robertson will serve as auctioneer, and entertainment will be provided by a Tony Award-winning actor. Tickets are $300 for general admission and $500 for VIPs. For more information, visit gulfshoreplayhouse.org.

The Naples Zoo hosts its annual Gala Magic Under the Stars, featuring the Zoo’s animal technicians as auctioneer, and entertainment will be provided by a Tony Award-winning actor. Tickets are $300 for general admission and $500 for VIPs. For more information, visit napleszoo.org.

Drug Free Collier holds its seventh annual fundraising luncheon Thursday, March 5, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. The event begins at 6 p.m. For more information, call 377-0935 or emailinfo@drugfreecollier.org.

Hope for Haiti holds its 25th anniversary gala, “Passport to the Heart,” Saturday, March 7. Call the development office at 434-7883, ext. 4, for more information.

The third annual “Big Impressions by Little Artists” to benefit Collier Child Care Resources is set for 6-9 p.m. Friday, March 27, at The von Liebig Art Center. The fundraiser will feature an auction with self-portraits and sculptures created by the children who attend the NCEF Early Childhood Development Center that is operated by CCCR at Florida Southwest State College-Collier Campus. CCCR also operates two teen parent programs at Immokalee and Golden Gate high schools.

The evening is hosted by the art center and the CCCR Business 100, a group of local businesses that support CCCR’s mission by providing scholarships to children of low-income working families who need help with child care and also by providing supplies and equipment for the three child care centers operated by CCCR.

Tickets to “Big Impressions by Little Artists” are $50 and include wine, hors d’oeuvres and live entertainment. For tickets or to sign up as a sponsor or volunteer, call CCCR at 643-9908.

The 2015 Magnolia Ball to benefit NCH is set for Saturday, April 11, at the private beach estate of Sandra and Alan Gerry. At kickoff breakfast took place earlier that month (see pictures on page C27), co-chairs Simon and Scott Luget announced that proceeds will be used to renovate the William and Susan Dalton Art Center Oncology Unit. Patron level tickets start at $6,000 per couple. For more information, contact Monica Biondo at nchmd.org.

Email Save the Date editor at cpierce@floridaweekly.com.
SOCIETY

Opening reception for ‘Small Works of Art’ at Harmon-Meek Gallery

Arlene Silberstein and Nancy Wallace
Don Nice, Myna and Peter vanKleeck
Les Nizin, Norine Kehila and Gail Nizin

Juliana Meek, Kristine Meek, Bill Meek, Don Nice and Barbara Meek
Joann Luster, Don Nice, Gil Burke and John Cummins

Opening reception for Bobby Goldsboro exhibit at Gallery on Fifth in Mercato

Juan Díaz and Zina Urchenko
Bobby Goldsboro, Michael Gloth and Dianne Goldsboro
Leeza Arkhangelskaya and Lloyd Costley

Leeza Arkhangelskaya, Bobby Goldsboro, Kris Miller, Chris Spear and Lindsey Miller
John Ammerman with Irina Lillja and Tatiana McNeil

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

Holiday party for the Guadalupe Center at Waterside Shops

Waterside Shops staff members Hal Kaelin, Julie Chirichella, Tom Smith and Doreen Peras

Melissa Workinger of Waterside Shops with happy party guests from the Guadalupe Center

Waterside Shops staff members Melissa Workinger and Kristine Morgan

Santa and friends

Melissa Workinger of Waterside Shops with happy party guests from the Guadalupe Center

The elf draws a crowd

Photos with Santa at the Happy Cat Thrift Shop

Melissa Roman with Santa and King Tut

Santa with Bella

Michele Woodman and Santa with Pokemon

*“Like” us on Facebook.com/NaplesFloridaWeekly to see more photos. We take more society and networking photos at area events than we can fit in the newspaper. So, if you think we missed you or one of your friends, go to www.floridaweekly.com and view the photo albums from the many events we cover. You can purchase any of the photos too. Send us your society and networking photos. Include the names of everyone in the picture. Email them to society@floridaweekly.com.*
SOCIETY

The Gift of Giving at Walmart for Friends of Foster Children of SWF

Jennifer Mercer, Madison McKenzie, Ryan Heinemeyer, Jill Tezyk and Sarah Ghannano

Nancy Goldszak helps Adryan check off names on his list

Tara Bieling with Nicole, Chloe, Dan and Lauren Bartley

Jose and his shopping buddy, Larry Lappin

Tiffany Billings and Sue Erb

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So, if you think we missed you or one of your friends, go to www.floridaweekly.com and view the photo albums from the many events we cover. You can purchase any of the photos too.

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Holly Stephens  239.261.1032

Lagasse at Mereday’s Fine Dining in Naples.

