Minimum wage is $8.05 per hour.

Hundreds of thousands struggle just to ...

MAKE a LIVING

BY EVAN WILLIAMS
evwilliams@floridaweekly.com

ERICA VANDERGAART, 24, is a single mother who worked at a McDonald’s for three years. She ended up making $8.75 per hour, even with a childcare subsidy for her 2-year-old son Chase and food stamps, not enough to pay for an apartment or a car.

John Hollomon, 59, is happy to work for Culver’s, a burger and custard chain, after filling out 87 applications elsewhere. But spending all day catching busses to work part-time hours at less than $9 per hour, he can’t save up for a security deposit to...

SEE LIVING, A8

Just like snowbirds, wildflowers love spring in Southwest Florida

BY LINDSEY NESMITH
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When Ponce de Leon spotted it on Palm Sunday 1513, he dubbed the land “la Florida” — or “land in bloom” — perhaps in reaction to the profusion of springtime blossoms that our state is increasingly known for. We are far removed now from the time when wildflowers could run rampant through the swamps and plains, but with a little effort and research, people in search of native consistently, rural areas and trails have a variety of blooming flowers, says Lisa Roberts, executive director of the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Here in Southwest Florida, the first to bloom, usually by late February or early March, is Canadian toadflax. “It just paints fields blue,” she says. “It’s a diminutive little flower, but when it blooms en masse it’s quite a sight.”

Naturalist and local wildflower expert...

SEE BLOOMS, A28

Minimum wage is $8.05 per hour.
COMMENTARY

Consider my influence

Roger Williams
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For years, one of the great tragedies in American life has lingered just out of sight or the sound of public discourse: the cloistered callousness of high-level corporate managers, along with shareholders, who live much more prosperous lives than their workers — people who barely get by in life by making the managers lots of money.

This is not a reality unique to the political left or right, or to Democrats or Republicans. And it has little to do with talent, or with any meritocracy that allows hard work and brains to be amply rewarded, as they should be.

Instead, it comes down to this: Such managers are willingly, blithely inhumane simply because they can legally be so. They are frequently appauled for it. Garbed in contemporary and fashionable notions of justifiable ambition, they behave like Ebenezer Scrooge, the famously callous business owner in the Charles Dickens story, “A Christmas Carol.”

Such men and women always justify their behavior by claiming a market domino effect: that to do otherwise would threaten the bottom line, and threatening the bottom line could mean job loss, and job loss would mean the end of society as we know it. And it has little to do with talent, or with any meritocracy that allows hard work and brains to be amply rewarded, as they should be.

But Scrooge was changed by experience, and every so often that happens to one of these American knuckleheads, too. When it does, everybody standing nearby understands what’s at stake.

The most recent high-profile example is Mark Bertolini, the chairman and CEO at Aetna, based in Hartford, Conn., a company with 50,000 employees, $58 billion in annual revenue and 21.5 million members.

Mr. Bertolini suffered a devastating ski injury a few years ago (may they all, if it gets results like his). Expected to die, he did not — he hung on, he fought his way back physically and mentally, he practiced yoga and meditation, and he became a changed man, as The New York Times pointed out in a story last week.

“Here we are a Fortune 50 company, and we’re about to put these (workers) into poverty, and I just didn’t think it was fair,” he explained to a gathering of Swiss business leaders last month, when the company boosted its minimum wage to $16 an hour.

As he told the Times, speaking about the value of meditation in a eerie but welcome echo of the reformed Scrooge, “It’s made me question what I do and how I look at the world. It’s made me consider my influence and how I treat people.”

And that’s what missing in American corporate leadership as a whole: the ability on the part of disciplined, capable, tough-minded, well-educated, well-dressed and well-fed individuals to “consider my influence and how I treat people.”

Many of those benefiting from the pay jump at Aetna are single mothers, Mr. Bertolini noted. Can’t you imagine some of those women saying with coy gratitude, “So, Mr. B, you noticed?”

Notice this, too: There are no harder-working Americans than single moms or dads holding down jobs and households. And in Florida, 122,000 of those single parents — mostly women — make less than $10.10 an hour.

While federal and some state governments are wrestling these days with the notion of boosting minimum wages in varying degrees, Walmart stepped out and did it recently before being told to do it by the government — to at least $9 an hour. Some other sizeable companies may be following suit, in that pay range.

It might be unpopular to say so, but let me say so anyway: That’s pitiful. It’s miserly. It’s not enough, not even close to enough.

The cost to live independently with no extras — to live without food stamps, rent assistance, child-care subsidies, health insurance aid or any other taxpayer-support ed largesse — varies in communities and states, but it’s always a lot more than $9 an hour, unless you’re shooting your own meat in Montana or Alaska or the Fake hatchee Strand or the night dumpsters in the Walmart parking lot.

Even with no money for savings, for emergencies, for entertainment, and with no consideration of anything less than a 40-hour week, $9 or $10 just plain won’t cut it, for an individual and certainly not for a parent with one child or more — unless welfare is an option.

So what does this come down to? A bunch of damn socialists who want the government to pay for all those lazy bums and let them demand more money from their betters by forming trade unions while they call in sick lay around eating Twinkies and buying Lincoln? Rick McAllister, CEO of the Florida Retail Federation, might think so. Mr. McAllister put it this way in the front-page story: “A living wage, or those types of union types are all about socialism. Regardless of their effort, regardless of what people do, (even supposed) to provide for them. Well, that’s not the way this country operates.”

In his view — and that of many corporate leaders, the country doesn’t operate this way, either: that millions of hard-working, smart, loyal men and women have to be paid enough by their wealthy bosses to live, so taxpayers don’t have to cover them.
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TV meteorologists say it loud and clear: climate change is here

President Barack Obama issued the third veto in his more than six years in office, rejecting S.3 (Senate Bill One), the “Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act.” This was the new congressional Republican majority’s first bill this year, attempting to force the construction of a pipeline designed to carry Canadian tar sands oil to U.S. ports in Texas for export. A broad international coalition has been fighting the project for years. Climate scientist James Hansen, the former head of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, wrote in The Nation (April 29, 2013): “Human influence on the climate is real, it is a planetary threat, and there is plenty we can do about it.” The debate over climate change is real. The U.N.’s Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a report, written by 800 scientists from 80 countries, that summarized the findings of more than 3,000 peer-reviewed scientific papers and concluded: “Human influence on the climate system is clear; the more we disrupt our climate, the more we risk severe, costly and irreversible changes; and we have the means to limit climate change and build a more prosperous, sustainable future.” Compare that with the handful of scientists who deny the reality of climate change. One champion among them, Wei-Hock “Willie” Soon of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, received $1.2 million from fossil-fuel interests, including oil baron Charles Koch, according to an investigation conducted by Greenpeace and the Climate Investigations Center. Dr. Soon failed to report these contributions, and is now being investigated by the Smithsonian for possible ethical violations.

Among those for whom the science is clear and the debate settled: the Penta- gon. Obama administration, as well as under President Bush before him, the Department of Defense has declared climate change as a national security threat. Likewise, large insurance companies carefully track the number of billion-dollar climate disasters that occur every year, since these catastrophes impact their bottom line. Just when the public needs increased reporting on these issues, some of the largest news organizations are scaling back their climate reporting. Last October, NPR reduced its staff of four. But if Giuliani had stood up before that room of conservatives and said that liberals were “soothering” Obama, he would have been on unsailable ground, and had the data to prove it. ■

— Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Opinion
Yes, liberals are less patriotic

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani instantly became the most notorious man in America when he said at a conservative dinner in Manhattan that President Barack Obama doesn’t love America.

He gamely tried to defend the remark for a few days before issuing a semi-mea culpa in The Wall Street Journal, regretting his “bluntness” and saying that he “didn’t intend to question President Obama’s motives or the content of his heart.”

But that was probably the inevitable end-point once the words came out of his mouth, since it is an unwritten rule of American public life that only liberals are allowed to call their adversaries “un-American.” Of course, he didn’t mean it. Giuliani’s boast about his own patriotism is a cheap-shot, since they don’t love their country in their own way, but their love is not reflected in old-fashioned pride in country.

A Pew Research Center survey last year found that 46 percent of “steadfast conservatives” believed that the U.S. stands too close to “solid liberals” believed the same. Seventy-two percent of steadfast conservatives said they often feel proud to be an American; only 40 percent of solid liberals said they do.

Giuliani headlined its write-up of a “Solidly Red” One. “Rudy Giuliani isn’t Nancy Pelosi or Harry Reid, who have both unboxed the “un-American” bomb on conservative talk radio about any risk of getting hounded from polite society.

The reaction to Giuliani’s comment was so harsh, in part because he referred to Obama’s upbringing. This was taken as a sign that he was “othering” Obama, or playing to dark fears about the president’s past. Cue the wailing and gnashing of teeth.

But no “othering” is necessary. To be more patriotic than the average American is, as a matter of fact, a standard characteristic of the typical American liberal. The latest data are clear: the patriotism differential between the right and the left. Which doesn’t mean that liberals have necessarily changed their own fashion, but their love is not reflected in old-fashioned pride in country.

— Amy Goodman is the host of Democracy Now!, a daily international news and talk radio show produced by Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAR). The program airs on more than 1,200 stations in North America. She is the co-author of “The Silenced Major- ity,” a New York Times best-seller.
Named One of the Top 50 Cardiovascular Hospitals in the Nation for 2014.
One sad Naples family is living one of my many parenting nightmares: Having mistakenly thought their newly adult teenager could be trusted at home alone through the weekend, they came home to find not only roughly $88,000 in nickels (more on that shortly) removed from the house, but also two firearms.

Apparently, the boy (man?) had a house party, during which a guest or guests rifled through his parents’ private belongings and found their collection of nickels and licensed guns. Somehow, these people were able to remove 183 boxes of nickels from the house during a party of about 40 people.

Let me say that again: The thieves picked up 183 boxes of nickels, each weighing about 22 pounds and the size of a shoebox, and walked them out of a house full of teenagers. That’s almost two tons of coins removed from the party.

They also took a pistol, a shotgun and ammunition. I hope the parents are relieved the kids were too dense (or drunk) to notice the house was being robbed.

The more I think about this, the more I realize it must have been a pretty large operation. I’m pretty sure I couldn’t fit that many boxes into the back of my SUV, so who knows how many people were involved.

And how does one cash in that many nickels anyway? I’m not sure why a person would collect them in the first place, considering the melt value of $100 in nickels is only $100.66, but that’s the victims’ business. I also wonder why anyone would want to steal them. Surely, it’s not worth the effort to steal and store them if the thieves intend to go to their local Coinstar to convert the haul.

I’m trying to imagine the customer service clerks at Publix when they realize they’re going to be cleaned out of thousands of dollars thanks to that damned machine.

After some quick Googling, I learned that nickel hoarding is a thing. So maybe that’s what they thieves are up to; they just didn’t have the principal themselves to invest. They’ll be sitting on it until the zombie apocalypse or the day Congress is full up with crazies and decides to finally push the red button.

Because I’ve been stewing about this crazy case for more than a week, I’ve come up with what might be some more useful investments for this family, now they know the capabilities of the boy guarding the castle.

A nanny for your teenager. And you’d better be prepared to pay her in the six figures if these are the antics she’s hired to thwart.

A moat and drawbridge. Throw in some man-eating alligators and your stash will be safe from the dozens of trips required to transport it out of the house.

A safe deposit box. A cheap and easy method of keeping valuables away from your half-witted teenager.

Military school. The boy is probably close to graduation, I’m thinking, and paying for half of his final semester would totally be worth it.

The Collier County Sheriff’s Office hasn’t made any arrests, and obviously local banks and grocery stores are on the lookout for stupid criminals trying to redeem those nickels.

But in the meantime, if your date brings a bank box to a fancy restaurant or your own kid won’t tell you why he constantly needs rides to the bank, know that you could be onto solving the case of the dumbest heist in Collier County history.

— Lindsey Nesmith is practically allergic to small change. She’d rather light her closet on fire than store 2 tons of coins in her house.

For what it’s worth ...
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- **FAILURE** to provide medically-related social services to help each resident achieve the highest possible quality of life. [Cited on 11/07/2013]
- **FAILURE** to make sure that the nursing home area is free from accident hazards and risks and provides supervision to prevent avoidable accidents. [Cited on 9/28/2012 and again on 10/09/2014]
- **FAILURE** to provide necessary care and services to maintain the highest well being of each resident. [Cited on 9/28/2012 and again on 10/09/2014]
- **FAILURE** to provide medically-related social services to help each resident achieve the highest possible quality of life. [Cited on 11/07/2013]
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- **FAILURE** to provide medically-related social services to help each resident achieve the highest possible quality of life. [Cited on 6/06/2013]

*To view the full inspection results, the scope and severity of these deficiencies, additional surveys and the facility's plans of correction, go to http://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/search.html#.

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move out of the men's shelter where he lives in Fort Myers. "Then I could have my daughter with me and help her with homework," he said.

Ellen Hemrick works with disabled children in Naples as a speech language pathologist. Some of her patients' parents who work low-income food service jobs with unpredictable hours miss appointments and just give up.

"They're constantly being called into work and sent home from work early and messing up their timing with buses and things like that," she said. Their stories highlight the struggles of at least a million low-wage Florida workers and a growing movement to pay them a living wage at regular, full-time hours. Workers' advocates are asking for an increase in the minimum wage in 2016 at federal and state levels of between $10.15 and $15 per hour or more depending on the location. They are also calling for businesses to pay employees a salary that, at least, covers basic necessities.

Earl Stewart Toyota in Palm Beach County, C1 Bank in Southwest Florida and other businesses have taken their own initiative, using the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator to set baseline pay at their companies, in C1's case $14 per hour for starting tellers.

"I don't want the government telling me what to pay my employees," Mr. Stewart said. "I believe in free enterprise and business people should make their own decisions." The incomes of Florida's lowest paid workers have remained largely stagnant for decades, shows data collected by the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal Washington D.C. research group. In addition, this group of working poor grew during the Great Recession, in which lower income jobs disproportionately replaced middle income and higher wage jobs, especially in Florida's service sector.

Here, Florida Weekly takes a look at the life of the low-wage worker — not the retiree looking to supplement his or her savings, or the high school student pocketing weekend spending cash — but workers like single mother Erica and her son Chase who grow up and often raising a family, on the lowest end of the pay scale.

What is a living wage?

MIT's Living Wage Calculator defines a "living wage" as one that meets a person's or family's basic needs with no public assistance or extras. The dollar amount depends on where you live.

The MIT Calculator found a living wage for a single adult with one child is $23.85 in Palm Beach County. By comparison, it is $18.10 for a single adult with no kids when adjusted for inflation through 2015.

Here's how that could break down for single mother Erica and her son Chase in Punta Gorda. According to the calculator, that $23.85 is a living wage for one adult and one child in Charlotte County. Full-time work comes to a net after taxes of $8,058 per year or about $3,431 per month.

For the two of them, MIT finds their monthly expenses would come to $994 for food based on a USDA low-cost plan, $540 per month for child care, $521 for medical and insurance, $994 for a two-bedroom apartment and utilities, $662 for car upkeep, gas and insurance, and $397 for other expenses such as clothing, a telephone line, and housekeeping supplies.

Here's an example of how her budget might break down if she were making $9 per hour, more than a McDonald's employee payed her after working there for three years and equal to the new base pay that Walmart announced last month. She would net $16,486 after taxes and withholding including three federal exemptions to account for being a working single mom.

That's $1,404 per month. If her food costs for both her and Chase came to $200 per month after food stamps; she paid about $120 per month for subsidized child care; got a low-cost health plan that also provided good coverage and cut her cost to $260 (half of what MIT calculates); found a one-bedroom for $660 (based on HUD data for Florida) and about $100 per month for utilities; spent an average of $250 per month on car insurance, upkeep and gas; and had $97 for other basic expenses including a phone line she would still be $292 in the red every month.

Like the MIT Calculator, that also includes zero for a savings account, meals out, entertainment, and assumes she works 40 hours per week with no vacations.

"It's not just about being low income it's the fact that you have no flexibility," said Amy Glasmeier, Ph.D., the MIT professor who created the calculator. "If anything goes wrong, your life falls apart because you have no money to fall back on."

Ms. Vandegaart lives with her father to help make ends meet. She has also relied on her sister for help taking care of her son when she worked third shift at McDonald's. In February she quit her job there to work at an Italian restaurant where she can earn more in tips, but she'll have to rely on custom- ers since the state minimum wage for tipped employees is $5.50 per hour. She wants to move out of her dad's house and go back to school.

"It's also rough on my family," she said. "Family members, I understand they help out, but they have their life, too." Still, some say that wages reflect what an employee is worth, and is a reflection of how capitalism works. "A living wage or those types of union terms are all about socialism. Regardless of their effort, regardless of what they do, we need to provide for them," said Rick McAllister, CEO of the Florida Retail Federation. "Well, that's not the way this country operates."

The working poor

The stories of people like Ms. Vandegaart and Mr. Hollomon are also contrary to the notion that those paid the least are mostly high school kids looking for first time job experience or seniors earning extra spending money.

"If you just walk around, you see a lot of folks who are clearly part-timers," said Mr. McAllister. "They're older. They're my age looking for additional income or kids looking to buy gas for their car for the weekend."

But low-wage workers in Florida are really made up of hundreds of thousands of adults, parents, full-time employees, and many who want to work full time.

"The folks earning at the minimum wage or close to the minimum wage look nothing like the stereotype," said David Cooper, senior economist with the Economic Policy Institute. "More than a quarter are folks with children trying to raise a family."

There are 1,062,000 people who make less than $10.10 per hour in Florida, the EPI found. Most, 798,000 of them, are between age 20 and 35. They include 122,000 single parents like Erica and 175,000 married parents, as well as 398,000 single people. In addition, more than half are full-time workers, putting in at least 35 hours per week.

Mr. Hollomon is happy with his job at Culver's, but the part-time hours are keeping him from his goal of getting a place where his 11-year-old daughter can also live. About three years ago, colon cancer devastated him financially. A former successful car dealer from New Orleans, he survived cancer but became homeless for a time. He is climbing back slowly.

"I never thought I'd see the day that $20 would seem like $20,000, but it does," he said.

There is some good news for workers: the falling unemployment rate. That drives wages up more than any other factor, Mr. Cooper and others agree.

"(It is) the most powerful thing you can do to raise wages," Mr. Cooper said. "And that's true for workers at every wage level but it's particularly true for workers at lower wage levels."

Income inequality grows

The value of wages for Florida's lowest paid employees, those in the bot-
Wages go up for wealthiest; stay same for minimum wagers

More than a broad-based government mandated minimum, it shows a base amount someone could live on in each locality.

Trevor Burgess, CEO of CI Bank, headquartered in Tampa, used the MIT Calculator to decide on a minimum pay of $14 per hour for tellers. He noted that three of his employees affected by the pay increase were single mothers.

It also helped “attract and retain the very best people,” he said. “Those weren’t the reason I did it in the first place but it happened to be a nice consequence.”

Earl Stewart’s family has run car dealerships in Palm Beach County since 1937. Last summer he raised his base pay there to $11.05 per hour, at the time MIT’s calculation for a living wage for a single adult with no children.

In the short run it may “affect profitability negatively,” he said. “But in the long run, in the medium run, it’s going to have a positive effect... I used to have to really scratch to get people to come in and work, to apply. Now I get a dozen applicants whereas before I had to advertise.”

Eighteen of Mr. Stewart’s employees got a raise. Randolph Markland, who works as a valet parking cars in the service department, said the $2 bump is a boost for himself, his wife and son. Just as importantly, said Mr. Markland, 61, he works full time hours. The money helped him provide rides for his son to a trade school where he is learning to be an A/C technician.

When a raise hurts

Perversely, a raise in some cases could hurt more than help. Social service agencies warn that if hourly pay is raised too high it could cause many of their clients to be financially devastated because they could lose subsidized childcare and other benefits. Eligibility for childcare subsidy is based on 150 percent of the federal poverty level, or $23,895 for a family of two such as Erica and Chase. If she made $12.50 per hour at $26,000 per year she could lose her subsidy, which estimates show is worth around $900 per month.

Tracey Galloway, CEO of Community Cooperative in Fort Myers, recalls advising a grocery store worker to turn down a promotion because the raise wouldn’t equal his public benefits. She added that low-cost housing might help just as much as a wage increase.

“In Southwest Florida we have very little when it comes to affordable housing,” she said.

Raising the minimum wage, 2016

The Obama Administration has advocated raising the federal minimum, which hasn’t increased since 2009, from $7.25 to $10.10 per hour in 2016. Mr.

Is $8.05 an hour enough to get by? Here are some voices weighing in on minimum wage

“I think there should be a healthy discussion about what should be a livable wage. I believe the minimum wage is a non-issue...I don’t believe that government should be involved in a free market system.”

— Jim Wall, Career Source SWFL

“Raising the minimum wage puts more money in my customers’ pockets and allows them to spend that added revenue at one of our events.”

— Megan Baker, co-owner of Orange Blossom Jamboree in Brooksville, Fl.

“For a lot of economists they would say a better way to do that (raise wages) would be an income tax credit. The fear is if you raise the minimum wage high enough there won’t be as much options for people to gain experience.”

— Gary Jackson, Ph.D., FGCU economist and director of the Regional Economic Research Institute

“Basically, something’s gotta give for workers to be able to support their families.”

— Allyson Fredericksen, co-author of Low Wage Nation

“A living wage or those types of union terms are all about socialism. Regardless of their effort, regardless of what they do, we need to provide that for them. Well, that’s not the way this country operates.”

— Rick McAllister, CEO, Florida Retail Federation

“Raising the minimum wage doesn’t hurt businesses like mine because we are already doing the right thing. It will level the playing field between us and large corporations who exploit their workforce.”

— Andy Lytle, owner of Receptor Sound & Lighting in Dunedin, Fl.

“Eight dollars an hour doesn’t create a consumer, it creates a survivor, and small businesses flourish when members of their community can do more than just survive.”

— Steve Rouzer, state organizer, The Main Street Alliance of Florida
LIVING
From page 9

Cooper and others say it should also be tied to inflation so it doesn’t continue to lose value and spark political battles.

In real value that would make it worth about what it was in the late 1960s at $1.60.

So if we think businesses were able to pay $10 an hour back in 1968 and that year we had below 4 percent unemployment and the economy was booming, there’s no reason why 45 years later they shouldn’t be able to pay that same amount given the enormous growth in the economy we’ve had during that time,” said Mr. Cooper.

U.S. Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, a Demo
crat who represents parts of Palm Beach and Broward counties, hopes to put the minimum wage on the Florida ballot in 2016 and ask for between $12 and $15 per hour. He would have to raise about $2 million and collect more than 600,000 signatures. In addition, it would have to be approved by 60 percent of Florida voters.

A January 2014 Quinnipiac University poll of Florida voters found that 73 percent support raising the minimum wage, but it did not specify by how much; 53 percent of Republicans supported raising it; 93 percent of Democrats.

So there is strong support across the country as well as in Florida to raise the minimum wage to $10 an hour,” said University of Florida political science professor Daniel Smith, Ph.D.

Some economists worry that raising the minimum wage could hurt business-

ers already working unemployable and cause some workers who are not working to quit school so they can earn a higher wage that didn’t exist before,” said Florida Gulf Coast University professor of economics professor Christo-

pher Westley, Ph.D. Andrew Behling, owner of Old Town Convenience & Deli in Punta Gorda, said if wages were higher, “Then you have to raise the prices. And for a little business like me there’s no way I could do it.”

Allyson Frederickson, co-author of the report Low Wage Nation, contends that raising the minimum wage has helped economies by giving consumers more purchasing power in places such as Washington.

The report found that $16.98 is a liv-
ing wage for a single adult in Florida; unlike the MIT calculation, it allows someone to save 10 percent of his or her income for emergencies in addition to buying necessities.

Steve Bouzer of The Main Street Alliance of Florida said raising the minimum wage is an investment that would pay off for owners and “level the playing field between small businesses and large corporations.” I think $10.10 is absolutely a step in the right direc-
tion and something business owners can manage. It puts more money into people’s pockets and allows them to shop at small businesses.”

In Naples, Judy Dempsey has protested Walmart’s wages. The company recently raised its base wage to $9.1 Public pro-

grams that provide low-income housing, food and other necessities are in effect subsidizing the miserly salaries they pay workers, she said.

“People who are working 40 hours a week and have to go on food stamps. That makes them feel less worthy,” she said. “All the work they put into that 40-hour work week wasn’t respectable, it wasn’t enough. It’s not fair to the taxpay-
ers and it’s not fair to the worker. People think they’re moochers but they’re not. They’re working their butts off.”

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Butterfly release will memorialize loved ones

The annual butterfly release and remembrance ceremony hosted by Avow takes place Saturday, March 28, in Cambier Park. Beginning at 10 a.m., activities include a live butterfly exhibit showcasing hundreds of butterflies.

The remembrance ceremony at noon will include inspirational readings, music and the public reading of names of loved ones being honored. At the conclusion of the service, the exhibit tent will be opened to allow the butterflies to take flight.

There is no fee to attend. For a gift of $40 in advance, a name can be added to the list to be read. Early registration is encouraged to ensure inclusion. A limited number of name registrations will be available on the day of the event prior to the start of the ceremony for a gift of $50. Proceeds from name registrations will benefit Avow and its end-of-life support services.

“The butterfly is a reminder of how beautiful, delicate and fragile life can be, so that we should remember to appreciate and be grateful for each moment,” Karen Rollins, Avow president and CEO, says. “It was chosen as the primary symbolic representation for this event, because it undergoes a major transformative process as part of its normal life cycle.”

Many view the butterfly as a symbol of joy, happiness, of spring, rebirth and renewal. The butterfly evokes an image that is mild and gentle, one that can touch the heart during difficult times and one of strength. The Avow butterfly release is generously endowed by the Gorlach family.

Early arrival on the day of the event is encouraged to allow for parking, check-in and time to experience the exhibit before the ceremony begins. To register a name or for more information, call 649-3683 or avow.thankyou4caring.org/butterfly-release.

Avow’s $15 million campaign more than halfway there

Avow has embarked on a $15 million fundraising campaign to expand its services and facilities for children and adults. The “Promise 2 Give” campaign seeks to raise:

- $6 million to construct a new building on the Avow campus to house the area’s first outpatient palliative care clinic, private bereavement counseling rooms and office space for palliative care and hospice clinical teams.
- $1 million to send a children’s palliative care program that can provide long-term support for children with serious and chronic illnesses. The program will offer body/mind/spirit care to children plus support their siblings and parents.
- $2 million to grow Avow’s palliative care services for adults who are living with the symptoms and distresses of a serious illness.
- $6 million to sustain Avow’s hospice care operations to offset reduced reimbursements from Medicare, Medicaid and insurance providers.

The campaign launches with $8 million of the $15 million goal already received in cash, pledges and estate gifts. Proceeds from the upcoming butterfly release and the annual Avow Butterfly Ball have been designated for the campaign.

The “Promise 2 Give” campaign “opens the door to a new chapter in the evolution of Avow,” says Chuck Hoffman, chair of the Avow board of directors and campaign chair. “We look forward to partnering with the community to help realize the promise of palliative care to expand the healing spaces on our campus to meet the growing needs in our community.”

To learn more about the campaign, call Avow at 264-4484 or view a video at avowcares.org/video-gallery/promise-2-give-campaign-video.

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Five Collier educators picked for Golden Apple awards

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Students in five Collier classrooms received bushels of golden delicious apples one afternoon last week as their teachers were surprised with Golden Apple awards. Representatives from presenting sponsor Suncoast Credit Union Foundation and The Education Foundation–Champions For Learning presented the awards to the following: Susan Alger-DeCaster, Laurel Oak Elementary; Ed Laudise, Lorenzo Walker Technical High School; Tamzon Reed-Hamilton, Immokalee High School; Lacey Rosenblum, Naples High School; and Stephanie Scott, Lorenzo Walker Technical High School.

The five were picked from among this year’s 23 Teachers of Distinction to receive the prized apple award. Golden Apple recipients receive $2,000 each, and Teachers of Distinction receive $500, thanks to the Mary Ingram Fund of the Columbus Foundation. Additionally, the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation awards each Golden Apple teacher a $5,000 grant that allows them to invest in best practices for their classroom.

“Our sole purpose at the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation is to promote the education, health and emotional well-being of children in our communities,” says Greg Pasanen, regional vice president. “The Golden Apple recognizes some of the most powerful forces in any life: teachers. Educators are the driving force for inspiring greatness, and they are the ones who do the heavy lifting of education in the classroom.”

Champions For Learning was founded 26 years ago by a group of community leaders who believed every community has teachers and Teachers of Distinction while helping them share innovative and best practices with each other and the community. The 25th annual Golden Apple Celebration of Teachers is set for Friday, April 17, at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. The event will honor the 2015 Golden Apple teachers and Teachers of Distinction while celebrating Champions For Learning’s educator support efforts. NBC-2 will broadcast the awards presentation starting at 8 p.m.

Tickets to the Golden Apple dinner and awards celebration are $250. Sponsorships are available. For more information, call 463-4755 or visit championsforlearning.org/GA.
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Husband, Father, Grandfather
Proud Navy Veteran
Mini-stroke survivor

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Eric Eskioglu, M.D.
Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery
Member of the Medical Staff at Physicians Regional Healthcare System

Author and his service dog here for PAWS Assistance Dogs

New York Times bestselling author Capt. Luis Carlos Montalván and his golden retriever service dog named Tuesday are coming to Naples. PAWS Assistance Dogs will host the highly decorated U.S. Army veteran and his canine companion. They will make a presentation at Golisano Children’s Museum of Naples and one at the Naples Daily News, and they will be the honored guests at “An Evening with Captain Montalván & Tuesday” in the showroom at DeVoe Cadillac.

A 17-year veteran, Capt. Montalván received two Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal for Valor and the Combat Action Badge. Suffering physical and psychological wounds resultant from traumas during war in the Middle East, he found it difficult to cope until he was partnered with Tuesday.


Capt. Montalván and Tuesday will meet with a select group of local school children at C’Mon on Tuesday, March 10.

From 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, they will be at the Naples Daily News for a keynote presentation and book signing. General admission is $50; VIP tickets for $100 include reserved seating, a private reception and photos with the author and his service dog and a copy of “Until Tuesday.” The “Evening with Captain Montalván & Tuesday” begins at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at DeVoe Cadillac and includes wine and hors d’oeuvres with Capt. Montalván and Tuesday in an intimate setting. Tickets are $150 ($300 for patrons). All proceeds will benefit PAWS Assistance Dogs. To make reservations for either of the two open events, call 775-1660. For more information about PAWS Assistance Dogs, visit pawsassistancedogs.org.

“When you’re having a stroke, where you’re treated matters. That’s why you want the highly specialized team of Physicians Regional Healthcare System. Both Physicians Regional-Pine Ridge and Collier Boulevard are nationally certified Primary Stroke Centers. They’ve demonstrated the speed, expertise and technology to give you skilled treatment that can prevent or minimize the effects of a stroke. So know where to go. To learn more, visit PhysiciansRegional.com.”

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Community forum about airport noise issues set for March 24

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Naples Airport Authority wants input about airport noise issues and invites the public to share ideas during a community forum and open house. Airport authority staff and members of the Noise Compatibility Committee will be on hand to share information and solicit suggestions from the public from 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, in the commercial airline terminal at Naples Municipal Airport (south end of the airport off North Road).

The Noise Compatibility Committee is a volunteer advisory group of nine citizens from all parts of the community that studies and makes recommendations to the airport authority on noise compatibility measures. “We are working diligently to do all that is possible to minimize noise and are actively looking for new ideas for mitigating airport noise,” says Donna Messer, a member of the airport authority board of commissioners and the board’s liaison to the Noise Compatibility Committee.

Richard Mellon chairs the Noise Compatibility Committee and shares Ms. Messer’s views. “We are eager to work with our neighbors to alleviate their concerns about aircraft-generated noise,” he says.

