When Southwest Florida’s three state senators and seven representatives began the legislative session on March 2, they promised two things: No new taxes and no new fees. They delivered on those promises. With those broad parameters firmly set, the legislative body as a whole managed to get a lot done. Some of the provisions are subject to veto by Gov. Charlie Crist, and others are contingent upon the receipt of federal stimulus money; nevertheless, most of what passed will soon become law. Here are just some of the things lawmakers managed to ratify:

- High school graduation standards are changing. Passing math and science FCAT tests will no longer be required for a diploma.
- Women considering abortions will have to pay for and watch their ultrasound images before they go through with the procedure. (Women’s rights groups are pushing hard for a veto on this one.)
- Selling bongs, glass pipes and other stoner accoutrements will be illegal unless the store selling them also sells a lot of tobacco.
- It will be against the law to buy or sell Burmese pythons, Nile monitor lizards and a few other critters that don’t belong in Southwest Florida’s particular ecosystem.
- A deal with the Seminole Tribe over gambling rights guarantees more than $1 billion a year to start with in revenue for the state.
- A tort reform measure is expected to protect businesses from frivolous slip-and-fall lawsuits.

Businesses are getting several tax breaks, and the general public is getting some relief as well. There will be a three-day sales tax holiday for books, clothing, footwear, wallets, handbags and backpacks Aug. 13-15. Items must cost $50 or less to qualify.

As the session closed, Florida TaxWatch, a nonpartisan research institute, lauded the legislature for passing a jobs bill. The group’s recent report enumerates the benefits of that.
In the 1930s and ’40s in the United States, it was possible if you were a boy to take your .22 rifle or your shotgun and board a city bus or set off on a bicycle. You could ride to the edge of town and go hunting for rabbits or birds. Sometimes you shot things you weren’t going to eat, like groundhogs or crows. I’ve been told this by men who were young then, including men who grew up in New York State and New England.

In the West where I was raised later, you learned to shoot outside of town when you were 5 (that was the summer of 1958, for me). If your sister wanted to try it, she learned to shoot, too.

No one I knew thought there was anything odd about that: a boy at a bus stop with a rifle. Or a boy on a bicycle with a rifle. Or a boy on a ranch learning to shoot when he was 5.

Once you learned to shoot, you were then subject to about seven years of extremely close adult supervision, by your father. He knew what he was doing, and he had an overriding interest in preventing you from shooting yourself — or him, or anybody else.

By the time you turned 11 or 12, you had demonstrated conclusively that you would never point a gun at people. You had demonstrated conclusively that you were given the right of manhood. You were finally allowed to buy the rifle you’d been looking at for three years in Outdoor Life Magazine or some old catalogue your best friend had scrounged up.

Once you had your first weapon, you spent a lot of time sitting around cawing it. Some boys tried out names on their rifles, but they never quite fit. “Old Betsy,” for example, seemed severely antiquated, even if your icons were Daniel Boone, Jim Bridger, Kit Carson, Sgt. Alvin York, Audie Murphy and some of your family members (veterans of Guadalcanal, Tarawa and points east, in my case).

When I was 13, my 14-year-old cousin, Walt Nash, bought a Remington Nylon 66, a new .22 semi-automatic that could carry about 10 rounds. The advertisements said it was so tough that you could drive a truck over it. So we did. Walt laid his Nylon 66 in the road, we borrowed my uncle’s ancient Power Wagon that weighed about 2 tons, and we drove back and forth over that gun. Then we cleaned it and went out and shot picket pins with it (foot-long, prairie-dog-like animals that thrived at 9,000 feet and rattlesnakes and could break the legs of running horses).

That boyhood, I suppose, came equipped with two indissoluble supplements: a tactile sense of our inalienable right to guns, and the immense weight of American mythology. I realized this recently when my 8-year-old son, Nash, asked me about the Battle of the Little Big Horn, fought June 25-26, 1876.

When I was busy learning to shoot my first .22, I believed that Gen. George Armstrong Custer was, if not the smartest general who ever lived, a shining example of American courage. I still believe that.

The problem is, physical courage has diddly-squat to do with moral courage, or with moral right, except by chance. “Was Custer the good guy?” my son asked.

Suddenly, everything I believed once had to change. No, Custer was not the good guy, as much as I hate admitting that. He was in the business of stealing other people’s land at the point of a repeating rifle.

But that wasn’t the rifle’s fault, was it? Everyone I ever looked up to understood gun ethics this way, expressed in a line written by the novelist A.B. Guthrie Jr. for the peerless George Stevens movie, “Shane,” filmed in Wyoming in 1953: “A gun is a tool, Marian; no better than the people. So you were more valuable than the people. So you were given the right of manhood.

What distinguishes us as Americans, I think, is not the fact that we have access to this ridiculously excessive weapon, or others like it? I once served proudly, but civilians — not cops, not cowboys, not cousin Walt and me, not Daniel Boone or Jim Bridger or Audie Murphy or the men in my family — none of us. We don’t need such a weapon for our purposes, anymore than we need a cruise missile.

And not that fascist idiot Faishal Shahzad, either.
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The shock troops of bankruptcy

By Rich Lowry

Greece’s largest public-sector union is taking to the streets to wage a “social battle” against austerity measures. “This is a very unfortunate news for austerity, since it has never fought a battle — social or otherwise — with the unions in Greece that it hasn’t lost in a rout. Although this time the stakes are much higher — a debt crisis with global implications. The Economist has dubbed “Acropolis Now.”

The European Union and the International Monetary Fund have extended Greece a $45 billion bailout over three years in exchange for a budgetary crackdown, which has so far made even fiscal ascetics yelp in pain. As the financial analysts say, there’s considerably implementation risk. In other words: Don’t hold your breath.

The Greeks got to this point the old-fashioned way: They spent more money on the public sector than they possibly could afford, and then lied about it. Last year, they announced that their deficit wasn’t .37 percent of gross domestic product as advertised, but 12.7 percent. Only in Athens does a multiplier of more than 3 qualify as a rounding error.

Public wages and pension payments absorbed half of the Greek national budget. The government doesn’t know exactly how many people are in the civil service, since that one would require competence. It’s now undertaking a census. The guess is that it’s about six times the three the Constitution guarantees these jobs for life.

We will never be Greece. We aren’t a country in Europe with an ingrained culture of tax avoidance and labor unrest. But our own shock troops of bankruptcy operate by Greek rules.

Growth in public-sector wages and benefits has been outstripping growth in an under-noticed May Day address at the University of Michigan comes closer to the point of caving to the political opposition. But when not one Republican in Congress could vote for the health-care-reform legislation, one has to ask: Who do these lawmakers really represent? Themselves.

Especially surprising to me is the fact that the nation in times of national, including the Great Depression, World War II, the Vietnam War and a string of scandals such as Watergate, the political center has held together. But now I’m not quite so sure.

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Maps will be provided at the entrance to Bonita Bay for all attendees.
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Empowerment Alliance of Southwest Florida is no small feat. Yet Dottie Cook wouldn’t have it any other way. Soft-spoken and determined, Ms. Cook is passionate about helping low-income families have a home of their own.

"I started attending a yoga class, and I find that really helps with the stress," she says. "I love the challenge that comes with each new project, from dealing with unexpected issues to getting to the point where a family is ready to move into their very own place. "It’s sometimes a long, hard process for families to establish or repair their credit in order to qualify for a mortgage. But to watch them save up for a down payment, and then step into a new home they have been working toward for years, it is an amazing feeling. Their pride in what they have accomplished is written all over their faces."

Eldercare is also a very rewarding place to work. "We see such hardworking families. They are very focused on trying to make a better life for themselves and their children," she adds. She also sees a strong collaborative spirit among organizations in Immokalee. “Everyone works together and there are no arguments over turf.”

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"The homeowners are so thrilled to receive a decent, safe home of their own. Oftentimes they will see me or another staff member in the subdivision and come over to thank us for their home, which makes it all worthwhile,” she says.

While the satisfaction is high, so is the level of responsibility. Between raising Sydney — Ms. Cook says her family lends invaluable support — and managing the demands of the nonprofit with her staff of four, sometimes a little relief is called for. “I started attending a yoga class, and I find that really helps with the stress,” she says.

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big time. Never did Leno or Letterman, but they've had a good run and more laughs than you can count. Like that night 20 years or so back, when they were playing gigs for a vaudeville-style outfit called 'The Medicine Show.' A different bump every night. On this evening, the act's an absolute riot. Sort of like that. The audience is laughing hard and work and a grind, to be sure, and after a show Birdie usually hits the bar to unwind and moisten his pipes, which is a thing he's on a heating stage. Clarence routinely stays behind in the hotel room, sitting woodedly in a chair, waiting until the wee hours for his buddy—who did not infrequently returns with a newfound friend of the female persuasion in tow. On this memorable night, for reasons he still can't explain, Birdie gets the wild hair and decides Clarence should tag along and join the bar scene. If Clarence objects, he doesn't let on. So, there they are: Birdie and Clarence, perched side-by-side on their bar stools; the joint goes wild! Everybody and his brother wants to buy Clarence a drink, and before you know it, the little guy in the spiffy tuxedo has enough shots lined up in front of him to keep the 12 steppers at Birdie's back ordered for a month. And the women! Wow! Clarence, you see, is a certified chick magnet, and in this smoky, small-town saloon the ladies simply cannot keep their hands off of him—which is just fine by Birdie, who is the ultimate beneficiary of Clarence's boyish allure. It goes on for hours. When last call arrives, Clarence is seen limping and, Birdie, lopsided grin played across his mug and Birdie's swimming in a sea of babes. Everybody's happy, and everybody's got a story to tell—if only they can remember it the next day.

That was then. This is now. Clarence is gone. Missing. Without a trace. Abducted. Stolen. Call it what you will. The police (in the form of the Lee County Sheriff's Office) are on the case, but Birdie is concerned they're not taking the disappearance as seriously as they should. He'd like them to give it the full-bore, CSI-style treatment, but he's not holding his breath which is good, because it just ain't gonna happen. Still, Birdie hopes Clarence comes home safe and sound. He's offered a $500 reward for his partner's return, and he's put up “missing” posters all over Bonita Springs, where Clarence was last seen. He got one tip, but it was bogus, sent in by a nut case with a sick sense of humor. Cases like this attract creeps sent in by a nut case with a sick sense of humor. Cases like this attract creeps. "When I get Clarence back," Birdie says, "I'm just hopin' he's lived to reunit (Birdie and Clarence) at some point. "I'm just lettin' (the sheriff's department) do their thing, man," Birdie says. "But we're jumpin' at the bit to the bar scene." He even told the detective working the case that she'd be famous — a hero — if she found Clarence. "She's this kid. She even in non-performing situations. So, Clarence is top of the line," says Birdie, who paid $50,000 for his henna-headed sidekick in 1982, when Birdie was working as a clown for a small circus in Wyo- ming. He estimates Clarence's current value at $2,500. "He's one of a kind and custom made." The “Birdie” in this story is Birdie McClaine, who is the stage name for Richard Parrott, a 52-year-old street per- former and sometime handymen who lives on Fort Myers Beach. Mr. Parrott prefers to be known simply as Birdie and routinely refers to himself that way, even in non-performing situations. So, Birdie it is.

Clarence is 3 feet tall and, according to a sheriff's report, was “last seen wearing tiny blue jeans, a tiny blue "T-shirt and black-and-white sneakers, size small.”

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The precise date of Clarence's disap- pearance, like his age, is shrouded in mystery. Birdie was doing chores at a home in Bonita Springs last October. After completing his work, he discov- ered that his 1990 silver Mercedes Benz 420 SEL sedan with 160K on the odom- eter would not start, which sometimes happens with luxury automobiles that have been purchased for $1,000. Clarence reposed in his leather carrying case on the trunk of the car.

Because Birdie's landlord knew the tenant of the house where Birdie had been working all day, Birdie felt com- fortable leaving his automobile — and Clarence — at the Bonita Springs domi- cile. He intended to have the car towed forthwith to his digs on Fort Myers Beach, but, well, Birdie got busy with this and that, and by the time he got back to check on the car last month, nearly six months had elapsed. It was then that Birdie discovered Clarence was gone. Curiously, his carrying case — the little guy's home away from home remained undisturbed.

Birdie called the LCSO, and deputies were dispatched. This is the point in the story where some friction develops. Birdie wanted investigators to fingerprint the automobile and the carry- ing case and generally treat the disap- pearance as the Lindbergh kidnapping redux. If this was a real kid, they'd have impounded the car and done finger- prints from head to toe,” he says. "And they could fingerprint the case (that held Clarence), too, if they wanted to. They still could, but they won't. To me, I consider Clarence as my kid, and my kid went missing."

A dispassionate observer might read the above quote and start hearing theme music from "The Twilight Zone." But Birdie is quick to note that he knows full well that Clarence is, in final analysis, just a hunk of wood. "Listen, I don't sit up and talk to Clarence in an empty room," he says. "I mean, man, I'm not mentally disturbed or any- thing, but I wonder where he is and what's happened to him just like you'd wonder where your kid is, if he'd been kidnapped."