Chef Charles Mereday, left, with Chef Emeril Lagasse at Mereday’s Fine Dining in Naples.

“We view the ‘Emeril’s Florida’ sponsorship as a solid tourism marketing investment since Florida’s Paradise Coast has been steadily rising in awareness globally as a sought-after dining destination,” says Collier County’s tourism executive Jack Wert. “The fast-growing list of chef-driven restaurants continue to add to the steady increase in vacation visits to our area.”

The 30-minute show is divided into four segments, starting with Chef Lagasse’s conversation with Chef Ber- tullia about his Italian restaurant, his relatives who work on his culinary team and the local organic produce he uses for his signature dishes. The next stop is Mereday’s Fine Dining, where Chef Lagasse talks with Chef Mereday about Naples’ dining scene and enjoys a few of his eponymous restaurant’s freshly made specialties. The host’s final desti- nation is Pincher’s Crab Shack, where Mr. Phelan explains how he built a fishing and restaurant empire in Florida after Texas’ oil industry went bust in the late 1980s.

Airdates on the Cooking Channel are Thursday, Jan. 5 ($69); Four Desserts Everyone Should Know: Tuesday, Jan. 6 ($69); Afternoon Tea Party: Sunday, Jan. 4 ($69); Classic Dishes of Spain: Monday, Jan. 5 ($69); Fast Desserts Every Cook Should Know: Tuesday, Jan. 6 ($69); Fabulous Dinners: Tuesday, Jan. 6; Delicious Vegetarian Cooking: Tuesday, Jan. 6 ($69); Slow or Snobbish: Monday, Jan. 5 ($69); Make Ahead Meals Featuring Pho: Friday, Jan. 2 ($60); Every Cook Should Know: Tuesday, Jan. 5 ($69); Secrets of Thai Cooking: Monday, Jan. 5 ($69); Classic Dishes of Spain: Monday, Jan. 5 ($69); Artisan Bread Basics: Sunday, Jan. 4 ($60); Afternoon Tea Party: Sunday, Jan. 4 ($60); Classic Dishes of Spain: Monday, Jan. 5 ($69); Fast Desserts Every Cook Should Know: Tuesday, Jan. 6 ($69); Fas Fabulous Dinners: Tuesday, Jan. 6; Delicious Vegetarian Cooking: Tuesday, Jan. 5; Afternoon Tea Party: Sunday, Jan. 4 ($60).

The Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention and Visitors Bureau and VISIT FLORIDA sponsored the episode.

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The Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention and Visitors Bureau and VISIT FLORIDA sponsored the episode.

Those of us anxious to see Naples get more widespread recognition of its foodie cred are happy to learn that some of our culinary super stars will be featured on “Emeril’s Florida” in Febru- ary. The esteemed celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse has filmed segments with chefs Vincenzo Bertullia of Osteria Tullia and Charles Mereday of Mereday’s Fine Dining.

The Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention and Visitors Bureau and VISIT FLORIDA sponsored the episode.

Take note

Culinary Concepts has named Charlie Palmer the new general manager at Pazzo Cucina Italiana on Fifth Avenue South. Mr. Palmer previously served as general manager of the restaur- ant group’s Chops City Grill in Bonita Springs. He is a member of the Society of Wine Educators and the founder of winescience.net and nowinesnob.org.

“My philosophy about wine educa- tion is that it should always be participa- tory, which as much hands-on learning as possible,” he says. “It must always be fun and interesting — never boring, slow or snobbish.”

Henning’s Chicago Kitchen opened last month, offering deep-dish pizza with innovative flavors that include chicken tikka masala and Korean bris- ket with Asian slaw. The restaurant also provides starters, pastries, salads and sandwiches. It’s at 6060 Collier Blvd. in East Naples. Call 732-4312 or visit hen- ningschicakitchen.com.

Mereday’s Brasserie at Coconut Point is now open for lunch from noon to 4 p.m. daily. 2360 Village Shops Way, Estero. 949-9466 or meredaysbrasserie.com.

Want to beef up your skills in the kitchen? Here are some cooking classes on the front burner.

The Local, 5323 Airport Pulling Road; 598-332% or thelocalnaples.com – Healthy Cooking Ideas to Stick with Resolutions: Saturday, Jan. 3 ($50)

The Good Life of Naples, 2355 Vanderbilt Beach Road; 514-4663 or goodlifeinnaples.com – Vietnamese Cooking: Featuring Pho, Friday, Jan. 2 ($60); French Country Cooking: Wednesday, Jan. 7 ($60); Southern Cooking: Friday, Jan. 9 ($60)

Sur la Table, Mercato; 598-3856 or surtable.com – Healthy, Flavorful Cooking: Friday, Jan. 2 ($69); Chef’s Table Favorites: Friday, Jan. 2 ($69); Artisan Bread Basics: Sunday, Jan. 4 ($60); Afternoon Tea Party: Sunday, Jan. 4 ($60); Classic Dishes of Spain: Monday, Jan. 5 ($69); Secrets of Thai Cook- ing: Monday, Jan. 5 ($69); Fast Desserts Every Cook Should Know: Tuesday, Jan. 6 ($69); Fabulous Dinners: Tuesday, Jan. 6; Delicious Vegetarian Cooking: Wednesday, Jan. 7 ($69); Make Ahead Recipes from Ina Garten: Wednesday, Jan. 7 ($69).