In 2012, the airport authority and the Noise Compatibility Committee launched the “Please Fly Safe Fly Quiet” campaign to encourage pilots and aircraft operators to do all they can to minimize aircraft noise. The campaign encourages pilots to observe the airport’s recommended 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. aircraft curfew, as well as to follow recommendations such as using the full runway length for takeoffs and landings, observing “keep-it-high” landing procedures and quieter departure techniques, adhering to preferred flight paths and using idle reverse thrust.

Naples Municipal Airport is home to fire/rescue services, mosquito control, the Collier County Sheriff’s Aviation Unit and other community services as well as flight schools, air charter operators, car rental agencies and corporate aviation and non-aviation businesses. Opened in 1943, the certificated air-carrier airport occupies a square mile bordered by commercial and residential development, just minutes from downtown Naples. During the 2013-14 fiscal year, the airport accommodated 95,220 takeoffs and landings.

All funds used for the airport’s operations, maintenance and improvements are generated from activities at the airport or from federal and state grants; the airport receives no property tax dollars. The Florida Department of Transportation values the airport’s economic impact to the community at $283.5 million annually.

To learn more or to subscribe for email updates about the airport, visit FlyNaples.com.
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BAYFRONT PLACE
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Entrepreneurial teens can discover what it takes to become a successful business leader at the weeklong CEO Academy summer program presented by Junior Achievement of Southwest Flor-ida in partnership with the Institute for Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida. The third annual Youth X-plosion presented by the SWFL Youth Empowerment Project takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Palmetto Ridge High School Auditorium. Kids in grades seven through 12 are invited for food, fun, a “SWFL’s Got Talent” contest, music by DJ Crazy X and a variety of breakout workshops about leadership, purpose, vision, character and leadership.

Juniors, seniors can apply for summer CEO Academy

Entrepreneurial teens can discover what it takes to become a successful business leader at the weeklong CEO Academy summer program presented by Junior Achievement of Southwest Flor-ida in partnership with the Institute for Entrepreneurship at the Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast Uni-

The Immokalee Foundation Inter-Club Challenge provides an opportunity for philanthropic foun-dations from some of the area’s finest golf communities to hit the links in support of students involved in TIF programs. Set for Monday, May 4, at The Club at Mediterra in Naples, the ninth annual tournament promises to be a fun-filled day of golf — and a day that can help change the life of a child.

For the past 24 years, TIF has been committed to empowering Immokalee’s youth through programs focused on education, career and life skills. TIF offers students the tools, opportunities, support and encouragement they need to succeed at each level of their education. Ultimately, the mission is to help every child become capable of pursu-ing a productive life, whether they choose to stay in Immokalee or experience another part of the world. This is accomplished, in part, by providing essential programs focused on scholarships and mentoring, childhood literacy education, career develop-ment, and career and post-secondary success.

Without a doubt, each program helps motivate and inspire individuals to chase their dreams.

Charity Gonzales, a senior at Immokalee High School, has been involved with TIF since seventh grade when she was inducted into Take Stock in Children, a scholarship and mentoring program that provides stu-dents with the opportunity to attend four years of college tuition-free if they fulfill their pledge to maintain good grades, stay drug- and crime-free, attend required workshops and events, meet weekly with their TIF mentor and volunteer in the community.

“The Immokalee Foundation has helped me organize my future while not having to be overwhelmed by it,” she says. Out of all the opportunities TIF has provided her, she says the most important one is the chance to attend college.

Charity has participated in the Inter-Club Challenge the past four years and will play again this year, along with fellow TIF students and their benefactors and club pros. “I always learn new tricks and techniques from the pros,” she says, “and it’s fun playing with TIF benefactors. It reminds me of how much they care about the children in Immokalee. They are always funny, too!”

This year’s tournament chairmen are TIF board members Michael Benson and Chuck Campbell, both long-time support-ers of the foundation. Participation is $1,250 per golfer and includes breakfast and driv-ing range practice beginning at 8 a.m. and lunch with the awards ceremony start-ing at 1:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for the winning men’s and women’s teams as well as for closest to the pin.

Underwriting opportunities are available for individuals and corporate partners, including hole sponsorships starting at $750.

The Inter-Club Challenge is the first in a series of TIF fundraising events this year. The Charity Classic Pro-Am and Charity Classic Celebration take place in November. For registration or more information, including how to sign up to mentor a TIF student, call the foundation at 430-9122 or visit immokaleefoundation.org.

For more information, call Melissa Belz at 289-5557.

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Holocaust resistance efforts are focus of scholar-in-residence

The Naples Jewish Congregation presents Paul Bartrop, professor of history and director of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Genocide Studies at FGCU, for its 2015 scholar-in-residence program Friday and Saturday, March 20-21. This year’s theme is “Jewish Resistance and Righteous Gentiles during the Holocaust.” A grant from the Jewish Federation of Collier County has helped make the weekend possible.

Chuck Naumoff of JCN describes the program as having a very different focus on the Holocaust. “We always hear about the horrors of the Nazi reign of terror, expulsion and extermination,” he says, “but few people are aware of the many forms of resistance that sprouted up in the cities, ghettos, the mountains and forests, and within government agencies, even by victims in the concentration camps. Hundreds of heroic acts took place throughout eastern and western Europe, by Jews and non-Jews, documented and undocumented, in the effort to save the lives of Jews and other targets of the Nazi regime.”

The program begins during Shabbat services Friday evening, March 20, at the NJC synagogue, 6340 Napa Woods Way. Professor Bartrop will give a talk on resistance and rescuers during World War II, highlighting the efforts of a young Frenchwoman, Marianne Cohn, who lost her life trying to save Jewish children.

Saturday’s program takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish hall at St. Agnes Catholic Church, 7775 Vanderbilt Beach Road.

About the scholar
In 2011-12, Professor Bartrop was the 1da E. King Distinguished Visiting Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Richard Stockton College in New Jersey. From 1997-2011, he taught and was head of the department of history at Bialik College, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Concurrently, he was an honorary fellow in the faculty of arts and education at Deakin University, Melbourne.
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12640 WORLD PLAZA LANE, BUILDING 71, FORT MYERS, FL 33907

Lighthouse of Collier offers a free eight-week course in Braille starting March 12. Classes will be held from 2-4 p.m. Thursdays through April 30 at Collier County Clerk of Court building, 2605 Horseshoe Drive S.

Anyone interested in learning to read and produce Braille is welcome, especially those who experience significant vision loss that impacts their ability to read enlarged print, as well as their caregivers. In addition to how to read Braille, topics to be covered include: how to produce Braille using a Perkins Brailler or a slate/stylus, Unified English Braille, beginning contractions and rule, technology related to Braille, ways to practice Braille and free resources to continue your Braille education.

Instructors Niki Dondero and Katrina Best remind those who are interested that learning Braille is a tedious and time-consuming process. Everyone’s learning curve is different, they stress, and students must be patient with themselves.

To sign up or for more information, call Lighthouse of Collier at 430-3934.

The mission of Lighthouse of Collier is to promote the development, implementation and ongoing evaluation of programs and services that foster independence and enhance the quality of life for the blind, visually impaired and their caregivers. Regular classes address orientation and mobility, daily living skills and assistive technology. Lighthouse of Collier also offers special monthly programs and summer camp sessions for visually impaired children. Learn more at lighthouseofcollier.org.
Consumer sentiment among Floridians continues upward trend

The church parking lot turns into a service bay from 8 a.m. to noon, a week before Easter Sunday, as First Baptist Church Naples is gearing up for car care day.

Floridians’ consumer sentiment rose more than a point from January to 94.7 in February, the seventh straight month of increase, according to a new University of Florida survey. “Economic optimism among Floridians continues to advance as many of the fundamentals show improvement,” says Chris McCarty, director of UF’s Survey Research Center in the Bureau of Economic and Business Research.

The main driver was positive views of personal finances now compared with a year ago, which rose 2.2 points to 83.1, the highest level since June 2006 when the Florida housing market was at its peak. Among Floridians under age 60, it jumped from 82.1 in January to 92.5 in February; among those age 60 or older, it ticked up only from 64.1 to 64.7.

Overall expectations of personal finances a year from now declined slightly, by 0.4 points to 106.6, rising only among those with annual incomes of $50,000 or more, from 105.6 to 107.2.

The perception that now is a good time to buy big-ticket items, such as a car or appliance, rose 2.2 points to 100.8.

Confidence in the U.S. economy over the coming year fell 0.1 points to 94.4, while expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next five years fell 0.4 points to 99.4.

Some economists share this caution about the future. The main concern is wage growth, which has not risen in line with the increase in employment. This is particularly a problem in Florida,” Mr. McCarty says. Florida’s unemployment rate was 5.6 percent in December, the most recent state-level report.

Low wage growth is a contributing factor to persistently slow inflation, which has led the Federal Reserve to be cautious about raising short-term interest rates, according to Mr. McCarty. “Based on recent testimony, the Fed is still on track to raise rates sometime between June and September, but that could change if the recovery stalls,” he says.

Some of those low-wage jobs are in Florida tourism, which has again achieved a record number of visitors and is likely to continue booming because of the harsh winter in the Northeast and idyllic weather here in the Sunshine State.

Housing prices for existing single-family homes in Florida were up 74 percent over the previous year, to $275,000. Housing gains vary considerably across the state, with South Florida, particularly Miami, among the bright spots.

Gas prices, which make up a significant portion of the budget for lower-income households, still remain low at a statewide average in Florida of $2.31 per gallon, although they are up nearly 30 cents from the previous month.

Florida’s favorable economic recovery is reflected in a nearly $1 billion budget surplus as the 2015 legislative session begins.

“While much of the world economy struggles, the U.S. economy seems to be hitting its stride, and Florida is emblematic of that recovery in many ways,” Mr. McCarty says.

Conducted Feb. 12-12, the UF study reflects the responses of 445 individuals who were reached on cell phones and who represent a demographic cross section of Florida.

The index used by UF researchers is benchmarked to 1966, which means a value of 100 represents the same level of confidence for that year. The lowest index possible is a 2; the highest is 150. Details of the February survey are at bebr.ufl.edu/cci.

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The Theological Center in Naples

SEVENTEENTH Annual

Lenten Soup for the Soul—2015

A Luncheon Series for the Greater Naples Community

Sponsored by the Theological Center in Naples

“The Activity of the Holy Spirit”

From Creation to Pentecost, in our everyday lives and activities—
even unto the present time, the Spirit makes itself known, 
inspiring our thoughts and actions, from the miraculous, to 
physical healings, to life changing, soul-shaking, Metanoia
personality transformations, Explore with us how the Spirit blesses 
our lives on a daily basis. This season our speakers will share their 
thoughts and experiences on the activity of the Holy Spirit.

We invite you to join us from Noon-1PM each Wednesday 
during Lent for a simple meal and reflection offered by 
spiritual leaders in our community.

Your donations to cover expenses and to support the mission of 
The Theological Center In Naples are appreciated!

March 4
Presenter: Dr Kirt Anderson (Naples Community Church)
Location: Vanderbilt Presbyterian (1225 Piper Br-off Immokalee-opposite Sam’s Club)

March 11
Presenter: Dr Jack Haberer (Vanderbilt Presbyterian)
Location: Mayflower Congregational UCC (2900 County Barn - off Davis)

March 18
Presenter: Deacon Mark Leonard (San Marco Catholic)
Location: St John the Evangelist Catholic (625 111th Ave N-West of 41)

March 25
Presenter: Chaplain Michael Harper (Naples Community Hospital)
Location: Trinity-By-The-Cove (553 Galleon Dr-off Gordon Dr)

April 1
Presenter: Nicole Partin, Certified Celebrant (Hodges-Josberger Funeral Home)
Location: Hodges University (2655 Northbrooke Dr-North at light off Immokalee Road) John White Community Room

Keep your eyes on the road for traffic cops

Here’s where Collier County Sheriff’s Office traffic-enforcement deputies will be the week of March 9-13:

Monday, March 9
Pine Road and Naples Boulevard: Speeding
Vanderbilt Beach and Airport-Pulling roads: Speeding
Rattlesnake Hammock Road and U.S. 41 East: Speeding

Tuesday, March 10
Lauder Boulevard at Oakridge Middle School: Aggressive driving
Immokalee Road and Collier Boulevard: Red-light running
Airport-Pulling Road and Arbour Walk Circle: Aggressive driving

Wednesday, March 11
Pelican Marsh Boulevard and U.S. 41: North: Speeding
Golden Gate and Coronado parkways: Aggressive driving
Santa Barbara and Davis boulevards: Aggressive driving

Thursday, March 12
Orange Blossom Drive and Goodlette-Frank Road: Red-light running
U.S. 41 North and Vanderbilt Beach Road: Red-light running
Airport-Pulling and Radio roads: Speeding

Friday, March 13
Pine Ridge Road and Logan Boulevard: Speeding
Airport-Pulling and Immokalee roads: Speeding
Livingston Road and Golden Gate Parkway: Speeding

AARP class can tune up driving skills

AARP offers classes to help older drivers learn about new traffic laws, 
refresh their driving skills and reduce their risk for tickets and accidents. Driv-
ers over age 55 might be eligible for a 
discount on auto insurance.
Cost is $15 for AARP members, $20 for others. Reservations are required and 
can be made by calling the num-
ber listed with the session you wish to attend. Here’s what’s coming up:

Tuesday, March 10: 9:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at Germain Toyota, 13315 Tamiami Trail, Naples; 269-6050.

Thursday, March 12: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Williams Ministry Center, 75 Seagate Drive, Naples; 278-6475.

Thursday, March 12: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Marco Island Lutheran Church, 525 N. Collier Blvd.; 743-968-3105.

Monday, March 16: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Vi at Bentley Village, 701 Bentley Village Court, Naples; 596-607.

Tuesday, March 17: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Christus Victor Lutheran Church, 1604 Tamiami Trail, Naples; 269-6050.

Thursday, March 19: 9:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at Germain Toyota, 13315 Tamiami Trail, Naples; 269-6050.

Friday, March 20: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Golden Gate Senior Center, 4898 Coronado Parkway, Naples; 733-5210.

Monday, March 23: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, 1225 Piper Blvd. Naples; 596-6007.
Newest right

The Utah Court of Appeals ruled in Feb-
ruary that Barbara Bagley has a legal right
to sue herself for her own negligent driv-
ing that caused the death of her husband.
Typically, in U.S. courts, a party cannot
profit from its own negligence, but Bagley is
the official “representative” administer-
ing her husband’s estate and has a duty to
claim debts owed to the husband. Those
debts would include “wrongful death”
damages from a careless driver (actually,
the careless driver’s insurance company),
even if the careless driver was herself. Of
course, if her lawsuit is successful, the
monetary award would become part of the
husband’s estate, a portion of which will
likely go to her.

Historical weird

■ Can’t Possibly Be True: For a brief
period in 1951 and 1952, an educational kit,
the Gilbert Atomic Energy Lab, had
been for sale in the United States even though
it came with testable samples of four
types of uranium ore and three different
radiation sources (alpha, beta, gamma).
A surviving copy of the kit has been on
display recently at the Ulster Museum in
Belfast, Northern Ireland, but the radioac-
tive materials had to be removed before
it could be shipped to Belfast. (The
kit had failed to sell well; kids apparently
preferred the company’s erector sets.)

■ Least-competent terrorists: (1) A recent
YouTube compilation of footage
gleaned from, in some cases, unedited
ISIS promotion videos, claimed to show
jihadists accidentally killing themselves.
Several fighters in a group photo appear to
be blown up when one of them fumbling-
ly detonates a captured bomb, and one
man was killed when he apparently tried
to reload a mortar launcher too quickly.
(2) London’s Daily Telegraph reported in
January that the “Darkshadow” jihadists
from Tunisia and Ivory Coast, who had
January that the “Darkshadow” jihadists
preferred the company’s erector sets.)

■ In February, the Kansas Humani-
ties Council, providing background to a
theater, trampoline, or movie theater ex-
hibit, posted a description of a 1925
baseball game in Wichita in which the pro-
fessional, all-black Wichita Monrovians
took on members of the local Ku Klux
Klan. (Historians guessed that the KKK
risked the embarrassment of defeat only
because it needed the exposure to over-
come declining enrollments.) The Monro-
vians (champions of the Colored Western
League the year before) won, 10-4, and the
Klan shut down in Kansas two years later.

■ In Perspective: ISIS’ very public recent
executions of a Jordanian pilot and two
Japanese citizens were met with Starkly
different reactions. In Jordan, King Abdul-
lah II led his nation in a call for bloody
revenge. In Japan (according to a February
Associated Press dispatch from Tokyo),
feelings were mixed because of “meiwaku” —
Japan’s cultural feeling that the dead
victims (and their families) were “causing
trouble” by placing themselves in harm’s
way: Said one man cited by the AP, “In
the old days, people... had to commit hara-kiri to apologize.” In
fact, both victims’ families did repeatedly
apologize for inconveniencing the govern-
ment, which had warned citizens to stay
away from the war zone.

War is hell

■ Point Taken: At a February meet-
ing in Geneva of the U.N. Conference on
Disarmament, regarding whether meet-
ings should be open to the general public,
Mr. Almeida said that some U.N. meetings were
already open to the public, but as yet there
had been no mayonnaise-droppings.)
(“oww” sound is similar in many lan-
guages, which otherwise would go
unnoticed. Pain signals, which otherwise
would go unheeded, are in vocalizing somehow divert or confuse
the security staff. “What if,” he asked
alarm because of potential problems for
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The continuing crisis

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BLOOMS

From page 1

Roger Hammer points out that while many of Southwest Florida’s wildflowers bloom sparsely and individually throughout the year, people who are interested in seeing blossoms in abundance should head out soon to see the area’s showy displays. Varieties such as marsh pinks and rosy fleabane can be seen in spreads of thousands throughout the spring, he says, but are tough to find throughout the rest of the year.

And although orchids of all kinds are quite common here, most varieties are highly seasonal, Mr. Hammer adds. “People seem to think of orchids as being really difficult to find and super rare, but they’re just another wildflower.” One variety — lady’s tresses — are all along South-west Florida roadsides right now, he adds.

Most wildflower blooms will stick around until late summer or fall while the sun is still high in the sky, after which they dwindle away to single, lonely blooms in unusually hospitable spaces. Come fall, a whole host of different flowers will bloom, including tree-dwelling orchids and bromeliads.

With help from the Florida Wildflower Foundation and local experts, we pinpointed some of the best local spots for seeing blossoms in abundance should one visit the trail classifications, with sunny meadows and prairies for blooms, says Park Manager Renee Rus, whereas come fall, they’ll have to don waders or mount a kayak to get a look at those popular orchids and bromeliads.

Possible sightings: pine-pink (Bletia purpurea), Simpson’s grass-pink (Calopogon tuberosus), Catesby’s lily (Lilium catesbaei), marsh lobelia (Lobelia glan-dulosa), salt marsh mallow (Kosteletzkya pentacarpos), black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta), tickseed (Coreopsis leavenworthii), spider lily (Hymenocallis palmeri) and elderberry (Sambucus canadensis).

■ Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest

6265 CR 832, Felda
freshfromflorida.com

Containing a 13,852-acre pristine slough, Okaloacoochee is one of the few locations north of the Everglades where the pre-Cambrian landscape can be observed. At the far east of Southwest Florida, it straddles the boundary between Collier and Hendry counties and includes a stretch of Oil Well Road near Immokalee. Motorists can continue down the road, also known as CR 832, into Hendry County for more viewing opportunities of beautiful wildflower specimens including like the pink swamp-hibiscus and white star sedge.

Possible sightings: Harper’s false foxglove (Agalinis harperi), blue waterhys-sop (Ibacopa caroliniana), Nuttell’s thistle (Cirsium nuttallii), southern bee blossom (Guara angustifolia), southern swamp hibiscus and white star sedge. Varieties such as marsh pinks and rosy camphorweed (Phacelia baccharis).

■ CREW Land & Water Trust

23998 Corkscrew Road, Estero
crewtrust.org

Managed by the South Florida Water Management District, CREW has about 5 miles of trails through a variety of eco-systems that include pine flatwoods, saw-grass marsh, pop ash sloughs and more. Different flowers thrive on the different trail classifications, with sunny meadows and prairies for blooms, says Park Manager Renee Rus, whereas come fall, they’ll have to don waders or mount a kayak to get a look at those popular orchids and bromeliads.

Possible sightings: pine-pink (Bletia purpurea), Simpson’s grass-pink (Calopogon tuberosus), Catesby’s lily (Lilium catesbaei), marsh lobelia (Lobelia glan-dulosa), salt marsh mallow (Kosteletzkya pentacarpos), black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta), tickseed (Coreopsis leavenworthii), spider lily (Hymenocallis palmeri) and elderberry (Sambucus canadensis).
Koreshan State Park
3800 Corkscrew Road, Estero
floridastateparks.org
Former home of Dr. Cyrus Teed and his many followers, the park is now open to the public for a variety of outdoor activities through the pine flatlands adjacent to Estero Bay. The best springtime wildflower displays occur during years that have had a recent prescribed burn (lucky for wildflower enthusiasts this year), park managers undertook one in December 2014. For more information, get permission to go off-trail to explore the flatlands.

Possible sightings: Yellow colicroot (Aleuris lutea), clustertip false indigo (Amorpha herbacea), American blue-hearts (Buchnea americana), Leavenworth’s coreopsis (Coreopsis leavenworthi), oakleaf beebane (Erigeron guer- folius), St. Peter’s wort (Hypericum cruz-andrae), rose-rush (Eupogonias aphylla), coastal plain staggerbush (Symia fruticosa), rosy camphorweed (Phloxcea baccata), snowy milkweed (Polygala grandiflo- ra), pale meadowbeauty (Bidens maritima), beaked lady’s tresses (Saccocila lanceolata), bullfrog’s arrowhead (Sagittaria lancifa- lia) and Adam’s needle (Yucca filamentosa).

Naples Botanical Garden
4820 Bayshore Drive
naplesgarden.org
Some people aren’t interested in tramping around the backwoods to find native wildflowers, so Naples Botanical Garden provides viewing opportunities in its Flori- da Garden for those who are less adventur- ous and/or less patient. Because these wild- flowers are in cultivation, the flowers are a bit larger and more robust than those in the wild, and their more intense blooms tend to last longer, says Garden Deputy Director Chad Washburn. At any given point this spring, up to 50 varieties could be in bloom in the Florida Garden meadow.

Possible sightings: Tampa verbena (Glandularia tampensis), gayfeath- er (Liatris spicata), largeflower tickseed (Coreopsis grandiflora), black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta), blazing star (Liatris tenuifolia), coral honey- suckle (Lonicer a sempervirens), dune sunflower (Helianthus debilis), scarlet sage (Salvia coccinea) and blanket flow- er (Gaillardia pulchella).

Resources:
“Everglades Wildflowers” by Roger Hammer
“A Guide to Common Wildflowers of Collier County, FL” by Gary W. Schmelz and Glenn Stacel
“Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities” by Walter Kingsley Taylor
“The Naples Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Naplesfnps.org
The Florida Wildflower Foundation, Flawildflowers.org

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FOUR-WEEK WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM

Offer includes:
Complete comprehensive review of BMI, BMI, total body fat percent, waist-to-hip ratios, lean vs. fat body mass, 30 days of diet supplements, plus 3 laser-lipo treatments and a B-12 shot

NaplesWeightLoss.com

Clockwise from top left: Rose-of-Plymouth, Catesby’s Lily, tickseed, rose-rush.

“Native Orchids of South Florida” by Caryle A. Lauer
The Naples Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Naplesfnps.org

NAPLES BOTANICAL GARDEN / COURTESY PHOTO

ROGER HAMMER / COURTESY PHOTOS

Lights First
Kichler
Style to live by.

Naples - 239.775.5100, 4600 Tamiami Tr. E.
Bonita Springs - 239.949.2544, 28801 S. Tamiami Tr.
Fort Myers - 239.322.5488, 12879 S. Cleveland Ave.
GET OUT FOR A GOOD CAUSE

- The CurePSP Awareness & Memorial Walk around the lake at Mackle Park on Marco Island steps out at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 14. Proceeds help support the CurePSP Foundation’s efforts to raise awareness about the brain diseases known as progressive supranuclear palsy and corticobasal degeneration and to support those who suffer from them. Participants will receive a T-shirt and lunch and will be able to participate in a raffle and silent auction. Registration is $20 for adults, $10 for students. Sign-up begins at 10:30 a.m. and lunch is at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call 353-3960 or visit psp.org.

- The Marco Island Half Marathon and 5K Run/Walk takes place Sunday, March 15. The half-marathon starts at 7:30 a.m., followed by the 5K at 8:30 a.m. at North Collier Regional Park. Lunch is included in the $40 registration fee. Riders are encouraged to raise money to support the organization’s efforts to assist amputees. New this year, the highest fundraiser will receive a cocktail reception for 20 on a yacht docked at the Cove Inn. To sign up or for more information, call 590-7950 or visit miraclelimbs.org.

- The Bonita Springs YMCA hosts the third annual Gruesome Twosome family-friendly adventure race Saturday, March 21. The healthy living event has a challenging, 3-mile adult course and a smaller youth-centered course, both ending with a splash in a giant mud pit. Other obstacles include cargo nets, balance beams, inflatable slides and more. All it happens at the Bonita Y at 2700 Kent Road. The adult course also passes through the neighboring Conservation 20/20 Pine Lake Preserve. Registration per twosome is $80 before March 6 and $90 thereafter. Children ages 4-13 can do the youth course for $30. For more information, call Marla Ramsey at 221-7560 or visit swflymca.org/mud.

- The second annual Pan-Florida Challenge for Hungry Kids challenges 100 bicyclists to pedal 160 miles across the state from Naples to Palm Beach on Saturday and Sunday, March 28-29. “We ride our bikes across Florida to be the voice of thousands of hungry children who worry every day about when and where they will eat,” says Naples resident Ed Mullen, president and co-founder of the challenge. Mr. Mullen describes the ride is a sunny, tropical version of the Pan-Mass Challenge, which raised $41 million last year with 5,500 cyclists crossing Massachusetts on bike. He has assembled a team of professionals to organize and shepherd participants across Florida. To register or for more information, visit panfloridachallenge.org. Those who cannot ride are encouraged to sponsor riders.

- The Marine Corps League of Naples, E.T. Brisson Detachment #063, hosts its 17th annual golf tournament Saturday, April 4, at Glen Eagle Golf and Country Club. The four-person scramble begins at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start. Registration for $125 includes greens fees, cart, continental breakfast, lunch, entry to a hole-in-one contest and closest-to-pin contests. Sign-up deadline is March 21. Call 417-9343 or visit marinescorpsleaguenaples.com.

- Angels Undercover hosts its second annual Sip and Putt from 4-6:30 p.m. Monday, April 13, at Grey Oaks Country Club. Guests are invited to enjoy wine, hors d’oeuvres and live music as they compete for prizes at each hole. Prizes include dinner for eight at Brevard, a $500 gift certificate from the Diamond District and four tickets to a pops performance by the Naples Philharmonic.
The eighth annual CBIA golf tournament Friday, May 22, at Talis Park Resort Golf Course. The shotgun start is at 8:30 a.m. Registration is $150-$200 for single players, $600-$800 for foursomes. To sign up, visit cbia.net.

Underwriting opportunities are also available. To sign up, call 430-9122 or visit theglitterfoundation.org.

The ninth annual InterClub Challenge to benefit The Immokleite Foundation is set for Monday, May 4, at The Club at Mediterra. Foursomes from local golf communities and clubs will compete with golf pros and TIF students. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Lunch and awards at the club take place at 11:30 a.m. Participation is $1,250 per golfer or $5,000 per foursome. Underwriting opportunities are also available. To sign up, call 657-7711 or visit theimmokleitefoundation.org.

The tenth annual Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce holds its annual golf tournament Friday, May 8, at Grey Oaks Country Club. Registration includes an 11:30 a.m. barbecue, shotgun scramble with three flights based on handicap. Awards, raffle and Italian buffet dinner follow the tournament. Registration is $150. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To sign up or for more information, call 262-6760 or visit naples-chamber.org.

The Collier County Building Association hosts its annual spring golf tournament Friday, May 22, at Talis Park Golf Club. Proceeds benefit the CBIA scholarship fund. The shotgun start is at 8:30 a.m. Registration is $250-$300 for single players, $600-$800 for foursomes. To sign up, visit cbia.net.

— Email items to lnesmith@floridaweekly.com

Undercover provides school uniforms for students in Collier County. For tickets or more information, call Lynn Davenport at 599-6303 or visit angels-undercover.com.

The Glitter Foundation and Girls on the Run of Collier County host the inaugural Glitter 5K on Saturday morning, April 25, at Sugden Regional Park. Registration is $25 in advance, $30 the day of the race ($10 for high-school ages and younger). Call 293-2932 or visit theglitterfoundation.org for more information.

Grace Place for Children & Families hosts its annual Swing of Grace golf event Saturday afternoon, April 25, at Wyndemere Country Club. Registration for $200 per golfer includes lunch and dinner. Call 214-6403 or visit graceplacenaples.org for more information or to register.

The inaugural Guadalupe Charity Golf Classic presented by Walmart is set for Friday, May 1, at Estuary at Grey Oaks Country Club. Celebrities including former Washington Redskins quarterback Mark Rypien and professional golfers Chip Beck, Graham Marsh and Pat Bradley are lending their names for a good cause. Registration is $500 for individuals ($5,000 for a Platinum Foursome) and includes a dinner as part of the awards presentation, April 25, at The Club at Mediterra. Foursomes or more information, call 262-6376 or visit naples-weekly.com.

The ninth annual InterClub Challenge to benefit The Immokleite Foundation is set for Monday, May 4, at The Club at Mediterra. Foursomes from local golf communities and clubs will compete with golf pros and TIF students. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Lunch and awards at the club take place at 11:30 a.m. Participation is $1,250 per golfer or $5,000 per foursome. Underwriting opportunities are also available. To sign up, call 657-7711 or visit guadalupecenter.org.
**HEALTHY LIVING**

**Campaign steps out to prevent falls**

The Collier Injury Prevention Coalition kicks off Step Smart Naples, a month-long community awareness campaign focused on preventing falls, at 2 p.m. Friday, March 6, at the downtown Sunshine Ace Hardware store on U.S. 41.

The public is invited to learn tips to prevent in-home falls via public service announcements by Waterman Broadcasting's NBC-2 and ABC-7 throughout the store. The first 100 customers will receive a free night light, and special savings on safety products will be available for all who attend. Complimentary safety home audit checklists will be provided, and refreshments will be served.

Michael Wynn, chair of Step Smart Naples and president of Sunshine Ace Hardware, will lead the program along with co-chairs Lydia Galton, past chair of the Collier League of Women Voters and a civic activist, and Jaclynn Faffer, president of Jewish Family and Community Services.

A Step Smart Naples educational forum for the public takes place from 3-4:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, in the community room at the Naples Daily News. For more information, contact Mike Reagen by calling 597-5238 or emailing mike@mikereagen.com.

**JCFs presents dementia seminar for professionals and caregivers**

Medical professionals and family caregivers are invited to a seminar about dementia presented by Jewish Family & Community Services of Southwest Florida on Tuesday, March 10, at the JFCS office. The morning session starting at 9:30 a.m. is designed for medical professionals; the afternoon session starting at 1:30 p.m. is geared toward family caregivers. Both sessions are free, thanks to sponsorship by the Community Foundation of Collier County and McKenney Home Care.

Presenter Dr. Marc Agronin is a board-certified adult and geriatric psychiatrist and medical director at the VA Medical Center New York Harbor Healthcare System. Agronin is also a board-certified adult and geriatric psychiatrist and medical director at New York Presbyterian Alzheimer's Disease CTA Center.

The introduction of peanut products into the diets of infants at high risk of developing peanut allergy was safe and led to an 81 percent reduction in the subsequent development of the allergy, a clinical trial has found. The study was supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, and was conducted by the NIAID-funded Immune Tolerance Network. The results appear in the current online issue of the New England Journal of Medicine and were presented recently at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

Researchers led by Gideon Lack, M.D., of King’s College London, designed a study called Learning Early About Peanut Allergy, or LEAP, based on observations that Israeli children have lower rates of peanut allergy compared to Jewish children of similar ancestry residing in the United Kingdom. Unlike children in the UK, Israeli children begin consuming peanut-containing foods early in life. The study tested the hypothesis that the very low rates of peanut allergy in Israeli children began early, continuous consumption in infancy.