Tony Schall, spokesperson for the sher- iff's department, poo-poo's sugges- tions the investigation is anything but vigorous. Mr. Schall says that because Birdie's Mercedes had been parked for months and was likely touched by an untold number of people during that time, fingerprinting would be fruitless in determining who snatched Clarence. Mr. Schall also points out there was no evidence of forced entry (meaning few clues left behind). Further, the spokesperson says the leather case that held Clarence is a poor surface from which to extract prints.

Employing timeworn cop-speak, Mr. Schall characterizes the investigation as "ongoing." But then, in an enviable burst of enthusiasm, he adds, "We look for- ward to reuniting (Birdie and Clarence) at some point."

"If you're a performer — a performer of any kind — it's the only thing you want to do," he says. "It's what you have to do. Nothing stops you. What's you are born to do."

A 5-foot-10 man who stands about 5-foot-10, Birdie has the functional strength and defined musculature that come not from hoisting weights in some yuppiefied health club, but rather from years of constant and frenetic physical activity. On a recent trip out of state at his small apartment complex on Fort Myers Beach decked out in "Cops" chic (a Clarence-still has that dopy, old-fashioned trilobyte's dummy of estimable quality. He intended to have the car towed forthwith to his digs on Fort Myers Beach, but, well, Birdie got busy with this and that, and by the time he got back to check on the car last month, nearly six months had elapsed. It was then that Birdie discovered Clarence was gone. Curiously, his carrying case — the little guy's home away from home remained undisturbed."

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know, they like to have nice things and stay somewhere nice.”

Eight years ago, Birdie gravitated to Fort Myers Beach and stays there pretty much year-round now. “Key West had gotten too crazy,” he says. “There are too many people there competing for too few places to perform.”

Along with a handful of other buskers, he works the street, displaying his talents in Times Square near the public pier. A good day “on the street,” according to Birdie, nets about a hundred bucks. “But some days you might get $500. That’s a big day.”

Sometimes he takes more traditional gigs that include (or should we say, included) Clarence. And he picks up odd jobs that “help pay the rent.”

When he hits the road, he does so in his outfitted 1984 Chevy Sports Van, a battered, hulking brute of a vehicle that looks like it might have run point for Rommel across North Africa. Birdie loves to show it off.

“It’s got a stove, refrigerator and a bathroom,” he explains from somewhere deep within the vehicle’s dark, commodious interior. The van has covered 148,000 miles so far, and Birdie says the end of this particular road is nowhere in sight.

As with Sinatra in “My Way,” when it comes to regrets, Birdie’s got a few, but then again, too few to mention.

“I’m not the type of person that wants a yard, a boat and a couple of cars and all the payments that keep you doing the same thing in the same place so you can pay for it all,” he says. “I’ve explored the world. I’ve been everywhere. Where I’ve been paid to go, people would have to spend a lot of money to visit.”

Still, health insurance and a little financial cushion wouldn’t be all bad. In this regard, Birdie looks ever-so-wistfully toward his 57-year-old brother, who has long held a civilian job on a military installation in North Carolina.

“He’s got a wife and two kids he’s sent through college,” he says. “He’s the perfect example. He’s successful. He’s got money. He’s got his cars and his boats. But it’s a home environment, which I just could not do. He’s gonna retire with benefits and money. I’m not. “To be honest, it’d be nice to be able to go to the doctor and not have to worry about owing a massive amount of money. But what the hell? I’m not complaining, man. Not complaining at all.”

Birdie says the latest word he’s received from the detective handling Clarence’s case is that there might be a suspect, and that the possible perp is a teenager. The guy is in the Lee County lockup on an unrelated beef, and Birdie hopes the cops sweat him real good.

“I’ve believed all along that this was the work of some kid, probably a teenager,” he says.

If Birdie could speak directly to Clarence’s abductor, here’s what he would say: “Look, whoever you are, I know you don’t understand, but I am a performer and Clarence is my partner. I’ve been with him 28 years. Just get him back to me. I don’t necessarily want you to go to jail. I just want Clarence back. He means more to me than he’ll ever mean to you.”

The very thought of Clarence being used as a dart board by some Oxycontin-addled adolescent in a bedroom adorned with posters of the Pussycat Dolls is bad enough. But what if Clarence has fallen into more sophisticated hands? What if he was taken by another performer? And what if — in the ultimate nightmare scenario — Clarence makes it big? Becomes a star. Without Birdie. What if, at this moment, Clarence is working a major room in Vegas? Unlikely. But who can say? Until Clarence is found, the mystery endures and nothing is out of the question.

Clarence striking it rich without his compadre? Can’t see it, man. Can’t see it all. That’s too much bad karma for even the worst kind of pessimist to contemplate. Don’t go there. No, better to stay positive, upbeat. Birdie and Clarence. What a pair.

And that’s that.
TO YOUR HEALTH

Care Mobile director earns national award

Jules Mijares, director of the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program for CHS Healthcare, has received the Outstanding Migrant Health Public Service award from the National Association of Community Health Centers. The Care Mobile is a mobile pediatric medical and dental office that serves children who lack access to health care. As the program’s first employee and coordinator in 2004, Ms. Mijares worked to garner community support and acceptance of the mobile health concept. As the link to the community, she built the network of relationships that have been crucial to the continued success of the program.

Health department offers screenings for hepatitis

Tuesday through Thursday, May 18-20, the Collier County Health Department will provide free hepatitis screenings and vaccines and HIV testing to those who qualify based on risk. The services are offered in conjunction with World Hepatitis Day on May 19.

One in 12 people on the planet has the Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C virus, and yet the majority of those infected are unaware. In Collier County, there are an estimated 6,269 people living with Hepatitis C, or HCV. The three-part vaccine normally costs $150.

Hepatitis clinic hours 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, May 18 and 20, and 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 19. Walk-ins will be accepted on these days only. To make an appointment for hepatitis or HIV/AIDS services needed on other days, call 252-8593.

Marco seminar is all about bones

A free seminar about osteoporosis takes place from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 18, at the Marco I-Net Café on Marco Island. Participants will be able to enter a drawing for a free bone density test. For more information, call 970-0240.

Eye center doctor will discuss laski

Dr. Jonathan Franz will present a free seminar about iLASIK at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 19, at Florida Eye Health, 2300 Tamiami Trail N. RSVP by calling 480-3939 or register online at www.bettervision.net.

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

For the one in eight couples diagnosed with infertility, the struggle to have a baby is often a private and painful journey. But with advances in treatment options and increased access to reproductive care, more patients are dispelling the myths and sharing their “family building” experiences publicly.

To highlight advances in fertility care, reproductive endocrinologist Dr. Craig Sweet of Specialists in Reproductive Medicine and Surgery and several of his patients are featured in a segment of “The Fertility Chase” airing at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, May 15, on WTV, the Women’s Entertainment cable network.

For Sanibel residents Walter and Amy Costello, publicly sharing their journey through infertility is a chance to help negate the stigma that is often attached to fertility treatment.

“Infertility is still somewhat of a ‘taboo’ subject, and participating in the show is an opportunity to debunk the myths,” Mrs. Costello says. “What many people don’t realize is that infertility is a medical condition. We sought treatment for infertility in the same way we would seek treatment for cancer or any other disease.”

After several years of trying to conceive naturally, the couple was referred to Dr. Sweet, who diagnosed Mrs. Costello with stage IV endometriosis, one of the leading causes of female infertility. He recommended the couple consider in vitro fertilization (IVF). During the IVF process, Mrs. Costello’s eggs were surgically retrieved, then fertilized with husband Brandon’s sperm. Days later, Dr. Sweet implanted two embryos into Mrs. Costello’s uterus. The couple chose to save their remaining four embryos through a process called cryopreservation or embryo freezing. An estimated 250,000 embryos are currently in cryopreservation in the United States.

“In addition to minimizing the opportunity for multiple births, cryopreservation gives families like the Costellos the opportunity to have more children in the future,” the doctor explains.

“In the event that couples choose not to transfer and use all of their remaining embryos, they are given the option to destroy the embryos, donate them to research or to donate their embryos to other infertile patients who have chosen this option to build their families.”

“In our case, we hope to use our embryos to grow our family someday,” says Amy Costello. “However, should we decide not to do so, we have indicated our wishes to give the gift of life to another family through embryo donation.”

Less than two weeks after the embryos were implanted, the couple received long-awaited news: “We are expecting a baby boy, due on June 20, Father’s Day,” Mrs. Costello says. “It was a long, emotionally and financially difficult journey, but we couldn’t be happier. We are truly blessed.”

STRAIGHT TALK

A salute to the nursing staff

“Are the care you give, the attention you pay, the courtesies you extend. Thank you for all you are doing.”

With those words from Connie Merritt, R.N., an author and our keynote speaker during National Nurses Week, we honored our 1,623 colleagues in the nursing department — nearly half our total employees, and the heart of NCJ.

As the core of this week’s celebration was a “State of the Union” address from Chief Nursing Officer Michele Thomas. Along with Associate CNOs Laurie Zone-Smith and Marimah Cashin, Ms. Thomas reviewed a year of achievement and advancement. The highlights included:

- In a year of significant changes, a nursing strategic plan was created and is progressing nicely into the implementation phase.
- The Professional Alliance Council and committees on Professional Development, Recruitment/Retention/Recognition, Quality, Nursing Model, Technology, Communication and Community are either already functioning or about to start.
- The overall goal of shared governance means having more lead and manage nursing care. Both patients and nurses benefit when those who spend the most time with a patient and their family lead and manage the care.
- Included among our colleagues in nursing are 821 RNs, 250 care technicians, 39 LPNs, 146 unit secretaries and many others with diverse duties ranging from techs to therapists to managers to educators. During 2009, we added 351 colleagues, and the RN vacancy rate has dropped in half to 5 percent from slightly over 10 percent six months ago.
- We do a confidential employee survey assessing nursing satisfaction. The survey shows good results relating to meaningful work, staying at NCH, recommending NCH to family and friends as well as feeling accomplished. Shared governance should enhance those positive feelings.
- One current focus in nursing quality is restraint avoidance along with pressure sore, central line and ventilator-associated pneumonia prevention. All facilities face these serious challenges, and our patients are feeling the benefit of these, with excellent nursing care supported by the latest in technology and “best practices.”
- Including our busiest month of March, patient satisfaction has taken an upward trend since January when a task force started working in departments that affect our overall rating and “likelihood to recommend.”

The next mile on the journey includes career ladder development, a staffing/scheduling system accessible from the Internet, both an internal and external Web site, and more input from nursing to continuously improve the quality and comfort of the patient experience. Cerner technology, including telemetry enhancements and IV pumps that download information seamlessly, is just a few of the tools coming online to help nurses stay at a patient’s bedside.

Let me close with more words from this week’s keynote speaker, Connie Merritt, again saluting the outstanding intelligence and caring of our nursing colleagues.

“Are you what people see when they arrive here. You are the eyes they look into when they’re frightened and lonely. Yours are the voices people hear when they ride the elevators and when they try to sleep and when they try to forget their problems. Yours is the intelligence and caring that people hope they’ll find here.”

— Dr. Allen Weiss is president and CEO of the NCH Healthcare System.
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Our All-Star Total joint Center is one of the busiest hospitals for joint replacement in the U.S. and one of only a handful of wellness based joint replacement centers in the country. Lee Memorial Health System and our expert physicians and care team continue to provide solutions to keep you active with less pain.

World class health care is closer than you think.
CLUB NOTES

TV topic at Naples Press Club meeting

Who does the future hold for television viewers? Thousands of channels? Cable or direct TV? Hi-def or fiber optic? With federal deregulation of the telecommunications industry, there is an emergence of competition to rising cable prices. More open access to such competition is under discussion by many local condominium associations.

Members and guests of the Naples Press Club will find out more at a Luncheon meeting Friday, May 14, at the Bellasera Hotel. Guest speakers will be: Corey Hayes of Mastec and DIRECTV and Erik Zimmer of CenturyLink.

Cost of the luncheon and meeting is $20 for members and $25 for guests. RSVP by e-mailing rsvp@naplespressclub.org or register online at www.naplespressclub.org.

Women’s Republican Club plans luncheon

The Women’s Republican Club of Naples Federated Inc. holds its next Luncheon meeting Friday, May 14, at the Naples Federated Inc. Club. Speaker will be: Jack Tymann, luncheon meeting Friday, May 14, at the Naples Federated Inc. RSVP by e-mailing rsvp@naplespressclub.org or register online at www.naplespressclub.org.

Cost is $22 per person. For reservations, call 248-7499.

ADVENTURE IS THE TICKET FOR NEW SOCIETY

There’s a new ticket in town for those who seek travel adventure but don’t want to go it alone. The Exploration Society is the brainchild of Jen Mitchell and Cassie McMillion of Betty Maclean Travel. Members and anyone interested in learning more about the society are invited to a mixer from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, May 24, at Haskell’s Wine and Spirits on Pine Ridge Road. The evening will include a discussion about adventures in Chile as well as a Chilean dinner and wine tasting. For more information, e-mail ExplorationSociety@BettyMacleanTravel.com.