—— Email cuisine news to Lindsey Nesmith at Inesmith@floridaweekly.com.
The dish: Kobe (Wagyu) burger

The price: $8 for the ½-pounder, $6.50 for the 1/3-pounder, $12 for the 1-pounder

The place: Jimmy P's Butcher Shop & Deli, in Moorings Plaza, 1833 Tamiami Trail N.

The hours: Weekdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., weekends 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (grill shuts down 30 minutes before closing).

The full menu: jimmypsbutchershop.com

The details: Attention, vegans and vegetarians: This is not the dish you’re looking for. Nor is Jimmy P’s the deli (or butcher shop) you seek. Jimmy P’s is a paean to animal proteins. Every inch of refrigerated case, every shelf of cooler and freezer and every single deli table is covered in meat. We saw pedigreed beef, pork and chicken alongside ostrich and kangaroo. Primal cuts of meat, some too big to carry, others too dear to pay for (or invest in).

Lunch for us was the half-pound Kobe (Wagyu) burger. In keeping with Jimmy P’s all-meat decor and menu, this was one of the beefiest-tasting burgers we’ve ever had. Perfectly cooked, intensely flavorful and just as juicy as we’d hoped. This burger is a dish we plan to repeat, soon.

One more thing: For an additional $2.50, you can add fries, onion rings or chips plus a soda if you want. Trust us, you want to.

— Cindy Pierce
cpierce@floridaweekly.com
PAST REPASTS

Here are some capsule summaries of previous restaurant reviews:

- **The Counter Custom Built Burgers**, 9100 Strada Place, Mercato, Naples; 566-0614
  
  If it’s burgers, fries and sodas the kids want, here’s a place where everyone will feel happy about their meal. The Counter serves Angus beef from humanely raised cows free of hormones and antibiotics. (For select vegan, bison, turkey or chicken burgers.) Then choose from a dozen cheeses, 32 toppings, 23 sauces, six buns (one is gluten free) or a salad. Milkshakes in regular or adult versions (with a shot of your favorite alcoholic beverage). I enjoyed a turkey burger with Gruyere, cole slaw, grilled pineapple, roasted corn and black bean salsa, sautéed onions and ginger soy glaze on a wheat bun. In my surprise, the whole thing even held together.

- **FUSE Global Cuisine**, 2500 Tamiami Trail N., Naples; 456-4585
  
  Fried duck mac and cheese, hog wings (braised pork fore shanks fried and tossed with chili garlic sauce, sesame seeds and green onions), golden beet salad, and micro greens are but a few of the ways to start off a meal at this intriguing spot opened in November by chef/owner Greg Scarlato, formerly of Angelina’s and his fiancee/business partner Monica Czechowska. Entree options offer similarly imaginative — but not over-the-top — combinations, such as Colorado lamb chops with tart cherry gastrique. Guava bread pudding with fresh strawberries made a fine end to the meal. Service was gracious, the ambiance soothing. Full bar.

- **Komoono, 3300 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs; 946-4663**
  
  Continuing the trend of restaurants offering multiple cuisines, Komoono serves the unusual combination of Japanese, Thai and ... Peruvian. The menu goes sald with it! This can be a good thing for parties with a diverse range of tastes and preferences. But aside from a very nicely executed ceviche, none of the dishes particularly outshine the others. You can reasonably expect that whichever ethnic direction you take, Komoono will not disappoint. The ceviche was a tangle of tender squid, shrimp and fish laced with lemon and lime juice and zest, red onion slivers and cilantro plated with traditional accompaniments of sweet potato slices and crispy vegetables.

- **The Local, 5323 Airport-Pulling Road, Naples; 596-3276**
  
  This is a restaurant whose name aptly describes its mission: serving as much farm- and sea-to-table food as can be procured from area farms and local waters. It’s run by Jeff Mitchell, an alum of the Culinary Institute of America. The menu is creative, the setting unfussy and the staff friendly and accommodating. Local items are boldfaced on the menu, which changes as availability does. Clam flatbread, featuring Pine Island clams, local tomatoes and herbs on a thin, yeasty crust, was a great starter. So was the snapper ceviche, with locally grown serrano peppers, avocado, red onion, cilantro, golden grape tomatoes and citrus. Grilled Gulf-caught cobia with tomato confit and grilled red cabbage were both simply but expertly prepared. Sides of calabaza squash, crunchy chard and smashed potatoes were all cooked perfectly. For dessert: two mini-sized treats, Key lime panna cotta and bread pudding, both just right. Beer and wine served.