"Food allergies are a growing concern, not just in the United States but around the world," said NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. "For a study to show a benefit of this magnitude in the prevention of peanut allergy is without precedent. The results have the potential to transform how we approach food allergy prevention."

LEAP compared two strategies to prevent peanut allergy — consumption or avoidance of dietary peanut — in infants who were at high risk of developing peanut allergy because they already had egg allergy and/or severe eczema, an inflammatory skin disorder. The study also excluded infants showing early signs of having already developed peanut allergy: The safety and effectiveness of early peanut consumption in this group remains unknown and requires further study, said Dr. Lack. "Parents of infants and young children with eczema or egg allergy should consult with an allergist, pediatrician, or their general practitioner prior to feeding them peanut products."

More than 600 high-risk infants between 4 and 11 months of age were assigned randomly either to avoid peanut or to regularly include at least 6 grams of peanut protein per week in their diets. The avoidance and consumption regimens were continued until 5 years of age. Participants were monitored throughout this period with recurring visits with health-care professionals, in addition to completing dietary surveys by telephone.

The researchers assessed peanut allergy at 5 years of age with a supervised, oral food challenge with peanut. They found an overall 81 percent reduction of peanut allergy in children who began early, continuous consumption of peanut compared to those who avoided peanut.

"Prior to 2008, clinical practice guidelines recommended avoidance of potentially allergenic foods in the diets of young children at heightened risk for development of food allergies," said Daniel Rotrosen, M.D., director of NIAID's Division of Allergy, Immunology and Transplantation. "While recent studies showed no benefit from allergen avoidance, the LEAP study is the first to show that early introduction of dietary peanut is actually beneficial and identifies an effective approach to manage a serious public health problem."

A follow-up study called LEAP-On will ask all LEAP study participants to avoid peanut consumption for one year. These results will determine whether continuous peanut consumption is required to maintain a child's tolerance to peanut.

The study results can be found on itntrialshare.org/LEAPurl"Trialshare, an open-access website that hosts studies conducted by the ITN. Additional details are available at ClinicalTrials.gov.
IberiaBank hosts Health Plus seminars

Dr. Levy-Reis will discuss the latest information available on aging changes in the brain, the difference between dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, normal memory loss in conjunction with aging and new treatments for memory loss and dementia. According to the National Institute on Aging, some memory problems can be a result of bodily changes as people age, but other signs could point to more significant issues such as dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.

Certified as a diplomat by the American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry, Dr. Levy-Reis specializes in memory disorders, epilepsy and neurophysiology. He is a member of Neuroscience and Spine Associates and is on the medical staff of Physicians Regional HealthCare System.

Both lectures are free and open to the public. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Seating is limited, and reservations are required. To sign up for Dr. Cedearquint’s presentation, call 403-5700.

For Dr. Levy-Reis’ lecture, call 593-2022.

Florida Cancer Affiliates offers seminars to the community.

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Florida Cancer Affiliates offers seminars to the community.
Remember when the words “pet decor” meant a cat tree wrapped in ugly carpet or a crate with a cover thrown over it that doubled as an end table? No more. Whatever your decorating style, clever manufacturers and DIYers have come up with some amazing and attractively simple ideas and home hacks that suit both your pets’ needs and your own desire to have an attractive home. We’ve collected eight of our favorite ideas for making a beautiful life with your cat or dog, whether you’re remodeling, redecorating, or buying something new.

- Fur-niture. We’ve all sighed over the amount of pet hair that collects on sofas, chairs, beds, and pretty much anything in the home. Of course you can throw a sheet over your sofa or purchase a cute cover decorated with paw prints, but there are other options if you want a more sophisticated look. If you’re buying a new piece of furniture, look for easy-clean fabrics such as Ultrasuede, a type of microfiber, or Crypton. Both are floral or tapestry prints that will help hide fur between vacuum visits.

- Pet beds. Repurpose an old radio cabinet, console TV or suitcase to make a unique sleep spot for your pet. Another way to upcycle: Turn an old dresser drawer into a pet bed with a cushion or pillow. Look on Pinterest or HGTV.com for how-tos.

- Re-cover. If you have sewing skills, look online for patterns and make slipcovers for those made by muddy paws), odor and bacteria. Or consider skipping fabric altogether and going with leather, pleather or a synthetic fabric that resists stains (including those made by muddy paws), odor and bacteria. Or consider skipping fabric altogether and going with leather, pleather or a synthetic fabric that resists stains. Pet hair cleanup is easier when you have a low-pile style made of stain-resistant material. Pet beds. Repurpose an old radio cabinet, console TV or suitcase to make a unique sleep spot for your pet. Another way to upcycle: Turn an old dresser drawer into a pet bed with a cushion or pillow. Look on Pinterest or HGTV.com for how-tos.

- Built-ins. If you’re building or remodeling your home, ask the contractor about implementing one (or more) of these pet-friendly conveniences: a pullout cabinet for storing pet food and dishes, or a sliding drawer beneath a cabinet with custom cutouts to hold pet dishes; window seats, bookshelves or cabinets with built-in pet beds; or a custom pet door that matches cabinetry or door paneling. Houzz and Pinterest have scores of examples.

- Pet door. For a simpler way to snazz up an existing pet door, simply add trim, or molding, around the edges.

- Cat walks. Cats like to rule their domain and can climb to the highest point in the room, well away from marauding dogs or toddlers. Bridges allow him to perfect his acrobatic skills as he crosses over doorways. Cat bridges, mazes, forts and other configurations all attach to the wall so they take up little space while allowing your cat to go vertical.

- Windows. Build a window seat so your pet can enjoy the view outdoors or even an enclosed “catio” that can be accessed from a window. You can build a window seat yourself, hire a contractor or purchase one from retailers such as Bed, Bath and Beyond or Amazon.

- Underfoot. Hard-surface floors such as wood, bamboo or tile are easiest to clean, but if you must have carpeting, look for a low-pile style made of stain-resistant material. Another good option is Flor carpet tiles, which can be easily taken up and replaced. It will be a mood-saver when you’re cleaning up cat vomit for the umpteenth time.

To adopt or foster a pet
Dogs and cats adopted from Humane Society Naples come with vaccinations, sterilization surgery, ID microchip and 30 days of health insurance. Visit the animals ready for adoption at the main shelter at 270 Airport Pulling Road N. (11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday), or at the satellite adoption center at Coconut Center during mall hours. Call 643-1555 or visit HSNaples.org for more information.

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The MD Factor: Metabolism Dysfunction
Caroline J. Cederquist, M.D.,
Cederquist Medical Wellness Center
Nationally recognized weight loss expert and author, Dr. Caroline Cederquist will discuss Metabolism Dysfunction, or the MD Factor, a common but often unrecognized cause and contributing factor for weight gain, heart disease, diabetes, stroke and even cancer. People with the MD Factor find it easy to gain weight but hard to lose it.

Dr. Cederquist will share how changes in lifestyle and meal plans can correct the MD Factor to lose weight and improve overall health. Copies of her recently released book The MD Factor Diet: A Physician’s Proven Diet for Metabolism Correction and Healthy Weight Loss will also be available for signing.

Wednesday, March 11, 2015
Welcome Reception 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
Presentation 6:00-7:00 p.m.
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Seating is limited, so please call (239) 403-5170 to reserve your seat.

Lecture content is provided by the featured physician. IBERIABANK is responsible for hosting this event and not responsible for lecture content.
THE DIVA DIARIES

As an almost-native Southwest Floridian, I really don’t get out of town much. I’m pretty happy with what our little corner of the peninsula has to offer — boating, beaches, theater and other art events — and my social life is just dandy. Other than the extreme heat in the summer and the unspeakably dreadful traffic in the winter, I’m OK where I am and I don’t experience much wanderlust.

Besides, my fear — nay, terror — of flying is well documented.

For these reasons, I’ve never bothered to get a passport. And I’ve suffered a lot of flak for it. It seems that some of the more well-traveled folks among us can get a bit snobbish when it comes to provincial, passport-less bumpkins.

And, yes, I too was shocked that Sarah Palin did not have a passport, but she was running for the second highest office in the land. I am not running for anything. In fact, the only time I run is to happy hour.

Therefore, I just haven’t felt a need for a passport. That is, until my husband renewed his long-expired one. When it arrived in the mail, he was practi-
cally giddy with excitement. He said he couldn’t explain it, that there was just something thrilling about having this little, shiny, new book with your picture in it that gave you permission to go anywhere in the whole, wide world.

So, I decided I’d get one, too.

On a related note, whenever Todd starts a new workout regime, I start a new workout regime; whenever he gets

his car washed, I go get my car washed. You get the idea. But I suppose moti-
vating each other is a bonus — which makes me wish that he went shoe shopping more often … But I digress.

Actually getting a passport would be more daunting than I thought. Because first, I would need a legit driver’s license. Any of you ladies out there who were born with one name, changed it when you got married (the first time), modified it somewhat (but not legally) after divorcing and then took on your husband’s name on some things like your health insurance or your credit cards, but didn’t legally change anything … well, you know what I mean. And if you’re incredibly disorganized like me, the task of coming up with all the required documents can give you the vapors. Besides, it really wasn’t that big of a problem for me, as all of my IDs and cards and such have my maiden name, Davis, on them — but the third name was either my ex’s (who I’ve not been married to for more than 25 years) or Todd’s. And no one ever caught it because both names start with “B” and have the same number of letters.

Still, it was truly time to become a legal citizen with a real name, which required a lengthy search for docu-
mants. I found my birth certificate in a Tupperware container filled with old photographs. My divorce papers were in a milk crate with a bunch of newspa-
pers I’d saved from when Princess Diana died. And my current marriage license was tucked in a photo album.

My Social Security card, however, was lost long in a move back in the early ’90s. So my first stop was the Social Security office, then a few days later the driver’s license bureau, then the elec-
tions office for a new voter registration card, and finally the passport office. It all took around two weeks, lots of sitting and waiting in offices (thank goodness for iPhones and Words With Friends to pass the time) and plenty of patience.

Now I wait for my passport to arrive in the mail and, hopefully, the giddy thrill that comes with it. Todd, on the other hand, only had to make one stop to renew his passport, and was confused as to why my experience was such an ordeal. I told him, “BECAUSE YOU ARE A MAN.” And it’s true. Men can get married and divorced as often as they want and they don’t have to provide a vail of blood, stand on their heads and sing “Yankee Doodle Dandy” to get something with their name on it, but once again, I digress …

Laterly, we’ve been dreaming a bit, because now that I can actually go somewhere far away, a bit of wander-
lust has indeed crept in. I’d love to go to Europe. Still, I’m just afraid of being in a plane, flying across the Atlantic for six hours. But then again, if I can survive the driver’s license bureau waiting room for an entire afternoon, I can probably survive anything.

— Ciao for now, my lovelies! Stay tuned for another divalicious diary entry next week …
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Planning the future of your business without you in it

BY ROGER WILLIAMS
rawl Williams@floridaweekly.com

A CASUAL DRIVE ON ALMOST ANY COMMERCIAL road in the region — the Tamiami Trail in Charlotte, Lee or Collier counties, for example — offers a truth that defines Florida and the United States: We’re a state and nation of small businesses. They shoulder up against the roadway every conceivable size or shape or color, inviting patronage and the commerce that keeps us all afloat, and knitting us into the fabric of a working society. In Lee County, there are almost 17,000, in Collier, almost 11,000 and in Charlotte almost 4,000 — these are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as private, non-farm businesses.

SEE SUCCESSION, B4

Night of Champions
Celebrating education, dedicating a senior center, and more
Networking photos. B8-10

The Fool knows
What’s the scoop on record-keeping for DRIPs? B6

House Hunting
A Mediterra cul-de-sac estate with a seven-car garage for $2,999,000. B12

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Experience Counts. Expertise Sells.
MONEY & INVESTING
Making sense of GDP reports

The Gross Domestic Product for the U.S. final quarter of 2015 was released on Feb. 27. Most investors do not understand what it means and they look to commentators to tag the announcement as good, bad or neutral.

But what does it really mean that the U.S. economy is currently growing at 2.2 percent annualized rate? And why should investors and citizens care? And from where is the growth coming? Core investors and citizens should care? And how measures it?

Gross Domestic Product is the amount spent for all goods and services and it should equal Gross Domestic Income, the amount paid to produce all goods and services and it comprised by the consumer, business, government and overseas buyers. So here is some peeling of the macroeconomic onion skin:

■ Consumption is personal consumption of durable goods, nondurable goods and services.
■ Investment includes fixed investment (property, plant, equipment, etc.) and change in inventories by businesses.
■ Government is supplies new government buildings.
■ Net Exports is eXports less iMports, i.e., products produced in the U.S. but sold overseas less product produced overseas that we used within the U.S.

The actual (billions of) dollars spent on C, I and G are positive numbers; however, Net Exports can be a negative number because we have, of recent decades, overspent on more data received and further tinkering..." writes Mr. Bartash.

The downward revisions was to a lower I or investment by the private sector: "...mostly because companies restocked warehouse shelves at a lower pace than the government originally reported... The value of inventories, which adds to GDP, increased by $88.4 billion in the fourth quarter instead of $131 billion, the Commerce Department said Friday.

The consumer, however, worked consumption in the U.S. is the largest component of GDP at some 70 percent. Consumption in the U.S. is the largest component of GDP at some 70 percent. Investment is 16 percent and government is slightly over 18 percent; those three are 104 percent of GDP. As Net Exports is a negative at -4 percent, the parts add to 100 percent.

The Feb. 27 GDP report is further explained by Jeffrey Bartash of Market Pulse in his article “U.S. fourth-quarter GDP trimmed to 2.2 percent from 2.6 percent.”

"The U.S. economy grew a revised 2.2 percent in the final three months of 2014... Gross domestic product was marked down from an original estimate of 2.6 percent... GDP is originally reported and then has to revisions based on more data received and further tinkering..." writes Mr. Bartash.

Anemic growth is somewhat to be expected for a mature economy but not to be expected if there has been huge monetary stimulus. As has been noted before in this column, to compensate for what would surely be a contraction in economic activity/collapsing GDP due to hugely decreased Velocity (of money), the Federal Reserve/central banks have increased the U.S. money supply by several trillions.

It is worthwhile to look at macro statistics and understand them... and possibly most importantly to understand that for all monetary efforts we have not gotten the GDP bang for the monetary buck.

— 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.
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In every one of those establishments lie the dreams and hopes of business owners that could be cashing for spouses, partners, a families and employees, all of them connected economically and perhaps emotionally to the businesses and evolution of a private business.

All of which is why the inevitable passing on of the business or its assets and value from one hand to another, or from one generation to the next, is deeply important. Surprisingly, however, it is too often undertaken in haste, or poorly planned.

"I always tell people, that's not their work or something close. Make sure the deal is right," says David Holmes, a four-generation Floridian and an estate planning attorney for the Farr Law Firm based in Punta Gorda.

"You have one chance, so make sure you get it right. With so many deals, they're in a rush to close, they have this buyer, it sounds great, and they want the contract signed and out the door in two weeks."

They can do that, too — especially if they don't mind potentially losing significance to the fortunes and evolution of a business.

Consequently, the lesson of succession is simple, says the experts: start early. Even if putting the plan in place can be more complicated, a succession plan should be started long before there is any seeming reason to start it.

And you can probably benefit from the help of an accountant and an estate-planning lawyer.

"Have you ever heard the expression, 'shirtsleeves to shirtsleeves in three generations'"? asks Craig Hersch, an estate-planning lawyer with the Fort Myers-based Sheppard, Brett, Stewart, Hersch, Kinsey & Hill law firm who helps businesses from Naples to Sarasota avoid that very thing.

That shirtsleeves phenomenon is too often the result of poor planning for the future, not bad business practices in themselves, he notes.

Then Mr. Hersch asks the follow-up question: "How can we prevent that?" It's a fact-specific question. Some businesses lose out because of technology or changes in the marketplace. Some businesses are better to sell now because they're at the height of the market, and the owners don't realize that the business is going the way of the horse and buggy.

"And some businesses might carry on for generations," he says.

While the questions and some of the concerns of business owners may have changed little in recent years, the business environment itself has improved in marked ways.

For one thing, the economy is one again robust, which means it's a seller's market for those looking to cash in their businesses. Mr. Holmes says.

"Most businesses are better off now than in 2010. So buyers coming in now are being forced to pay more typical prices for a business. Those days of getting it cheap are past."

"As an owner, if you were able to hang on through the Great Recession and you're selling now, you should have a greater pool of clients. I have businesses in construction, in restaurant and other service fields that are selling now," — and they've picked a good time, he notes.

For another thing, the estate tax that traditionally took such a significant bite out of any business, had dropped to about $2.1 million — the tax paid at the death of an owner transferring the estate to a surviving relative — is no longer an issue for small businesses (those with values of less than about $5.5 million, at this point).

Inference in what a business owner puts on value above the deduction can also vary widely depending on circumstances — from about 25 to about 40 percent.

But there's a lot to think about before it comes that day.

"The estate tax exemption is up to $5.34 million now, which is a much better environment for businesses to take a lot of businesses have more worth than that. Even so (and no matter what the tax picture), you still have the same dilemma how to be fair to family members," he says.

Indeed, one of the thorniest challenges business owners ever face is moving in the business, and some others are not, he postulates.

"So there's a dilemma: If you give the value of the business to one child and something else of similar value to another, but one is inheriting a treasured production that might not be as good a fit.

In Mr. Hersch's case, he's learned from long experience to recommend this approach: "I try to discourage my clients from leaving the business to kids who are not working in it. It's very fact-specific: Are the children working in the business happy in it? It's better to sell the business rather than try to fit a lot of people into one business."

"This challenge, for Mr. Hersch, is a joy, not a burden, he notes.

"The fun part of my career is getting into the emotional elements and attributes of (a succession)," he says.

One of the first things I ask my clients is, 'Tell me about your children. I want to know who gets along and who doesn't, who they're like as people. For me, these questions are much more than just economic questions."

For more than a decade, Mr. Hersch has relied on a coaching program himself, which he uses as a guide to help his client families, sometimes where maintains winter homes in Naples or Fort Myers but run businesses based elsewhere in the country.

"I have a system called the family business retreat, and sometimes they'll fly me up there (Pennsylvania or New York, for example) and I take them through a whole day of exercise to help them determine what the business should be passed down, and if so, how," he says.

He starts with series of questions aimed at all the families members who might be interested — those who are from the business and those who are not working in the business. One of those questions can put everything in a new and much more visible perspective.

"It's a relationship question," he says. "You've got to have a pre-conversation three years from today to make you feel good about your progress? That opens up a dialogue. It asks that question and you get a lot of different answers."

Those answers, in turn, lead to follow-up questions:

A: "What are the dangers or obstacles that could prevent you from reaching that goal?

B: "What opportunities exist that you can take advantage of to reach that goal?"

C: "What are the strengths we have in place that can help us achieve the vision?"

There are also practical notions to keep in mind before any selling, says Mr. Holmes.

"Most deals do not involve payment of the entire price at closing, so if a deal involves any degree of seller financing, the seller has to be careful," he explains.

"I always ask my clients: 'Could you live with the amount of cash you're getting at closing, forever after? Could you live with the amount of the business have in place that can help us achieve the vision?'"

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"I always ask my clients: 'Could you live with the amount of cash you're getting at closing, forever after? Could you live with the amount of the business you have in place that can help us achieve the vision?'"

"That enables families to bequeath their businesses in a fairer way, but a lot of businesses have more worth than that, even so (and no matter what the tax picture), you still have the same dilemma how to be fair to family members."
Economic experts will review conditions and look ahead

The Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University partners with Christensen Financial and The Mortgage Bankers Association of Southwestern Florida to present an annual review and outlook for the regional and national economies from 8:45 a.m. to 10 a.m. Friday, April 3, in the ballroom at FGCU Cohen Center.

Speakers will be David Altig, director of research and executive vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta; Douglas Duncan, senior vice president and chief economist at Fannie Mae; and Gary Jackson, director of the Regional Economic Research Institute at FGCU.

Growth in Collier County is subject of next ULI session

Three more programs remain in the Urban Land Institute-Southwest Florida’s four-part series examining how the region and individual counties are preparing for the next wave of growth. The first session in February presented a regional overview.

Collier County is the subject of the program Friday, March 20, followed by Lee County on Friday, April 17, and Charlotte County on Friday, May 15.

All sessions take place from 7:45 to 10 a.m. in Sugden Hall at Florida Gulf Coast University. Each will provide an in-depth review of current development patterns as well as protections for balancing quality of life, environmental needs and economic development opportunities.

Registration for each session is $35 for ULI members, $50 for others (discounts available for students and public sector employees). Sign up by calling (800) 321-5011 or going to swflorida.uli.org.

Leadership Collier invites applicants

The Leadership Collier Foundation is accepting applications for the Class of 2016. Leadership Collier program designed to prepare citizens to assume leadership roles in the community. Its primary objective is to educate local business leaders about the societal and economic challenges facing the community today.

The program runs from September through March and includes 10 full-day sessions.

Tuition is $2,000. Applications are due April 7 and can be downloaded at naples-chamber.org.

For more information, contact Amanda Brights at the Leadership Collier Foundation by calling 403-2903 or emailing amandabrights@naples-chamber.org.

Sign up now for CEO Law Forum

Registration is open for the inaugural 2015 CEO Law Forum hosted by the Florida Small Business Development Center at Florida Gulf Coast University from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topics of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi- cks of discussion will include: misunderstood to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at FGCU. Topi-
By women, for women

Name That Company

Headquartered in Tokyo, I was founded in 1910, when I introduced a five-horsepower induction motor. In 1924, I completed the first largescale DC electric locomotive made in Japan. I developed a fully automatic washing machine and an experimental nuclear reactor in 1944, and in 1989 I developed an online banking system. My offerings include excavators, dump trucks, lithium-ion batteries, automotive systems, rice cookers, shavers, dehumidifiers, dorm refrigerators, LED lighting, escalators, elevators, air conditioners, LED lighting, refrigeration systems, medical imaging systems and power drills. My consolidated revenue topped $93 billion last year. Who am I? (Answer: Hallmark Cards)

The Motley Fool Take

Stocked Up on Pop

The world's largest beverage company, Coca-Cola (NYSE: KO), has averaged gains over the past 30 years. Its growth has slowed in recent years, and in 2014, I completed the first large-scale DC electric locomotive made in Japan. I developed a fully automatic washing machine and an experimental nuclear reactor in 1944, and in 1989 I developed an online banking system. My offerings include excavators, dump trucks, lithium-ion batteries, automotive systems, rice cookers, shavers, dehumidifiers, dorm refrigerators, LED lighting, escalators, elevators, air conditioners, LED lighting, refrigeration systems, medical imaging systems and power drills. My consolidated revenue topped $93 billion last year. Who am I? (Answer: Hallmark Cards)

My Dumbest Investment Cornered in the Market

My dumbest investment, but best lesson, happened via a telephone conversation in 1980. I was 13 and used $108 (Canadian) of my hard-earned paper route money to buy ounces of silver. I thought it was a good gamble to be able to collect 1000 ounces of silver. Little did I know the price was going to drop. The shiny pieces. Within weeks, the market manipulation by the Hunt brothers collapsed the market, and the value of my silver was down to about $12. — B.M., online

The Fool Responds: That was a weird chapter of financial history, where the Hunt brothers spent years manipulating the price of silver, and a big chunk of all the world’s silver, sending its price soaring. They hoped to corner the market, but the market outwitted, and in part due to their having used a lot of borrowed money, wiped them out. It took out many other investors, too. A lesson here is to not assume that investment will keep soaring. And the Hunt’s downfall is another lesson, against investing with borrowed money.

That’s the best time to learn critical lessons.

Write to Us! Send questions for Ask the Fool (Dumbest or Smartest) Investments (up to 100 words) and your trivia entries to Fool@fool.com or via regular mail c/o this newspaper, attn: The Motley Fool, Sorry, we can’t provide individual financial advice.

Business MEETINGS

A Job Search Support Group meetings from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce. Contact Karen Khakhtarian at khk@fms.net or visit napleschamber.org.

Consultants from the Small Business Development Center at Florida Gulf Coast University are available at the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, 2390 Tamiami Trail N., every Thursday. To make an appointment for a free 1-hour business consulting, call 239-475-3704.

Wake Up Naples for members and guests of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce takes place from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Monday, March 16, at the Hilton Naples. Research scholars from Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Southwestern State College and Hodges University will discuss two recent South Florida Workforce Now studies. Reservations required by March 6. Sign up at napleschamber.org/events.

Business After Five: Dumbest Investment Cornered in the Market

The world’s largest beverage company, Coca-Cola (NYSE: KO), has averaged gains over the past 30 years. Its growth has slowed in recent years, and in 2014, I completed the first large-scale DC electric locomotive made in Japan. I developed a fully automatic washing machine and an experimental nuclear reactor in 1944, and in 1989 I developed an online banking system. My offerings include excavators, dump trucks, lithium-ion batteries, automotive systems, rice cookers, shavers, dehumidifiers, dorm refrigerators, LED lighting, escalators, elevators, air conditioners, LED lighting, refrigeration systems, medical imaging systems and power drills. My consolidated revenue topped $93 billion last year. Who am I? (Answer: Hallmark Cards)

Business After Five: for members and guests of the Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce takes place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, at the Promenade at Bonita Bay. Admission is free. For more information, call 992-2943 or visit bonitapromenade.com.

The Collier Building Industry Association holds its monthly mixer from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, at International Design Source, 1959 7th Street NE., Naples. A five-course, $50 dinner is available. For reservations or more information, call 597-8818 or visit cbia.org.

Save the date for the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce annual meeting set for Wednesday morning, April 15, at the Ritz Naples. Visit napleschamber.org/events for more information.

The Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce holds its annual scholarship fundraise from 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 17, at Quail West Country Club in Naples. Tickets are $125 through March 25. A live auction and auction items, including a dinner with world-renowned chef Bobby Flay, will help fund scholarships for high school graduates.

Check the Fool’s School for answers to your questions, and tune in to this week’s edition.

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Ask the Fool

Q I’ve been investing in stocks through DRIPs. For tax purposes, do I need to save all my paper work showing purchases, sales and dividend reinvestment information? — E.W., online

A You sure do. That’s a key downside to direct investing plans or dividend reinvestment plans (also known as DRIPs) — paperwork and record-keeping. But the upside is considerable: You can avoid brokerage commission costs when buying shares, invest small amounts at a time, have your dividends reinvested in additional stock, and over time amass large sums. Learn more about DRIPs at fool.com/Advisor/DRIPs.htm, directinvesting.com and dripinvestor.com.

Q How do municipal bonds work, and are they good investments? — J.K., Kinston, North Carolina

A Municipal bonds, or “munis,” are issued by state and local governments to raise money for expenses such as building bridges, expanding schools, maintaining roads and so on. They borrow the money from us, and the fixed-interest rate they pay us is usually exempt from federal taxes and often from local taxes, too. Be careful, though. Social Security benefit and other tax benefits. But the upside is considerable: You can avoid brokerage commission costs when buying shares, invest small amounts at a time, have your dividends reinvested in additional stock, and over time amass large sums. Learn more about DRIPs at fool.com/Advisor/DRIPs.htm, directinvesting.com and dripinvestor.com.

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Local entrepreneurs set for ‘Shark Tank’-style faceoff

VenturePitch SWFL 15Q1 will bring together four local entrepreneurs for the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a panel of investor judges and attendees during a “Shark Tank”-style event Wednesday evening, March 11, at Silverspot Cinema in Mercato.

The entrepreneurs were chosen from a competitive group of start-up businesses and represent the region’s growing tech community. Their companies are:

- **PikMobile**, a new social networking app that allows users to upload single or multiple photos to tell a story using pictures.
- **InsulinNG**, focused on early detection of diabetes. With one drop of blood, the device can detect if a patient is at risk for diabetes up to three years before onset.
- **BUN**, an intelligent tool used to automatically organize and safeguard pictures and media content. Family and friends can contribute to a timeline and share milestones across multiple social networks.
- **The Interior Designer Store**, a designer-only online wholesale showroom offering more than half a million products and no purchase minimums.

The evening’s presenting sponsors include Bank of America, Florida Venture Forum, Gulfshore Business, Hahn Loeser, Institute for Entrepreneurship at FGCU’s Lutgert College of Business and Tamiami Angel Fund II (T2).

Emcee will be Jeff Lytle, former editorial page editor at the Naples Daily News and current host of Naples Daily Newsmakers. Shayne Faerber of Mall Maps will serve as judge and keynote speaker. Additional judges will be entrepreneur and author Bud Stoddard, T2 board member; David Diamond, founder and co-owner of DeAngelis Diamond Construction and Venture X; and Richard Molloy of Gulfshore Capital.

Tickets for $50 include light refreshments and can be purchased at venturepitchswfl.com. For information about sponsorship opportunities, call 298-6940. Tamiami Angel Fund I & II LLC are member-managed funds designed to enable private accredited investors to actively participate in a disciplined investment process. The funds invest in promising early-stage through expansion-stage commercial ventures located in the U.S., with a preference to those in the state of Florida. Both funds are members of the Angel Capital Association and the Florida Venture Forum. For more information, visit tamiaianglefuls.com.
NETWORKING

Great Space Storage hosts Bonita Business Before Business

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Janet Esperon, Kim Sze, Shelley Geidner, Brian Geidner and Greg Stephans

Joe Rossi and Chris Fries

Trish Sanson and Shelley Geidner

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Joe Rossi and Chris Fries

Trish Sanson and Shelley Geidner

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NETWORKING

‘A Night of Champions’ at the Naples Beach Hotel in celebration of 25 years of Champions For Learning

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NETWORKING

Community celebration of the Golden Gate Senior Center

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that you use this to CLEAN your teeth.

#pestsdontcare ✅
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Ashton Woods opens two models in Marsh Cove at Fiddler’s Creek

Ashton Woods hosts the grand opening of its first community in Naples — Marsh Cove at Fiddler’s Creek — from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 7. The public is invited to enjoy refreshments while touring the new Ashton Woods sales gallery and two model homes.

A gated village of single-family residences, Marsh Cove will initially have 112 homesites, offering views of the championship golf course and creeks. Fifteen floor plans ranging from 2,550 to 4,877 square feet of living space featuring Spanish Colonial Revival architecture are priced from the $600,000s to $2 million.

The Tarragona is a one-story design encompassing approximately 4,163 air-conditioned square feet and 6,892 total square feet. There are three bedrooms, four baths, a study and a three-car garage. Additional features include a library, a two-sided fireplace along with an oversized lanai with pool and outdoor kitchen that is ideal for entertaining guests. Base price of the Tarragona is $863,990, plus home site premium.

The Catalonia is a two-story design with approximately 4,163 air-conditioned square feet and 6,892 total square feet. This home has three bedrooms and 3½ baths, plus a flex room.

House Hunting:

15210 Brolio Way, Mediterra

Available for the first time, this Kurtz Homes estate at the end of a cul-de-sac in Mediterra has a detached, 1,500-square-foot, air-conditioned seven-car garage, a portion of which can easily be converted to an additional bedroom suite. There are three bedrooms plus a den and sunroom, three full and two half baths in 4,272 square feet of living area. Light, bright finishes include hand-scraped hickory wood floors, custom white cabinetry, solid wood doors, light stone countertops, automated lighting, outdoor screens in the lanai columns and outdoor fireplace. Several membership levels in Mediterra Golf & Beach Club are available.

David William Auston of Amerivest Realty has the listing for $2,999,000. To arrange a showing, call 273-1376 or email david@davidnaples.com.