There are many things that didn’t get done, however, and that might have been revisited next session. A wide-ranging transformation of Florida’s Medicaid program did not happen this year. The senate had proposed a 19-county expansion of the state’s current five-county pilot program, putting a quarter of a million low-income citizens into managed care. The legislature spent another year talking about oil drilling in state waters, but no bill on the matter came to the floor. It was just as well. The severity of the Deepwater Horizon spill was just becoming apparent as the session closed on April 30. There is talk that Gov. Crist could ask lawmakers to return to Tallahassee for a special session to ban offshore drilling.

APPROVAL

From page 1

bill as follows:

$10 million in Jobs for the Unemployed tax credits, provided to any qualified targeted industry business that hires someone who is unemployed. Businesses are eligible for a $1,000 tax credit per qualified employee.

$5 million for the Quick Action Closing Fund to ensure the state can attract new, and expand existing, high-impact businesses.

Expanding the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund program.

$3 million in Local Government Matching Grants (individual grants can be up to $50,000).

$4 million in Defense Infrastructure Grants.

Lowering the threshold to qualify for High Impact Performance Incentive Grants.

$3 million in Research Commercialization Matching Grants to assist small businesses seeking federal research and development funding.

$2 million to expand the Economic Gardening Pilot Program, a loan program for small businesses.

$2 million in State University Research Commercialization Assistance Grants.

$6.8 million to Space Florida from multiple programs to provide opportunities for space businesses and the Space Coast workforce.

A five-year, $24 million transferable tax credit incentive program for Florida’s film and entertainment industry.

There is talk that Gov. Crist could ask lawmakers to return to Tallahassee for a special session to ban offshore drilling.

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In the know

>> Veto power

As of this writing, Gov. Charlie Crist still holds the power to veto many of the measures passed by the legislature. Any part of the $10.4 billion is subject to rejection. Before the session had finished, the governor torpedoed a bill supported by conservatives that would have tied teacher pay directly to teacher performance. While teachers applauded the governor’s move, other groups now hope he might decide to eradicate other measures passed primarily by a Republican-controlled legislative body.

>> How it works

Unlike the federal legislative process, where bills require the president’s signature to become law, the reserve is true in Florida. Once a bill reaches the governor’s desk (and can take weeks to get there after the legislature has passed it), the clock starts ticking for 15 days. If the governor fails to sign the bill within that time period, the bill automatically becomes law.

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Women, Opportunity, Wealth lectures focus on women’s financial futures

The Naples Trust Company presents “What Every Woman Needs to Know about Her Financial Future,” four lectures about what you need to do today in order to take care of tomorrow.

Part of the Women, Opportunity, Wealth program designed by Adria Starkey, the free programs begin Tuesday, May 18, and will be held from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Naples Conservancy (14430 U.S. 41 North Naples). To reserve a seat at any of the four lectures, call 774-4000. Registration is limited to 15 for each session.

In the first session, “We’ll answer the question: Where are your documents, and what should be in place now in the case of an emergency?” says Ms. Starkey, who is president of The Naples Trust Company. Subsequent sessions and topics are:

➤ Tuesday, June 1: “Understanding Your Estate Plan” and “Women’s Health and Wellness”
➤ Monday, June 7: “How Much Money Do I Need?”
➤ Tuesday, June 22: “A View of the Economy” — “This is the economic view from 30,000 feet down to your own investment strategy,” Ms. Starkey says. “We’ll start globally and then get a bit more personal.”

“Money Do I Need?”

“Health and Wellness”

“Women, Opportunity, Wealth lectures focus on women’s financial futures”

“A View of the Economy” — Mrs. Starkey says. “We’ll start globally and then get a bit more personal.”

Convervancy moves loggerhead into her new aquarium home

A young loggerhead turtle is making herself at home and on view to the public in the new 2,000-gallon Patch Reef aquarium at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. On May 7, she was transferred from the smaller tank that had been her home for more than a year. The larger aquarium more closely resembles the natural oceanic environment the turtle will eventually be released into.

During the 2008 sea turtle nesting season, the turtle participated in a study by researchers at Florida Atlantic University on the sex ratio of loggerhead hatchlings. Following the study, she came to the Conservancy from the Boca Raton Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program and will live at the Conservancy for two to three years before being released into the wild. The purpose of her stay at the Conservancy is to allow her to grow to nearly 18 inches in length and for her to serve as an ambassador for her species to educate the public about protecting sea turtles.

Conservancy staff will continue its policy of limited physical contact with the turtle in order to prevent her from becoming overly habituated to interactions with people. This will give her a better chance of growing to adulthood when she is released into the wild.

Sea turtle nesting season began May 1 and lasts through October.

Tips for sea turtle season

➤ Limit night activities on the beach and abide by county restrictions concerning lighting on the beach. There should be no exterior lighting visible from the beach.
➤ Never disturb turtles, nests or hatchlings.
➤ Volunteer with a beach cleanup effort to protect turtles from ingesting or becoming ensnared in paper and plastic products.
➤ Call the Conservancy at 403-4216 if you see a turtle in distress, and support preservation efforts by becoming a member and donor.
➤ Call local authorities if you see anyone violating laws concerning turtle protection.

Grab your helmet, pedal to the office on Bike To Work Day

The Naples Pathways Coalition, Community Traffic Safety Team and the Collier County Health Department are encouraging everyone to bike to work on Friday, May 21, as part of National Bike To Work Day. The Collier County Health Department recommends the following bicycle safety:

➤ Always wear a helmet.
➤ Install bike lights and use them when riding between dawn and dusk.

Tips for sea turtle season

➤ Limit night activities on the beach and abide by county restrictions concerning lighting on the beach. There should be no exterior lighting visible from the beach.
➤ Never disturb turtles, nests or hatchlings.

Have your bike checked over by your local bike shop.
Ride in the right-most lane that goes in the direction you are traveling.
A bike lane is the safest place to ride. If forced to use a sidewalk, use extreme caution when crossing an entrance to a parking lot, driveway, community, shopping center, etc.
Obey all stop signs, traffic lights and lane markings.
Look before you change lanes or signal a turn; indicate your intention, then act.
Be visible and predictable at all times. Wear bright clothing and signal turns. Ride defensively.
Can cats and dogs get along? While cats and dogs scheming against each other is a comedic staple, millions of real-life cats and dogs live in harmony, and millions of people feel no family would be complete without at least one of each pet.

Getting a dog and a cat to accept one another can be difficult, though, as anyone who’s tried to introduce them knows. Under no circumstances should cat-dog introductions be handled by throwing the animals together and letting them work out things on their own. That method is far too stressful even in the best of circumstances. It’s also important to keep in mind that introductions can be dangerous, usually for the cat. Some dogs see cats as prey, and even those dogs who are generally easygoing may react instinctively to a cat on the run, attacking the smaller animal.

Introductions must be supervised and handled with planning, care and patience. If you have a cat and are planning to bring in a dog, try to find an animal who is known to be accepting of cats. Shelters, rescue groups or private parties looking to place puppies and dogs often know if an animal has successfully lived with a cat, or they will test to see how the pet behaves in the presence of one. If you have a dog and are planning to bring in a cat, start working on your pet’s obedience before you add the new animal. Your dog should be comfortable on a leash and be trained well enough to mind your requests for him to stay in either a “sit” or “down” position while on that leash.

For the cat’s own comfort, he should be confined during the early stages of introduction to a small area (such as a second bathroom or guest bedroom) where he can feel safe while becoming acclimated to the sounds and smells of the dog. Be sure the room has everything he needs, so be it. Reward the cat’s presence, and always make sure the cat has a way to escape from the dog, such as putting a baby gate across the door to the safe area. Build up the time the animals spend together, and continue to make the introductions rewarding with more treats and praise.

When the dog isn’t interested in both- ering the cat, and the cat feels secure enough to come out from under the bed, you can take off the leash and let them get on with their new lives together. How long it will take to get to this step will depend on the animals involved, and you must work at their pace. It’s not uncommon for dogs and cats to become friends and to enjoy each other’s company. Take the time to manage your cat-dog introduction properly, and you could be setting up a friendship that will last for the rest of your pets’ lives.

After a couple of days with the cat sequestered, put the dog on leash and open the door to the cat’s room. Allow the animals to see one another, and do not allow the dog to chase the cat, even if he wants to play. Use “sit-stay” or “down-stay” to keep the dog in place while the cat gets used to his calm presence. Don’t force the cat to interact with the dog, if the cat wishes to view the dog from the darkest recesses underneath the bed, so be it. Reward the good behavior of both animals with treats and praise. Keep the dog on leash for a couple of weeks in the cat’s presence, and always make sure the cat has a way to escape from the dog, such as putting a baby gate across the door to the safe area. Build up the time the animals spend together, and continue to make the introductions rewarding with more treats and praise.

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Going back in personal time, I can find clear child memories of iridescent puddles. I would bend down over them, turning them into vast oceans with surfaces awash with rainbows. And as the sun shone down creating light show, I vaguely remember adult explanation, which bore for me no merit and merited no interest. Only the wonder of the present phenomenon lived. I did not care that the puddle was really merely dirty. Don't touch that. There's oil floating in the water. It's dirty.

If I had been listening, the oil of gladness would have grown an ugly underbelly. But for me there was nothing to salvage. There was only salve and no disease for healing or remediation.

But now the catastrophic BP oil spill is one of the worst environmental disasters in U.S. history. There are too many factoids already. I don't need to add fuel to that firewater. I am looking for the buried treasure of my lost innocence.

We say “petroleum,” literally rock oil, or “mineral oil.” But that is only because there is no organic source within the minuscule human time frame. Oil is from life, from diatoms the size of pinheads that thrived in ancient geologic time over 300 million years ago. These little organisms lived, died, and were buried. And now they rise to gift humans with 40 percent of the total planet energy usage. And 99 percent of the energy used to move cars and trucks. There is no possibility of re-gifting.

Jacob, the ancient Hebrew patriarch who stole his older brother's birthright, had an extraordinary dream. His head on a rock, he dreamed a ladder connecting earth and heaven, with angels going up and down, back and forth between the earth and the divine presence. The shock and awe he felt upon rising compelled Jacob to designate this spot as sacred. He placed his stone pillow on a pillar and poured oil over it.

The pouring of oil is a complex sacred act. Its extravagant pouring out is a sign of the divine breath, of the divine presence. And, as sign of the divine, the pouring of oil is powerful invocation of rejuvenation, of healing, of penance, of embalming. Oil is of the essence. It holds the smell that can go straight into the brain, unmediated. No words are required. The mere aroma promises, evokes, heals.

His betrayer, Judas of Iscariot, criticized Jesus for allowing expensive oil to be extravagantly poured over his feet. And scholars still argue over the identity of she who poured. And as the many hypotheses fly — whore, prophet, wife — I again am deaf, as I was in childhood. I only see the iridescence: the lustrous rainbow-like play of color caused by differential refraction of light waves that change as the angle of view changes.

Today I struggle to remember the holy, the consecrated, the sacred set apart, the healed, the essential.

Today I see only the eyes of birds blackened and sickened. I see the insulation of feathers reduced and bird bodies less buoyant, verging on flightless. I see preening caused poisoning. I see the sickened eyes of sea mammals. I see ocean waters muddied into photosynthetic reduction as light itself is trapped. Where is the balm of Gilead? Where is the oil of gladness? The balm of Gilead is still carried by traders who escort the enslaved Joseph, sold by his brothers out of jealousy. The oil of gladness is still presumed given without equanimity. My piracy is iridescent. It is born from the play of point of view change. Let’s grease our frozen, stuck logic. Grace Slick sang it well: When the truth is found to be lies and all the joy within you dies, don’t you need somebody to love? Wouldn't you love somebody to love? You better find somebody to love. Anybody. Better yet, all bodies. Now. No time to waste.

— Rx is the FloridaWeekly muse who hopes to inspire profound mutiny in all those who care to read. Our Rx may be wearing a pirate cloak of invisibility, but emanating from within this shadow is hope that readers will feel free to respond. Who knows? You may even inspire the muse. Make contact if you dare.
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Commercial real estate discounts abound

BY EVAN WILLIAMS
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If unforgiving capitalism’s Great Recession could be viewed partly as a metaphorical wildfire — clearing out the underbrush of inflated appraisals or, sadly, failed businesses, and making room for new growth — then Kirk DeVries is a fresh sapling in a charred landscape. It was only five years ago in real time, but seemingly a lot longer in hard-living recessionary years, when his business, The Backyard Bird Company, was suffering a conflict of interests.

The national economy was peaking, and Mr. DeVries’s company had grown. But his 1998 venture selling birdhouses was suffering a conflict of interests. What he needed was commercial space — space that he couldn’t afford. He dreamed of owning a warehouse and office of his own, but at 2005 prices it just wasn’t possible.

All that changed for him earlier this year when, with the help of a loan, he bought 1,980 square feet of flex space near Interstate 75 and U.S. 41 in south Charlotte County. From his new warehouse, with a small, air-conditioned office, he can see a lake and birds roosting from the window. The new digs cost him less than half of the $225,000 to $240,000 he had been quoted five years ago on smaller spaces.

“I had a growing business but I couldn’t afford to move out of the house,” said Mr. DeVries, 47. “And then, once everything tanked, I was able to look into it. I couldn’t have done it unless this market crashed.” He laughs. “That’s the truth right there. I wouldn’t be where I am.”