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Generation Gap

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Gypsy Native

Thursday, Jan. 1, 6-9 p.m

Liam Wayne Duo

Friday, Jan. 2, 7-10 p.m

Ramos Brothers Band

Visit www.agavenaples.com for upcoming entertainment schedule.
Have a look at local cookbooks to spice up your new year

BY LINDSEY NESMITH
lnesmith@floridaweekly.com

This new year, many of us are making resolutions to increase our culinary knowledge. Whether you'd like to amp up the flavor, wow family and friends or improve your diet, we suggest you start close to home with books from Naples' favored chefs and food writers. Some of these books are local classics, some are best-sellers and some are highly anticipated entries from newcomers on the local food scene; all of them will stand you in good stead when you start branching out in your own kitchen.

■ “Sea Salt”
By Fabrizio Aielli
Home cooks who hope to scale the heights of haute cuisine will be well served by “Sea Salt,” Chef Aielli's book that includes recipes from his downtown restaurant of the same name. Need to win friends and influence people? Untitled by molecular gastronomy and dry ice? Tackle the “Kumamoto Oysters Unfazed by molecular gastronomy and dry ice” Tackle the “Kumamoto Oysters” and savor the astonished expressions on your guests' faces.

The book was co-authored by Sanibel writer Chelle Koster Walton and includes a foreword by Coleman Andrews, former editor of Saveur magazine and current editor-in-chief of The Daily Meal. Chef Aielli accompanies each recipe with an explanation of the dish's origin. It's $35 at Sea Salt, Barbatella, amazon.com and select retailers.

■ “Artistry in Chocolate: A Story of Love”
By Norman Love
Do you dream of chocolate? Marvel at the artistry required to create beautiful premium truffles? Pick up Mr. Love's new coffee table book, “Artistry in Chocolate: A Story of Love,” if you want visions of cherry cordial truffles dancing in your head. It starts with chapters explaining Mr. Love's background, his move to Florida, and his philosophies on confections and business. Then there are photos of dozens of them — of the master confectioner's creations. Even if you aren't necessarily crazy about sweets, this book is a feast for the eyes and features some phenomenal work in food photography. It's $40 at Norman Love Confections salons in Naples and Fort Myers, and $30 at normanloveconfections.com.

■ “When Peacocks Were Roasted and Mullet Was Fried”
By Doris Reynolds
Mrs. Reynolds, a longtime Naples Daily News food columnist and far longer Naples resident, published what has become a local classic among cookbooks in 1992. More of a culinary history of Naples than a cookbook, “When Peacocks Were Roasted and Mullet Was Fried” gives readers a better understanding of Naples' more humble origins and characters. The recipes reflect the height of haute cuisine will be well served when you start branching out in your own kitchen.

■ “The Ambrosia Kitchen Cookbook”
By Tricia Otte
Locally focused cookbooks are probably already familiar with Ms. Otte’s line of prepared vegan dishes; but for those readers who are looking for tasty ways to lighten up their diet and eliminate animal products at the same time, her cookbook “The Ambrosia Kitchen Cookbook” is a great way to dip a toe into vegan cuisine. Ms. Otte and have long craved items like her “Crabby” Cakes, Fennel-scented Hummus and Surprise Cookies and had to trek down to Food & Thought or Oakes Market for a taste, but now they can make their favorites at home. Current or aspiring vegans can purchase her book for $19.95 at Food & Thought or amazon.com.

■ “Alexander's Restaurant”
By Alexander Bernard
Chef Bernard's eponymous establishment has stood formidable along U.S. 41 for what seems like forever, but has really only been since 1994. Shining in New American and Continental cuisine, Chef Bernard did fans a favor in 2008 by publishing some of his standards and fan favorites in this volume. It provides readers with some excellent dishes that would be highly appropriate for entertaining or the holidays — dishes such as herb-crusted rack of lamb and house-made crostini, for example. Buy a copy for $32 at the restaurant, 4077 Tamiami Trail N.

■ “Grain Brain”
By Dr. David Perlmutter
The Naples neurologist has made quite a name for himself and climbed to the top of several best-seller lists, including those of the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and USA Today, with his book “Grain Brain,” which exposes the harm carbohydrates can inflict on brain health. Dr. Perlmutter walks readers through the damage carbs do to brain function and how to improve their diet to stave off a whole host of neurological ailments, including dementia, ADHD, chronic headaches and more. $27 at major bookstores.

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