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REAL ESTATE NEWSMAKERS

New officers of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the Appraisal Institute are: Michael Jonas, Capstone Valuation Advisors in Naples, president; Mary Patterson, Patterson Appraisal, vice president; Don Saba, Saba & Associates, secretary; and Wesley Sanders, National Appraisal Group, treasurer. Geri Armalavage of Valbridge Property Advisors and Rachel Zucchi of Appraisal and Consulting, both in Naples, serve on the chapter board.

John R. Wood Properties has been nominated for the following awards that are issued by the Leading Real Estate Companies of the World, a network of more than 500 firms in 50 countries: Top Luxury Portfolio Brokerage Award, Performance Award Nomination for Top 5-Pinnacle Award and Award of Excellence/Equivalent Closing Sales Production.

Leonor LaRue has joined the Fort Myers office of Weichert, Realtors-On the Gulf to assist clients in Naples, Fort Myers and Cape Coral. A member of the Realtors Association of Greater Fort Myers and the Beach, she previously worked in insurance inspection.

Noel Newby and Phil Macon have been named the on-site sales team for Naples Reserve, a new residential master-planned community by Ashton Woods Homes. Ms. Newby brings more than 15 years of real estate experience to her position as community sales manager. Prior to joining Ashton Woods, she was an associate broker/new homes specialist in Panama City Beach. Mr. Macon, a sales counselor for Ashton Woods, has been involved in the sales and marketing of residential homes in the Southwest Florida market for more than 12 years.

Jeffrey Schmidt II has joined the Naples office of Weichert, Realtors-On the Gulf to work with clients in Naples and Fort Myers. A local resident for 14 years, Mr. Schmidt previously was director of media relations for the Orlando Predators of the Arena Football League. He earned a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Central Florida and is a member of the Naples Area Board of Realtors.

Lisa Barnett Van Dien has joined London Bay Homes as the Naples-based homebuilder’s general counsel. A Florida Bar board certified real estate attorney and member of The Florida Bar since 1996, Ms. Van Dien has practiced law in Naples for more than 19 years. She has held leadership positions with the Collier County Bar Association, Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida, Leadership Florida and the Naples Area Board of Realtors’ legal resources committee. She is also a founding member of the Golisano Children’s Museum of Naples, where she served on the board for more than 10 years.

Ellisa Wallace has joined the Naples office of Weichert, Realtors-On the Gulf. She has resided in Naples for three years and has 15 years of experience in the real estate industry. She holds an associate’s degree in business from Anoka Ramsey Community College in Minnesota and is a member of the Naples Area Board of Realtors.

Touch of the Irish. Saturday, March 7 from 12-4 pm.

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• $895,000    MLS 214091724
Dotti Fagan, The Fagan Team 239.272.4046

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THE DUNES
• 5 BR, 5.5 BA, 10th Floor Luxury Residence
• $3,995,000    MLS 215010511
Bari Fischer, The Fischer Group 239.872.7333

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BOCA PALMS
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NORTH NAPLES
• Beautiful, Spacious Pool Home in Great School District
• $399,000    MLS 215009350
Annette Villano & Jim Hiester 239.248.6798

NAPLES
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• Golf Course View
• $179,000    MLS 215010511
David Steele  239.287.7097

BONITA BAY
NEW LISTING
EAGLE CREEK
• Beach Home, 3 BR, 3.5 BA
• $389,000    MLS 214051295
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Annette Villano & Jim Hiester 239.248.6798
Doug Haughey  239.961.1561
Linda Ramsey  239.405.3054
Linda Sanfilippo 239.595.1098
Gary Ryan   239.273.6796

The Taranto Team  239.572.3078
David Steele 239.287.7097
Bette Pitzer 239.560.2627
Bari Fischer, The Fischer Group 239.872.7333
Dotti Fagan, The Fagan Team 239.272.4046
Gary Ryan         239.273.6796

The Taranto Team   239.572.3078
The Taranto Team 239.572.0066
The Taranto Team  239.572.3078
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Borelli Construction announces plans for a new inventory home in the Hemingway Place neighborhood of Naples. Designed by Weber Design Group, the two-story residence will have four bedrooms plus a loft and 4½ baths under 3,746 air-conditioned square feet. Total square footage will be 5,100 square feet.

The great room and foyer will feature 24-foot ceilings. The kitchen will have Thermador appliances, an oversized island bar, quartz countertops, upgraded European-style cabinets and walk-in pantry. The master floor will also have a study with custom built-ins just off the foyer and main entry.

The master suite of the residence will also be on the ground floor and will feature oversized his-and-her walk-in closets and an inviting sitting area. The master suite also features separate his-and-her vanities, a free-standing tub and clear glass shower enclosure along with European-style cabinets, designer bath fixtures and marble throughout the bath.

The second floor of the home will accommodate the remainder of the bedrooms and bathrooms in a split floor plan around the loft area. In addition to the guest bedrooms and loft, the second floor will provide a second laundry floor will provide a second laundry room and a morning bar.

All floors in the main areas will feature wood tiles and there will be decorative crown molding throughout the home. The entire residence also will be equipped with a wireless surround sound system that can be controlled remotely on any device to stream different songs/services in each room. There also will be an extensive video camera system on the exterior of the residence for added security.

Retractable screens will protect the luxurious outdoor living area from the elements. Complete with kitchen and fireplace, the area will also have a glass tile pool and spa.

Other design features include a concrete tile roof, custom PGT impact glass windows and doors, designer light fixtures and brick paver driveways and entry walks. A number of environmentally friendly solutions also are being used in building the home, including extensive LED lighting and foam insulation. The home also will have a two-car garage with two doors and extra space for storage.

On a private cul-de-sac between U.S. 41 North and Goodlette-Frank Road, the home should be completed by the end of this year. It is available for purchase for $1.75 million.

Borelli Construction has been building custom homes in Naples for more than 35 years. For more information or to make an appointment to view the residential plans, contact Parker Borelli at 263-7900.

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Naples - $399,900

**The Sands D-307**

$294,000

**PENDING**

Naples - $385,000

**BRIDGEWATER BAY - COCONUT BAY**

**COURTESY PHOTO**

Borelli Construction has broken ground to build this home in Hemingway Place.
Lisa Tashjian
239.259.7024
lisa.tashjian@sothebysrealty.com

Artfully uniting extraordinary homes with extraordinary lives.
Talis Park Releases 24 Home Sites In New Corsica Neighborhood

With sales and new construction activity at historic highs, developer Kitson & Partners announced it is releasing twenty-four single-family home sites in Corsica, a new neighborhood within the award-winning Talis Park gated golf course community in North Naples. Twenty-three of the Corsica home sites measure 60 or 77-feet and will accommodate residences from 3,000 to 4,500 square feet. One 90-foot site is also available. Home sites in Corsica are priced from $495,000 to $905,000. Home and lot packages are available from $1.6 to $2.5 million. Luxurious residences in Corsica will be built by Sunwest Homes, Fox Custom Builders, and Harbourside Custom Homes.

Corsica’s north-facing sites offer beautiful water and multiple fairway views, a combination that has driven strong sales in Talis Park’s Seneca neighborhood that was released last spring. Less than a year after being introduced, just 11 of the 43 Seneca home sites remain available. Kitson expects Corsica to generate a similar level of interest among homebuyers intent on enjoying Talis Park’s “In the Park” lifestyle.

The Corsica neighborhood is situated adjacent to the new Sports Complex and south entry gate currently under construction at Talis Park. The approximately three-acre Sports Complex will feature six lighted Har-Tru tennis courts with directionally focused lighting and pavilions for resting between matches, a tennis pro shop and clubhouse with restrooms and a beverage center, four bocce ball courts, a fifty-foot two-lane lap pool, and landscaped areas. An enchanting green space will provide a social gathering and event place reminiscent of the community’s signature Great Lawn located at Talis Park’s Grand Piazza. The Sports Complex will complete the array of amenities Kitson has designed and constructed to enhance Talis Park’s New Fashioned, health-oriented lifestyle that has redefined the Naples country club experience.

The new entry gate at the south end of Talis Park Drive will provide access to the community via Veterans’ Memorial Parkway. The south entry gate will include a guard house and a private entry lane for residents. As part of the entry gate project, Kitson will create a memorable approach to the community’s south entrance with significant landscaping enhancements along approximately 1,000-feet of Veteran’s Memorial Parkway between the south entry gate and Livingston Road. Both the Sports Complex and the south entry gate are expected to be completed by late fall of this year.

Corsica is the third new neighborhood to be released at Talis Park since April, 2014. In addition to Seneca, Kitson started accepting design presentations in October for Residences at Vyne House in January of this year. An enclave of fourteen choice luxury condominium residences immediately adjacent to Talis Park’s Vyne House clubhouse and signature Great Lawn, The Residences at Vyne House’s distinctive ambiance is based on the premise that proximity and exceptional service matter. The innovative offering will put a select group of homeowners at the heart of Talis Park’s amenity core, literally within steps of the captivating Vyne Court, the formal and casual dining options, fitness and spa facilities, elegant wine room, resort style pool, and golf pro shop included at Vyne House. A 24-hour, seven days a week concierge will be available to owners at The Residences at Vyne House and provide a comprehensive array of services.

The Residences at Vyne House offer eleven distinct floor plans ranging from 2,563 to 5,648 square feet priced from $1,350 million to $3,575 million. The floor plan choices include two-bedroom plus den, three bedroom, three bedroom plus den, and four-bedroom residences with a family room and great room. Several of the residences include expansive outdoor terraces overlooking the Great Lawn at Talis Park’s Grand Piazza. Four penthouse residences range from 2,752 to 5,648 square feet with 12-foot ceilings, one of which is on the ground level and includes its own casita and overlooks 2,000 square feet of outdoor living space.

Construction of the 26,470 square feet under air multi-level Phase II of the Vyne House clubhouse is underway and on schedule for completion in late November of this year. Talis Park’s residents continue to enjoy dining at Fiona’s Market Café, working out at the world-class Core Fitness Center, and relaxing at the Esprit Spa that opened at Vyne House in December of 2013. Fiona’s serves fresh, local fare, wine selections, bar service and other items. Fiona’s general store personality offers a dining experience that complements the completed Casa Cortese’s outdoor dining and lounge experience overlooking the Talis Park Golf Club’s pristine driving range. When Phase II is completed, Vyne House will include a total of 3,052 square feet under air and 2,065 square feet of outdoor space.

In addition to the Sports Complex and Vyne House, Talis Park’s amenities include its renowned golf course that is one of just two Greg Norman-Pete Dye designed golf courses in the world. Known for the splendor of its glittering lakes and Sea Dwarf® Paspalum fairways and greens, the course is consistently ranked among the top twenty golf courses in Florida and was ranked #91 in Golfweek’s 2014 Best Residential Courses.

Talis Park’s residential choices range from penthouse style condominiums priced from the $700’s to luxurious estate residences starting at $2.5 million. Completed and soon-to-be-completed furnished models and unfurnished Ready homes are available in Talis Park’s ten distinct neighborhoods. Additional furnished models are poised to begin construction. Talis Park is located in North Naples on Livingston Road just north of Immokalee Road. Visit Talis Park’s Garden House Sales Center at 16980 Livingston Road in North Naples, or visit Talis Park online at talispark.com.

The new Corsica neighborhood at Talis Park offers an In the Park lifestyle overlooking the fairways and lakes of the community’s Greg Norman-Pete Dye designed golf course.

Talis Park’s Casa Cortese Grille offers an outdoor dining venue and lounge experience overlooking Talis Park’s pristine driving range.

Adjacent to the Great Lawn at Talis Park’s Grand Piazza, the already completed Fiona’s Market Café is located at Vyne House.
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PONTE VEDRA GRANDE - Lot 38: 4 bed/4.5 bath 3,525 sq.ft. under air $1,272,110
SCOTTSDALE II - Lot 24: 3 bed/3 bath 2,719 sq.ft. under air $951,625
ORCHID II - Lot 34: 4 bed/3.5 bath 3,158 sq.ft. under air $854,515

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**$6 million spec home underway by Encore in Olde Naples**

Encore Development broke ground recently on the latest of eight custom-built spec homes the boutique firm has planned for 2015-16. On a corner lot at 180 Central Ave. in Olde Naples, the house will have five bedrooms and 6½ baths in 5,316 square feet of living area. The outdoor living area will include an edgeless pool, spa, sun shelf, a rooftop deck with Gulf views, indoor and outdoor fireplaces and a full outdoor kitchen and bar. There will be a three-car garage and a separate golf cart garage. Completion is anticipated for November.

Listed by broker associate Dante DiSabato of Encore Realty at $6,195,000, the property sits four homes away from the beach and five blocks from Fifth Avenue South.

Encore Development has another seven homes in the building/planning stages in various Naples neighborhoods, including Olde Naples and The Moorings. Ranging from 3,000 to 6,000 square feet, the new homes will be priced from $3 million to $6 million-plus. For more information, call 566-2350 or visit encedev.com.

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**Jackie May**

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jackiemayportroyalnaples.com  
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$22,900,000  
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Open Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

**355 GORDON DRIVE • PORT ROYAL**  
2019 waterfront estate with beach access  
$20,000,000  
Open Daily from 1 to 5 p.m.

**3350 RUM ROW • PORT ROYAL**  
2019 waterfront estate with guesthouse  
$8,900,000  
Open Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

**655 GALLEON DRIVE • PORT ROYAL**  
Immaculate waterfront home with guesthouse  
$6,595,000  
Open Daily from 1 to 5 p.m.

**1299 GALLEON DRIVE • PORT ROYAL**  
Largest five-way panoramic, 120-foot waterfront view in Port Royal; situated on .69 acres  
**PRICE REDUCED** $5,690,000  
Open Daily from 1 to 4 p.m.

**728 REGATTA ROAD • THE MOORINGS**  
One-floor living with wood floors, cathedral ceilings, 4 bedrooms, den, 2 family rooms and 3-car garage  
$3,900,000  
Open Daily from 1 to 4 p.m.

**2781 AMBERWOOD COURT • VALENCIA LAKES**  
Two-story, immaculate lakefront three-bedroom home  
$374,000

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Reservations open for Altaira ‘Sky Homes’ by WCI in Bonita Springs

WCI Communities is accepting reservations for luxury tower residences in Altaira at The Colony Golf & Bay Club. Offering 76 homes overlooking the Bonita Springs community’s 18-hole golf course, lakes, nature preserves, Estero Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, Altaira is WCI’s first Sky Homes tower project in seven years.

Construction is targeted to begin in late-2015, and Altaira is planned for completion during the second quarter of 2017.

Homebuyers can visit The Colony Sales Center on Coconut Road, 1.5 miles west of U.S. 41, to reserve their residence now within the 21-story luxury tower. Prices start at $1 million.

Altaira residences will have 3,300 and 3,500 square feet of living space and multiple terraces with western sunset views and eastern vistas of The Colony and surrounding neighborhoods. End residences also have north- or south-facing terraces.

Each three-bedroom design has a great room, private den, three full baths and a powder room. There will be granite or quartz countertops in the kitchen, and a fully equipped fitness center.

Owner’s suites feature large bedroom closets, and spacious bathrooms featuring tile-clad walk-in showers, ceramic-tiled soaking tubs, and private water closets. Double vanities offer a dressing table for her, marble-styled countertops and raised-panel wood cabinetry.

Guest rooms are designed with private full bathrooms and sliding glass doors to terraces.

Great rooms in Residences 01 and 04 — Altaira’s largest plans — span more than 840 square feet, expanding into a gracious dining room, breakfast and sitting areas. The design also features a multiple bay window configuration in the den.

The kitchen’s breakfast nook in Residences 02 and 03 is a multifunctional space that can be used as a morning room or sitting area. Owners have the option of adding sliding doors to the den.

Each residence in Altaira has a private elevator foyer and solar-tinted, laminated glass windows with hurricane-rated glazing systems.

There are 19 residential floors with only four homes per floor.

The luxury tower’s first floor will feature resident parking, air-conditioned owner’s storage, bicycle storage, and power source for electric-powered vehicles.

The second-floor amenity level will offer three hotel-style guest suites, a manned access control and concierge desk, clubroom and catering kitchen, and a fully equipped fitness facility.

A rooftop terrace will offer all Altaira owners and their guests a place for enjoying some of Southwest Florida’s most incredible outdoor views.

A resort-style pool, pool pavilion, and cabanas will provide a welcomed reason to relax. A reflecting pool, water wall, and open fire pit will complete the west deck setting.

The Colony Golf Club’s 28,000-square-foot clubhouse offers members 18 holes of Jerry Pate-designed championship golf, formal and casual dining options, a cocktail lounge, golf pro shop, men’s and women’s lounges and locker rooms and a spa and fitness center. Outdoor amenities include a swimming pool and a tennis pavilion with six Har-Tru courts. Residents of The Colony Golf & Bay Club have access to Pelican Landing amenities: a 34-acre island beach park, canoe park, tennis courts, fitness center and community center. The Colony’s concierge program can arrange everything from key-holding and housekeeping services to dry cleaning, domestic and international travel, and at-home massages or yoga instruction.

WCI also offers luxury penthouse-inspired residences in three- and four-story mid-rise buildings at Terzetto and Cielo in The Colony. Homes start in the $690,000s.

For more information about Altaira, call 499-1300 or visit wcicommunities.com.
OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-4

7356 Monteverde Way

Olde Cypress - $899,995

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Pam Weekly 239.877.4253
Florida housing market making steady gains

Florida’s housing market had higher median prices, more new listings and a continued stabilization of inventory in January, according to the latest housing data released by Florida Realtors.

Closed sales of single-family homes statewide totaled 16,087 last month, up 10 percent over January 2014.

“Home price gains in areas across Florida mean that home equity continues to improve and that, coupled with historically low interest rates, generates a great opportunity for sellers,” says 2015 Florida Realtors President Andrew Barbar, a broker with Keller Williams Realty Services in Boca Raton. “Many homeowners who have been on the sidelines are now ready to list their properties for sale: Statewide, new listings for single-family homes in January rose 79 percent year-over-year, while new townhouse-condo listings rose 1 percent.”

Mr. Barbar noted that January marked the 38th consecutive month that statewide median sales prices for both single-family homes and townhouse-condo properties rose year-over-year.

The statewide median sales price for single-family existing homes last month was $260,000 and the median townhome/condo was $144,000.

According to the National Association of Realtors, the national median sales price for existing single-family homes in December 2014 was $210,200, up 6.3 percent from the previous year. The national median existing condo price was $204,000. In California, the statewide median sales price for single-family existing homes in December was $452,570; in Massachusetts, it was $332,925; in Maryland, it was $250,482; and in New York, it was $230,000.

Looking at Florida’s townhouse-condo market, statewide closed sales totaled 7,294 last month, down slightly (-1.7 percent) compared to January 2014. That closed sales data reflected fewer short sales in January; Short sales for condo-townhouse properties declined 570 percent while short sales for single-family homes dropped 39.4 percent. Closed sales typically occur 30 to 90 days after sales contracts are written.

“The major features of the market – prices and inventory – have settled into a path that will be characteristic of the whole year,” says Florida Realtors Chief Economist Dr. John Tuccillo.

“But there are some interesting wrinkles in the detailed numbers,” Dr. Tuccillo adds. “First, inventories for both single-family homes and townhomes and condos are shrinking, a sign of a continuing need for supply in the less than $250,000 area of the market. Right now, new construction remains the best option for households of moderate income. Adding to this is the continuing rapid decline in short sales, an ongoing trend that is likely to continue.

“Secondly, the percentage of condo sales accounted for by cash dropped dramatically in January. This shows the impact of a strengthening dollar on foreign demand, as well as the continuing decline in market participation by volume investors.”

Inventory was at a 5.3-months’ supply in January for single-family homes and at a 6.2-months’ supply for townhouse-condo properties, according to Florida Realtors.

According to Freddie Mac, the interest rate for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 3.67 percent in January 2015, down from the 4.43 percent average recorded during the same month a year earlier.

To see the full statewide housing activity reports, visit Florida Realtors’ website under “Research.” ■

THE HISTORY OF COLLIER COUNTY
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Moorings Park at Grey Oaks announces The Residences at Grand Place.
13 delectable penthouse-style floor plans topping off a fabulous community.

The Residences at Grand Place are located in Phase IV at Moorings Park at Grey Oaks. Where country club living and quality healthcare come together in the heart of Naples. And where penthouse-style residences are just a private elevator ride away from superb dining, resort-style pool and numerous life-enriching amenities.

Prices from $1.1 Million. 90% Refundable Entrance Fees.

Learn more about this limited opportunity by joining us for
An Informational Luncheon
Friday, March 13th at 11:30 AM
Main Dining Room at Grey Oaks Country Club
2406 Grey Oaks Drive North
RSVP by March 10th by calling 239-919-1711 or online at MooringsParkGO.org/Events
## Florida Weekly’s Open Houses

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price Range</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Agent</th>
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<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>23 THE MOORINGS - MARTINIQUE CLUB</td>
<td>3003 Gulf Shore Boulevard N#10</td>
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<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>24 ISLA MAR IN OLDE NAPLES</td>
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<td>PSIR</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The full lineup for the 2015 Bonita Blues Festival.

C4

Beyond the Opening Act for a National Performer can be a bit like cold calling as a salesperson.

The audience doesn’t know you. They’re not there to see you. They didn’t buy a ticket to listen to you. Many times, the way the audience sees it, you’re just keeping them from seeing the act they came for: the Big Important Performer whose records they own. So they’ll chatter and talk through your set, treating you as background music. They’ll go out in the lobby to get some more beers. They’ll show up late and stroll in while you’re performing, because...

Singing the blues

The Bonita Blues Fest to hear
DAMON FOWLER, among others

BY NANCY STETSON
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

Being the opening act for a national performer can be a bit like cold calling as a salesperson.

The audience doesn’t know you. They’re not there to see you. They didn’t buy a ticket to listen to you. Many times, the way the audience sees it, you’re just keeping them from seeing the act they came for: the Big Important Performer whose records they own. So they’ll chatter and talk through your set, treating you as background music. They’ll go out in the lobby to get some more beers. They’ll show up late and stroll in while you’re performing, because...

All eyes are smiling as parade day draws near

Pub crawl will benefit 39th annual Naples St. Patrick’s Day celebration

BY LINDSEY NESMITH
lnesmith@floridaweekly.com

The 39th annual Naples St. Patrick’s Day Parade steps out Saturday, March 14, in a celebration of all things Irish. Parade day festivities start at 9:30 a.m. with a traditional flag-raising ceremony at Crayton Cove. The parade steps off at 10 a.m. and marches down Third Street South to Fifth Avenue South, then goes down Eighth Street South to end at Crayton Cove. Officials will be judging parade participants to see which unit will take home a surprise prize for the most spirited entry. This year’s grand marshal is Irish musician Paddy Reilly, who is perhaps best known for his rendition of “The Fields of Athenry.” The folk song stayed on Irish music charts for more than 100 weeks and was adopted by the country’s sports teams as their preferred song to sing when playing internationally.

‘Cinderella’ and more

Films to catch before the summer onslaught.

Sous-vide style

Restaurant reviewer Karen Feldman finds some interesting, healthy dishes at Kitchen 41, and more cuisine news.

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SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

A modern girl’s hope chest

It started with a pair of pliers. Husky. “Guaranteed Forever.”

Next, it was a set of work gloves. The leather kind, rugged and tough. Then tree clippers. A trowel. A roll of duct tape and a can of WD-40.

Lastly, a toolbox to store it all.

“This,” my mother said, handing me her final gift, “is your hope chest.”

As late as the middle of last century, unmarried young women, often with the help of their mothers, put together their own hope chests—all the items they would need for the domestic life of a new marriage. Bed linens, tablecloths, towels, special dresses and underthings, most handmade and carefully stitched with needlework, all made their way into the trousseau.

In the last 50 years, however, this tradition has changed. Young women are focusing less on how to be a good helpmeet and more on how to take care of themselves. Not that we don’t need men. Of course we do. But with the high divorce rate, the very real possibility of young widowhood and the simple fact that educated, career-oriented women can financially support themselves, we aren’t looking for a man as hard as our grandmothers did. Which means we spend less time building our trousseaus and more time learning how to be self-reliant. And that starts with owning a set of tools.

For the big stuff, I’ve found someone to do the work for me, a man I write a check to at the end of the day, whom I don’t have to worry about pleasing or cooking dinner for or rubbing his damn feet. The best part? I’m discovering that I like being the boss.

On a recent weekday morning, the man who’s working on my house took me to Home Depot. He needed some wood stain and a bag of grout and for me to finally make up my mind on the tile. It was the strangest experience: He pushed the cart, he asked my opinion, and when it came time to decide, I made all the choices.

Funny, because for years various boyfriends were always dragging me to Home Depot, eating up our weekends with their home improvement projects. I was the one who pushed the cart; they never asked my opinion. We could kill an entire morning inspecting screws or PVC piping, examining plumbing fixtures or comparing appliances. And though I liked those men, I grew to hate the stores with their concrete flooring and no place to sit, where I was nothing more than a shopping accessory.

Now, things are different. I’m the one calling the shots.

I’d like to say that it came with age, with some hard-won wisdom I’ve gained over the years, maybe with financial solvency. But I don’t think that’s it. Or not all of it, anyway. I suspect it has a lot to do with that toolbox and the seed of an idea my mother planted: that what a modern woman needs is fewer tablecloths and more hardware, that I’d do better to take care of myself than worry about taking care of a man.

— Artis Henderson

Artis Henderson is the author of “Unremarried Widow” published by Simon and Schuster.
‘Vagina Monologues’ one-time show will HELP Collier rape crisis center

Project HELP Collier County’s only state-certified rape and crisis center, presents Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues” on Tuesday evening, April 7, at the Sugden Community Theatre, as part of its Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities.

For the fourth year, local actresses are donating their time to perform the funny and poignant monologues that celebrate female empowerment. The evening starts at 7 p.m. with wine and hors d’oeuvres at a reception featuring silent auction and fund-a-need tables followed; the show starts at 8 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to wear black with red accents such as belts and hats, which are the play’s signature colors. Tickets for $35 are available by calling the box office at 263-7990. If available, tickets will be $45 at the door.

Project Help provides free counseling to sexual assault victims and their families, and operates a 24/7 hotline. Annually, the organization assists an average of 2,000 new clients, provides more than 6,000 client hours and answers 2,000 calls to the hotline. For more information about services, call 649-3404.

Don’t Miss Out, Book Your Party Today!

The Naples Players present Thursday Theatre Tours behind the scenes to see rehearsals rooms, the costume and set workshops, dressing rooms and green room. A complimentary tour starts at 10:30 a.m. every Thursday and takes about an hour, ending just in time for tourgoers to enjoy lunch along Fifth Avenue South. Participation is limited to 12 for each tour, and reservations are required two in advance. Call 434-7340, ext. 10. More 400 Naples Players volunteers work to bring 10 shows and more than 180 performances to the Sugden stage every year.

Go behind the scenes at the Sugden

The cast of 2014’s benefit performance of “The Vagina Monologues.”

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Don’t Just Shine... Gló
After all, “It’s just the opening act.”

“They can be hostile,” blues musician and singer songwriter Damon Fowler admits.

But opening acts can be the dark, incredible kind. It might be someone local, or someone just starting out that the record label wants to introduce to the public.

When Sugarland was a trio and didn’t even have an album out yet, it was an opening act at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers. It went on to have numerous No. 1 hits and sell more than 14 million records.

When Mr. Fowler stepped on stage with his trio at the same venue to open for Gregg Allman in January, people weren’t sure what to expect.

Then the band started to play. It was loud and bold. It grabbed the audience by its collective throat.

It was obvious before the first song even finished that these were master musicians.

And they won the crowd over, so much so that by the end of their short opening set the audience, on its feet, was cheering for more, with some yelling that they should play all night.

This wasn’t the first time the Tampa-born musician had preceded a Big Important Performer.

He opened for bluesman B.B. King, also at the Mann Hall, and has done so for the likes of George Thorogood, Johnny Winter and Delbert McClinton at other venues.

He’s built a reputation, especially up and down the Florida Gulf Coast, for his guitar playing that’s been compared to Johnny Winter, Jeff Beck and the late Duane Allman.

He’s equally as skilled on the six-string, slide guitar, lap steel and Dobro.

Almost 15 years ago, Mr. Fowler opened for Jeff Beck at the Ice Palace in Tampa. His promoter called him a few hours before the show was to begin. “What are you doing?” he answered that he was getting ready to go see the Jeff Beck concert the next day.

It turns out that the opening act, Johnny Lang, “had a really bad case of pink eye,” he recalls. The promoter told him to get his band together, and the Damon Fowler Trio wound up opening for Jeff Beck, playing for 2,000 or 3,000 people.

“From that night, even to this day, I have people coming up to me saying, ‘Hey, man, 15 years ago, I saw you open for Jeff Beck!’” he says.

“I’m really blessed, especially on the west coast of Florida, that I’ve been able to have that kind of opportunity ... it totally helps you develop new markets. If people see you in a bar, if you’re really good or not, maybe they’re not listening. They see you open for someone like Gregg Allman, they look at you different, they talk more. I’m always grateful for those opportunities.”

Perhaps such opportunities will eventually lead Mr. Fowler to be the lead act, with another band opening for him.

“I hope so,” he says.

A down-to-earth world

Over the past few years he’s played 20, 25 shows within one month, while Mr. Fowler’s wife, who he lovingly referred to as a kid, “I got to hang out with him one night in New Orleans. It was a dream.”

He also enjoyed opening for Delbert McClinton at concerts in Clearwater and South Carolina. “He’s a cool guy ... really funny,” he says.

He’d love to open for Gregg Allman again, he says, and to headline such famous venues as John Hiatt, Gov’t. Mule and Willie Nelson to his list of credits.

“Willie Nelson is my all-time favorite writer and musician,” he says. “His influence is western swing music and a lot of that jazzy stuff. As far as going on tour, I’d like a really nice tour with Gov’t. Mule.”

Opening for the musicians he has is “very humbling,” he says. “Most people have been very supportive, very cool. The blues rock world is a whole lot different than the other worlds. A lot of the headliners who play these festivals are still down-to-earth. They take time at the end of the night to shake hands. There are two green-M&M riders on their contracts for backstage.”

Old-fashioned ‘Hospitality’

Mr. Fowler describes his eclectic style “American roots” music. “It’s got influences of all kinds of stuff; he says: rock ‘n’ roll, blues, country, swamp, world beat, even some Latin jazz.

“I like to mix it up,” he says. “I have great love for people who are traditionalists, who hold to tradition and don’t veer off the path of that. I have a great respect for that. But I like to try a little of everything.

And you swingy swampy music ... just the feeling it gives.” A friend has a word for the swampy-funk-country sound: “He calls it ‘fungey’.”

Come Saturday, March 7, Mr. Fowler will perform at the Bonita Blues Fest, on stage from 6-7:15 p.m. with the group Southern Hospitality as opening act.

He says they had such a natural chemistry that a booker for the Legendary Blues Band, showed him some chords.

“With Southern Hospitality, we try and cover a broad gamut of what blues music is,” he says. “We play some boogie-woogie, some Latin-sounding blues, and we do a gospel number.”

Their sound is a conglomeration of the various songs each musician brings to the group.

“We made a mixture of it, and it turned out pretty good,” he says. “They even recorded an album, “Easy Livin’,” which won a 2013 Blues Blast Award for Best New Artist Debut Release.

Musical roots

Though he and his wife lived in Bradenton Beach and now Lakeland, Mr. Fowler grew up in Tampa, where he lived with his mother and grandparents.

He got his first guitar when he was 10. His Uncle Bobby, who played in a country band, showed him some chords.

Every Sunday, his grandparents would have a get together around their pool, grill hot dogs and play music.

“At 10 years old, I thought everybody played music on Sundays,” he says.

Music was just starting out that the record label admits.

The first blues he recalls listening to was three cassettes someone made for him of John Lee Hooker, B.B. King and Pinetop Perkins.

Even at 10 years old, he says, he liked blues, country and Guns N Roses.

“I like it all. I still do,” he says. “I don’t like a lot of modern country, but I love traditional American music. And I love rock ‘n’ roll. Country music and Elvis, that was the music I heard (while growing up).”