Southwest Florida for sale or rent

There are many deals out there for budding businessmen like Mr. DeVries, and have been for at least a year, but interest has been slow to build. At industrial warehouses and office buildings from Fifth Avenue in Naples to Metro Parkway in Fort Myers, and at strip malls from Tamiami Trail in Port Charlotte to the Piney Parkway in Fort Myers, there are many deals to be had.

What can be learned from the panic and monetary authority fix? Within less than seven days, there have been serious worldwide stock market declines, a mini U.S. stock market crash and a trillion-dollar package of debt and currency solutions thrown at these and the European related problems.

On Thursday, May 6, the world equity markets were already in downdrafts when, in the U.S., supposedly a $1.6 million trade was wrongly entered as $1.6 billion. That “oops!” caused a U.S. market decline of close to 6 percent within a 30-minute period and it almost caused a daily “limit down” in the S&P futures. The futures market came within an angel’s breadth of closing for the day. (A limit down is a mechanism to end or control runaway panics. Ten percent is the downside threshold for the S&P futures.)

By May 9, the world’s monetary authorities had created a quick fix — a trillion-dollar-plus “solution” fashioned over a weekend. The purpose was to stem the decline in the Euro (and rush into dollars and gold) and to prop up the prices of the sovereign debt of the other debt-challenged Eurozone countries (e.g., Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Italy, also known as the PIIGS).

The monetary authorities wanted to halt the fear of holding these European assets — through rational and factually based — from spreading throughout the world. They wanted to make sure that there was not another run on the European banks for dollar loans and conversion into dollars (as there was in 2008-2009) and restore (more likely inflate) the values of the sovereign debt bonds. The reason was so that these countries can still issue debt and the European banks — which own billions of such debt — are not suddenly insolvent because they have to show current value of bad loans.

What can be leaned from the panic and the fix?

First, there were trading issues related to The Exploration Society’s most recent mixer. B8

Explorers connect
See who found their way to The Exploration Society’s weekly party. B8

On the Move
It’s good business to know who’s going where, doing what on the local business front. B4

See them all
Four models, meet designers in six Bonita Bay high-rises this weekend. B9

The can is kicked down the street

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Golf Clinic Host:
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ON THE MOVE

Mr. Ritter guides the congregational development program at North Naples United Methodist Church and has participated in seven mission trips to Haiti. The Schools for Haiti Foundation provides support to schools in Haiti in the form of training, educational supplies, building repairs, hot lunch programs, uniforms and teacher salaries.

Mr. Mitton has worked with various organizations serving people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS since the mid 1980s and has been associated with IACG since early 2000. His background is in insurance, finance and banking.

Professional Organizations

Toni Cartwright, president of the Gulf Coast Venture Forum and Tannami Angel Fund, spoke at a recent BioFlorida Southwest Chapter program titled “Entrepreneurship and Start-Up Support in Southwest Florida.”

Mr. Boekrad has been named a member of SCORE Naples. A member of SCORE since January 2009, Mr. Boekrad graduated cum laude from Florida Gulf Coast University with a bachelor’s degree in accounting and a master’s in accounting and taxation. Her business experience includes 10 years in the residential construction industry before entering the public accounting field in 2001. She is part of the forensic accounting and litigation support team of Markham Morton, a national forensic accounting and litigation support firm.

Becky Boekrad has been named a member of the School Board.

Nonprofit Organizations

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Charlotte to Immokalee Road in Collier County, there’s a glut of empty commercial property. New commercial construction is at a crawl in Southwest Florida. Streetside signage offering low prices abounds. As in the residential market, many properties can be bought for less than the replacement costs.

For some business owners looking to invest in property, the oversupply signals long-term opportunity.

“There are opportunities in business right now that will not present themselves again for a long time, especially reasonably prices for buying the building, or renting (it),” said Collier County Commissioner Jim Coletta.

A report provided by Gary Tasman of Cushman & Wakefield in Fort Myers shows the amount of vacant retail, industrial and office space has more than doubled in Southwest Florida since the economy tipped into recession in December 2007. At the end of the first quarter this year, nearly 12 percent of the commercial real estate built in the region—a total of 19,549,942 square feet was for sale or rent. Three years ago that number was just under 6 percent.

Real estate brokers say landlords are also more willing to make concessions on leases, especially in the short term. While prices vary widely depending on where and what kind of property is under negotiation, buyers and tenants can bargain for on price. That’s true “carte blanche across the board,” said Shelton Weeks, Lucas professor of real estate at Florida Gulf Coast University. “If you were running a retail operation in a small strip center, you’re able to command a better rent, or move to a nicer space.”

Landlords are offering better prices on leases, but usually only for the short term. “People are beginning to trade up,” said George Vukobratovich, president of Welsh Companies based in Naples and Fort Myers. “It’s a great time to be a buyer and great time to be a tenant—and certainly not as good a time on the other side of the fence.”

Compared to three years ago, prices are easily 50 percent below where they were, Mr. Boback added. “Further, we’ve started to see a regular inflow of distressed and foreclosed (commercial) properties.

Low prices have induced a certain amount of lateral rental movements among leasers who are trading Class C or B office space for Class A locations. “More than seeing space absorbed, we’re going to see people shifting to properties that are a better fit, maybe moving up a bit,” said Shelton Weeks, Lucas professor of real estate at Florida Gulf Coast University. “If you were running a retail operation in a small strip center, you’re able to command a better rent, or move to a nicer space.”

Landlords are offering better prices on leases, but usually only for the short term. “People are beginning to trade up,” said George Vukobratovich, president of Welsh Companies based in Naples and Fort Myers. “It equates to musical chairs, and there are more chairs becoming vacant.”

More than one-fifth of Class A office space is for rent or sale in Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties. In Cape Coral, 46 percent of Class A office space is vacant, Mr. Tasman said. That number is even higher in Charlotte County (52 percent). Lehigh Acres (63 percent) and outlying Collier County (51 percent).

“Anywhere in that Summerlin and College corridor, I’m seeing some of the lowest rental rates I’ve seen in a long time,” Mr. Vukobratovich said. “Industrial parks in both South Fort Myers and Naples — there are some of the lowest rates that I’ve ever seen.”

**Struggling to grow**

Affordability rates need to reach 8-10 percent before commercial builders show a wide interest in new construction projects, Mr. Tasman said. And that will be driven by a rise in employment, which is following tradition by lagging behind in recovery. Even if good deals are to be had because of the market’s oversupply, business owners like Mr. DeVries still might have to wait for their investments in new space to pay off. Consumer spending has started to increase, but only by a trickle. The GDP rose by a modest 2.2 percent last quarter.

“Hard to imagine a lot of across-the-board absorption until our economy recovers,” Professor Weeks said. “And I would suspect we’ll have a national recovery before we have a significant recovery in Southwest Florida.”

The Backyard Bird Company is struggling this year to bloom into the full potential of its unit at Old Town Business Center in Punta Gorda. The company’s profit margin might even take a step backward this year by a few percentage points, Mr. DeVries admitted. But now he can sustain his family from the company alone. He quit the post office job in 2006 after 21 years. And he’s keeping his home life at a better distance from his birdhouses, an industry that, like the commercial real-estate market or any other, is priced to sell.

“You would think last year would have been tougher,” he said. “Actually, right now this year’s tougher for me. But who’s to say? It could be my competition. It’s not necessarily the economy. Everybody’s out there price shopping.”

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In the Know

**Office**
- Lee: 16.1 percent, $15
- Collier: 16.3 percent, $21.16
- Charlotte: 15.5 percent, $15.52

**Industrial**
- Lee: 17 percent, $5.49
- Collier: 10.8 percent, $8.14
- Charlotte: 11.4 percent, $6.9

**Retail**
- Lee: 11.7 percent, $13.82
- Collier: 9.5 percent, $18.43
- Charlotte: 6 percent, $11.97

Source: Gary Tasman, Cushman & Wakefield

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**Job search support group meets weekly**

A job search support group for downsized employees of local businesses meets weekly at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce. The group is geared toward white collar, administrative and professional workers, rather than trade and service workers. It is not a job placement service. Emphasis is on networking, resumes, interviewing skills and best practices for a successful transition.

Participants should come prepared to discuss who they are, what type of opportunity they seek and what makes them good candidates for jobs. Assistance is available to those who are still working through these topics. Each session offers an in-depth look at tools and critical elements for a successful transition.

For more information, e-mail Karen Kliklewicz at klku77@comcast.net. No advance registration is required, and there is no charge to attend.
Parking Your Money

Many people invest in a variety of stocks and bonds, and in tax-advantaged retirement accounts (like IRAs and 401(k)s), as well as taxable brokerage accounts. You can save a lot of money, and avoid some tax liabilities, in certain investments in specific kinds of accounts. With taxable bonds and bond funds, you’ll do well to invest in them through a tax-deferred or tax-free retirement account. Otherwise, your gains will be short-term ones, and therefore taxable at your ordinary income rate, which can be quite high. Gains on stocks you've held for more than a year are considered long-term, and with a capital gains rate for most of us currently at 15 percent. (Regarded of tax considerations, think twice before trading frequently. Studies suggest that frequent traders tend to fare worse than long-term investors.)

Individual stocks that you own and plan to hang on to for a long time are also good candidates for your regular, taxable accounts. That’s because the IRS will tend to qualify them for the lower long-term capital gains tax rate, whichever you control when you sell them and realize the gains.

Less in your control are managed stock mutual funds, which distribute taxable dividend and capital gains each year. Still, even among those you can choose more tax-efficient ones. At Morningstar.com, for example, you can check out a fund’s fee structure and its integration strategies deliver services to the three screens people rely on most—mobile devices, PCs and TV. My ticker symbol sounds like a popular British drink. Know the answer? Send it to us with Foolish Trivia on the top and you’ll be entered into a drawing for a nifty prize!

Name That Company

I’m a huge global communications company, the largest provider of local and long-distance voice services, and America’s largest directory publisher, delivering millions of print directories. I’m also the nation’s largest broadband provider, with more than 17 million high-speed Internet subscribers, and the nation’s largest Wi-Fi provider, offering customers access at more than 2 million spots. I serve more than 85 million customers with my 3G network and my CDMA network. My integration strategies deliver services to the three screens people rely on most—mobile devices, PCs and TV. My ticker symbol sounds like a popular British drink. Who am I?

The Motley Fool Take

Clueless Abercrombie

Abercrombie & Fitch (NYSE: ANF) will pay its CEO, Mike Jeffries, $4 million in one lump sum to limit his personal use of the corporate jet. Let that sink in for a minute.

His recently amended employment agreement requires that Jeffries now pay for any personal use of the jet over $200,000 per year, but that cool $4 million probably takes the sting out of having to must ourself some self-control.

How clueless is Abercrombie’s management and board? The personal use of corporate jets is a hallmark of cluelessness. Abercrombie became emblematic of hubristic excess last year, when TARP recipients such as Citigroup and AIG scrambled to rein in luxury expenditures.

Does Abercrombie’s management take any kind of perverse pleasure from repeatedly poking shareholders straight in the eye? Jeffries was among the highest-paid CEOs in 2008, despite the fact that Abercrombie was among the highest-paid CEOs. He was neither “recession-proof,” and over the 10 or 20 or 30 years ahead, I wouldn’t expect it to be overly optimistic.

The Fool Responds

That fund was individual investors and small businesses losing 56 percent and landing in the 98th percentile for its category. But in 2007 (and 2004 and 2005), it was in the 1st percentile. Last year, it gained 76 percent and was in the 6th percentile. With funds, as with stocks, as long as you believe in their management and their potential, it’s good to be patient. Evaluating your holdings every day is likely to lead you to trade frequently, rack up commission costs and miss out on long-term gains.

My Dumbest Investment

Do you have an embarrassing lesson learned the hard way? Well, let down your 100 words (or less) and send it to The Motley Fool c/o My Dumbest Investment. Get one that worked well to submit to My Dumbest Investment. If we print yours, you’ll own a Fool’s cap!

Last week’s trivia answer

I’m one of the world’s biggest financial institutions, with more than $2 trillion in assets. I offer a full range of services such as banking, investing, investment banking and asset management. I manage roughly 60 million individual and small-business accounts, with 6,000 retail banking offices, more than 18,000 ATMs and online banking. I’m the largest credit card issuer in the world. My name suggests that I’m limited to just one nation, but my customers reside in more than 150 countries. My stock is one of the 30 components of the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Who am I? (Answer: Bank of America.)

Write to Us! Send questions or comments to Fool@fool.com or via regular mail c/o this newspaper, attn: The Motley Fool. Sorry, we can’t provide individual financial advice.

What Is This Thing Called The Motley Fool?

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

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Ask the Fool

Oops! Correcting a Tax Error

Q Can I correct an error on a tax return I mailed in last month? If so, how?

A The 1040 form you mail in is not the only one you can file for each year. You can file an amended return, via tax form 1040-X, and you can even amend an amended return later! Not all errors require amended returns, though. The IRS will often find and correct small math errors, and even then, only if it’s determined if it’s missing a certain form or schedule. The errors that definitely require an amended return includes any involving your filing status, deductions or credits. Learn more from the IRS, or go to www.fool.com/taxes.

Q With my initial stock investments, I’ve averaged gains of around 26 percent. This short-term success has made me wonder whether average annual returns I can reasonably expect over, say, a 10-year period, will be likely to 15 percent or be overly optimistic.

A Over the very long haul (many decades), the stock market has gained about 10 percent annually, on average. That’s just an average, though, and over the 10 or 20 or 30 years ahead, I wouldn’t expect it to average 7 percent, or 13 percent, or something else. A long track of skill and work to beat the market over the long haul, and even then, average returns could be a tall order. For perspective, know that superinvestor Warren Buffett has averaged just over the past 44 years, vs. 9 percent from the S&P 500. I think there’s no need to opt for broad index funds. To try to beat it, become a lifelong student of investing.

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

BUSINESS MEETINGS

➤ The Jewish Business Network of Southwest Florida holds its monthly meeting and business from 7:30-9 a.m. Friday, May 14, in the conference room at Robb & Stucky, 1701 Collier Center, Aveur Montoya. Call 433-7708 or e-mail yourjnrb@c-hadhad. swl.org.
➤ The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce holds its annual black tie dinner dance “Night in Havana” at the Naples Beach Hotel. Cost is $160 per person. For more information, visit www.napleschamber.org.
➤ The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce hosts its monthly Top Dog Business After Hours mixer at Century Link, 5305 Golf Club Dr., from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 17, at the chamber. Attorney Patrick Neale is the presenter. Cost is $5. For more information, visit www.napleschamber.org.
➤ The Zonta Club of Bonita Springs meets from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 19, at Spanish Wells Golf & Country Club, 1700 Clubhouse Road, Susan A. Benoit, executive director and CEO of the Art League of Bonita Springs, will be the featured speaker. Call 484-5314 or e-mail zonta@comcast.net.
➤ The Naples Area Professional League of Executive Services, N.A.P.L.E.S., meets from 7-9 a.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month at the Naples Princess, 550 Port O’Call Way. At the May 20 meeting, guest speaker Janice Vasquez will discuss “Protecting Your Business Through Internet and State Reg. Management.” For more information, visit www.naplesgroup.net.
➤ The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce holds its next Business After Hours Mixer at the Century Link, 5305-730 p.m. Thursday, May 20, at DoubleTree Guest Suites, 12200 Tamiami Trail N. For members, $5 for future members and $25 for others. Visit www.ipconline.org.
➤ The ABWA District I Conference 2010: “Dare to Be Different: Striking Your Own Path to Success” is set for 3–7 p.m. Thursday, May 20, at the Collier Athletic Club. WNOCC gives 50 percent of its profits to promote their product and services. Admission is $5 and includes a drink and complimentary hors d’oeuvres. Visit www.wnocc.org for more information.
➤ Insurance Professionals of Collier County holds VIP Night at 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 21, at the Club at Naples Bay Resort. Cost is $45 per person. Reservations must be made by noon Tuesday, May 18. To RSVP and for dinner choices, visit www.ipconline.org.
➤ The ABWA District I Conference 2010: “Dare to Be Different: Striking Your Own Path to Success” is set for 3–7 p.m. Thursday, May 20, at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club. To register, call ABWA National (800) 228-0007 or visit www.abwa.org.
to the panic. As it stands, the problem could happen again. Clearly, the exchanges should be able to target a trading entry/execution problem and isolate it from impacting the system.

Second, possibly the biggest problem is related to an abundance of money being put into financial assets, causing mispricing, bubbles and ultimately, sudden implosions of a financial asset class. It seems that negative information is known and reported, but certain assets continue to trade detached from that reality. This flies in the face of modern financial theory, which holds to the “efficient market hypothesis.” This hypothesis maintains that all available information is known and it is “efficiently” reflected in financial asset prices.

The recent collapse in the Greek government debt is a case in point. Since January (if not earlier), Greece’s problems — severity and size — have been at the front and center of every major newspaper. But the markets and rating agencies only recently priced and rated this debt as “junk.”

Another example of asset mispricing was in 2007-2009 in the mortgage market — a huge and liquid market, yet characterized by CDOs, credit default swaps and other instruments not properly priced.

Third, the world’s (not just the United States') monetary authorities will use paper-currency issuance to “solve” many problems, especially those caused by the financial markets and requiring immediacy of action. The monetary authorities are probably view Europe’s sovereign debt problem as akin to the sub-prime crisis. Bear Stearns fell and they let Lehman go bankrupt and then the whole U.S. financial system began to unravel. It would seem that the monetary authorities are standing up to the shorts in bigger size than what even the shorts can bring to the table.

The only problem with their solution is that papering over the problems of the Euro and sovereign debt defaults resolves nothing. The sale of Merrill Lynch and the capital infusions into Goldman and Morgan Stanley during the U.S. sub-prime crisis did not stop the crisis and further fall in financial asset values. It just stopped the failure of the financial system and specifically the failure of several too big to fail institutions. The monetary package offers liquidity, but it does not stop the problem of insolvency of the debt-laden PIIGS.

Right now, an investor would have to be thinking about which asset classes are seriously mispriced and which sovereign debt is safe — safe not just for the next month or year but safe for many years.

Also, a business will have to think if it wants to have its debt tied to LIBOR. International companies will have to think if they really want their lines of credit with European banks and if, as in 2009, they want to fully draw down these lines now.

Reassess your need for cash and liquidity in increasingly volatile markets. Make sure your portfolio is diversified yet manageable. Look carefully at mutual funds holding foreign sovereign debt, and consider the benefit of government debt from financially and economically sound countries. Liquidity, portfolio diversity, portfolio protection and sovereign debt are all issues to be discussed with your investment advisor who can fashion a portfolio suited to your needs and risk tolerance.

— Jeannette Rohn Showalter is a Southwest Florida-based chartered financial analyst. Email her at jshowaltercfa@yahoo.com.
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The luxury towers at Bonita Bay were built by The Lutgert Companies.

Open house at Bonita Bay includes residences in six luxury towers

Premier Properties hosts an open house at the high-rises at Bonita Bay from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 16. Residences in all six towers — Visitas, Horizons, Estancia, Azure, Esperia South and the newest to be completed, Tavira — will be open for tours.

Each building is distinct in its architecture and floor plans that afford panoramic views of Estero Bay, Bonita Beach and the Gulf of Mexico to the west, and the nature preserves, golf courses and open spaces of the 2,400-acre Bonita Bay community to the east. The towers were built by The Lutgert Companies.

Designers from Robb and Stucky Interiors, Gary David Designs, Antonacci Design Group and Collins and DuPont will be in select models in the Tavira tower to answer questions and discuss décor, techniques, design and furnishings. Open house guests will also enjoy light refreshments on the Tavira rooftop amenity terrace.

Model 403 in Tavira has a spacious master suite overlooking Estero Bay and a neighboring park. The great room, den and master suite adjoin an open terrace. Square footage of this luxurious residence totals 4,416. Gary David Designs selected the interiors and furnishings.

A design scheme of earth, water and sky creates serene moods throughout residence 403. Designed by Robb and Stucky Interiors, the residence has 3,517 square feet of living area.

The open floor plan of model 2201 is inspired by nature with a twist of urban chic. Antonacci Design Group meshed modern, natural and organic materials such as wide plank bleached oak flooring, oversized polished glass and onyx tiles and stainless steel edging details.
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New Listing
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RECENT TRANSACTIONS

➤ Brooklyn Oven Pizza and Pasta LLC has leased 2,813 square feet of retail space at 26251 S. Tamiami Trail, Units 9 and 10, from The Park Apartments of Southwest Florida Inc. and Monroe Management Company of Southwest Florida Inc. Patrick Fraley of Investment Properties Corp. negotiated the transaction.

➤ Morgan & Morgan P.A. has leased 4,513 square feet in Marquesa at 3860 Pine Ridge Road, Suite 203, from Stark Bank Group LTD. Randal Mercer of CB Richard Ellis, Fort Myers/Naples represented the landlord, and Steve Sims of Downing-Frye Realty Inc. represented the tenant in the transaction.

➤ Silks by Leslie has leased 3,526 square feet of retail space at 18310 Old 41th St. S. from Elwood Properties Inc. Patrick Fraley of Investment Properties Corp. negotiated the transaction.

NEWSMAKERS
From page 9
Pam Olsen, Matt Liguori, Jason Pavich, Lenore Bennett and Al Speach.
The champions were supported by the Bad News Bears cheerleaders, led by Beth Mancini and including Joni Pavich, Terri Speach, Larry Olsen, Janac Bennett, Jennifer Harry, Jacquie Andrews, Jackson Liguori and the Wightman family.
The tournament was opened by a pitch by Jon Carlo Antonmattei, the son of J.P. Antonmattei, who was president of the Naples Area Board of Realtors when he died in a plane crash earlier this year in the Bahamas.

Teams from Naples, Bonita-Estero, Marco Island, Fort Myers and Cape Coral competed in the second annual tournament.

“The purpose of this annual event is to promote fellowship among the Realtors and affiliate business members of the six boards of Realtors in the region,” Al Speach, tournament director and BEAR president, says. “The facilities and service of the Collier County Parks and Recreation Department were excellent. This year’s event was of a higher caliber than in 2009 in play and in uniforms etc. We look forward to the 2011 tournament as being yet bigger, better, and even more fun.”

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BONITA BAY

From page B9

Each high-rise in Bonita Bay has electronic-controlled access, designer-furnished lobbies and managers in residence. Access-controlled parking garages, resort-style pools and spas, sunning decks, pool cabanas with wet bars and grills, fitness centers, club rooms with bars and catering kitchens, community inlets, suites for overnight guests and even trash chutes that electronically sort refuse and recyclables are all part of every tower.

Bonita Bay residents enjoy three waterfront recreational areas within the community and a private beach park on the Gulf of Mexico. They are eligible for membership in Bonita Bay Club, which has two clubhouses, an 18-court tennis and swim center, a new fitness center and 90 holes of championship golf, including three Arthur Hills-designed courses within the community and two nearby Tom Fazio courses. Residents also are eligible for social or boating memberships in The Marina Club, which has a full-service marina with storage, waterfront dining and social, educational and travel activities.

About the Lutgert Companies

The Lutgert Companies’ portfolio of residential developments consists of 17 luxury high-rise condominiums on Park Shore Beach in Naples; a partnership with The Barron Collier Companies in The Estuary at Grey Oaks in Naples; at completion in Bonita Bay, a total of eight high-rise condominiums; Linville Ridge, a mountain-top golf course community in North Carolina; and The Strada at Mercato, a 92-unit residential project within Mercato in North Naples.

Premier Properties of Southwest Florida Inc. is the real estate division of The Lutgert Companies.

For more information about the high-rises in Bonita Bay and the upcoming open house, call 495-1105 or visit www.BonitaBayHighRises.com. The entrance to Bonita Bay is north of Bonita Beach Road and west of U.S. 41 on Bonita Bay Boulevard in Bonita Springs. Maps will be available at the entrance directing visitors to the open house residences.

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3 • THE STRADA AT MERCATO • Located just North of Vanderbilt Beach Rd on US 41 • Priced from $400s • Premier Properties • Call 239-455-9400 • M-Sat:10-8 & Sun: 12-8

4 • OLD NAPOLES - WHARFside • 830 Old Naples • $750,000 • Premier Properties • Call 239-261-3148 • Mon. - Sat. 10-5 and Sun. 12-5

5 • SEAGATE • 7076 Starfish Avenue • $649,000 • Premier Properties • Angela R. Lopez 213-7420

6 • MEDITERRA - MONTEROSSO II • 29051 Amarone Court • $695,000 • Premier Properties • Marty/Debbi McDermott 564-4231

7 • THE DUNES - GRANDE PRESERVE • 280 Grande Way • From $875,000 • Premier Properties • Suzanne Ring 821-2950

8 • PELICAN BAY - INTERLACHEN • 4791 Pelican Bay Blvd. #402 • $890,000 • Premier Properties • Kristin Mlaik 370-6295

9 • THE DUNES - GRANDE PRESERVE • 280 Grande Way • From $875,000 • Premier Properties • Call 239-394-2700 • Mon. - Sat. 10-5 and Sun. 12-5

10 • PELICAN BAY - GROSVENOR • 4001 Pelican Bay Blvd. #4070 • $849,000 • Premier Properties • Jerry Richey 269-2203

>$900,000
11 • AQUA • 13675 Vanderbilt Drive (take Wiggins Pass Road to Vanderbilt Drive) • Priced from the $900s • Premier Properties • Call 239-991-2277 • Open Daily 10-5

12 • COQUINA SANDS • 1270 Olgaander Drive • $950,000 • Premier Properties • Emily K. Bua/Tade Bua-Bell 213-7420

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13 • MEDITERRA • 29051 Amarone Court • $1,099,999 • David William Auston, PA 239-273-1150 • AmeriVest Realty

14 • VILLAGES OF MONTEREY • 7698 Santa Margherita Way • $1,225,000 • David William Auston, PA 239-273-1150 • AmeriVest Realty

15 • MEDITERRA • 14986 Bellza Lane • $1,225,000 • David William Auston, PA 239-273-1150 • AmeriVest Realty

16 • VANDERBILT BEACH - VANDERBILT GULFSIDE I • 10951 Gulfside Drive #4A03 • $1,299,000 • Premier Properties • Pat Callis 250-0562

17 • ESTUARY at GREY OAKS • 1485 Osprey Trail • Priced from $1,795,000 • Premier Properties • Call 239-260-3848 • Mon. - Sat. 9-5 and Sun. 12-5

18 • OLD NAPOLES • 663 - 11th Avenue South • $1,250,000 • Premier Properties • Call 239-261-3148 • Mon. - Sat. 10-5 and Sun. 12-5

19 • VANDERBILT BEACH - MORAY BAY • 1113 Gulfshore Drive • $1,550,000 • Premier Properties • Call 239-542-2100 • Mon. - Sat. 9-5 and Sun. 12-5

20 • OLD NAPOLES • 125 - 20th Avenue South • $1,500,000 • Premier Properties • Marty/Dellih McDermott 504-4231

>$4,000,000
21 • GREY OAKS - ESTUARY • 1280 Osprey Trail • $4,950,000 • Premier Properties • Call 239-260-3848

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Museum showcases what’s new and exciting in the Sunshine State

BY PEG GOLDBERG LONGSTRETH
Special to Florida Weekly

Certain to become one of the Naples Museum of Art’s most anticipated annual exhibitions, the second “Florida Contemporary” show opens Saturday, May 15, and remains on display through June.