Mr. Fowler’s latest CD, “Sounds of Home,” was produced by Louisiana guitarist Victor Wainwright and guitarist JP Soars.

“You hear it, and it makes you feel the happiest. Every single song makes me feel the happiest.”

In addition to playing with Southern Hospitality at the Bonita Blues Fest, Mr. Fowler performs with his trio at the Englewood Event Center in Englewood Beach on Friday, March 27, and at the Bucking- ingham Blues Bar east of Fort Myers on Friday, May 1.

The organizers

Since its second year, the Bonita Blues Festival has been organized by the auspices of the Bonita Charitable Foundation. A portion of festival proceeds goes to the Bonita Springs Assistance Office, the music therapy program at Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida and the Music for Minors Foundation serving kids in Lee and Collier counties.

The lineup

Friday, March 6

4:30-5:30 p.m. – The Peterson Brothers

5:45-6:45 p.m. – The Old No. 5 Band

6:45-7:45 p.m. – The Ori Naftaly Band

7:45-8:45 p.m. – Albert Castiglia

Saturday, March 7

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. – R.J. Howson

12:30 p.m. – The Ben Rice Band

2:30-3:45 p.m. – The Rusty Wright Band

4:15-5:15 p.m. – The Jeremiah Johnson Band

6:45-7:45 p.m. – Southern Hospitality

7:45-8:45 p.m. – Lurrie Bell’s Chicago Blues Band

In the know

The seventh annual Bonita Blues Festival

>> When: 1-9 p.m. Friday, March 6; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 7

>> Where: Riverside Park, Bonita Springs

>> Cost: $50 for both days; $25 Friday only; $20 Saturday only

>> Info: bonitablues.com

>> Note: No pets or coolers allowed. Bring blankets, lawn chairs and sunscreen. The festival takes place rain or shine.

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>> Note: No pets or coolers allowed. Bring blankets, lawn chairs and sunscreen. The festival takes place rain or shine.
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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

The Theater

The Butcher – By Gulfshore Playhouse through March 22 at the Norris Center, 260-5759 or gulfshoreplayhouse.org. See review on page C10.

The Lyons – By Let’s Put On A Show Productions select dates through March 7 at the Golden Gate Center Community, letsputoonashowproductions.com.

The Mikado – By Gulfshore Opera on March 6 at Center for the Arts of Bonita Springs, 1050 Bonita Beach Road, 529-3025 or gulfshoreopera.org.

Oklahoma! – By the Naples Players through April 10 at Sugden Community Theatre, 263-7990 or naplesplayers.org.

Gary Busey’s One-Man Hamlet – By Theatre Conspiracy, in association with Project Y theater company in New York, at 8 p.m. March 7-8 at the Alliance for the Arts, 263-4422 or naplesarts.org.

Mark Rogers, creator of both the Davinci Machines and Michelangelo’s Exhibitions at the Museum of Leonardo Davinci in Florence, Italy, combined the two exhibitions and will present them in “DaVinci & Michelangelo: Side by Side” at 8 p.m. Sunday, March 8 and 15, at the Sugden Community Theatre. $40-297-7990 or naplesplayers.org.

Free Movie – Headquarters Library presents a screening of “Dallas Buyers Club” at 7 p.m. In 1985 Dallas, electrician and hustler Ron Woodroof works around the system to help AIDS patients get the medication they need after he is diagnosed with the disease. Free. 2385 Orange Blossom Drive, 593-0334 or collierlibrary.org.

WHAT A GLORIOUS FEELING – The Naples Italian American Foundation hosts a dinner and presentation about the art and architecture of Sicily at 6 p.m. Reservations required by March 10. $25 for members, $30 for others. 7035 Airport-Pulling Road, 597-5210 or niafoundation.org.

Sunset Yoga – Instructor Candice Bomin hosts a gentle-yoga class at 6:30 p.m. at Delnor-Wiggins State Park. $5. 598-9388 or bryoga.com.

COMING UP

Opera Screening – The Italian Cultural American Society hosts a screening of Rossini’s comic opera “The Barber of Seville,” at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 12, at Silverstone Country Club, 434-3323 or italicculturalsociety.org.

Open House – Journeyman Photograph Gallery hosts an open house from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at 799 3rd Street S. Free. 2220 1st Ave. S. 262-5677 or journeymanphoto.com.

Art Preview – Naples Art Association hosts a reception and award presentation for its Jade Reidel Scholarship Competition at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at The von Liebig Center. $10. 262-6577 or naplesart.org.

Evening on Fifth – Enjoy Fifth Avenue with live music on the sidewalks starting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12. 692-8436 or fifthavenuesouth.com.


Tiles for Tatas – The Naples Italian American Foundation hosts a mah jong tournament to benefit Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support starting at 8 a.m. Friday, March 14. $55 includes lunch. 7035 Airport-Pulling Road, 597-5210 or niafoundation.org.
WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Art Lecture – Art historian Carol Damian presents “Women Artists: A Brief and Neglected History,” at 4 p.m. Friday, March 13, at The von Liebig Center. Free. 262-6517 or naplesart.org.

Elvis Film – The Everglades Society for Historical Preservation screens “Follow that Dream,” starring Elvis Presley and filmed in Southwest Florida at 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 13. Includes a raffle for the Everglades Historical Quilt. Free, but reservations are requested. 695-2905 or eshp@hotmail.com.

Lecture – The Ayn Rand Society for Individual Rights of Naples hosts Richard Rahn, senior fellow at the Cato Institute, at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 13 at the River Park Community Center. 301 11th St. N. Free. Make reservations by emailing jim@aynrandnaples.org.


Violin Soloist – Ayako Yonetani, Florida’s only official violinist, performs Japanese and Western selections at 8 p.m. Friday, March 13, at the Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs. $25 members, $30 non-members, $35 at the door. 10150 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or artcenterbonita.org.

Top o’ the Mornin’ – The 39th annual Naples St. Patrick’s Day Parade marches down Fifth Avenue South starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 14. info@naplesparade.com or fifthaveenewsouth.com.

Painting in the Park – Local artist Jen Norqual instructs guests on painting on canvas starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 14, at Lovers Key State Park. $40 plus park entry fee. (651) 226-7397 or norqualj@aol.com.

Author Discussion – Brian Freeman discusses and signs his new thriller, “Season of Fear,” at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at Barnes & Noble. Free. 597-2040 or bn.com.

Tater Salad – Cigar-wielding, scotch-drinking, Grammy-nominated funnyman Ron White performs at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at Seminole Immokalee Casino. $50. (800) 218-0007 or seminoleimmokaleecasino.com.

Concert – Naples Orchestra and Chorus hosts pianist Alexandra Carlson and violinist Max Rabinovitsj at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 14, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 15, at Lely High School. $18 in advance, $20 at the door. 676-0077 or napleschorusandorchestra.org.

Sailing Shenanigans – Sugden Regional Park hosts a fun-filled day of racing and sailing for the area’s special-needs population from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 15. $35. 252-4000 or collier.gov.

Cultural Discussion – Rabbi Edward Maline discusses modern applications of Jewish law at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 15, at the Jewish Congregation of Marco Island. Coffee and cake at 9:30 a.m. $5 for non-members. 991 Winterberry Drive. 642-0800 or marcojcmi.com.

Art ALIVE – Twenty-five art studios and galleries host guests from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 14, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. March 15, in the art district north of Pine Ridge Road and west of Airport-Pulling Road. Free. 821-1061 or artswfl.com.

Music to Touch the Heart – Voic-
es of Naples performs at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 15, at East Naples United Methodist Church. Free. 2701 Airport Road S. 455-2582 or voicessofnaples.org.

Historical Dinner – The Naples Italian American Foundation hosts a pasta dinner while historical re-enactor Jani-na Birtolo plays the part of Cleopatra’s daughter at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 15. $25. 7035 Airport-Pulling Road. 597-5210 or niafoundation.org.

Pasta e Pelleccla – Naples Italian American Foundation hosts a pasta dinner and screening of “Abbasso La Riccezza,” (Italy, 1946) at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 16. Giacenda made her riches during World War II and has become a target for schemers and their bogus business investments. $15 for dinner and movie, $5 for film alone. 7035 Airport-Pulling Road. 597-5210 or niafoundation.org.

Jewish Film – The Naples Jewish Film Festival presents “God’s Slave,” (2013) at 7 p.m. Monday, March 16, at The Norris Center. An Islamic terrorist is assigned to execute a suicide bombing at a synagogue and an Israeli special agent will stop at nothing to prevent the attack. Waitlist available. 434-1818 pr naplesjewishfilmfestival.com.

Dreamers and Schemers – Marco Island Historical Society hosts historical re-enactors as they portray important figures in South Florida history at 7 p.m. Monday, March 16, at the Marco Island Historical Museum. $10, 389-6447 or themibs.com.


Biography Lecture – The FGCU Renaissance Academy presents “Milton Hershey: The Man Who Reinvented Chocolate” at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, at the university’s Naples Center. $20 for members, $25 for others, $100 Fifth Ave. S. 434-4737 or fugu.edu.

Irish Movie – Mercato screens “The Secret of Roan Inish” (USA, 1994) on the lawn at 7:35 p.m. Tuesday, March 17. Ten-year-old Fiona is sent to live with her grandparents and learns of a local legend connecting her family to selkies, mythical seals that can turn into humans. Free. 254-1080 or mercatoshops.com.

Cultural Dinner – The Naples Italian American Foundation hosts a celebration of the feast of St. Joseph at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 18. A traditional St. Joseph’s table will be provided. $20 for members, $25 for non-members. 7035 Airport-Pulling Road, 597-5210 or niafoundation.org.

Monument Man – Jewish Congregation of Marco Island hosts Larry H. Ettinger, who helped rescue and return more than 5,000 pieces of art to their rightful owners during World War II, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 18. $25. 991 Winterberry Drive. 642-0800 or marcojci.com.


Wonderful Day for a Neighbor – Robert and Carole Leber, authors of “Naples Beach Homes: Cottage, Castles and the Families that Built Them,” host a talk about the neighborhoods of downtown Naples at 11 a.m. Friday, March 20, at Historic Palm Cottage. $5. 137 12th Ave. S. 261-8164 or napleshistoricalsociety.org.

Jazz Concert – Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist Carla Cook performs with the Dan Miller-Lew Del Gatto Quintet at 8 p.m. Friday, March 20, at The Sydney and Berne Davis Art Center, downtown Fort Myers. $20 in advance, $25 at the door. 335-1933 or sbdaz.com.

Glee – The Harvard Glee Club performs at 8 p.m. Friday, March 20, at Moorings Presbyterian Church. $32-$102. 791 Harbor Drive. 390-2788 or harvardclubofnaples.com.

Art Festival – The 27th annual Downtown Naples Festival of the Arts takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 21-22. 262-6575 or naplesarts.org.

Bet on It – San Marco Catholic Church provides a night of gaming and fun to support local charities and scholarships at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 21. Tickets can be purchased at the parish office. 851 San Marco Road. 394-5818 or sanmarocchurch.com.

Modern Dance – Renowned dance troupe Modern Current performs eclectic modern, theater and aerial works at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Center for the Arts Bonita Springs. $25 members, $30 non-members, $35 at the door. 1050 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or artcenterbonita.org.

String Superstar – Itzhak Perlman performs at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at ArtsNaples. 597-1900 or artspaper.com.

Guitar Concert – Classical guitarist Adam Levin performs at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church. Free. 533 Galleon Drive. 262-6581 and trinitybythecove.com.


Pasta e Pelleccla – The Naples Italian American Foundation hosts a pasta dinner and a movie, “Baciami Ancora” (Italy, 2010), at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 23. $15 for dinner and movie, $5 for film alone. 7035 Airport-Pulling Road. 597-5210 or niafoundation.org.
WHERE TO GO


Films for Film Lovers – Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs screens “Key of Life” (2012) at 7 p.m. Monday, March 23. A failed actor finds himself switching identities with a stranger at a bathtub, only to find himself filling the shoes of an elite assassin. $30. 10500 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or artcenterbonita.org.


Funny Guy – Best known as “Skippy” from the ’80s sitcom “Family Ties,” Marc Price performs at the Old Naples Comedy Club Wednesday through Saturday, March 25-28. $20. Call club for show times. 1100 Sixth Ave. South. 485-2844 or oldnaplescomedyclub.com.

Jazz Concert – Marc Vee Quartet plays at the Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26. $30 members, $35 non-members, $40 at the door. 10500 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or artcenterbonita.org.


Four-Part Harmony – The Everglades Barbershop Chorus of Naples presents its annual show at 7 p.m. Friday, March 27, at New Hope Ministries, 1001 Fifth Ave. S. 252-6525 or collierchoruses.org.


Pasta e Pellicola – The Naples Italian American Foundation hosts dinner and a movie, “Marriage Italian Style” (USA, 1964), at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 30. A successful businessman who keeps a mistress for several years plans to marry a younger woman. $15 for dinner and movie, $5 for film alone. 7025 Airport-Pulling Rd. 597-5200 or naplespasta.com.

Comedy Star – Comedian and actor Kevin Hart plays Germain Arena at 8 p.m. Friday, March 27. $67. 948-7825 or germainarena.com.

Butterfly Release – Aveo Hospice holds its annual butterfly release and memorial service at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 28, in Cambier Park. 640-3977 or avowcare.org. See story on page A13.

Jewish Film – Naples Jewish Film Festival presents “Under the Same Sun,” March 24. Free. 598-5200 or bn.com.


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3D" at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 1. Call for additional showings. $30, includes a beverage and small appetizer. 592-0300 or silverspot.net.


Vatican Tour – Silverspot Cinema at Mercato screens “Vatican Museum 3D” at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 1. Call for additional screenings. $30, includes a beverage and small appetizer. 592-0300 or silverspot.net.

Cut It Out – Naples Depot Museum holds a reception at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 2, for its newest exhibition, “His- tory Comes to Life,” which showcases cut paper portraits of important U.S. and world figures by John M. Williams. Free. 301 Fifth Ave. S. 252-6252 or colliermuseums.com.

Email calendar listings and high-resolution photos to Lindsey Nesmith at lnesmith@floridaweekly.com. Please send Word or text documents and jpegs. No pdfs or photos of flyers. Deadline for calendar submissions is noon Monday.
Has this ever happened to you? A new restaurant opens and you go with some friends. They rave about it, but your experience is completely different. There are some things you like, but the meal isn’t especially spectacular. The entire experience just doesn’t come together. It’s a half-cooked affair.

That’s how I felt about Gwydion Suilebhan’s play, “The Butcher,” having its world premiere in Naples last season.

I found it somewhat infuriating when I saw it presented as a reading in August 2013, as a finalist in the company’s first New Works Festival. This full-fledged production really hasn’t changed much since then. There are some promising elements and some great lines, but it still needs work.

The idea of Christian, Muslim and Jewish characters interacting is a promising one, but unfortunately, Mr. Suilebhan doesn’t make the most of it.

The play is based on a real-life incident that took place in 2006 in Springfield, Va.: A mentally disturbed man who was a Muslim walked into a halal butcher shop and severed his left hand. He said he was doing it for Allah, and that he was not a terrorist.

In “The Butcher,” a man does the same thing in the butchery shop owned by an Iranian Muslim, Massoud (J. Paul Nicholas), and his wife Sholeh (Ananda Bena-Weber).

The event is witnessed by an evangelical Christian, Jane (Chiraq Motley), who’s been struggling with her faith. The warmth and hospitality of the Muslim couple, along with the traumatic event, affect her deeply.

Scenic designer David Arsenault has divided the stage in two, with a small realistic butcher shop, complete with deli counter, stage left and a bland breakfast nook stage right. In the background is a disturbing abstract patterned backdrop of black and blood red.

The play opens with Jane and her husband, Wes (Mark Harapiak). The two are uncomfortable with each other, with Wes urging that they return to a Bible study group they used to attend.

Wes cannot seem to function on his own; he has no idea what’s swatch, keys, bananas in his own house.

Wes is adament that his way is the only way: Massoud the butcher, who explains that sentiment about his own religion.

The scenes with the Christians are, unfortunately, static, the dialogue and staging stilted. While Jane is likeable as some-
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HOROSCOPES

A STEP BACKWARDS

1. Aries
2. Taurus
3. Gemini
4. Cancer
5. Leo
6. Virgo
7. Libra
8. Scorpio
9. Sagittarius
10. Capricorn
11. Aquarius
12. Pisces

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GULF COAST TOWN CENTER
FORT MYERS BEACH TARPON POINT - CAPE CORAL
BONTA SPRINGS 
MARINA AT EDISON FORD 
FORT MYERS BEACH TIKI BAR

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HOROSCOPES

- PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You might still need to do some solid reassessing early in the week before you can close that sensitive situation. A new job-related opportunity could present itself later in the week.
- ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Disappointed about something that didn’t go your way? Cheer up. Look at the reasons it happened, and you could find a valuable lesson about what to do (or not do) the next time.
- TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It’s a good time to do some reassessing of plans and goals -- even how you considered redoing your bathroom. The point is to be open to change if change can improve things.
- GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Take some time to learn who is the right person (or persons) to approach and discuss your ideas with for your new project. Also, reserve time to prepare for an upcoming family event.
- CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Dealing with a demanding situation, as you recently did, could drain much of your own emotional reserves. Take time to relax and indulge yourself in some well-earned pampering.
- LEO (July 23 to August 22) The regal Lion might feel that she or he is above emotional displays. But showing your feelings can be liberating for you, and reassuring for someone who has been waiting for you to do so.
- VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) An emotionally needy person might make more demands than you can cope with. Best to ask for some breathing space NOW, before resentment sets in and makes communication difficult.
- LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) An unexpected spate of mixed signals could cause serious relationship setbacks. Best to focus on straightening everything out as soon as possible and get everyone back on track.
- SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Be aware that someone in the workplace could try to use a disagreement with a colleague against you. If so, be prepared to offer your side of the story with the facts to back you up.
- SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 22) An unexpected challenge to a previous decision can be unsettling. But your reservoir of self-confidence — plus your loyal supporters — should help carry the day for you. Good luck.
- CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) While the idea of making some sort of major move in the near future continues to interest you, don’t overlook a new possibility that could be emerging closer to home.
- AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Be careful not to base an upcoming decision on gossip or anything you might hear if it can’t meet provable standards. That’s true regardless of whom the source might be.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are extraordinarily sensitive to people’s feelings, and you’re always ready to offer comfort if necessary.
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and
“That’s the way I like it”

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$75 VIP Experience

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Children’s Couture

26795 – 26851 South Bay Drive, Bonita Springs, FL 34134
March 5
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Signatures
Suite 164
Raffinella Trunk Show

March 6
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
John Craig Clothier
Suite 106
Trunk Show

March 9
4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Kelly Chase Couture
Suite 160
Grand Opening

March 11
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Evelyn and Arthur
Suite 124
Planet Trunk Show

JOIN US FOR FASHION, FOOD AND FUN AS WE SHOWCASE THE NEW TRENDS OF THE SEASON!

PROMENADE — at Bonita Bay —

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FILM CAPSULES

Focus ★★★
(Will Smith, Margot Robbie, Gerald McRaney) Con artist Nicky (Mr. Smith) takes an aspiring grifter (Ms. Robbie) under his wing and then is surprised he falls for her (even though she’s ridiculously hot). It’s fun for a while, but you never buy the love story, and the plot is disjointed. In other words, it lacks focus. Rated R.

Kingsman: The Secret Service ★★★½
(Colin Firth, Mark Strong, Taron Egerton) A mentor (Mr. Firth) and his protégé (Mr. Egerton) from a secret intelligence agency try to stop an Internet billionaire from ruining the world. Director/co-writer Matthew Vaughn (“X-Men: First Class”) makes the story come vibrantly alive with dynamic action and visual effects. Rated R.

Jupiter Ascending ★★
(Channing Tatum, Mila Kunis, Eddie Redmayne) A housekeeper (Ms. Kunis) learns she owns the Earth but needs the help of a half-man/half wolf (Mr. Tatum) to keep it safe from an intergalactic baddie (Mr. Redmayne). Some of the action and effects are impressive, but the story has too much surplus for its own good. Rated PG-13.

Project Almanac ★★
(Jonny Weston, Sofia Black-D’Elia, Sam Lerner) Teenagers find plans for a time machine, build it and travel back in time to have some fun. But there are consequences. It’s all preposterous, and the most egregious error of all is that it dares to take itself seriously in the last half hour. Rated PG-13.

Black Sea ★★★★★
(Jude Law, Scott McNairy, Ben Mendelsohn) A recently fired and bitter submarine captain (Mr. Law) takes a rogue group on a treasure hunt in the depths of the Black Sea. It doesn’t always use logic, but it’s tense and engaging when it needs to be. Rated R.

Still Alice ★★★½

The Boy Next Door ★
(Jennifer Lopez, Ryan Guzman, Kristen Chenoweth) Schoolteacher Claire (Ms. Lopez) is stalked by her teenage neighbor (Mr. Guzman) after they share a one-night stand. Everything about it is preposterous, and it’s yet another new low for Ms. Lopez’s acting career. Rated R. ■

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Five films to see before your eardrums explode this summer

**Cinderella** (March 13)
Disney and director Kenneth Branagh have re-imagined the classic fairy tale as a non-musical live action fantasy, and the trailers look intriguing. But can it possibly capture the magic of the 1950 animated original? And the story’s been told so often, I wonder how any new version of it could feel unique and worthwhile. Regardless, one thing this to look forward to is Cate Blanchett as the evil stepmother. Full review coming next week.

**Girlhood** (March 20)
Aside from being a coming-of-age story, this doesn’t appear to have much to do with the Oscar-nominated “Boyhood.” Rather, it’s a French film about a teenage girl who completely changes her life. But we’re not there yet, and that’s a good thing, because there’s plenty to see between now and early May when “Avengers: Age of Ultron” finds new box office records to break. Here are five promising films that look to be worth the price of admission.

**While We’re Young** (March 27)
Ben Stiller and Naomi Watts star as a middle-aged couple that re-evaluates their marriage after meeting a young couple played (Adam Driver and Amanda Seyfried). Of note here is that it was written and directed by Noah Baumbach, a one-time Wes Anderson collaborator who’s made his own quirky headway with “Frances Ha,” “Margot at the Wedding” and “The Squid and the Whale.” If he’s done it right, “While We’re Young” should be a fascinating character study.

**Clouds of Sils Maria** (April 24)
Kristen Stewart, who’s frequently annoyed girl from “Twilight” — recently won a Cesar Award (the French Oscar) for her supporting performance in this film, making her the first American to ever win a Cesar. She plays the assistant to Maria (Juliette Binoche), an actress who agrees to appear in a revival of a play that launched her career 20 years earlier. Chloe Grace Moretz plays the young ingénue now embodying the role that made Maria a star. Given her solid work opposite Julianne Moore in “Still Alice,” Ms. Stewart showing legit acting chops should be no surprise. Good for her for continuing to find success.

**House of Cards** (Season 3 now available on Netflix)
Kevin Spacey chews scenery with every Southern drawl-inflected word he utters as an unscrupulous politician. Robin Wright is just as effective as his cunning, philanthropic wife, and the entire series is a testament to the corruption and ambition that come with great power. You will want to watch the first two seasons (13 episodes each) if you’re not caught up, but it’s well worth it to give the series an hour a night. But be warned: That one hour could easily turn into three or four.

**Still Alice** (March 20)
A famous character study. Kristen Stewart — yes, the incredibly annoying girl from “Twilight” — recently won a Cesar Award (the French Oscar) for her supporting performance in this film, making her the first American to ever win a Cesar. She plays the assistant to Maria (Juliette Binoche), an actress who agrees to appear in a revival of a play that launched her career 20 years earlier. Chloe Grace Moretz plays the young ingénue now embodying the role that made Maria a star. Given her solid work opposite Julianne Moore in “Still Alice,” Ms. Stewart showing legit acting chops should be no surprise. Good for her for continuing to find success.

**Bonus pick: “House of Cards”**
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VERDI REQUIEM
Sunday, March 15 at 7pm • Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall
The Gulf Coast Symphonic is joined by Fort Myers Symphonic Master Singers, Jeff Faux, Artistic Director to perform Verdi’s choral masterpiece, Requiem. Jennifer Bouis, soprano; one-time mezzo soprano; William Davenport, tenor; Branch Fields, bass. Tickets from $22
Sponsored by: The L.A.T. Foundation

BEST OF WEBBER & RODGERS
Sunday, March 29 at 7pm • Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall
Broadway stars Stephen Buntrock and Morgan James are joined by local favorite Mark Sanders in tribute to the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber & Rodgers & Hammerstein. A perennial sell-out, so get your tickets today!
Tickets from $42
Sponsored by: Dr. Jacob Goldberger and Margaret Baran & family into The Rocky Family Fund

VIP THEATRE LISTINGS
Birdman (R) 7:30P 9:30P 11:00P
Focus (R) 11:00P
Second Rest (PG) 1:30P 4:30P 7:30P 9:30P 11:00P
Still Alice (PG-13) 1:00P 4:00P 7:00P 9:00P
Theory of Everything (PG) 11:00P 1:30P 4:30P 7:00P 10:00P

THEATRE LISTINGS
American Sniper (R) 11:00P 2:00P 4:00P 7:00P 9:00P 10:00P
Chappie (R) 1:00P 4:00P 7:15P 10:00P
Kingman The Secret Service (R) 1:00P 4:00P 7:00P 9:00P 10:00P
Lauras (R) 12:00P 6:00P 9:00P 11:00P 1:30P 4:00P 7:00P
Leviathan (R) 2:15P 4:15P 7:00P 9:00P 11:00P
McFarland (PG) 12:00P 3:00P 6:00P 9:00P 11:00P 1:30P 4:30P 7:00P 9:00P
Mindwalk (PG) 12:00P 3:00P 6:00P 9:00P 11:00P 1:30P 4:30P 7:00P 9:00P
Unfinished Business (R) 2:00P 4:30P 7:00P 9:00P 10:00P
Whiplash (R) 12:00P 3:00P 6:30P 9:30P 11:30P

SEE IT FIRST THURSDAYS (3/12)
Cherdelle (R) 12:45P 7:15P
Run All Night (R) 7:00P 9:30P
BEACH READING

‘Cecil B. DeMille: The Art of the Hollywood Epic’

By Cecilia de Mille Presley and Mark A. Vieira, introduction by Martin Scorsese
(Running Press, $60)

REVIEWED BY LARRY COX

One hundred years ago, Cecil B. DeMille made the first feature film ever shot in Holly-
wood. “The Squad Man,” which was based on a 1905 stage play, featured Dustin Farnum and was
about 75 minutes in length. Beulah Marie Dix, who wrote the play, also was respons-
able for the movie scenario. Although fairly primitive when viewed today, it nevertheless is a
semital work that redefined film-making in Hollywood and helped establish
Mr. DeMille as a major director.

More than any other filmmaker in history, Cecil B. DeMille mastered the
art of the epic through his legend-
ary motion pictures. Although he won
only one Oscar (best picture for “The
Greatest Show on Earth”), he captured
a worldwide audience with his “cast
of thousands” and powerful images,
including the parting of the Red Sea in his blockbuster “The Ten Command-
ments.”

This is an extraordinary book about
an extraordinary man. The images
throughout the book are, as might be
expected, both impressive and infor-
mative. This is a fitting tribute that
celebrates a legendary filmmaker and
his craft.
The Los Angeles Police Department has a special, somewhat prestigious Open-Unsolved Unit. Harry Bosch, one of the most skilled and experienced hands in the department, has been assigned to it. His new partner, Lucia “Lucy” Soto is a comparative newcomer.

This kind of pairing is a new policy for the unit, and Lucy’s selection over far more experienced officers rubs many the wrong way.

Having Harry as a mentor, however, is just what she needs. She shares some of Harry’s old-school attitudes about police work, an attitude that bonds them, but she has a lot to learn.

Perhaps her youthful spark is just what Harry needs, too, as he recognizes that retirement, by choice or by regulation, is not far away.

The case: Nine years before the present action, mariachi musician Orlando Merced was shot. Over the years, he had suffered from many complications caused by that bullet lodged in his spine. Now that bullet has finally led to his death. So, it’s a fresh murder case without a fresh crime scene or corresponding evidence. The bullet, now removed from the corpse, is a beginning.

Investigating the shooting opens up a window on past crimes, two of which happened on the same day, in the same neighborhood, within minutes of each other: the robbery of a check-cashing service called EZBank and a deadly fire in a low-end apartment building that housed an illegal day care business.

The day care fire, a decade earlier than the Merced shooting, has haunted Lucy. At the age of 7, she had lived there and escaped the tragedy. Her decision to become a police officer stems, in part, from this experience.

The unsolved arson case becomes Lucy’s pet project, and she and Harry agree to split their working time between her self-assigned case and the Merced case. They also agree that the fire might have been set as a distraction to ensure the success of the simultaneous bank robbery.

The first major insight for the Merced investigation is the strong possibility that someone else was the intended victim — someone in the line of fire standing close to Merced. Once Harry and Lucy set out to identify and track down this individual, they find themselves involved in the swamp of bureaucracy and political corruption that is the hallmark of many Harry Bosch mysteries.

Getting too close to the truth about the past is likely to blow a hole in the present, especially in an election year — and especially when a former mayor now planning a race for the governorship is depending on money from a potentially compromised source. People who know too much might not live to share their knowledge.

The fun and magnetism of the novel, as usual, has to do with the procedural sure-handedness of author Michael Connelly’s narrative. Mr. Connelly somehow makes fascinating the grindingly tedious, sometimes explosive, piece-by-piece accumulation of information and understanding necessary to resolve a case. The reader’s experience is never one of tedium, however; selection of scenes and telling details is handled in a way that feels fast-paced. Also suspenseful is Harry’s knack of knowing just how far to push the envelope with regard to regulations, expenses (the department is always responding to budget cuts) and his superiors’ patience.

If Harry does retire, I’m ready for him to have cameo roles in a new series featuring Lucy Soto. She’s a strikingly fresh and fully rounded character whose passion, determination and natural ability — as well as her youthful innocence and vulnerability — could hold my attention for a good dozen or so novels.

For mystery fans who can never get enough of Harry Bosch, here’s good news: The 10-episode “Bosch” streaming television series, produced by Mr. Connelly and available from Amazon Prime, made its debut Feb. 13. — 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.
Peña Plastic Surgery has been enhancing the bodies – and the lives – of people throughout Southwest Florida for 25 years. Cosmetic surgeries such as breast augmentation or reduction, tummy tucks, lipoasuction can help you reshape your body enabling you to look and feel your very best. Call us today for a complete list of services or visit us online at dr-pena.com.

KOVEL: ANTIQUES

Wide-eyed dolls fetch big prices

BY TERRY KOVEL AND KIM KOVEL

Dolls rarely look like real babies or children. Today there are dolls with over-sized heads, exaggerated bodies, or monster or cartoon shapes. There were many earlier dolls that had unusual features or expressions. Googly-eyed dolls were popular in the 1920s. One type was made under the 1927 copyright of Oscar Hitt, an American illustrator and cartoonist. Some of his characters were turned into dolls by George Borgfeldt in Germany. The bisque head has a flanged neck. The face has side-glancing eyes with thick dark eyeliner and curly eye lashes, a very tiny nose and either painted hair or a wig. These dolls are very rare and one sold in January 2015 at a Theriault’s auction in Annapolis, Maryland, for $23,940.

Q: I recently bought a dining-room set that includes an octagonal table, six chairs, and a buffet. The buffet has two drawers over four louvered doors. The owner said the set is oak and belonged to her mother fifty years ago. Inside the buffet drawers it indicates it was made by A. Brandt of Ft. Worth, Texas. Can you tell me something about the maker and age of this set?

A: August Brandt founded A. Brandt Company in 1900. The family sold the company in 1986. It went out of business and the remaining inventory was auctioned off in 1988. The company’s popular Ranch Oak line of furniture carved with western designs was introduced in 1938. It was sold nationwide and also was made for lodges in the national parks.

Q: I’ve been collecting Lady Head Vases for about 25 years. I would like to know what they are worth.

A: Lady Head vases, usually show-
ing a pretty woman from the shoulders up, were used by florists primarily in the 1950s and 1960s. They are often decorated with imitation jewelry and other accessories. They became a "must-have" for a few years—books were written, clubs formed and prices went up. Then the collectors lost interest and prices fell to the present low level.

Most head vases were made in Japan and the United States. Lady Head vases of a famous person or with imitation jewelry or other added accessories sell for the highest prices. Common lady head vases sell for $25 or less, while a Jackie Kennedy lady head vase has sold for over $100.

Q: I recently restored a 150-year-old Italianate home. It has a pair of brass and metal gas-powered chandeliers made by Christian Cornelius of Philadelphia. Each has six glass globes. They are original to the house. All my antiques friends have given their opinions as to the value, but I'd like to get your expert advice.

A: Christian Cornelius was a Dutch silversmith who immigrated to the United States in 1783. He began making lamps in 1825 and started Cornelius & Co. with his son in 1827. It became the largest manufacturer of lighting in the U.S. Christian died in 1851. The company was run by family members under various names until 1900. Lighting fixtures made by Cornelius & Co. and its successors were used in many state capitol buildings in the U.S. and in countries around the world. One can sell for several thousand dollars today. A six-light Cornelius & Co. chandelier could sell for as much as $7,000 to $10,000, but the price depends on condition and the design details.

Q: In 1952, I bought an antique map at Marshall Field in Chicago. It shows the Western and Eastern hemispheres, with Australia identified as New Holland and the center of Africa as "parts unknown." At the bottom, in small print, it reads: "London, published by J. Cary, engraver and map seller, 181 Strand, 1819." The map is 22 by 36 inches. Value?

A: Many of our readers may not realize that large department stores like Marshall Field had specialized departments where antique maps were sold to collectors. Your 1819 map was engraved by John Cary (1754-1835), a well-regarded London engraver and mapmaker. An 1819 Cary world map the same size as yours auctioned a few years ago for more than $500. The value of yours would also depend on its condition.

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Tip: Veneered furniture should not be placed near steam radiators, open windows, or groups of potted plants. The veneer eventually will “bubble” from the moisture.

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— 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.
Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest raises $3.35 million

Enthusiastic bidders set a record last Saturday, raising $3,353,000 during the 2015 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest auction. The money will benefit Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, Florida SouthWestern State College’s pediatric nursing program and Florida Gulf Coast University’s music therapy program. SWFL Children’s Charities organizes the annual event.

The two top-grossing auction lots inspired the crowd to help sick children. A drawing by 11-year-old Sophia Black, who has been undergoing treatment at Golisano for acute lymphoblastic leukemia, drew bids totaling $500,000. Her artwork will join those of previous child artists hanging in the hospital.

Bidders raised $600,000 to fund the hospital’s pediatric intensive care services, following an appeal from Alex Daneshmand, a pediatric intensive care physician at the Children’s Hospital. Auctioneer Scott Robertson and Emcee Kellie Burns of NBC2 encouraged the crowd and fed the enthusiasm through:—

Cheryl Copham, Marbin Avilez and David Copham
Naples & Princess

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2015

Enjoy an Early Easter Dinner Cruise
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

or a

Sunset Cruise
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

On The Menu...

Caesar Salad • Rolls & Butter • Roasted Turkey
Baked Ham • Mashed Potatoes • Vegetable Medley
Sweet Potato Casserole • Berry Tart for Dessert

Both cruises are $60.50* for adults
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*Price does not include port charge, tax or service charge.

3-day cancellation policy. No coupons or discounts apply.

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Join us aboard the...

Out the auction.
Another popular auction lot was a trip to Super Bowl 50 for four that includes a visit to Sonoma County and a wine dinner in the home of Joe Anderson and Mary Dewane of Benovia Winery; the trip fetched $70,000. A three-day trip for six to Blackberry Farm in the Great Smoky Mountains raised $10,000 and includes a wine dinner with SWFL Children’s Charities Trustees Cheryl and Dave Copham and the Staglin Family Vineyard vintners, along with several bottles of 2002 Napa cabernets.

The auction followed the Grand Tasting, held poolside at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club. More than 300 people enjoyed offerings from 15 of the area’s best restaurants and a dozen California vintners. The weekend kicked off Friday evening with themed chef vintner dinners in nine private homes from Naples to Captiva Island.

Dorothy Fitzgerald and Elaine Hawkins, who co-chaired the event for two years, crowned the 2016 event co-chairs, Sandy Stilwell and Andie Vogt. The 2016 event is

Please join us on Thursday, March 12th, from 3 – 5 PM!

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This event will be held at our new Naples offices in the First American Bank building at 3701 Tamiami Trail N, Suite 200, Naples, Florida 34103
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THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 9:30 P.M.
Father Brown: Saving Souls, Solving Crimes
This behind-the-scenes special was shot on location in the Cotswolds and features clips from the series and interviews with the cast.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 9 P.M.
Great Broadway Musical Moments from the Ed Sullivan Show
Shirley Jones presents rarely seen performances by stars from Broadway’s Golden Age, including favorite songs from the beloved musicals “My Fair Lady,” “Oklahoma!,” “West Side Story” and “Annie Get Your Gun.”

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 9 P.M.
John Denver: Country Boy
Discover the man behind the music in this intimate profile of the popular singer-songwriter. His life and legacy are explored with friends, former wives and managers, family members and musicians who toured with him for decades.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 9 P.M.
Mr. Selfridge: A Celebration
Look back on the first two seasons of "Mr. Selfridge" and enjoy a sneak peek at Season 3 through behind-the-scenes footage and interviews with the actors.

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 9:30 P.M.
50 Years of Peter, Paul & Mary
Celebrate the impact of the trio that brought folk music to America’s mass audiences in a singular combination of artistry and activism.
CELEBRITY EXTRA

Actress who played dead heiress now stars in Hallmark movie

BY CINDY ELAVSKY

Q: I was obsessed with the NBC nighttime drama “Deception.” I really liked the actress who played Vivian Bowers. Can you tell me what she’s been up to lately?
— Jaz G., via email

A: Canadian actress Bree Williamson played the murdered heiress (in flashback scenes, as we backtrack trying to figure out who killed her) in the now-defunct drama. I, too, was obsessed with “Deception” back in 2013 and was sad it was canceled. Bree is perhaps best known for her nine-year run as Jessica Buchanan on “One Life to Live.”

Nowadays you can catch her in the Hallmark original movie “Portrait of Love,” which premieres at 9 p.m. Saturday, March 14. She plays April Littleton, a world-renowned fashion photographer who returns to her hometown to help raise money for its centennial celebration. There she finds there’s a lot to love about her hometown, including the boy she left behind.

I spoke with Bree about her latest role, and she told me why she chose this project: “I empathize with being at a crossroads in your life, where you’re doing really well and you’re feeling successful and everything’s great, but you’re not feeling completely fulfilled. April goes to her hometown, and she’s swept away in the journey of finding love. She’s a really cool character. I thought it was written very well, and it’s a really sweet love story that my son can watch.”

Q: I just saw a commercial for “Fantastic Four,” and I can’t wait until it comes out this summer! Can you tell me anything about it?
— Andy T., Canton, Ohio

A: Things are always hush-hush with these big-budget superhero action movies, and “Fantastic Four” is no exception. I spoke recently with Shauna Rappold, who is in the summer blockbuster due to hit theaters Aug. 7, and she told me a teeny-tiny bit of what we can expect: “I specifically worked with Kate Mara, who is Sue Storm, and then Reg Cathey and Tim Nelson. My character is in the military, but that’s all I can really say, unfortunately, because it is so hush-hush. I’ve heard how it’s going to come out, and it’s going to be great. Josh Trank, the director, knew exactly what he was looking for, so it made it easy to deliver and give him just that.”

— 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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PARADE

privately funded parade in Florida. Coming up the final weekend before the parade is the popular pub crawl on Friday, March 6. Three trolleys will transport participants and Harp & Thistle bagpipers from Mulligan’s Sports Grille to Jack’s River Bar, Paddy Murphy’s Irish Pub and Bokamper’s Sports Bar and Grill.

“When the bagpipers lead us into a bar, at first the crowd is a bit stunned, but they quickly become part of the celebration,” says Kim Heaslip, president of the foundation.

The fun starts at 5 p.m. at Mulligan’s. The trolleys depart from there at 6 p.m. and return at approximately 10 p.m. Tickets are $38 and can be purchased at the foundation website, naplesparade.com (click on “Pub Crawl”).

The foundation became a 501(c)(3) in 2010 and decided that in addition to helping Neapolitans party like the Irish, it would also donate funds to local high schools and promote Irish culture year-round. This year, the foundation is giving $2,000 to each of the more than one dozen high school bands that are marching in the parade.

The foundation has named Vivienne Hunter, a third grader at Lake Park Elementary School, this year’s Little Miss Smiling Irish Eyes. The daughter of Andy and Lyn Hunter, Vivienne dances with the Tir Na Nog School of Irish Dance and is a second-year Brownie in the Girl Scouts.

Come Saturday morning, March 14, more than 40,000 spectators will line the streets to watch the parade and stay downtown afterward to celebrate. Chapel Grill has taken over hosting duties from McCabe’s Irish Pub, which closed its doors in 2013 after throwing the biggest St. Patrick’s bash in Naples for many years. Chapel Grill welcomes guests who want a view of the parade at 7 a.m.
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Next to T. G. I. FRIDAY'S
Kappa Alpha Theta alumnae of Naples, Marco Island and Bonita Springs invite all area women to the fifth annual “Women Celebrating Women” luncheon fundraiser at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 7, at The Club at Pelican Bay. Guest speaker Carol O’Flaherty, a registered nurse, laughter yoga practitioner and nationally recognized humorist, will discuss the power of humor and laughter. Admission is $40. For more information, call Linda Shafer at 992-6052 or visit naplesmaricond/bonitasprings/kappaalpha-phanteta.org.

The Naples Alumnae Club of Pi Beta Phi, with members in Naples, Bonita Springs and Marco Island, invites Pi Phis and others interested in helping to promote literacy to attend its Literacy Initiative Patron Cocktail Party/Reception to benefit Shadowlawn Elementary School from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 8, at the Naples Woman’s Club. Tickets are $80, with proceeds being used to purchase books for the school’s 571 students in grades K-5 and for the school media center. Guests will be able to meet school Principal Laurie Mearsheimer and Vice Principal Oliver Phiggs. For reservations or more information, contact Donna Johnson by calling (954) 622-1427 or emailing donna@mar-keithsincc.com, or Kathy Lienesch by calling 947-5071 or emailing kathylienesch@yahoo.com.

The Macomb Community College Foundation is hosting two events to give retirees, alumni and friends in Florida an update about things happening in south- east Michigan, news about the college and a chance to network. An evening reception with Macomb Community College President Jim Jacobs starts at 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 13, at the Naples Bay Resort Yacht Club, 1800 Fifth Ave. South. A breakfast with the president will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 14, also at Naples Bay Resort. For reservations or more information, call 0860-445-7302 or email foundation@macomb.edu.

UMass Amherst alumni in South- west Florida are encouraged to don their emerald green outfits and join fellow alumni marching in the Naples St. Patrick’s Day Parade (or ride the UMass trolley) on Saturday morning, March 14. The group is also planning an outing to the Boston Red Sox spring training game Wednesday, March 18, at JetBlue Park in Fort Myers. For more information, visit umassalumni.com/florida2015.

The Alpha Chi Omega AXO alumni chapter of Southwest Florida holds its March luncheon and Hera Day 2015 cele- bration starting at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 14, at Worthington Golf & Country Club in Bonita Springs. All alumnæ of Alpha Chi Omega chapter 2035 and others interested in helping to promote literacy to attend its Literacy Initiative Patron Cocktail Party/Reception to benefit Shadowlawn Elementary School from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 8, at the Naples Woman’s Club. Tickets are $80, with proceeds being used to purchase books for the school’s 571 students in grades K-5 and for the school media center. Guests will be able to meet school Principal Laurie Mearsheimer and Vice Principal Oliver Phiggs. For reservations or more information, contact Donna Johnson by calling (954) 622-1427 or emailing donna@mar-keithsincc.com, or Kathy Lienesch by calling 947-5071 or emailing kathylienesch@yahoo.com.

The Naples area chapter of Gamma Phi Beta alumnæ meets regularly for lunch and a program at a variety of venues in Collier and Lee counties. All Gamma Phi Betas who are living in or visiting Southwest Florida are welcome. For more information, call 992-2129 or email naplesgammaphi@gmail.com.

Alpha Delta Pi alumnæ are invited to join the ADPi alumni chapter of Naples, Bonita Springs and Marco Island for monthly lunches and occasional eve- ning events held at various area locations. For more information, call 404-1294 or email swfladpi@gmail.com.
CLUB NOTES

- The Naples Quilters Guild holds an annual show and sale Friday and Saturday, March 6-7, at New Hope Ministe ries, 7675 Davis Blvd. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. An auction of small quilts will be held from 9-4 p.m. Saturday. Appraisals, demonstrations, vendors with quilting supplies and a raffle are part of the show. Each year members choose a pattern for a quilt to be raffled at the show. Then they make the blocks, put them together and take turns quilting until the piece is finished. A portion of the proceeds from this year’s raffle will benefit the Children’s Advocacy Center.

- The Collier County Men’s Republican Club (women welcome) meets for buffet breakfast and a program from 7:45-9 a.m. Friday, March 6, at Pelican Marsh Country Club. Guest speaker Javier Manjaires, managing editor of the Shark Tank blog, will discuss “How to Reach the Latino Vote.” Cost is $20 for members, $25 for others. RSVP by emailing patriotist@centurylink.net. For more information, visit collierepublicanmensclub.com.

- 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 March 7 and 21. For more information, call Dick Ritchie at 594-0868 or email drchrie@comcast.net.

- The Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 10670-Naples hosts its monthly pancake breakfast from 8-11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 8, in the pilots’ lounge at Naples Municipal Airport. Admission for $5 includes pancakes, eggs, bacon or sausage and orange juice. All proceeds benefit the EAA Young Eagles program that acquaints youth ages 8-17 with aviation as a career. The association holds regular meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at Naples Municipal Airport. The next meeting is April 1. The Naples EAA chapter is one of approximately 1,700 chapters worldwide. Members are pilots, student pilots, plane builders and aviation enthusiasts. For more information, call 649-6627 or visit eaa1007.com.

- Those who write poetry or who simply enjoy listening to and reading poetry are invited to meet at The Norris Church, 791 Harbour Drive. Following a brief business meeting guest speaker Werner Rogers will present “Secrets of the 18th and 19th Century Emigration,” focusing on some areas of the three major immigration waves from Europe to the United States, long journeys fraught with disease and numerous other challenges. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free, and reservations are not required. For more information about the society, visit thegec.org.

- The Naples Civitan Club meets at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Perkins on Pine Ridge Road and on the fourth Wednesday of the month at a location TBA. The next meetings are March 11 and 25. For more information, call 774-2623 or email naplescivitan@aol.com.

NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY • www.FloridaWeekly.com • WEEK OF MARCH 5-11, 2015 • A&E • C27
The Marco Island Civic Club meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. The next meetings are March 10 and 24. For locations, call Anthony DeLacia at 285-6765 or email marcoislandcivitancublub2014@yahoo.com.

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.

■ Pilot Club of Naples/Naples Pilot Foundation meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Perkins, 305 Pine Ridge Road in Naples. The March 12 meeting will include initiation of new members. 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 289-8260.

■ The Naples chapter of Ikebana International holds its annual exhibit Friday and Saturday, March 13-14, at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. Fashions and accessories will be from Rebecca’s in Mercato. Tickets are $80; sponsorship opportunities range from $300 to $3,000. Proceeds will benefit women veterans in need and educational scholarship funds. For tickets and more information, contact Bonnie Jones by calling 963-5199 or emailing bbjonesdesigns@aol.com.

■ Republican women SWFL Feder- ates celebrated the 39th anniversary of National Women’s History Month from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at McQuaid & Company Real Estate Services in Bayfront. Following the national theme of “Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives,” the program will honor the memory of mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers whose lives and challenges led to women gaining the right to vote. An exhibit of photographs by Penny Taylor will be on display, and the Collier County Supervisors of Elec- tions Office will showcase its history and the women who guided its development. Special guest will be Collier’s first woman judge, Lynn Hixon-Holley.

■ The Naples Buckeyes invite alum- ni and fans of Ohio State University to the annual Buckeyes in Paradise gala starting at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Hilton Naples. Honorary chair is Chris Spiel- man; Shelly Meyer, wife of Coach Urban Meyer, will be a special guest. Tickets are $150, with pro- ceeds benefit- ing scholar- ships for local students to attend OSU. For an addi- tional $50, a limited number of guests can meet with Mr. Spielman at 4:30 p.m. at a private reception sponsored by Huntington Wealth Advisors. For reservations or more information, visit naplesbuckeyes.com.

■ The Collier County Stamp Club meets at 7-9 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Naples Airport Office Building, 200 Aviation Drive. The next meeting is March 26. Stamp trading will follow the program. All stamp enthusiasts are welcome. For more information, call 348-9845.

■ Daughters of the American Rev- olution, Big Cypress Chapter, holds its American Spirit Luncheon and Fash- ion Show Friday, March 13, at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. Fashions and accessories will be from Rebecca’s in Mercato. Tickets are $80; sponsorship opportunities range from $300 to $3,000. Proceeds will benefit women veterans in need and educational scholarship funds. For tickets and more information, contact Bonnie Jones by calling 963-5199 or emailing bbjonesdesigns@aol.com.

■ Naples Newcomers Club wel- comes women who have moved to the area within the past five years. In addi- tion to a monthly luncheon, members get together to explore Naples and to enjoy a variety of interests, from books to bridge and mah-jongg to gourmet cooking and conversations over coffee. A coffee for prospective new members takes place on the first Saturday of each month. For more information, call 298- 4083 or visit naplesnewcomers.com.

■ Coastal Chess clubs in Naples and Marco Island welcome players of all levels for casual games and occasional tournaments. Marco Island meetings are from 9 a.m. to noon every Monday at the Lutheran Church, 223 N. Collier. Naples meetings are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday in the clubhouse at Moor-
CLUB NOTES

- Toastmasters International teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of meeting locations. Guests are always welcome. Local Toastmasters chapters, meeting times and locations include:
  - Bonita Toastmasters: 7 p.m. every second and fourth Wednesday at the Bonita Springs Fire Station, 27701 Bonita Grande Drive. For more information, call Laura Arbree at 272-7547.
  - Naples Sunrise Bay Toastmasters: 7:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday in Moss Hall at Moorings Presbyterian Church, 791 Harbour Drive. Call Barbara Miller at 594-7018 or email bars@msn.com.
  - Naples Toastmasters: 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday at Naples General Aviation Center, 200 Aviation Drive N. Call Dorian Ray at 260-4709 or email dorianray11@gmail.com.
  - Toast of the Coast Toastmasters: Noon on the second and fourth Friday at the American Cancer Society, 5020 Tamiami Trail N. Call Marianne Ochser at 434-9900.
  - Naples Advanced Toastmasters: 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday at the Moorings Professional Building, 2335 Tamiami Trail N. Email Christine Cargnoni at ccc@financeinlife.com. This club has prerequisites for membership.

- 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 at Naples United Church of Christ, 5200 Crayton Road. The next meeting is March 19. For more information, call 963-4670 or visit pflagnaples.org.

- 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, 27678 Imperial Shores Blvd. in Bonita Springs. The next meeting is March 24. 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.

- 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 March 10 and 24. All current and former Lions are welcome. For more information, call Dan Sams at 352-2827.

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**Summary of Events**

- If attending a black-tie gala to benefit cancer research and support programs for cancer patients is something on your bucket list, then you’re in luck, as a few tickets remain available for the fifth annual Bucket List Bash to benefit the American Cancer Society in Naples. The Orient Express-themed bash takes place Friday evening, March 6, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort and will benefit pediatric cancer research and other ACS programs. Tickets start at $500. For more information, call Mackenzie Sivret at 261-0337, ext. 3858, or visit acsbucketlistbash.com.

- **The Collier/Lee Chapter of Hadassah** hosts an improvisational wedding as a benefit Sunday, March 8, at Vanderbilt Country Club. A wedding that is not a real wedding, humorous mishaps, behind-the-scenes mayhem and the antics of Improv Anonymouse of the Center for the Arts Bonita Springs will come together for an unforgettable evening. Cocktail hour and the “betrothal” of Shana and Shlomo will be followed by a dîner-and-dancing “reception.” Cantorial soloist Douglas Kenforee will perform. Tickets are $125. RSVP by calling 598-1009.

- **Gulfshore Playhouse** holds its fifth annual Bubble, Baubles and Broadway gala Monday evening, March 9, at The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. Entertainment will be by Tony Award-winning actor Norbert Leo Butz. Tickets are $300 for general admission and $500 for VIPs. gulfshoreplayhouse.org.

- **Pediatric neurosurgeon, author and pro-life advocate Ben Carson will be keynote speaker at “Bringing Communities to Life,” a benefit for Community Pregnancy Clinics Inc. on Thursday, March 12, at the Hilton Naples. A $750 Life Saver level donation to attend goes directly to covering the services and resources necessary to save a baby. For tickets or more information, call Jessica Plate at CPCI, 262-6381.

- **Humane Society Naples holds its 15th annual Pet Lovers Gala on Friday, March 13, at Naples Botanical Garden. Rufino Hernandez is chair of “There’s No Place Like Home,” a yellow brick road-themed evening. Tickets include cocktails, dinner and auction along with dancing to the music of Alan James and Powerhouse. HSN has partnered with Auctions by Cellular to enable electronic bidding on silent auction items beginning a week before the gala. For tickets or more information, call Christy Saunders at 643-1555, ext. 18.

- **The 30th annual Emerald Ball to benefit Catholic Charities of Collier County, Diocese of Venice, takes place Saturday, March 14, at the Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort. Tickets are $300. For reservations or more information, call 455-2655 or visit catholiccharitiescc.org.”

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**Additional Events**

- **Open House**

  **Save the Date**

  **Butz**

  **TICKET STAND/SELL!!**

  **Make it A Hockey Night**

  **TONIGHT**

  **3/4 • 7:30 vs CINCINNATI**

  **$2 Drafts, Wines & Hot Dogs all night long!**

  **NEXT WEEK vs GREENVILLE**

  **3/11 • 7:30 - $2 Drafts, Wine & Dogs all night long!**

  **3/13 • 7:30**

  **3/14 • 7:00 - Guns N Hoses & Jersey Auction!**

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**Notes**

- **Susan G. Komen Southwest Florida**

  **9th Annual Race for the Cure 2015**

  **Saturday, March 7, 2015 • Coconut Point Mall, Estero**

  **Plus! Friday Night Survivor Pink Out Party**

  **March 6, 2015 • Coconut Point Mall, Estero**

  **Survivor Makeovers & Luminary Service**

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**Contact Information**

- **Susie G. Komen Southwest Florida**

  **9th Annual Race for the Cure 2015**

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**Important Dates**

- **March 14, 2015**

  **The 30th annual Emerald Ball to benefit Catholic Charities of Collier County, Diocese of Venice, takes place Saturday, March 14, at the Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort. Tickets are $300. For reservations or more information, call 455-2655 or visit catholiccharitiescc.org.”**

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**More Information**

- **For more information, call Jessica Plate at CPCI, 262-6381.**

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**Final Thoughts**

- **If you’re interested in attending a black-tie gala to benefit cancer research and support programs for cancer patients, then you’re in luck!**

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**Conclusion**

- **Thank you to our sponsors!**

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**End of Document**
SAVE THE DATE

- Friends of Rookery Bay host the annual Batfish Bash for the Bay on Saturday, March 14, at Rookery Bay. Guests enjoy live and silent auctions with items ranging from a day at a spa to a Turks & Caicos vacation aboard a luxury yacht. Tickets for $175 include cocktails in the education center surrounding by aquariums and art, sunset on the bridge over Henderson Creek and live entertainment with dinner and dancing under the stars. Proceeds support the research, stewardship and education efforts underway at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. For more information, visit rookerybay.org.

- The Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association hosts An Affair to Remember from 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at the Hilton Naples. Guest speaker will be William Thies, Ph.D., senior scientist in residence for the National Alzheimer’s Association. Naples City Councilman Bill Barnett will serve as auctioneer. Guests are encouraged to wear purple. Tickets are $167 (one person every 67 seconds is diagnosed with Alzheimer’s). To purchase tickets or for more information, call 405-7008 or email hoodk@alzflgulf.org.

- A spring fashion show, luncheon and silent auction to benefit Sunlight Home for pregnant women and teens takes place Thursday, March 19, at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. Tickets are $65. Call 352-0251.

- The Women’s Fund of Southwest Florida and WGCU Public Media present “You’ve Earned It, Don’t Lose It” with Suze Orman at 11:30 a.m. Friday, March 20, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. A donation of $400 includes admission for two, with proceeds benefitting the host organizations. This is the first program presented by The Women’s Fund and Southwest Florida and WGCU Public Media through the “WGCU Makers: Women Who Make Southwest Florida” initiative. For reservations or more information, call (888) 809-9809 or go to wgcu.org.

- The Parkinson Association of Southwest Florida Inc. holds its annual fashion show and luncheon, “Sailing into Spring,” Saturday, March 21, at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club. Clothing will be by Kari’s Creations and John Craig Clothier. Vendors will have clothing and accessories for purchase, and a silent auction and raffle will raise additional funds for the association, which provides free programs, classes, equipment and respite care to those who have Parkinson disease and their caregivers. Tickets are $85 ($750 for a table for 10, $600 for eight). For reservations or more information, call 407-3465.

- The 13th annual Spring Luncheon of the Season hosted by Hope President and CEO Samira K. Beckwith and the Friends of Hope Committee invite you to support your local community at this special event. All proceeds benefit Hope Hospice, Pet Peace of Mind and Rainbow Trails Bereavement Camp for children. Call (239) 489-9164 for Tickets or visit Donate.HopeHCS.org/spring15.

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SAVE THE DATE

■ The San Marco Council of Catholic Women holds a casino night from 7-10 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at the San Marco Church Parish Center, 851 San Marco Blvd. on Marco Island. For $30 admission, high rollers will enjoy appetizers, a cash bar and $2,000 in play money. Tickets are available at the church office and gift shop. For more information, call Joyce Inbrogno at 642-7967.

■ The annual Avow Butterfly Ball takes flight Saturday, March 21, at the Naples Grande Beach Resort. This year’s fundraising goal is $250,000. Patron tickets for $500 include a patron party on March 19 at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club; tickets to the ball only are $300. All proceeds benefit the hospice, palliative care and grief support programs offered by Avow. 649-3683 or avowcares.org/events.

■ The eighth annual Boots and Boogie Bash to benefit Friends of Foster Children of Southwest Florida takes place Saturday, March 21, at Grey Oaks Country Club. The evening begins with cocktails at 6 p.m. and continues with a Texas-style dinner, silent and live auctions, entertainment by P’zazz and dancing to the Brett Foreman Band. Honorary chairs are Jackie and Chris Serna. Krista Fogelson of ABC-7 is the emcee, and Scott Robertson is the auctioneer. New this year is the chance to bid online for travel adventures, dining experiences, golf outings and more. Bids are being accepted now at friendsfostercildren.net. All are welcome to bid; winners will be announced at the bash. This year’s sponsors include Arthrex, The Children’s Network, Home-Tech, M Waterfront Grille and NEST International. Tickets start at $250. For reservations or more information, call 622-8608 or visit the website above.

■ CAPA Cultural and Performing Arts Center holds its annual gala, Spring for the Arts, the evening of Tuesday, March 24, at the Naples Sailing & Yacht Club. Tickets are $195. 775-2800 or bayshorecapa.org.

■ The NCH Healthcare System Auxiliaries host a “Mad Hatter Garden Party” wine tasting from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, March 26, in the Garden of Hope & Courage at NCH downtown. Guests will sample wines from seven countries accompanied by hors d’oeuvres from Wynn’s Family Market & Catering. A silent auction and hat contest are also planned. Tickets are $50, with proceeds to benefit the stroke program at NCH. 624-3410, 552-7703 or nchmd.org/Mad-Hatter.
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— Cate Blanchett, Academy Award-winning actress

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Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Winebar
Krupp Brothers wines will be paired with a four-course dinner.
Space is limited. RSVP Now!
$150 pp
RSVP to info@napleswinecollection.com or 239-513-0095
Limited number of reservations accepted for all wine dinners. Please RSVP soon!

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 6th 5:30-7:30 p.m.
A Taste of Burgundy featuring Henri Gouges Nuits, Mongeard Mığıre and more.
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Friday, March 13th 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Silver Oak Tasting
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Saturday, March 14th 7 p.m.
Dinner with Dr. Jan Krupp, Proprietor of Krupp Brothers Wines
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Krupp Brothers wines will be paired with a four-course dinner.
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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

The Women’s Fund of Southwest Florida PopUp Party to benefit Girl Scouts of SWF

Brenda Tate and Sue Stewart
Patricia Ramthun, Veronica Barber and Mattie Johnson
Nancy Merolla, Joan Gross, Catherine Hayworth and Brenda Tate
Kelly Corea, Ted Corbin and Heather Bassano
Biby Solomon, Adelie Landies, Rachel Morse and Allie Schotanus
Jose Nunoz and Tori Krutky

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Patricia Ramthun, Veronica Barber and Mattie Johnson
SOCIETY

‘Play Golf for Others’ at Bay Colony Golf Club to benefit breast cancer patients

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Darlene Cindrich and Judy Pettinelli
Donna Esksra and Lisa Spiller
Cindy Alvarez and Lynn Koffel
Kathy Pavlish and Jackie Bearse
Joanne McConnell and Terry Way
Carol Nemec, Janet Griffith and Joyce Wood

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SOCIETY

A gala for Classic Chamber Concerts at Grey Oaks Country Club

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Sixth annual ‘Believing in Girls’ luncheon at the Hilton Naples for PACE Center for Girls

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SOCIETY

A gala fundraiser for the Freedom Memorial at Fred W. Coyle Freedom Park

Jack Hall

Deanna Cox and John Cox

Betty Mulder and Dale Mulder

Fred Klaucke and Marsha McDonald

Doug Bernstein and Doris Bernstein

Vicki Capadona and Jim Capadona

Jerry Sanford and Mauriann Patterson

John Sorey and Tom Donahue

Keith Dameron and Barbara Dameron

Kris Buck and John Buck

KP Pezeshkan

Murray Hendel and Ursula Pfahl

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A gala fundraiser for the Freedom Memorial at Fred W. Coyle Freedom Park

John Sorey and Harold Weeks

Mike Reagen and Susan Reagen

World War II veteran Bob McDonald

Lois Bolin and Wayne Smith

Bill Barnett

Sam Saad and Bob Harden

Patty Baker and Jay Baker

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Terry Miller and Matt Miller

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Sue Huff, Jeanne Sweeney, Betty Bailey and Karole Davis

Nancy Lombardo and Chris Lombardo

Ed Wollman and Ellen Wollman

Cathy Singleton and Richard Singleton

Bill Meyers and Martha Meyers

Mary Fellenz and Allie Arenberg

George Baron and Mary Baron

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Opera Naples’ 10th anniversary gala at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort

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Cuisine News

Leaving your meal up to the chef and dine ‘omakase’ style at Araya

By Lindsey Nesmith

Araya Sushi Asian Grill now offers ‘omakase’ dinners prepared by Chef Shigeki Kamio at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Cost is $55.

“Omakase” means “I leave it to you” in Japanese and refers to meals that consist entirely of courses selected by the chef. This style of dining grew in popularity after the 2006 documentary “Jiro Dreams in Sushi,” in which the Japanese sushi master Jiro Ono serves only a handful of customers his selections each evening.

Omakase dining has been likened to performance art and can often be a gamble, considering the courses are prepared at the chef’s whim, but Araya owner John Augsandthung says diners are assured of enjoying the best quality ingredients, many special ordered from Japan, prepared with seasoned expertise.