Visitors to the inaugural show in 2009 gasped as they entered the exhibition space and were nearly overwhelmed by Florida native Richard Currier’s enormous, hyper-real painting of the face of a sleeping man. Considerably smaller, but equally intriguing, is this year’s selection of Dennis Schmalstig’s “Self Portrait,” a deconstructed portrait in circular format that is 30 inches in

Check Facebook for hints about where to find a piece of royalty

Look for something hiding in plain sight throughout Collier and Lee counties daily from May 17-21 when The von Liebig Art Center hides a piece of royalty for you to find.

You can keep the fairy tale alive by owning a copy of the “Princess Diana: Dresses of Inspiration” exhibition catalogue. Each day from May 17-21, at approximately 11 a.m., the art center will post a clue on its Facebook page (vonliebigartcenter) for one book hidden in Collier County and one book hidden in Lee County. The locations will all be free and publicly accessible. A letter with the catalogue will let the finders know they have discovered the hidden books, and the finders will be encouraged to post on the art center’s Facebook page both their names and where they found the catalogues.

The exhibition of 20 of Diana’s dresses is captured in the 52-page catalogue showing many pictures of Diana and photos of each dress in a palace setting. On view daily through June 27, the exhibition also includes a never-before-seen collection of memorabilia related to Diana, Prince Charles, Princes William and Harry, Queen Elizabeth II and other British Royals.

Almost 20,000 guests have enjoyed the exhibition so far, and we wanted to

Wine and dine

Take your pick of cooking classes, food demonstrations and wine dinners on the calendar.

Celebrating educators

See some of the crowd from the Education Foundation’s 20th annual Golden Apple Teacher Awards.

Artist of the Seminoles

Growing up near the Dania Reservation gave Guy LaBree a special perspective.

‘Straw Hats’

Check out one of our favorites from the first Florida Weekly Fiction Challenge.
A big fish in a very small pond

At graduate school in New York City, a fellow student, Chad, caught my eye. He had broad shoulders and muscled forearms, good height, and the kind of thick hands that could work a plow or, as it turns out, tote an assault rifle. Chad was studying under the G.I. Bill, fresh from the military, and when he spoke he would sometimes slip into the Southern vernacular he’d learned growing up in Kentucky. He was inarguably masculine, intelligent and funny, I liked his quirky sense of humor and the ruggedness of his looks. Still, he was no rock star.

But you wouldn’t have known it from the way the women in my graduate program fawned over him. Chad had his pick of beautiful post-bac babies. I watched over the course of the year as increasingly stunning women worshiped at his altar. Chad didn’t even have to work for it. I once saw a brunette with stylishly ripped jeans and stilettos heels (this she wore to class) offer him for her to stop by her place Saturday night.

“My roommate will be out of town,” she said, dropping the A-bomb of suggestive offers.

Chad just shrugged his shoulders. “I’ll see what I’m doing this weekend.”

I had to turn my back so the two of them would not see my jaw hit the floor. In what world would this guy, on the high end of average, dismiss that girl, a knockout?

Let’s look at demographics. As it turns out, my graduate school program skewed highly female, with 70 percent of the class made of women and only 30 percent of men. Of those 30 percent, at least half arrived at the school with relationships. So, we had a limited pool of available men and a surplus of eager women. This dynamic played out daily as regular guys like Chad fielded offers from bombshells, women who would not give them the time of day in the real world.

But even if my fellow grad students ventured outside the program, New York City itself would not have helped the situation. There are 200,000 more single women than single men in the city. To find a more equitable distribution of the sexes, or better yet a locale where the male population out-ranks the females, one would have to head to Texas, California, or — here it is ladies: the good news — Florida.

Richard Florida (no relation), author of “Who’s Your City?” and “The Rise of the Creative Class,” has created a map that shows the distribution spread of single men and women across the United States at WhosYourCity.com. With the exception of the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area and a pocket of single women near Jacksonville, Florida is largely skewed toward single males. In most cities, there are roughly 15,000 more single men than single women. That translates to a lot of opportu-
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Also on exhibit this summer at The Patty & Jay Baker Naples Museum of Art:
• "French Twist: Masterworks of Photography from Atget to Man Ray," (1900-1940) — From the lyrical architectural views of Eugène Atget to the surrealist inventions of Man Ray and Dora Maar, from the boyish wonder of Jacques-Henri Lartigue to the twilight-inspired moodiness of Brassai, from the elegant still lifes of André Kertész to the sophisticated street theater of Henri Cartier-Bresson and Ilse Bing, all major facets of French photography are surveyed and celebrated.
• "Associated American Artists, Art by Subscription," more than 70 etchings, wood engravings, aquatints and mezzotints by nearly 50 members of the Associated American Artists — In March 1933, when America was seized by an unprecedented economic depression, art dealer Reeves Lewenthal formed the Associated American Artists. His plan was to make fine art prints affordable to every American. Members of the AAA began to make art for the masses, and Lewenthal used the post office to distribute catalogues offering a variety of their prints. Budding collectors sprang up all over the country.
• Showcased are works by Thomas Hart Benton, Miguel Covarrubias, John Steuart Curry, Mabel Dwight, Doris Lee, Reginald Marsh, Peggy Bacon, Grant Wood and others. This exhibition was organized by the Springfield Museum of Art, Springfield, Ohio. Tour management by Smith Kramer Fine Art Services, Kansas City, Mo.

Both of the above exhibits are on display through June.
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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

This week’s theater

- Improv Group - Naples City Improv performs a dinner show at Fred’s Diner starting at 6:40 p.m. May 15. Upcoming dates are June 5 and 19, July 10 and 24 and Aug. 7 and 21, 2700 Immokalee Road. Reservations: 431-7928.
- Tea-A-Ria - Presented by Fred’s Diner May 16 and 23 and June 6, 13 and 20. Enjoy a light-hearted comedy with 40’s era cocktails and Italian entrees. 2700 Immokalee Road. 431-7928.
- Greater Tuna - by the Naples Players in the Tobyye Studio at Sugden Community Theatre May 12-22. 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.
- The Big Bang - At Florida Rep through May 23. 332-4488 or www.flori-darep.org.
- The Emperor’s New Clothes - At Broadway Palm Children’s Theatre through May 10. 278-4422.
- Ring of Fire - At Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre through June 5. 278-4422.
- The Importance of Being Earnest - by the Naples Players at the Sugden Theatre through May 15. 263-7990.
- Murder on the Scottish LIn - On the Murder Mystery Dinner Train at 6:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. www.semigulf.com or 275-8487.
- The House of Bernarda Alba - By The Laboratory Theater of Florida through May 15 at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center. 333-1933.

This week’s symphony

- Bluejeans & Bluegrass - Cherryholmes performs with the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra at 8 p.m. May 13 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 597-1900.
- Brass Tunes - Enjoy a Magic Carpet Concert at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. May 15. 977-1900.
- Major/Minor Concert - The Naples Philharmonic Orchestra performs at 7:30 p.m. May 16. 977-1900.
- Chamber No. 3 - 20th-Century Gems with Judy Christy starts at 8 p.m. May 19 at the Daniels Pavilion at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 977-1900.
- Thursdays on Third - Enjoy live music and free entertainment along with shopping and dining every Thurs- day evening between November and May on Third Street South. www.third-streetsouth.com.
- Weekend Concerts - Gulf Coast Town Center offers its free Week- end Concert Series in Market Plaza from 8-10 p.m. Tonight: Frank Sinatra songs by Ole Blue Eyes. 267-0783 or gulfcoasttowncenter.com.
- Chess Anyone? - The South- west Florida Chess Club invites play- ers of all ages and abilities to gather at Books-A-Million at Mercado from 1:30-5 p.m. 898-0458 or e-mail swflchess@yahoo.com.

Marnie Schulenburg, who plays Alison Stewart on daytime’s “As The World Turns,” performs a reading of “Specter,” a play by Don Nigro, at 8 p.m. Sunday, May 16, at the Marco Players The- ater in the Town Center Plaza on Marco Island. Ms. Schulenburg will be joined on stage by Tom Pelphrey, a former actor in “As The World Turns” and “Guiding Light.” The reading is part of SoapFest 2010. Tickets are $50 and include a cocktails and a talk back with the actors. Visit www.SoapFest.com or call 394-0080.

COURTESY PHOTO

The 12th annual SoapFest Charity Weekend is set for today and Sunday at various loca- tions on Marco Island. Enjoy the area’s largest daytime TV celebrity fan fest with more than 20 stars from Emmy- award winning shows. The weekend’s events raise funds for local children’s charities. www.SoapFest.com or 394-0080.
- Dance and BBQ - The CityFest Concert, Dance & BBQ are set for 6-10 p.m. at Tin City, 1200 5th Ave. S. 262-4200.
- Weekend Concerts - Gulf Coast Town Center offers its free Week- end Concert Series in Market Plaza from 8-10 p.m. Tonight: Frank Sinatra songs by Ole Blue Eyes. 267-0783 or gulfcoasttowncenter.com.
- Chess Anyone? - The South- west Florida Chess Club invites play- ers of all ages and abilities to gather at Books-A-Million at Mercado from 1:30-5 p.m. 898-0458 or e-mail swflchess@yahoo.com.

Saturday, May 16

- Beach Flavor - Taste of the Beach is set for noon-6 p.m. at Bay Oaks Recreation Center on Fort Myers Beach. Sample the area’s best cuisine with live bands, exhibitors and fun activities for the kids. 454-7500.
- Blues Too - Rivers and Blues Take 2 starts at noon at the Alliance of the Arts, featuring Mambo, Dea n the Dynamics, Juice and other bands, plus food from local eateries. $10-15. 229-9825 or www.riversandbluesfestival.com.
- Water Ski Show - A free water ski show by the Southern Extreme Water-Ski Team starts at 4 p.m. every Sunday at Miromar Outlets near the Restaurant Piazza.

Monday, May 17

- Cooking Class - “Real Meals with Real Seafood Co.” starts at 6 p.m. at Whole Foods Market, 9100 Strada Place. Chef Brent demonstrates simple recipes for the tastiest seafood. $10; register at 552-500 or www.acteva.com/Go/Life- styleCenter.
- Final Concert - The Naples Jazz Orchestra’s final concert of the season is set for 7 p.m. at Cambier Park. Bring blankets or chairs; donations accepted. 548-3675.
- Love Trivia - The Pub at Mer- cato has Trivia Night every Monday at 7:30 p.m. 394-9400.

This week’s music

- Star Wars - The Star Wars Symphony Orches- tra performs at 7:30 p.m. at Germain Arena, 11000 Everblades Parkway, Este- ra 7-30 p.m. 548-7823.
- Open Mic - Naples Flatbread & Wine Bar in Miromar Outlets and on Naples Boulevard hosts open mic nights from 6:30-9:30 p.m. every Thursday. www.naples- flatbread.com.
- Bluegrass Event - It’s Cel- ebrate Families Day at the Cambier Park band shell, with Frontline Bluegrass, Monroe Station Band and special guest Casey Weston. Enjoy free bluegrass, folk and acoustic country for the whole family. 213-3058.
- SoapFest Events - The 12th annual SoapFest Charity Weekend is set for today and Sunday at various loca- tions on Marco Island. Enjoy the area's

Friday, May 14

- Weekend Concerts - Gulf Coast Town Center offers its free Week- end Concert Series in Market Plaza from 8-10 p.m. Tonight: Vanililla Crosby. 267-0783 or gulfcoasttowncenter.com.