“The concept is authentic Japanese sushi and kitchen selections,” Mr. Augsandthung says. “It’s the only way customers can get authentic food from Japan.”

Chef Kamio has more than 30 years of experience in fine dining and is currently executive chef at two five-star hotels: St. Regis Bal Harbour and Setai Hotel at Miami Beach. Reservations for his Araya dinners are required. Call 593-3344.

Celebrating St. Joseph

Sicilians have celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph since the Middle Ages, when they prayed for rain through a severe drought and survived on fava beans. According to legend, St. Joseph answered their prayers and became one of Sicily’s most favored saints. Because the feast falls during Lent, traditional menu items feature fish and pasta.

As the March 15 day of the feast approaches, local parishes and food purveyors are offering those who celebrate it a variety of opportunities to sample traditional foods.

Chef Annie Prizzi of Neighborhood Organics in Naples is preparing take-home Sicilian feasts through the month of March. For $70, dinner for two comes complete with pasta di Giusepppe (prepared with sardines and fennel pстатelli pasta) toasted fennel with blood orange vinegar and olive oil, broccoli rabe with parsley and cheese, tuscan white bean soup with escarole and, for dessert, zeppole and siphinges. A bag of six zeppole is $5. 2399 Vanderbilt Beach Road, 273-2350.

The Naples Italian American Foundation serves a traditional dinner at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 18. Menu items include Caesar salad, lentil soup, seafood pasta and zeppole. Proper dress and reservations by Monday, March 16, required. $30 members, $35 non-members. 7035 Airport-Pulling Road, 597-5210 or niafoundation.org.

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in North Naples will serve a traditional dinner following Mass at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 21. 540 625 11th Ave. N, 331-3171.

Take Note:

■ Naples Craft Beer Fest takes place from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Bayfront. Tickets are $80 in advance, $60 at the gate and entitle holders to samples of more than 90 beers from 25 breweries. 210-5097 or naplescraftbeerfest.com.

■ The Sauce Lady presents a cooking class at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 12, featuring traditional Italian favorites including gnocchi Bolognese, pear salad with walnut gorgonzola dressing and panna cotta. Reservations required by March 10, 840, 9331 Tamiami Trail N., 592-5557 or sauce lady.com.

■ The Capital Grille has added four new burgers to its lunch menu. Guests can now enjoy a black truffle and gorgonzola wagyu burger, prepared with black truffle butter, gorgonzola and balsamic-glazed onions; a Kona-crusted wagyu burger, served with Bibb lettuce, tomato and shallot mayonnaise; a wild mushroom wagyu burger, with havarti cheese and 15-year aged balsamic vinegar; and a wagyu cheeseburger, prepared with havarti cheese, a sunny-side-up egg and crisp onions. 254-0640 or thecapitalgrille.com

 ■ In a nod to St. Patrick’s Day, Applebee’s will add some Irish-inspired dishes to its menu March 15-17. Guests can enjoy selections like a corned beef Rueben, corned beef and cabbage and Irish coffee. applebees.com.

■ Vino’s Picasso and Gordon’s on the River host a wine dinner and instructor-led painting session at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 14. Dinner includes two glasses of wine and a painting class. Guests can stear mac n’ cheese, cheeseburger slider and flatbread pizza. $55 includes all painting supplies. 213-1441 or vinospicasso.com.

 ■ Email food and dining news to Inesmith@floridaweekly.com.
The Dish: My husband and I had the fortunate coincidence of not waking up to children on a Sunday morning, and by the time we rolled out of bed (late) and picked them up, we realized didn’t have the patience to string along the whole family for a trip to the grocery store for lunch. Restaurants like Sushi Thai are made especially for people like us: It has food the kids will eat, adult food for us that isn’t smothered in cheese, and a fascinating saltwater fish tank that will keep the kids occupied for the greater part of the meal.

We all have our favorites, and when my chicken pad Thai finally arrived (after a few unnecessary courses we couldn’t pass up), I was so happy to see it. Served with a wedge of lime and an orchid on the side (which our 4-year-old insisted had to be edible), the rice noodles and chicken (you can also have it with beef, shrimp or tofu) were highly flavored with ground peanuts, scallions and Thai seasonings that are too cool for me to know about. I imagine there was fish sauce here, some basil there. It was a satisfying and generous lunch portion, some of which I took home to enjoy later.

One More Thing: Sushi Thai’s Tom Kha soup is one of those foods that make my life worth living. I wish I’d had the presence of mind to snap a photo before my family descended on it. The menu describes it as a spicy and sour soup that consists of an herb and lemongrass broth flavored with coconut milk, lemon and chili paste. It makes me so happy I would bathe in it if I could; I certainly dream about it when I’ve gone without it for too long.
Here are some capsule summaries of previous restaurant reviews:

- **Araya Sushi Asian Grill, 2650 Immokalee Road, Naples; 593-3344**
  The creators of Fuji Sushi Bar & Asian Bistro, Jon and On Aigusdhtiing, have opened a second, somewhat more upscale space with Araya. Like Fuji, it offers a wide range of sushi as well as cooked Thai and Japanese dishes. Stop in for the stellar sushi, but stay to explore the cooked fare. Try any of the dozen yakiitori items, priced by the skewer, and specials such as sautéed chicken livers with asparagus or mainstays like spicy tuna nachos and carpaccio of hamachi with jalapeños. A tiger roll (shrimp tempura with asparagus, avocado, rice, seaweed, sesame seeds, masago, smoked salmon, eel and wakame) was huge and wonderful. Grilled salmon with baby bok choy and lychee duck curry were as delicious as the sushi. For dessert, try the Tokyo sundae (sticky rice, green tea ice cream, red bean paste, lychee and coconut). Beer and wine served.

- **Patric’s, 2091 Pine Ridge Road, Naples; 566-7708**
  Long-time area chef Patric Achilles and husband, Gary Teater, are back to the day. The pot roast skillet was a hearty blend of home fries, pot roast, tomatoes and pasta. Beer and wine.

- **The Counter Custom Built Burgers, 9110 Strada Place, Mercato, Naples; 566-0644**
  If it’s burgers the kids want, here’s a place that can make everyone happy about their meal. The Counter serves Angus beef from humanely raised cows free of hormones and antibiotics. (Or select vegan, bison, turkey or chicken burgers). Then choose from a dozen cheeses, 32 toppings, 23 sauces, six buns (one gluten free) or a salad. Milkshakes come 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. It all even held together. My companion liked the Old School burger (beef with Tillamook cheddar, lettuce, red onion, pickle, tomato and red relish). Sweet potato fries and crispy onion strings were just right, as were cocktails and a brownie with ice cream, caramel and chocolate sauce. The servers could not have been nicer. Full bar.

- **Ristorante Enrico, Bonita Bay Plaza, 26831 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; 949-2204**
  This spot is easily overlooked at the end of a Publix-anchored shopping plaza. It’s only when you walk inside that you discover something special: authentic Italian cooking with some surprising twists; genuinely warm hospitality from a big Italian family; and a dark-red dining room with subdued lighting that creates a sense of romance and intimacy. Even if you’ve tired of the ever-present calamari, you’ll find that Enrico’s is better than most — lightly breaded and not oily. The warm marinara on the side was lushly textured and sweet. More of that sauce accompanied an appetizer trio of richly flavored meatballs. Enrico gets eggplant rollatini right, too (no skimpy eggplant slices lost in a sea of sauce and not so much ricotta that you feel stuffed after a few bites). Crab is rarely seen on Italian menus here, so the penne al granchio was a pleasant surprise; abundant chunks of fresh blue crab tossed with a rosy cream sauce, tomatoes and pasta. Beer and wine.

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- Excellent
- Superb
- Excellent
- Good
- Poor
- Fair
- Non-existent

**WEEK OF MARCH 5-11, 2015**

**Alaska Mike**

**Wendall Ray**

**Wendall Ray**

Music, Rockin’ Ritas, Flavorful Cuisine...Experience Agave!

Enjoy our exquisite menu, featuring Maine lobster, prime cuts from the grill, and an impressive wine list.

**Avenue Downtown Naples**

**KEY TO RATINGS**

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**WEEK OF MARCH 5-11, 2015**

**Alaska Mike**

**Wendall Ray**


See all AGAVE events here.
Do you sous-vide? Well, probably not at home, as this cooking technique—which translates from French to “under vacuum”—requires special equipment and a hefty investment of time. But chances are you’ve tasted a dish or two made in this fashion at an area restaurant.

It involves sealing whatever’s being cooked in a heat-safe BPA-free plastic bag then submerging it in a water bath that cooks the food at low temperature for an extended period. The result is the item—typically a protein, but vegetables and sauces can be done this way as well—retains its moisture, color, vitamins and flavor. It’s a technique used by the masters—Thomas Keller, the late Charlie Trotter, Paul Bocuse and Michael Mina among them—and many local chefs have introduced items to their repertoire as well.

But Domenico Bosco, chef/owner of Kitchen 41, has a more ambitious plan: Virtually his entire menu is produced sous-vide, so that the proteins need not be cooked in oil or heavy sauces and are, therefore, healthier than typical restaurant fare. M. Bosco also shuns preservatives, processed foods, MSG, GMOs and fry- ing.

When I first met Mr. Bosco and his wife and business partner Barbara Gallone shortly after they opened Kitchen 41 in August 2013, their little storefront had but a couple of tables and a large glass case. They had planned to do a lot of takeaway fare. That has clearly changed. They recently shut down for two months and transformed their space into a chic 30-seat dinner-only restaurant.

It is a warm and inviting space, the walls a dusky blue, with wood tables and floors, white banquettes and a wall of windows a dusky blue, with wood tables and floors, white banquettes and a glass display case. They had planned to do a lot of takeout fare. That has clearly changed. They recently shut down for two months and transformed their space into a chic 30-seat dinner-only restaurant.

Although Kitchen 41 is small, its wine list is not, with a great many Italian selections that reflect the owners’ roots. We enjoyed a bottle of Vinchio-Vaglia Serra I Tre Vescovi (The Three Bishop) Superiore barbera d’asti, which had a rich ruby-red hue and lots of body. It drank well on its own, which was a good thing because our appetizers took some time to arrive. Ms. Gallone had warned us that the scallops took 20 minutes to cook so we were prepared.

They were worth the wait. Two wild- caught sea scallops ($15) arrived perfectly cooked atop a mound of creamy pureed lima beans studded with golden raisins and yellow and red roasted peppers. It was a lovely and delicious dish.

So, too, was the rich-tasting smoked salmon ($14) tucked around a mound of avocado and hearts of palm, with slices of crisp cucumber beneath and a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil to finish it off. It is perhaps in keeping with the chef’s healthy philosophy that the restaurant serves no bread or other pre- dinner tidbits. It is a practice he might want to rethink. Combine the cooking method, the sparse staff (Ms. Gallone and one server attendant) and a full house, and service was slower than what I’d term leisurely. Once we finished our appetizers, it took an hour for our entrees to arrive.

One doesn’t need to serve bread, but something—carrots and celery with a touch of tapenade perhaps—would keep guests from fainting from hunger while waiting. I saw the attendant slip a couple of slices of bread and some olive oil to a couple who had apparently reached their limit. One shouldn’t have to reach that level of desperation.

Wild-caught halibut was a bit pricey at $40, but it was moist and flaky. A mild fish, it came with what I assume was the liquid in which it was cooked, and it could have used some herbs to enliven it.

The broccoli rabe with red and yellow roasted peppers and pine nuts that accompanied the fish did add some texture, flavor and color. Both dishes came with a few carrots three asparagus spears and a few broccoli florets.

I regret not ordering one of the organ- ic pasta dishes. I had the opportunity to taste Mr. Bosco’s sous-vide tomato sauce when he first opened. It was as red and vibrant as the tomatoes from which it was made.

We finished with a slice of gluten-free ricotta pie with mixed-berry compote ($8).

Wild-caught halibut comes with pine nut- studded broccoli rabe.

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“You’ve never seen the beauty of Southwest Florida until you’ve seen it by water,” says Mr. Nichols, who acknowledges that sounds like a sales pitch, but goes on to vehemently describe why.

“Magnificent sunsets by water ... sneaking up on wildlife in the back bays ... catching that fish ... or having a dolphin just next to you.” He pauses. He never tires of it. “I’m still boating.”

The fact that boating in Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties is one for boats of all sizes and varied water-based interests (fishing, diving, paddling, waterfront dining, nature photography and more) makes this region not only a year-round experience for boaters, but also an affordable one. And one they can keep enjoying — regardless of which of life’s phases they are in.

Southwest Florida offers inland waterways, most of which are tucked behind sugar-sand islands that create a buffer and calm backwaters. Whereas Florida’s east coast boaters need well-powered, expensive, large boats for blue-water Atlantic or crowded canal experiences, Southwest Florida boaters have it easy for any sized craft. They can anchor out in an estuary, paddle up a creek, fish a grass flat or sail in the bathtub-like, blue-green Gulf of Mexico.

“You run aground in Miami or even up north in places like the Midwest, and you’d be on rock,” said Josh Greer, a fourth-generation Floridian who guides charters in Lee and Charlotte counties but grew up on the eastern edge of Collier County. “The boating here is more tranquil, more laid back.”

Boaters are fortunate enough to find ample open space and less-crowded areas while also finding boating friends. Studies show one in every six households in the three-county region owns a boat. That’s 61,673 registered vessels. And that doesn’t include the non-motorized paddlecraft and small sailboats the state doesn’t require to be registered.

The watery geography is not the only reason why, says Tom Papesh, a Floridian for the past 32 years (so the 52-year-old doesn’t like to float your motors to sails, Southwest Florida’s many waterways offer plenty for all to see and do.

“Magnificent sunsets by water ... sneaking up on wildlife in the back bays ... catching that fish ... or having a dolphin just next to you.” He pauses. He never tires of it. “I’m still boating.”

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By WALTER MILES

Director of Marketing, US Navy Beans WDC-1 is a Cold War era, diesel-electric ship that is currently serving as a test platform for autonomous vehicles. The ship was decommissioned in 2008 and now serves as an amphibious landing platform for future military operations. The ship has been converted to an unmanned platform, allowing it to be remotely controlled from a shore-based control center. The ship is fitted with a range of sensors and electronic systems, including sonars, radars, and cameras, which allow it to operate autonomously in both day and night conditions. The ship's hull and superstructure are made of advanced materials, providing it with increased durability and resistance to damage. The ship's propulsion system is designed to operate quietly, making it suitable for use in various environments, including shallow waters and coastal areas. The ship's architecture and design focus on maximizing its operational flexibility and versatility, allowing it to be used in a variety of military and non-military applications.
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Southwest Florida’s top 10,004 undiscovered islands

BY NANCI THEORET
Special to Florida Weekly

There’s a good reason some Southwest Florida islands are lesser known. Although they occasionally get ink from the national media, many are reachable only by boat; others by car only after plunging into nothingness to reach seemingly can’t-get-there-from-here locations. Discover these islands and you’ll enjoy a little more elbow room on the beach, a friendly and relaxed lifestyle and nature untouched by man.

Manasota Key
It often surprises visitors, and some locals, to learn Charlotte County does indeed have beaches. This 11-mile long island starts in Englewood and stretches north into Sarasota County, where beaches are staffed with lifeguards and offer free parking. With Lemon Bay to the east and the Gulf to the west, the island boasts older cottages and one- and two-story inns — holdouts from another era — mixed with mid-rise condominiums, new Old Florida homes and grand estates hidden behind thick natural landscaping and mangroves in Sarasota County.

Englewood Beach offers the only commercial businesses on the key, a handful of restaurants, boutiques and beach provision shops at the intersection of Beach Road (its access road from 776) and Gulfshore Boulevard. It’s one of Florida’s most undiscovered islands, with beaches along most of its span, including the ultra-secluded Stump Pass Beach State Park, offering a mile of undeveloped beachfront that becomes more secluded the farther south you walk toward the channel separating Manasota Key from Palm Island at its southernmost tip. The park encompasses two small islands to the east where boaters often congregate in flotillas during weekends in the Peterson Cut and calm waters are well-suited for paddleboarding and kayaking. Stump Pass Park also offers crushed-shell and sand hiking and nature trails through five distinct habitats and the opportunity to see manatees, gopher tortoises and other protected animals.

Englewood Beach’s business district contrasts the quiet of the park with a scaled-down version of Fort Myers Beach. The public beach here offers a privately operated beach spa, daily yoga and a Sunday sunset drum circle. Tiki bars and alfresco dining are practically a prerequisite for restaurants. There’s plenty of island music, island cocktails and island food.

Palm Island
A residential and resort community of Old Florida homes, practically a stone’s throw from the mainland, Palm Island offers the ultimate in public beach seclusion. Because water is the only way to get here and its water taxi and car ferry cast off from marinas along the less-traveled Placida Road, few happen to find the island. The resort offers overnight accommodations, leisurely and active recreational pursuits and a restaurant that welcomes daytrippers with its signature Rum Bay Smash cocktail and full menu.

Windingsandy paths meander around dunes of tall sea oats, revealing just snippets of its sugary-white beach and Gulf waters until the end of the path. Day visitors board the water taxi at Leverock’s Restaurant, which also has a pool for resort guests. Those staying on the island will want to drive onto the ferry a block north. The taxi whisks guests to a dock and scenic boardwalk that lead to Palm Island’s Rum Bay restaurant, a gift shop and ice cream shop.

Weekend events include morning nature walks and beach yoga.

Gasparilla Island
Check the Facebook feed of recent Gasparilla Island visitors and you’re bound to see similar snapshots showing turquoise water and snippets of land taken while crossing its three bridges. The nothingness of Gasparilla Road once it passes Rotonda West creates an inevitable giddiness of leaving civilization behind. The $6 toll deters many day visitors, and beaches during high season aren’t crowded. Gasparilla Island offers the ultimate in public beach seclusion. Because water is the only way to get here and its water taxi and car ferry cast off from marinas along the less-traveled Placida Road, few happen to find the island. The resort offers overnight accommodations, leisurely and active recreational pursuits and a restaurant that welcomes daytrippers with its signature Rum Bay Smash cocktail and full menu.

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The island’s northern tip, actually located in Charlotte County, offers rental condos and private residences and a small shopping center with a boutique hotel, tiki bar, restaurant and grocery store.

There are no gas stations on Gasparilla, where golf carts — often decorated —
Useppa Island, accessible only by boat, is about as exclusive as a retreat as there is in Southwest Florida. Useppa Island, about as exclusive as they come and an anomaly among Southwest Florida’s islands. Accessible only by boat, this private island community is devoid of roads and beaches and allows the general public just two hours to lunch in its courtyard dining room and explore what they can, on foot, of the famed pink path and the Useppa Island Club. However, there is some wiggle room for visitors interested in real estate or friends of members who can stay in one of the Collier Inn’s seven suites or single-family cottages and homes, some of them dating back to the early 1900s.

A resort destination for the wealthy since the late 19th century, lucky guests and homeowners enjoy a setting steeped in nature, where residents get around on golf carts and boats, gather for happy hour at the Tarpon Bar or a friend’s Old Florida-style home, don all white for croquet, and enjoy gourmet dishes in the Barron Collier Dining Room. It’s a unique club lifestyle that extends dining-club privileges to residents of nearby islands.

Select charter boats from South Seas Resort and Pine Island offer daily public lunchtime excursions.

The Ten Thousand Islands
Subtract Marco from the mix, and you only have 9,999 islands — most of them uninhabited and deep in the Everglades — to explore by boat or paddle power. Water- and nature-centric adventures are the big attractions of the islands where quiet backcountry water and walking-on-water mangrove islands are home to snook, permit, flounder, pompano and seatrout and wildlife of the feathered and scaled sort.

Stay in Everglades City and play in the surrounding waterways of Florida’s last untamed frontier. Bring your own boat or rent a pontoon or flats boat from Miller’s World at Glades Haven, offering the onsite Oyster House restaurant and bar, live bait, a liquor store, kayak rentals, a full-service marina and duplex, single cabins and large stilt-house rentals. Fish or find a secluded island beach to while away a portion of your day, picnicking, collecting shells, relaxing in the sun or swimming in the warm water.

Everglades Rentals & Eco Adventures at the Ivey House bed and breakfast offers early- and mid-morning kayak tours as well as excursions through mangrove tunnels and twilight paddles.
Many of Southwest Florida’s original families followed in the footsteps of the area’s first occupants — the prehistoric Calusa Indians, who lived off the land and the bounty of fish and seafood in the Gulf of Mexico.

Today, all that remains of this vanishing world are shell mounds and middens left by the Calusas and modern-day commercial fishermen who continue the pioneering spirit, hauling in their catches to a handful of remaining waterfront fisheries that purchase the shrimp, stone crab claws and those seafood and fish specials of the day served by local restaurants.

Many of the area’s working waterfronts and fish camps have disappeared into the annals of history, replaced by waterfront homes and developments. For many of Gasparilla Island’s older charter captains, their fathers and grandfathers made their living off the water and the fisheries on the north end of the island. Today, the younger generations of these original fishing families — the Joiners, Millses and Colemans — have shifted to charter fishing, catering to the influx of seasonal Boca Grande residents and tourists in search of deep-sea and flats fishing excursions and the excitement of landing sport fish such as snook and tarpon.

But find the area’s remaining working waterfronts and you’ll also discover Southwest Florida’s freshest fish and seafood, oftentimes from sea to plate the same day.

Many of the men in Barbara Grodem’s life were Fort Myers Beach-based shrimpers. “They were gone a lot,” says Mrs. Grodem, the wholesale manager and secretary at Trico Shrimp Co. located along the city’s historic working Matanzas Harbor waterfront on San Carlos Island. “During the summer, when the grass and jellies are bad here, they’d be gone from the end of June to October fishing out of Texas.”

Commercial fishing was the only way of life for many of Fort Myers Beach’s earliest families, who supplied scallops, clams, oyster, snapper, grouper, crab and other fresh-caught seafood and fish to the island’s fish houses. In the 1950s, “pink gold” shrimp became the standard and the area earned its reputation as having the largest commercial fishing fleet in the Gulf.

Shrimp is Trico’s specialty and it ships Key West pinks and Texas brown shrimp to Tampa for processing and shipment throughout the country. Locals also stop in to buy a pound or two from the retail market; some entrepreneurs buy more, selling it roadside from their cars, says Mrs. Grodem, who has worked for the company for 20 years.

“We also sell to local restaurants,” she says. “We just had a boat in that had 100 boxes of Key West pinks. They were out for three weeks.”

Each box weighs 100 pounds. Trico owns 90 percent of its shrimping fleet. Captains rent the boats and receive a percentage based on their catch.

“We never know when they’re coming in because they’ll stay out three to four weeks,” Mrs. Grodem says. “Some mornings we’ll have several boats.”

Trico and its neighbors, Erickson & Jensen Supply House and Beach Seafood, make up most of Fort Myers Beach’s working waterfront. Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center offers tours of the three commercial fisheries every Wednesday morning through season. The three-hour tour is timed to coincide with the often unpredictable arrival of shrimp boats, allowing participants to see how boats are unloaded and trawl doors are built and giving them a peek inside the process of preparing seafood for sale and the sometimes arduous task of hand-sewing shrimp nets. Tours are $15 for adults and $10 for children 6 and older.
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In Matlacha, recently returned commercial fishing boats can often be seen bobbing in their moorings at Olde Fish House Marina, a restaurant and seafood market. The selection of grouper, snapper, shrimp, clams, blue crab and oysters is often just off the boat, and the market also caters to anglers who’d rather a pro filet their fish.

Drive around Everglades City and you can’t help but notice fishing poles poking out of trucks and car windows and crab pots and other commercial fishing gear behind buildings alongside Riverside Drive.

Former St. Pete resident Richard Wahrenberger always fished and stone crabled on the side until he visited Everglades City to buy a boat. “I ended up buying a fish house, too,” says the owner of City Seafood, a restaurant and market along the Barron River.

Nowadays, he’s too busy to set sail. “I have boats coming in every day,” Mr. Wahrenberger says. “Stone crab is our number one product. We sold $9,000 of stone crab in two days and 140 pounds of fish (in one day). We go through tons of fish. There are always lines out the door to eat here.”

The restaurant offers indoor and outdoor dining, the latter overlooking the river and arriving boats. Mr. Wahrenberger recently added the full-service and tiny Beach Bar. Inside the market, the beer and the morning’s catch are served on ice. The market also ships stone crab claws, frog legs, gator and shrimp to consumers and wholesale customers around the country.

“Our business has been great because our fish and seafood is fresh,” Mr. Wahrenberger says. “It’s all word of mouth.”

FISHY

From page 12
Spectacular Renovation of the Grey Oaks Gabriella Modell

Estuary in Grey Oaks—Private Lake and Golf Views from this Former London Bay Model. Over 5,000 SF with 5 bedroom suites, 7 full baths, 3 half baths, 4-car garage, Koi pond, flaming waterfalls, wine cave, butler’s pantry, 2-story library with elevator to game room and 3-D theatre. Beautifully remodeled and updated throughout—$5,745,000 www.TraceyYoung.com/213656206

Audubon Private Estate—Naples. Largest estate lot in Audubon Country Club. Magnificent 17’ mahogany entry doors, 5 bedrooms, 5 full baths, rich wood study, separate guesthouse, 200’ fanar and 4-car garage. 6,610 SF and over 14,000 SF total. Originally $3,8M—Now $2,600,000 www.TraceyYoung.com/21354283

AUDUBON Golf & Country Club—WATERFRONT Grand Estate with Water & Golf Course Views. 4 spacious Bedroom suites, Library/office, 5 full baths, 1000 bottle wine cellar, 9,000 square feet under air, Lots of Marble & Granite throughout, 3 car garage. Owner Financing available—$1,625,000 www.TraceyYoung.com/215013626.TraceyYoung.com

Pelican Bay L’Ambiance. Waterfront top floor with 3 bedroom suites and 3 full baths, natural marble flooring, tumbled marble kitchen, stainless appliances, 2 balconies with grill, garage and surrounded by water and fountains. High-end furnishings are available—$675,000 www.TraceyYoung.com/214058059

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PELICAN BAY Pebble Creek #105: 3 bedroom/3 bath, elevator and 2-car garage; $5,800/month

TIBURON Ventana #306: 1 bedroom/2 bath with Signature Golf Membership; $6,000/month

TIBURON Bolero #101, Prima Bolero. Direct access from the Golf Club 2 bedrooms plus den, 2-bath unit on 3rd floor location. Lives like a villa with lots of privacy. Hunter Luminette blinds, granite kitchen with tight cabinetry and breakfast bar opens to the living area—$482,000 www.TraceyYoung.com/212016414

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Whether it’s a shrimp basket at Coconut Jack’s, gator bites at Stan’s Idle Hour or cutting-edge Continental cuisine at M Waterfront grille, somehow it all tastes better if you’ve traveled there by boat.

The region offers a bounty of boat-accessible options, ranging from ultracasual to special-occasion chic. Following is a sampling of the spots available.

The primary thing to remember is that many of these establishments have only a few slips and popular spots fill up quickly, especially on weekends — so call ahead to ensure there’s room and to get precise nautical directions before making the trip.

**Bonita Springs**

- Big Hickory Seafood grille and Marina, 2007 Hickory Blvd., Bonita Springs, 992-0999; Channel Marker 60 is the key to finding this reliable old restaur-ant, where there’s 4 feet of water even at low tide. Belly up to a plate of fish tacos, a grouper sandwich, burgers or full entrées with a Caribbean flair at this rustic but charming spot overlooking Estero Bay. N 26.386098, W 81.875577

- Coconut Jack’s Waterfront grille, 5370 Bonita Beach Road; 495-7777; Get a view inside or outside at this festive restaurant that offers casual fare such as ceviche, barbe-que pork nachos, coconut shrimp, salads, sandwiches and seafood baskets as well as more substantive dishes such as baby back ribs and lobster tails.

N 26.19.836, W 081.50.495

- The Fish House, 4685 Bonita Beach Road; 495-5770; on Bonita’s Back Bay. Casual setting with casual fare that includes smoked fish dip, blackened tuna bites, quesadillas, seafood sandwiches and grouper tacos.

N 27.30.967, W 80.32549

**Everglades City**

- Rod and Gun Club, 200 Riverside Drive (State Road 29), Everglades City; 695-2103; on the Barron River 42 miles from Capri Pass in Marco Island. This historic inn that has hosted the likes of Ernest Hemingway, Gypsy Rose Lee, Sean Connery and Mick Jagger offers dining on a spacious porch or indoors on Florida specialties such as gator (fried or sautéed), smoked fish dip, shrimp, frog legs, seafood as well as sandwiches and entrees for carnivores. Keep in mind that this one is historic, somewhat rustic and accepts cash only.

N 25.85.62393, W 80.88.3667

**Goodland**

- Stan’s Idle Hour, 221 Goodland Drive West; 394-3041. This popular water- ing hole is known as much for its entertain- ment — and its distinctive dance, the buzzard lope — as it is for its food and drink. Get there early on Sundays if you hope to find space to dock. Chow down on wings, gator bites, fried scallops, frog legs, peel and eat shrimp and, of course, a cold beer.

N 25.29.2338, W 81.64.8859

**Marco Island**

- The Blue Heron, 387 Capri Blvd., Isles of Capri, 394-6248; Savor a sunset over the water while dining on dishes such as sushi-grade al tata, surf and turf, crab cakes and lobster.

N 25.59.345, W 081.43.528

- The Capri Fish House, 203 Capri Blvd., Isle of Capri; 389-5555; Marker 8 on Little Marco River. Just a few miles from Marco Island, this tropical getaway serves mondo cheeseburgers along with gator nuggets, shrimp, scallops, steaks, Florida lobster and jumbo prawns.

N 25.89.447, W 81.72.7014

- Snoonk Inn, 1215 Bald Eagle Drive, Marco Island; 394-3833; from Naples on Intraocastal Waterway, head around Kee- waydin Island to Capri Pass, make a sharp left into Marco River and restaurant is about 6-mile on right. A popular dining spot for boaters. Snoonk Inn serves favor- ites such as crab cakes, grouper, oyster po’boys and will cook your catch as well.

N 26.20.011, W 81.77.6574

**Naples**

- Bayside Seafood grille & Bar, Vil- lage at Venetian Bay, 4270 Gulf Shore Blvd. N.; 649-5552; with indoor and out- doors, a wide range of seafood, including sushi, oysters, mussels and clams, shrimp, seafood gumbo, seafood platters, various surf and turf combos plus burgers, salads and more.

N 26.14.1632, W 81.79.3859

- The Dock at Crayton Cove, 845 12th Ave. S., Naples; 263-9490; at Marker 35 (The City Dock) pass the fueling sta- tion and take a hard left. It’s 100 yards ahead. Serves blue crab rolls, nachos, chowder, raw bar, fish tacos, burgers.

N 26.33.72546, W 81.76.4974

- Fish, Village at Venetian Bay, 4360 Gulf Shore Blvd. N.; 263-2747; A stylish restaurant with indoor and outdoor seat- ing and a profusion of fish dishes, includ- ing sushi, a raw bar, ceviche, calamari, trout, walleye, scallops, various pasta dishes, a few meat options and an organic

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**Options for boat-accessible dining abound in SWFL**

BY KAREN FELDMAN

The Boathouse offers a grand view of Naples Bay.

COURTESY PHOTO

The Boathouse offers a grand view of Naples Bay.

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*Options for boat-accessible dining abound in SWFL*
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Open your beautifully situated home to coastal breezes, relax by your private pool, and bask in your own good taste. There are only 53 one- and two-story Old Florida cottage-style single-family residences available. Mangrove Bay offers six distinctive floor plans with three elevation options each – all with private covered or uncovered boat slips, and all that wonderful water.

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— Capt. James “Cappy” Joiner

The Ultimate Catch: Tarpon Time Off Gasparilla Island

BY NANI THEORET Special to Florida Weekly

For decades, Capt. James “Cappy” Joiner made his living as a charter captain for serious anglers who knew about Boca Grande's reputation as “The Tarpon Capital of the World.” But as a child growing up on Gasparilla Island, he loathed the prehistoric silver king, which would often interfere with his dockside pursuits of snook and the prospect of making upward of 6 cents a pound.