Saturday, May 15

- Team Trivia - Boston Beer Gar- den Team Trivia is played at 9 p.m. every Tuesday at 2396 Immokalee Rd. 956-2337.
- Spanish Fare - “World of Cook- ing: Spanish Tapas” starts at 6 p.m. at Whole Foods Market, 9100 Strada Place. Learn how to make authentic Spanish tapas. $10. Register at www.acteva.com/Go/LifestyleCenter or 552-500.
- Pirate Night - Join The English Pub every Wednesday for Pirate Night and Hermit Crab Races as well as live entertainment at 6:30 p.m. 775-3727 or www.naplesenglishpub.com.
- History Tours - Walking tours

Tuesday, May 18

- Team Trivia - Boston Beer Gar- den Team Trivia is played at 9 p.m. every Tuesday at 2396 Immokalee Rd. 956-2337.
of the Naples Historical District start at 10 a.m. at 137 12th Ave. South. Requested donations are $15 adults, $5 children. Reservations are required: 261-8164.

■ Song Night - Wednesdays are Singer/Songwriter Night from 7-10 p.m. at Fred’s Diner, 2700 Immokalee Road, Naples. 431-7928 or www.fredsdiner.com.

Upcoming events

■ Comedian - D.L. Hughley performs May 21-23 at the Off The Hook Comedy Club, 599 S. Collier Blvd., Marco Island. 389-6900.

■ Multi-media Show - “Salvage,” with Alyce Rochette dance, plays May 21-22 at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, 333-1933.

■ Dog Show - The Greater Fort Myers Dog Club Spring Show is set for May 22-23 at the Lee Civic Center. Hours are 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. $8 per car per day or $15 for both days. 945-2776.

■ Percussion Tunes - A Magic Carpet Concert: Percussion is set for 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. May 22 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 597-1900.

■ Youth Concert - A Youth Chorale Recital starts at 2 p.m. May 22 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 597-1900.

■ Family Event - Family Fare No. 2: Pictures at an Exhibition starts at 3 p.m. May 23 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. This concert event is geared for the whole family. 597-1900.

■ Mirandolina - By ETC...Readers Theatre of The Naples Players at 7:30 p.m. May 23 at the Tobyye Studio, Sugden Community Theatre, 701 5th Avenue South, Naples. $10. 263-7990.

■ Cruiser Concert - Gulf Coast Town Center hosts a Market Plaza Courtyard Concert with the U.S. Navy Run Cruisers from 7:30-9 p.m. May 25. The eight-piece vocal and instrumental ensemble is one of the most popular performing units in Armed Forces entertainment.

■ Art Event - The Art League of Bonita Springs hosts Art Walk at the Promenade at Bonita Bay from 4-7 p.m. May 27. Enjoy exhibitions and musical entertainment. 495-8989 or www.art-centerbonita.org.

■ Patriotic Pops - The Naples Philharmonic Orchestra presents Star Spangled Spectacular at 8 p.m. May 27-29 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 597-1900.

— Send calendar listings to events@floridaweekly.com.
Laughing your way through history

Sometimes it seems that Broadway producers are engaged in some kind of Theater Olympics where musicals have to be bigger, gaudier, and more over-the-top than the ones that came before it.

In “The Big Bang,” playing at the Florida Repertory Theatre, two producers, Boyd Graham and Jed Marachek (Mr. Parrish) want to put on the “Biggest Musical Ever!!!” With 318 actors, 6,428 costumes and 1,400 wigs, this 12-hour extravaganza will tell the entire history of the world, from creation to current time. In fact, it’ll take 120 dancers just to tell the history of modern dance, including Bob Fosse, Alvin Ailey, Michael Bennett and Martha Graham.

Boyd and Jed are trying to raise $83.5 million to produce this musical-on-steroids. And we, the audience, are their potential backers. Gathering in an understated, posh New York City penthouse, the two over-reaching, incredibly misguided producers attempt to woo us by putting on highlights from their ludicrous musical. They are so naïve, so eager-to-please, so desperate.

It begins with “One Big Bang!” the opening number about the creation of the world, then goes into “Free Food & Frontal Nudity,” in which Boyd and Jed portray Adam and Eve. Mr. Parrish charms as a lion that eats Christians in the coliseum. Later in the show he brings down the house as Eva Braun, singing, “Loving Him is Where I Went Wrong” while dressed in trench coat, white pumps and men’s black socks.

“The modern” references don’t seem to work quite as well, as Sonny and Cher aren’t quite that modern. (After all, Sonny Bono died in a skiing accident a dozen years ago.) It’s interesting that a Napoleon and Josephine number received more laughs. But this is just a quibble. If one joke doesn’t tickle your funny bone, don’t worry; there are plenty more jokes coming.

The “Big Bang” is just sheer fun, pure stupid silliness, a musical stuffed to bursting with visual jokes, musical jokes, verbal jokes, and physical jokes. It’s a workout for the two actors, as they are both on stage almost all of the time in this intermission-less show. Mr. Boyd has a solo as Attila the Hun and as a man singing a love song to the last potato during the Great Potato Famine. Mr. Parrish charms as a lion that eats Christians in the coliseum. Later in the show he brings down the house as Eva Braun, singing, “Loving Him is Where I Went Wrong” while dressed in trench coat, white pumps and men’s black socks.

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Everything and everyone gets mocked or mentioned in this musical, from Sammy Davis Jr. and Sinatra to Gilbert and Sullivan. Not only are there musical references (thanks to composer Jed Feuer) but myriad lyrical references (thanks to Boyd Graham, who wrote the book and clever lyrics). Director Robert Cacioppo makes it all look spontaneous and off-the-cuff, while choreographer Amy Marie McCleary looks spontaneous and off-the-cuff, while the bemused calm in the midst of all the craziness, accompanies Mr. Parrish and Mr. Marachek on stage.

And while it makes fun of the theater, “The Big Bang” is also a tribute to it, reminding us of the sense of play, and how it only takes a few props and great imagination to put on a show. Need a laugh? Go see it. [MORE]
Consider an insurance policy when making your charitable donations

BY BRADLEY RIGOR
AND MARY CALCOTE

Special to Florida Weekly

The charitable donation of a life insurance policy to a community foundation gives the donor the opportunity to provide the foundation with a substantially larger gift than may otherwise be possible without diluting assets intended for other beneficiaries. At the same time, this planning technique provides the donor with certain tax benefits at death and often during life.

A common arrangement involves the foundation becoming the owner or beneficiary of a life insurance policy on the life of the donor. In this technique, the donor purchases a life insurance contract on his or her own life and then donates the policy itself to the charitable foundation, names the foundation as beneficiary of the policy, or both.

In the first instance, the donor might opt to make a gift of an existing life insurance policy by completing the insurer's change of ownership paperwork, the transfer of which does not result in adverse tax consequences to the donor in most circumstances. The charity then can make use of the cash value of the policy for financial needs prior to the death of the donor.

By making a gift of a life insurance policy to a charitable foundation in this fashion, the donor generally receives income tax deductions for payment of the annual premiums on the policy, subject to certain limitations, which then pays a substantial death benefit to the charity at the donor's death. As a result of the income tax deduction limitation based upon the adjusted gross income of the donor and the type of charity involved, these income tax deduction limitations for a given tax year range from 30 percent to 50 percent of the donor's adjusted gross income. Any excess, however, is deductible to the donor in subsequent tax years for up to five years following the initial donation.

If the donor prefers, however, a gift of the death benefit alone is possible by designation of the foundation as the beneficiary of the policy. This allows the donor to benefit the foundation without delay and expense from estate administration. Although the ownership of the policy by the donor may result in inclusion in the donor's estate value of the policy, the offsetting estate tax charitable deduction available to the donor's estate at death generally will negate any tax consequences resulting from any inclusion of the policy in the donor's estate.

Of course, any charitable gift of this nature and the corresponding tax benefits are highly dependent upon the facts and circumstances involved with the particular donor and charitable foundation, and therefore require careful analysis with your advisor prior to achieving effective planning.

— Bradley Rigor, a member of the Community Foundation of Collier County's Professional Advisors Council, is board certified by the Florida Bar as a specialist in wills, trusts and estate law. He is a partner at Quarles & Brady LLP. Mary Calcote holds an LL.M. in taxation and is an associate in the Trusts and Estates Practice Group at Quarles & Brady LLP. The Community Foundation of Collier County manages more than $400 million established by charitable individuals and organizations and offers donor advised funds. For more information, call 649-5000 or visit www.cfcoll.org.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

4 9 2 8 3 1 6 5 7
3 1 5 7 6 4 8 2 9
7 6 5 9 2 1 3 4 8
5 7 4 2 1 9 3 8 6
9 2 8 6 5 3 4 7 1
6 3 1 4 8 7 5 9 2
8 5 7 9 4 6 2 3 0
2 6 3 1 7 8 9 4 5

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**FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES**

### SWIPED!

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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### HOROSCOPES

**Taurus** (April 20 to May 20) It’s a time to expect the unexpected. So don’t be surprised if a decision that just recently seemed final suddenly opens up and leaves you with another chance to make an important choice.

**Gemini** (May 21 to June 20) Taking a different tack on a work project might rankle some colleagues. But the positive results of your innovative course soon speak for themselves. Celebrate with a fun-filled weekend.

**Cancer** (June 21 to July 22) Meeting new associates can be awkward, even if you’re in a high positive phase right now. Best advice: Make them feel comfortable, and you’ll soon forget your own discomfort.

**Leo** (July 23 to August 22) It’s a good time for you social lions to blow-dry your manes, polish your claws and look like the Fabulous Felines you are as you make new friends and influence the influential.

**Virgo** (August 23 to September 22) Expectations run especially high this week, and you should feel confident in your abilities to take advantage of what might be offered. A colleague has some advice you might find helpful.

**Libra** (September 23 to October 22) A recent flurry of activity leaves you in need of a little breathing space, and you’d be wise to take it. Close family members should have an explanation about an emergency situation that just passed.

**Scorpio** (October 23 to November 21) An insensitive act makes a difficult situation more so. But try not to waste either your physical or emotional energies in anger. Move on and let others fill the cloid in on the facts of life.

**Sagittarius** (November 22 to December 21) It’s a good time to look into that training program or college course you’ve been considering. You might have a good place to use those sharpened skills sooner rather than later.

**Capricorn** (December 22 to January 19) Education dominates much of your aspect during this week. You might want to start checking out those summer session courses that could help advance your career plans.

**Aquarius** (January 20 to February 18) Progress often comes in fits and starts. But at least you’re moving straight ahead with no backsliding. You should soon be able to pick up the pace and reach your goals in due time.

**Pisces** (February 19 to March 20) Be wary of a deal that gives confusing answers to your questions. Remember: It’s always risky swimming in unknown waters, so you need all the help you can get to stay on course.

**Aries** (March 21 to April 19) You might not like some people’s idea of a surprise. But you could be in for a pleasant shock when someone finally sends a reply to a request you made so long ago that you almost forgot about it.

**Born This Week:** You have a way of bringing people together and creating close friendships wherever you go.

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**Puzzle Difficulty this week:**

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

* Moderate  ** Challenging  *** Expert

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LATEST FILMS

‘Iron Man 2’

★★½
Is it worth $10? No

“Iron Man 2” is big, loud, and more narcissistically self-indulgent than Tony Stark himself. Practically every scene screams “aren’t these visual effects fabulous?” or “look how sexy Scarlett Johansson is!” or “did you notice how awesome the visual effects look?” This movie has “blockbuster” written all over it. What it doesn’t have is a story.

Instead, director Jon Favreau’s popcorn-muncher has a number of subplots that fail to add up to a whole. Picking up where “Iron Man” (2008) left off, billionaire weapons manufacturer Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) has been asked by a smarmy senator (Garry Shandling) to reveal the secrets of his alter ego Iron Man suit. Lt. Col. James Rhodes (Don Cheadle, taking over for Terrence Howard and registering no difference) finds himself caught in the middle, and their tension manifests in a forced fight sequence in which much of Stark’s home is destroyed. As an aside: No billionaire superhero has ever so willingly destroyed his own home to the extent that Stark does here. I know money is no object to him, but his homeowner’s insurance must be exorbitant.

Justin Hammer (Sam Rockwell) is a weapons manufacturer and Stark’s rival. After seeing presumed-dead Russian physicist Ivan Vanko (Mickey Rourke) nearly kill Stark with electric whips (giving Vanko the name “Whiplash”), Hammer hires Vanko to create the weaponry needed to compete with the Iron Man suit. We’re told Vanko and Stark’s fathers were once partners, but Justin Theroux’s script forgets about that for the sake of watching Johansson in skin-tight suits. She plays Stark’s new assistant Natalie, and her presence makes Pepper Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow) look old.

Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) also makes an extended appearance, and most of his screen time moves the story sideways rather than forward. Marvel Comics fans understand his presence, but his relevance will not make sense to comic book fans. Mr. Rourke visited a real prison in Moscow to prepare for his role, and he wanted the majority of his dialogue to be in Russian (there’s some Russian, but not much). Also, the tattoos on Vanko’s body are authentically Russian in accordance with the character’s heritage and personal history.

“Captain America” next summer. The first “Iron Man” — which I liked but didn’t love — was a winner because of good action, an intriguing story, and Mr. Downey’s charm. That charm is certainly here again, but it’s not enough.

“Iron Man 2” is an example of why it’s hard for sequels to succeed: They need to embrace what the predecessor did correctly and build a newer, better product at the same time. “The Dark Knight” did this perfectly. “Iron Man 2” doesn’t even come close.