“I hated tarpon,” recalls the recently retired captain. “We called them tackle busters because they’d tear up your gear. We were poor and didn’t have the means to buy gear ahead of time. If a 40- or 50-pound tarpon got on your line, he was going to tear something up.”

It wasn’t until snook was declared a sport fish in the 1950s and Capt. Joiner made the move from commercial fishing to private charters the following decade that he began appreciating the mighty tarpon.

“I started catching them as a charter boat captain and realized tarpon were the greatest fish swimming in the ocean,” he says. “They are a fantastic animal.”

Nicknamed the silver king because of their shimmering scales and size, tarpon in Boca Grande Pass average about 80 pounds, but some have topped the scales at more than 100 pounds and occasionally 200. The prehistoric animal is the only fish with an air bladder, which allows it to absorb oxygen and live in waters with just traces of oxygen.

They’re also fighters and leapers that instinctively return to the pass every May through July.

“Tarpon are one of the few fish in the world that are so aggressive and powerful,” says Capt. Joiner. “They’re aerobatic, jumping into the air. Most of the giant tarpon don’t come airborne first thing. They stay down and fight hard.”

Tarpon fishing can be a grueling waiting game of cat and mouse.

“I had one couple who would fish for a week. One day was for food fish, the next day for fun fish,” Capt. Joiner says. “He had a 150-pound tarpon that he caught four and one-half hours later. He called me later in the night to tell me he couldn’t fish the next day because he couldn’t hold a reel.”

Capt. Joiner’s clients include a former secretary of defense, Procter & Gamble execs, some movie stars and country singers Lorrie Morgan and husband Keith Whitley, who scored his first No. 1 hit the week he was fishing in Boca Grande.

“I’ve had clients from around the world who have caught blue marlin and black marlin and they are absolutely amazed by the tarpon’s vigor,” says Capt. Waylon Mills, a repeat winning captain for Boca Grande’s trio of top tarpon tournaments. “Even the little crybaby comes out in times of need. The new and improved lipgrip for tarpon gives them a better chance to hang on.”

“The island’s destination as a bucket-list for tarpon fishermen traces back three decades, to when Forest and Stream published an 1885 account of an angler

landing a silver king near the Caloosahatchee River. Until then, few knew of the tarpon, which has since attracted big-time sport fishermen, celebrities and presidents. Black-and-white photographs show very properly outfitted men — and a few women — in suit and tie and full-length dress proudly displaying their prized catches.

Anglers converge on Boca Grande Pass each spring for prime tarpon fishing and several tournaments. Taking on a 100-pounder is the ultimate adrenaline rush, whether it’s the first or 21st time. The tarpon is so ingrained in Boca Grande’s history and identity, the Boca Grande Fishing Guides Association, the grassroots Save the Tarpon group and veteran area anglers successfully rallied two years ago to get the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to ban bottom-weighted jigs, and then a “new and improved lip” in 2014.

May and June are the heart of Boca Grande’s tarpon season. Dozens of boats drift and bob in the pass between Gasparilla Island and Cayo Costa, known for its multiple, swift-moving currents as water flows in and out of Charlotte Harbor simultaneously and suddenly shifts directions. The deep water, 85 feet in some spots, offers a smorgasbord of the tarpon’s favorite foods: shrimp and perch, sand crabs and calico, brown and blue crabs.

“They’re especially fond of crab. It’s 90 percent of their food source,” Capt. Joiner says. “Boca Grande Pass is one of the last U.S. strongholds for tarpon. It’s unique because it’s a short trip. You’re there in five minutes; you don’t have to go to the Grand Caymans to fish for big game.”

“A lot of first-timers are overwhelmed; they’re sitting just 50 yards off the southernmost point of Boca Grande and have hooked a fish as big as they are,” Capt. Mills says. “You can’t go anywhere else and catch fish like this.”

Tournament time begins the Saturday of Mother’s Day weekend with the Ladies Day Tarpon Tournament (May 9 this year) and leads up to the World’s Richest Tarpon Tournament, now in its 33rd year. The 2015 World’s Richest has grown to a three-day fishing competition, including the fifth annual Gasparilla Island Kids Classic and a festival June 4-6.

Capt. Joiner is so tuned into tarpon he can tell by tides and times exactly when they’re more likely to bite. The chamber of commerce, which sponsors the local tournaments, often turns to him to set the dates and times.

Local charter captain Sandy Melvin, owner of Gasparilla Outfitters, stages the children’s event and two nighttime competitions: the seventh annual Ladies Howl at the Moon on June 13 and the 11th
Oftentimes it’s not just about the fish, but the bond that forms between captain and client. And the conversations — some polite chit-chat, others Capt. Joiner still ponders years later. “I had an interesting conversation with a lady who suddenly asked me: ‘Do you think birds have heart attacks?’” he says. “It got me to thinking. I’ve seen millions of birds, some so thick they blackened the sky, and never seen one just fall out of the sky. When you’re on the water, you see things you wouldn’t see every day.”

Boating a big tarpon is a family affair for this group fishing in the pass.

annual Howl at the Moon on May 30, both from 8 to 11 p.m.

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“It was a truly amazing experience,” says Elizabeth Hart of Buckingham, who took Offshore Sailing School’s five-day learn-to-sail course this past August at South Seas Resort on Captiva Island. “I found out I didn’t know I love being on the water.”

Since Olympian and America’s Cup sailor Steve Colgate opened the school with wife Doris in 1964, Offshore has graduated more than 130,000 sailors at five sailing-vacation campuses in Florida and the Caribbean and two locations in New York Harbor. The Fort Myers-based school offers three- and five-day introductory classes, corporate team-building programs and eight-day advanced courses enabling sailors for cruising aboard 26- to 47-foot cruising yachts. Sailors can also pursue racing certification and passage-making for long-distance cruising.

February through April is high season for local sailing courses and optimal for cooperative weather and winds, according to Kevin Wensley, director of operations. The programs include classroom instruction and on-the-water experience. Vacationers often take note of Offshore’s programs at South Seas and the Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina on Fort Myers Beach and schedule classes for their next visit, says marketing director Beth Oliver. The schools offer free instruction for up to three tweens and teens for families participating in its programs.

“It’s a great opportunity for someone to learn a skill they can use the rest of their lives,” Ms. Oliver says.

Locals such as Ms. Hart often plan their instruction as a staycation. She purposely selected South Seas so she wouldn’t be tempted to drive home each night. Her
learning advanced sailing skills on a catamaran, also enrolled in the fast-track course, the captain's chair in one week."

Timothy Mitchell of Punta Gorda says he's always on the lookout for new experiences. "I'm from Kansas originally. We have the wind but no water," he jokes. "I always thought it would be fun to learn how to sail. I have my pilot's license and it was interesting to learn about the similarities between flying and sailing."

Mr. Mitchell completed the fast-track to cruising course, earning three certifications in eight days and the ability to charter up to 50-foot single-hull boats and catamarans. During the live-aboard experience, Mr. Mitchell and his classmates cruised along Southwest Florida's barrier islands from Fort Myers Beach to Charlotte Harbor and Gasparilla Island, preparing meals and spending nights on the boat. The all-inclusive price includes meals and the opportunity to sleep and shower ashore.

"A lot of international students complete fast-track so they can charter in the British Virgin Islands or The Moorings in Tortola," Ms. Oliver says. "We find there's usually one person in the family who wants to sail, learns and shares it with family members. Ultimately they want to buy a 40-foot catamaran and live most of the year in Southwest Florida on the boat."

"I've been a facilitator of other people's adventures between flying and sailing."

Mr. Mitchell has taken the next step, purchasing a 29-foot Island Packet he's Caribbean and have a nice vacation."

"I can now charter a boat for a week in the British Virgin Islands or The Moorings in Tortola," Ms. Oliver says. "We find there's usually one person in the family who wants to sail, learns and shares it with family members. Ultimately they want to buy a 40-foot catamaran and live most of the year in Southwest Florida on the boat."

"I passed all the exams and eventually felt in control and pretty comfortable with the boat. It surprised me how much fun the class was."

Mr. Lingsch says he'd eventually like to own a sailboat or enjoy sailing as part of their lifestyle. We take you from the couch to the captain's chair in one week."

Rick Lingsch, a part-time Naples resident, also enrolled in the fast-track course, learning advanced sailing skills on a catamaran about a year ago at Pink Shell. "I had very little experience going in, so I was very diligent about reading the course materials in advance," he says. "I never been on the water. It was invigorating, but tiring."

"There were even a few people who'd never been on the water. It was invigorating, but tiring."

Mr. Mitchell has taken the next step, purchasing a 29-foot Island Packet he's eager to use in warmer weather.

New sailors almost always learn something about themselves that they share on O'offshore's evaluation forms. "Thousands of people still take the time to handwrite lengthy reviews," Ms. Oliver says. "Almost all, 99.999 percent, are glowing and positive. They also talk about how it was a great family bonding experience."

The school's sailing bond extends beyond family. Offshore also offers corporate team-building programs, often for companies holding annual meetings or conferences at South Seas and Pink Shell. Half of its corporate business is repeat customers.

"(Sailing class) was a great chance to work collectively together in a new and different way. It was a little competitive, and at the end of our training we held a regatta. ... For us, any day on the water is more exciting than any day at a desk."

— Tamara Pigott
Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau

"There's a lot of synergy between business and sailing," Mr. Wensley says. "You have to perform as a team, have good communication and leadership, and adapt to a constantly changing environment. The whole is far greater than the sum of its parts. You have to think strategically and tactically."

That's exactly what Tamara Pigott and 24 employees of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau learned several years ago when they opted for a half-day learn-to-sail instead of the traditional holiday party. "It was an amazing experience," says Ms. Pigott, executive director of the bureau. "It was a great chance to work collectively together in a new and different way. It was a little competitive, and at the end of our training we held a regatta."

"For us, any day on the water is more exciting than any day at a desk," she adds. "There were even a few people who'd never been on the water. It was invigorating, but tiring."
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It’s easy to keep your outboard in tip-top shape, even if you’re not a mechanic. A little TLC and preventative boat motor maintenance facilitates safe boating and can keep your motor running well and reliable for years to come.

After every trip
• After every outing, flush out the engine. This doesn’t just apply to salt water adventures, but to fresh water outings as well.
• Buy a set of “rabbit ears”: two flexible rubber seals connected with a metal clamp. Slip the apparatus onto the lower unit where the water is picked up and attach a garden hose.
• Start up the engine and let the water pump do the rest. (Practice safe boating and remember to stay clear of the prop and make sure no one tries to shift the motor into gear.)
• While you’re flushing the motor, check the water pump to make sure it has good water flow. Carefully put your finger through the stream of water. It may be warm, but it shouldn’t be hot. If the output is not strong, you may have some debris stuck in the outflow tube. Immediately shut down the engine to prevent overheating and damage.
• Insert a small piece of wire into the flow tube and work it back and forth. Start the engine again and check the output. If that doesn’t solve the problem, you may need a new water pump.
• After flushing the engine, disconnect the fuel line and allow the engine to burn all the fuel in the carburetor.
• Once you’ve finished the flushing and run the engine out of fuel, be sure to turn off the key and, if you have a battery switch, turn it off.
• Take the engine cowling off and check for fuel or water leaks. If you find leaks, consult your boating mechanic.
• Wipe everything down and spray with an anti-corrosive such as WD 40 or Quick-lube. Be sure to lubricate all the moving parts such as the shift and throttle cables, carburetor valves, etc.
• Replace the cowling and wipe it down. Keep a canvas or plastic cover on the engine between trips.
• Always use fresh fuel. At the end of the season, boat motor maintenance should include draining your tanks and taking the fuel to the proper recycling authority.

Regular maintenance
• Periodically check the fuel line for cracks and worn spots.
• Make sure the fuel primer bulb is not cracked and is pliable.

• Make sure the fuel-line fittings seat properly and don’t leak.
• Check the clamps on the fuel line for rust or corrosion.
• Check the fuel tanks for damage and corrosion.
• Check the tank vent to make sure it aspires properly.
• Check regularly for water in the fuel.

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Ten tips to make boating with children safe, fun

1. Life jackets save lives: Be sure all kids on board are wearing a life jacket whenever the boat is moving. This is not just sound advice; it’s the law. The U.S. Coast Guard requires that all children younger than 13 must wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket while the vessel is being operated unless the child is below deck or in an enclosed cabin.

2. Make sure the jacket fits: Children’s life jackets come in different sizes appropriate to the child’s body weight. Make sure you have one that fits each child onboard, and that the kids haven’t outgrown their life jackets over the winter.

3. No exceptions: Kids often complain about having to wear their life jackets on board. Get them “invested” in theirs by letting them pick it out for themselves.

4. Safety starts in the parking lot: Get the kids in the habit of putting on sunblock, a hat and their life jacket even before you walk down to the boat.

5. Keep everything “shipshape”: When you board the boat, have everyone stow their gear and any water toys away neatly.

6. Pre-cruise check: Set basic rules, including no running or sitting on the side rails, foredeck, aft sunpad or swim platform when the boat is under way.

7. First Mate: Kids will get a bigger kick out of a boat trip if you make them your First Mate. Before you leave, show them where you’re going on a chart. While under way, have them keep a lookout for marker buoys. Teach older kids how to work the chart plotter and find your GPS coordinates.

8. Radio check: Be sure everyone knows how to operate the boat’s VHF radio in case of an emergency.

9. Tow for two: When you tow kids behind the boat on inflatable water toys, water skis or a wakeboard, designate an adult or teen to be the official watcher. Teach the kids hand signals they can use to tell you to speed up, go slower or stop. Be sure they wear their life jackets while skiing, boarding or riding.

10. Places, please: Give the kids assigned seats on the boat while docking, so that they don’t accidentally block the driver’s view. Make sure they know to keep their fingers and toes inside during this process.

These basic guidelines will help you ensure everyone stays safe on board. The most important tip for your family boating adventure is this: Have fun out there.
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   604 River Point Drive, Naples
   774-0331

4. Brookside Marina
   3015 Davis Blvd., Naples
   793-2628

5. Docks on Fifth
   1340 5th Ave. S., Naples
   348-7100

6. Gulf Shores Marina
   1470 Bayshore Drive, Naples
   774-0222

7. Naples Bay Yacht Stowage
   750 River Point Drive, Naples
   793-4447

8. Naples Harbour Yacht Club
   75 North Road, Naples
   213-1441

9. Naples Boat Club Wet Slip
   895 10th St. Suite 201, Naples
   363-2774

10. Old Naples Seaport
    1001 7th Ave. S, Naples
    643-0042

11. Pelican Point Motel & Marina
    1180 Chokoloskee Drive, Chokoloskee
    696-2261

12. Port O’Call Marina
    600 Port O Call Way, Naples
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13. South Bay Marina
    179 South Bay Drive, Naples
    597-2063

14. Cocohatchee River Marina
    10030 Vanderbilt Drive, Naples
    513-7919

15. Port of the Island Marina
    3811 Airport Pulling Road N., Naples
    692-8397

16. Calusa Island Yacht Club & Marina
    380 Angler Drive, Goodland
    934-3668

17. Moran’s Restaurant Marina & Motel
    3200 San Marco Road, Marco Island
    642-1920

18. Lake Trafford Marina
    4001 Lake Trafford Road, Immokalee
    657-2401

19. Esplanade Marina
    790 N Collier Blvd. No. 106, Naples
    389-6333

20. Isle of Capri Marina
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21. Marco River Marina
    951 Bald Eagle Drive, Marco Island
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22. Marco Island Marina
    1432 N. Collier Blvd., Marco Island
    642-2531

23. Pelican Pier Marina
    1065 Bald Eagle Drive, Marco Island
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Ponntoon or deck: Which boat is right for you?

So, you want a versatile boat that handles easily, features plenty of seating and storage and is designed to be able to bring along a big crew? Sounds like you may have already narrowed down your choices to two choices that are among the fastest-growing segments in the entire boating industry: pontoons and deck boats.

Since the very first aluminum pontoon was introduced in 1958 at the Chicago World’s Fair (it was a Sanpan), boaters have been drawn to their unapologetically simple design, ease of use and the no-frills ability to get lots of folks aboard to get the party started. Back in those days, you broke out the folding lawn chairs, fired up the charcoal grill, and slowly putt-putted your Tiny outboard to the nearest cove of like-minded revelers.

Similarly, the deck boat concept really started in 1974 when a company called Hurricane started building a fiberglass V-style hull to add better performance and handling, but still retain the a pontoon-style topside and wide-open floor plan that people loved so much about pontoons. It was so popular, in fact, that the first deck boat (called FunDeck) has been in constant production ever since. But my, how times have changed. These two boat types have come a long way and have been refined to the point that they really stack up against any other powerboat style. And today, they really go head-to-head when families are in the market for a new boat. Let’s examine the pros and cons of each.

Style
This is perhaps the most subjective part of comparing pontoons and deck boats, and it all comes down to your personal tastes and what turns your head. Today’s pontoons are tricked out with coordinated graphics, a choice of sail skin colors, high-quality vinyl seats, and tough and attractive marine-grade carpet. But since every inch of a pontoon is built for maximum seating and storage, some folks find them a little utilitarian. Today’s deck boats are designed similarly to other fiberglass runabouts, but with the bow section carried as far forward as possible to accommodate more folks in the forward seating area. You’ll see coordinated upholstery accents, bimini tops and carpet, and the exterior graphics tend to be a little bolder. Many deck boats also have integrated wake tower options, which adds a distinct watersports profile.

Handling
With a fiberglass, V-style hull, you typically would compare the handling of a deck boat to a similarly sized open-bow boat. Look for a stable ride at all speeds, little or no bowrise, and superior turning at higher speeds. The option of outboard or I/O propulsion is a big plus for deck boats as well, depending on your needs. Even with a full load, pontoon boats (by design) are going to plane easily with less horsepower than a deck boat. Sharp turns are helped by the addition of hydraulic steering systems, but you will still cut a wider swath in a pontoon, unless you choose a performance model with triple (center) tube system, which provides extra buoyancy and stability.

Versatility
Both styles of boats truly shine when it comes to the ability to do a lot of different things on the water. Fishing, watersports, cruising, camping, entertaining, etc. are all right in the wheelhouse of pontoons and deck boats. In fact, depending on your family’s needs, there are all sorts of different packages to dial in your preferred activities, such as rod holders, tackle storage and livewells for more hardcore anglers. If you’re like most folks considering one of these boats, though, you will find that the basic features will serve you well, and allow you to fish in the morning, pull the kids on tubes in the afternoon and finish the day with a beautiful sunset cruise.

Ease of operation
In the world of trailer boating, you really can’t get much easier than pontoons and deck boats. With their stable platforms both are fairly easy to master when it comes to everything from launching and retrieving to cruising out on the water. Look for a raised helm or a captain’s seat that features a fold-up bolster to increase visibility. Pull-up cleats conveniently installed around the deck will make it a cinch to pull up and dock from any angle. Make sure you’ve got docking lights for bringing the boat in safely in the evening, and an all-off master switch to make sure you don’t run down your battery when you leave the boat.

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What springtime boat buyers need to know

With the newest boat-buying season kicked off, springtime customers are on the prowl. The nation’s largest recreational boating advocacy and services group, Boat Owner Association of The United States (BoatUS), has some must-do tips before you sign on the dotted line.

■ The Internet is your friend and foe:
Of course it’s always good to research a boat you’re considering online first. While the Internet is not always 100 percent accurate, you may learn about serious problems other owners have had. Check owners group chat boards or online boating, fishing or cruising discussion groups for the kind of boat you’re looking at. BoatUS has the only national consumer complaint database for boats as well, searchable by members. Also be aware of Internet scams if you’re buying online. Any whiff of something odd and you should proceed with caution.

■ Always get a professional marine survey:
Surveys will uncover potential problem spots and can help with price negotiations. On a boat with expensive engines or generators, a separate engine survey could save huge headaches later. Make any purchase contingent on the survey. For a list of accredited surveyors, visit BoatUS.com/surveyors.

■ Take the boat on a sea trial:
You wouldn’t buy a car without taking it for a drive, and you should treat buying a boat the same way. It doesn’t matter whether it’s 16 feet or 60 feet.

■ Give yourself some reasonable protections:
Make sure that any deposit is 100 percent refundable if any contingencies such as a survey, financing or insurance are not met. Get it in writing. If there is a warranty or promise to fix something as part of the sale, get it in writing. Did we say get it in writing?

■ “Who am I talkin’ to?”:
Before getting too serious about a boat, verify that the owner (or brokerage/consignor) has the title and registration on hand. Any liens will have to be paid before transferring title. BoatUS has additional resources at BoatUS.com/guide, including a free buying guide and boat evaluation checklist.

Springtime boat buyers need to take care of a few key things first before they consider a boat purchase, according to the Boat Owners Association of The United States.
Boatus

It’s not uncommon for boat buyers and sellers to get ripped off, says the Boat Owners Association of The United States. The national boater advocacy, safety and services group outlines the top boat-selling scams reported to its Consumer Protection Bureau and offers some ways to greatly improve your chance of a smooth sale or purchase — and when to walk away.

■ Getting a cashier’s check or money for more than asking price: Anytime a buyer offers to pay more for the asking price of the boat you are selling — run away. Today, it’s easy for criminals to print counterfeit bank checks, and by the time your bank figures out the loss, the bad guys are far away, and you will be liable for the lost funds. Always contact the financial institution on which the check was drawn to verify the account, but don’t dial the phone number printed on the check, if possible. The amount of the bank check should also match in numerals and words, and the account number should not be shiny in appearance. Official checks are generally perforated on at least one side.

■ A twist on the same for the electronic age: Recently, PayPal has become a target for scammers. A phony buyer again asks to send substantially more than the asking price. Later, you get a fake confirmation email from PayPal with your user ID for more than the agreed purchase price — with instructions from the buyer advising you to send the extra money to a shipper. The scam can seem even more legit — if you refuse, you may receive additional fake email notices from PayPal threatening to close your account if you don’t transfer the extra money as per your “agreement.”

■ An escrow service scam: A bogus seller advertises a boat on a website at a low, but not scam-worthy price. When the scammer finds a buyer, they will tell them to use a legitimate-sounding, yet fictitious escrow service, such as GoogleMoney.com. But once the funds are transferred, you’ll never hear from the seller again. It’s wise to use an escrow service for a long-distance purchase, but be very cautious with escrow services you’re not familiar with, and go with established providers such as eBay’s Escrow.com.

■ Email red flags that mean you may be taken for a ride: Poor grammar, spelling and language use; no phone number for the buyer/seller; generic references (ex. “merchandise”) to the boat being sold; changing names and locations in emails; a buyer who shows no interest in haggling over price or seeing the boat firsthand; a buyer or seller who has no interest in discussing titling or verifying the boat’s Hull Identification Number (HIN).

— For a free buying and selling guide for boaters, go to www.BoatUS.com/consumer.

Boat Owners Association of The United States has some tips for both buyers and sellers on how to avoid being targets of scams.
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What you need to know about that boat tow

Tossing a towline to a disabled boat and bringing it back safely to the launch ramp is a time-honored act of kindness that recreational boaters have always done for each other.

But what happens if the Good Samaritan tossing the line decides to charge for his or her services? Is there much of a difference between a Good Sam looking for a little extra gas money and a professional towing service charging for on-water towing services?

According to the Boat Owners Association of The United States, once money changes hands for a routine tow, a Good Sam is opened up to a world of liability they may not want in their lap. Accepting money also requires a marriage of the law of averages: There are 12 million registered recreational vessels in the nation and some are bound to break down. In 2013, the BoatUS 24-hour dispatch centers alone received 70,000 reports of towing vessel breakdown. In 2013, the BoatUS 24-hour dispatch centers alone received 70,000 requests for on-water assistance, and the boat owners group says there are likely thousands of Good Samarians each year, lending a helping hand to other boaters.

“Towing is a job best left for the professionals, but many boaters often find themselves in areas where professional assistance is not available,” said Adam Wheeler, BoatUS Towing Services vice president.

While Good Samaritan laws vary from state to state, they generally provide that anyone who renders aid to injured persons is not liable for any damages if the assistance is provided in good faith, without compensation or other consideration, and without gross negligence. And in fact, in some states, failing to render emergency assistance to the persons involved can also put you at risk of legal action against the law — but there is no duty to require a Good Sam to tow or “save” a boat.

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A boater who does not charge for rendering assistance is protected under the Good Samaritan laws for any damages or injuries that might occur during the tow, Mr. Wheeler said. “If money exchanges hands and someone gets injured or the disabled boat gets damaged, you’re no longer considered a Good Sam and would be opening the door to much more liability. You may be even personally liable, depending on your insurance policy — if you have one. It’s just something else to think about before throwing a towline and asking for money. A commercial towing company carries insurance to cover those types of mishaps.

For federally committed to being a Good Samaritan, BoatUS has these nine tips:

1. Never put yourself in danger or go beyond your capabilities.
2. For the safety of everyone, always report disabled vessels to the Coast Guard or other authority.
3. Ensure that your claims are properly backed and you have the properly sized towline (some lines can stretch and suddenly break).
4. Understand that once you start towing, the Good Sam has a duty for the safety and care for those aboard the disabled vessel.
5. Minimize risk by having everyone don their life jackets and remain seated — away from the bow in case a line parts or a boat gives way.
6. Maintain headway for control, but don’t tow any faster than leaving a small wake.
7. Be careful to prevent other boat traffic from crossing the towline. Keep a horn or whistle available to warn others to stay clear.
8. Always tow to the nearest safe place. While it may not be near where anyone wants to go, it will shorten the time of the tow and minimize any exposure liability, and gets passengers to a place where they can fix the boat or arrange for a proper tow. The BoatUS 24-hour Dispatch Center can be reached at (800) 391-4869 or via the free BoatUS Towing App.
9. Another option is to stand close by, but not undertake the tow and wait for a responder to arrive while staying close just in case of emergencies. A Good Sam could also remain on the right side of the law — and keep potential liability low — by simply removing the disabled boat’s occupants and returning them to the dock, while arranging for a local tow of the broken down (and safely anchored) boat.

“IT’s always good to help out a fellow boater because sooner or later, it could be you asking for a tow back to the dock,” Mr. Wheeler said. For those who want the assurance of a BoatUS annual towing plan, which includes BoatUS or BoatUS Angler membership, go to BoatUS.com/towing for prices and more information.

Most boaters won’t hesitate tossing a towline to help with a disabled boat.

COURTESY PHOTO

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Six ways to make responsible watercraft use personal

BY DISCOVER BOATING

The gulf, rivers, bays and backwaters offer Southwest Florida personal watercraft aficionados plenty of places to grip it and rip it. But the responsible personal watercraft user keeps in mind these six ecological tips for keeping our waterways the way he or she finds them:

1. Don’t overfill and spill
Refuel on land to reduce any chances of spilling oil or gas into the water. Slowly fill the tank, don’t overfill, catch any accidental spills with an absorbent pad and dispose of the pad properly. Check and clean your engine well away from shorelines. Spillage from refueling or adding oil can harm the water’s delicate microorganisms as well as the animals that feed on them, potentially upsetting the entire food chain.

2. Don’t go in shallow water
Because PWC don’t have exposed propellers, they don’t present the same potential disturbances to underwater vegetation and sediment as other boats. However, it is still not advisable to operate in these shallow waters because ingesting any type of weeds, grasses, plant life or trash into the watercraft’s pump can cause engine problems. When it is necessary to ride in shallow water, maintain an idle speed. When possible, operate well away from shore because, typically, wildlife inhabit the vegetation along the shore’s edge. The least amount of disturbance is in the marked channels or the deeper areas of a lake or river. If at all possible, stay in the main channels.

3. Respect wildlife, residents
It is discourteous to ride too close to shorelines where you might disturb swimmers and homeowners. Do not harass wildlife by chasing or interrupting feeding, nesting, or resting. Harassment is defined as any action that may cause an animal to deviate from its normal behavior. It is illegal and can unduly stress wildlife. Mammals such as manatees can be injured from direct impact by boats traveling at high speeds. Ride at controlled speed so you can see any animals ahead of you. Avoid areas of high animal population. If you hit an animal, report it to your local wildlife commission. There may be a chance to save its life. Mammals such as manatees can be injured from direct impact by boats traveling at high speeds. Ride at controlled speed so you can see any animals ahead of you.

4. No wakes near shore
Be aware of your surroundings and operate in a manner appropriate to the geography. Follow posted wake and operation restrictions in areas where erosion may be a concern, and obey all access restrictions to avoid impacting sensitive areas.

5. Wash your watercraft
Exotics are plants and animals that are nonnative to a specific area. Exotics have no natural enemies and spread easily, taking over an area to the exclusion of native species, thus decreasing important plant and animal diversity. Wash your boat off after you use it to prevent the spread of exotic plants.

6. Watch where you stop
When docking or beaching, avoid areas with turtles, birds, alligators and other animals along shore. Avoid docking or beaching where plants such as reeds, grasses, and mangroves are located. These plants are essential to the ecosystem because they control erosion and provide a nursery ground for small animals vital to the food chain, such as crustaceans, mollusks, and small fish.

For more information, go to discover-boating.com.
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Fight fire with knowledge, safety aboard boats

BY SEA TOW FOUNDATION

Fires are among the more dangerous — yet preventable — accidents that can occur onboard a boat. For that reason, the nonprofit Sea Tow Foundation, in conjunction with marine assistance provider Sea Tow Services, offers boaters these important fire prevention tips.

Fast action combined with a cool head are critical in fighting boat fires, as they can spread rapidly. Following these procedures not only can help boaters prevent a fire, or contain it if one breaks out, but also could help them save lives.

■ Ensure you have the proper size and type of marine fire extinguishers on board. Depending on the size of your boat, you may need more than one fire extinguisher. The U.S. Coast Guard has this information in its Federal Requirements brochure, which is available online at uscgboating.org/fedreqs/default.html.

■ Mount the fire extinguishers in readily accessible locations so that you can get to them in an emergency.

■ Inspect your fire extinguishers regularly to make sure they are fully charged and have not expired. If you have a fixed firefighting system, have it inspected and/or serviced according to manufacturer recommendations or at least annually.

■ Before fueling, have all passengers leave the boat and shut off all flames (stoves, ovens, grills, etc.). Close all windows, doors and openings to prevent fumes from entering the boat.

■ While fueling, keep the nozzle in contact with the tank to prevent sparks and do not overfill the tank, so the fuel has room to expand. Wipe up any spills and dispose of the rags.

■ Never smoke while fueling.

■ After fueling, open all the windows, doors and openings and run the exhaust blower for four minutes.

■ Before starting the engine, perform a "sniff" test of the bilge and engine compartment. If you smell gas, continue to use the blower until all of the fumes are gone.

■ To prevent electrical issues, frequently inspect the electrical connections. Also, inspect any shore power connection lines that you may be using before plugging them into your boat. If any wires are frayed or you see sparks, immediately shut off the power source and get the issue repaired before using it again.

■ Be cautious when using heaters in enclosed spaces, especially when unattended.

If a fire does happen to break out on board:

■ Make sure that everyone on your boat is wearing a life jacket in case they have to jump overboard.

■ If possible, position the boat so that the fire is downwind and have all passengers move upwind, away from the fire.

■ Never use water on a gasoline, oil or grease fire as it may cause the fire to spread. Additionally, water should not be used on electrical fires due to risk of electrical shock.

■ Get your fire extinguisher ready to use. Use the PASS method: pull pin, aim at the base of the fire, squeeze handle, sweep from side to side.

■ Call for help on your VHF radio or cell phone. Prepare to abandon ship. An article on the Dangers of Fire on a Boat also can be found on the Sea Tow Foundation’s website at: boatingsafety.com/towbeetips/topic.asp?item=fireonboat.

Boat courtesy photo

Regular inspection of electrical wiring in the engine compartment is one way to prevent boat fires.

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Regular inspection of electrical wiring in the engine compartment is one way to prevent boat fires.

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