— Dan Hudak is the chairman of the Florida Film Critics Circle and a nationally syndicated film critic. You can e-mail him at dan@hudakonhollywood.com and read more of his work at www.hudakonhollywood.com.
Guy LaBree’s brushstrokes: A tribute to the Seminole nation

Reviewed by Philip K. Jason
Special to Florida Weekly

This attractive book is at once oral history, biography, art education, a glimpse into Seminole culture and a generous portfolio of the work of an outstanding self-taught artist. Carol Mahler manages to tell not only a good deal about the life of Guy LaBree, but also about the life of each painting.

As Ms. Mahler traces Mr. LaBree’s early years growing up in the community of Dania, near Fort Lauderdale, she details his grade school friendships with the Seminole children from the Dania Reservation who were his schoolmates. Many of those relationships have lasted until today.

Young Guy formed a bond with the Seminole people that matured and deepened over the years. He was fascinated by their traditions. In time, he became their spokesman in paint — that is, he translated their stories, legends and way of life into a glorious series of vivid, realistic with an uncanny touch of the supernatural. Lovers of the Florida landscape will cherish his paintings just for this element: his passionate rendering of the Everglades environment, including its animal life. The haunting “Fire Peril,” the idyllic “Almost Hog Heaven” and the surprising “Repeat Offender” are examples of the artist’s skillful representations of nature.

Elgin Jumper’s “Afterword” to the book includes a paragraph that says it all: “Guy has proven himself the preeminent artist of Seminole history, and he continues to treasure the remaining Florida wilderness, the traditional home and ally of the Seminoles. There is a sacred joy in painting and in art, and this is quite evident in the life and work of Guy LaBree. In his paintings, he is well-grounded truth personified. His knowledge, experiences, stories, anecdotes and insights about the Seminoles of Florida are considerable, rich and vivid.”

We have Ms. Mahler to thank for bringing Mr. LaBree to us in the pages of this important book. A noted humanities scholar, educator, story-teller, poet and program facilitator, she has worked tirelessly to promote interest in local and regional Florida history.

— More about Mr. LaBree is available at www.guylabree.com.

Guy LaBree wrestles an alligator.

Guy LaBree’s brushstrokes: A tribute to the Seminole nation

“Guy LaBree: Barefoot Artist of the Florida Seminoles” By Carol Mahler

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Scholarship winners shine throughout Naples Music Club recital

It’s been 45 years since Tom and Grace Truesdale founded the Naples Music Club. Since then, countless local musicians of all ages have benefited from the club’s efforts and programs. Among other things, the Truesdales helped bring the first classical music broadcast to Collier County in 1966, and they were responsible for getting musical instruments into the hands of children in some of the neediest schools in the area.

Forty years ago, the Naples Music Club awarded its first small grant to one student. Since then, more than 600 of our community’s best and brightest middle and high school music students have received more than $400,000 in scholarship aid.

But it wasn’t until 2008, however, that the club had its first student recital. The third annual program took place on a recent Sunday afternoon at First United Methodist Church. By any standards, the performances were light years away from my — and everyone’s — childhood nightmares of the dreaded word: Recital.

The 2010 Scholarship Winners Recital included quite a mix: There were three pianists, three violinists, three clarinetists, a cellist, two marimba students, two French horn students, one classical guitarist and a soprano in the mix. Many of the young artists were accompanied by Sergei Lugovsky.

Talented performers all, it seems hardly fair to tell you my hands-down picks of the afternoon. I believe every single performer is good to have a career as a musician upon completion of formal studies. Will they become a household name, a superstar? That remains to be seen.

It was most unfortunate that classical guitarist Joseph Peliska’s excellent performance of Fernando Sor’s “Variations on a Theme by Mozart” was impaired simply because amplification was sorely needed for the audience to hear him in the sanctuary. I also felt the marimba performers, Christian Ostolaza and Rafael Rivas, could also have benefitted from amplification. Other than those three performers, however, amplification was not a problem.

Five of the young performers were, quite simply, breathtakingly fine — so much so that the hair stood up on my arms.

Jared Blajian, a sophomore at Gulf Coast High School, gave what I believe is the finest performance I have ever heard by any cello student. His performance of Dvořák’s “Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104” was made even more astonishing by the fact he has only been studying the cello for one year, after switching from violin. Jared was the winner of the club’s Bert G. Phillips Award, which is sponsored by Classic Chamber Concerts; I could feel Bert’s spirit cheering on this wonderful performance.


The clarinetists (all students of Naples Philharmonic stars Paul Votapek and Ashley Raigle Leigh) were amazingly proficient, each of them practically dancing over his or her instrument.

But my pick of the afternoon went to seventh-grader Bennett Lanni, whose amazing performance of Aram Khachaturian’s complex “Sonatina for Piano” was something to behold. The possibility of greatness awaits this young man, and I trust the Naples Music Club will do everything in its power to encourage him as a pianist.

— Peg Goldberg Longstreth was trained as a classical musician. She owns Longstreth-Goldberg ART, a gallery in Naples.
Straw Hats

Last month, we asked readers to tell us a story based on the photograph shown here. We received some great tales about our climate and culture that explore universal themes of personal hardship and triumph. One of our favorites, by Naples resident Tara Miller, is reprinted here. We’ll launch the next Florida Weekly Fiction Challenge soon, so stay tuned. In the meantime, enjoy “Straw Hats.”

BY TARA MILLER
Special to Florida Weekly

We’re all hoarders to some extent, collecting all kinds of stuff (books, records, fishing lures) to fill the shadows and engage us in a conversation no one else can hear. My Aunt Martha, actually my Mom’s aunt, collected straw hats, some she said were made by local Seminole women. She also liked chipped pottery, believing every crack and crevice on the smooth surfaces told a story.

Aunt Martha had a shed back of her house on Old 41 with straw hats stuck on nails on the outside walls that was both a work of art and an intermittent conversation. The pottery pieces she didn’t use were stacked on plain wooden benches inside. Aunt Martha said some of these cups just sang the blues to her.

It was blurry and a bit over-exposed, but I thought it already looked like a bandage, bought a stack of cracked saucers she was going to use to set pots around her head that I thought looked like a bandage, bought a stack of cracked saucers she was going to use to set pots of violets on. I gave the smallest hat to another woman, who wore a scarf. I told her how the violets on. I gave the smallest hat to another woman, who wore a scarf. I told her how the violets on.

A few years later, mom had a yard sale followed by a garage sale. She kept speaking to me. I knew then I’d collect photographs.

But none of her suggestions fit, none of them said something only to me. It was during the summer of my 12th year that she gave me a photograph taken when she was 30 and my mom 5. I was struck by how much my mom looked like who she grew up to be and I was astonished when that photograph kept speaking to me. I knew then I’d collect photographs.

Not long after that I asked for a camera for Christmas, and my first photograph was of Aunt Martha in front of her shed, her hands cupped as if she knew something good would fill them.

We had tea parties in the shade of the wild banyan tree she said was there long before we were. We would each dress up a hat using ribbons and shells. Like finding an old photograph in your pocket. I explained how whatever she collected would speak only to her, while at the same time say something about her, too. And each time she visited her collection it would be like finding treasure buried in the sand. It’s like a gift, I said. Something special, like tea parties with cookies.

Like finding an old photograph in your pocket.
Youth orchestra joins the pros

Musicians from the Philharmonic Youth Orchestra play alongside professionals from the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra, and by themselves, in the season’s final Major/Minor Concert beginning at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 16, at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition winners Marcello Marsalli, Katie Nunner, Rachel Furtado and McClaran Hayes will be featured.

Guest conductor Dirk Meyer and Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Music Director Charles Gottschalk will lead the orchestra in a program that includes Bach’s Concerto for Violin No. 1, Brahms’ Hungarian Dance No. 6, Ravel’s “Pavane for a Dead Princess,” Copland’s “Variations on a Shaker Melody,” Strauss’ “Thunder and Lightning Polka,” Mendelssohn’s “Wedding March” from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and Brahms’ “Academic Festival Overture.”

Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for students.

Chamber ensembles perform gems

The string and woodwind ensembles of the Philharmonic Orchestra will be featured in Chamber No. 3: “20th Century Gems” at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 18, at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts.

Included on the program: Shostakovich’s Quartet for Strings No. 3, from 1946; Hindemith’s “Kleine Kammermusik (Little Chamber Music)” for Wind Quintet, from 1921; and Devienne’s charming viola, cello and bass.

— For tickets and more information about any of the above concerts, call 597-1900 or visit www.thephil.org.
**GOLFING NEWS**

**Bonita Bay adds discounted rounds Golf Book**

Bonita Bay has added 12 discounted rounds at its Cypress and Sabal golf courses to the 2010 Ultimate Experience Golf Book, which is sold by the ACE Group Classic. The book costs $130 and has 178 discounted rounds at 22 are golf courses. It is available at the PGA TOUR SuperStore or by calling 992-9900 or visiting www.theACEGroupClassic.com.

**Barron Collier Lacrosse Boosters plan scramble**

The Barron Collier Lacrosse Boosters is asking the community to come out Saturday, June 12, for a round of golf at Quail Creek Country Club. Cost is $25 per player and includes hot dog lunch, beverage cart, burger dinner and scrambled prizes.

To sign up, or to sponsor or make a donation to Barron Collier Lacrosse Boosters, call 732-255 or e-mail linclax@gmail.com.

**EWGA plans ladies’ pro-am tourney**

The Naples chapter of the Executive Women’s Golf Association holds its seventh annual EWGA Ladies’ Charity Pro-Am on Friday and Saturday, June 11-12, at The Quarry. The tournament will benefit the PACC Center for Girls in Immokalee and Collier County LPGA-USGA Girls Golf programs. It is one of the few all-women Pro-Am golf tournaments played in southwest Florida.

The event begins Friday evening with a buffet dinner, skills challenges, raffle prizes and a silent auction. The four-person scramble has a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, with an LPGA teaching pro in each foursome. An awards luncheon will follow play.

Cost is $300 per person for the Friday night party and tournament play. Guests are welcome to attend the Friday party and tournament play. To register or for more information, call Valerie Klosterman at 495-7636.

**Sports Camp Shootout set for The Quarry**

The third annual Sports Camp Shootout takes place Saturday, May 22, at The Quarry. Cost is $800 per player and includes 18 holes of championship golf with a cart, a box lunch from The Ale House and an awards banquet at the club. Players can also participate in a putting challenge, two longest drive contests, two closest-to-the-pin contests and a hole-in-one challenge to win a new car.

Proceeds benefit Sports Camp Inc., a nonprofit organization that helps Collier County families in need of after-school and summer childcare. Sports Camp’s mission is to provide a safe and successful after-school environment for children through physical, mental and scholastic activities.

Registration forms are online at www.sportsclubnaples.com and fees can be mailed to: Sports Camp Inc., P.O. Box 111030, Naples, FL 34108. For more information, call 296-6407 or 396-2093.

**Tee off with CBIA at Vineyards**

The Collier Building Industry Association and Insurance and Risk Management Services tee off at the Vineyards Country Club on Friday, June 4. Registration begins at noon, and the shotgun start is at 1 p.m. A scoreboard party and dinner will follow.

Cost is $125 per player. For reservations or to sponsor a hole, call 436-6000 or visit www.cbia.net.

**Bonita Bay East courses open for play**

Bonita Bay East, the 1,400-acre golf facility in North Naples with two award-winning, Tom Fazio-designed championship courses, is now open for daily play. The two courses wind through open areas, marsh and woodland and past cypress stands where players often see wild turkey, marsh birds, rabbits and white tailed deer.

Bonita Bay East’s site includes 895 acres of cypress wetlands, 190 acres of pine flats, lakes and hundreds of native sabal palms. It was the first 36-hole facility in the world to achieve Audubon International Signature Sanctuary status.

Five tee areas allow golfers to choose markers appropriate to their game; knolls, ridges, undulations and lakes create a game of strategy for all players. Golfers are invited to play the courses, dine in the 8,000-square-foot clubhouse overlooking the two finishing holes and take advantage of the state-of-the-art practice facility.

Bonita Bay East is on Immokalee Road six miles east of I-75. For additional information or to schedule a tee time, call 353-5000 or visit www.BonitaBayEast.com.

**Bonita chamber plans inaugural tourney**

The Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce is planning its inaugural Hackers & Smackers tournament on Saturday, June 5, at Copperleaf Golf Club. The shotgun scramble will tee off at 8:30 a.m. Participation is open to the public for $80 per person. For more information or to register, call 992-2943 or visit www.BonitaSpringsChamber.com.
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DI From page 1

The von Liebig Art Center and the Naples Princess partner to present Fit for a Princess cruises in celebra- tion of the art center’s “Princess Diana: Dresses of Inspiration” exhibition on view through June 27. On each Fit for a Princess cruise, style and image consultant Cheryl Lampard of Style Matters International discusses the world’s most famous royal family and their influence on fashion. All cruises are from 2-3:30 p.m. and depart from Port-O-Cali Marina at Tin City. Dates and topics are:

• May 13: Royal Fashions & Faux Pas: The royal fashions we followed — and those we didn’t
• May 27: Elizabethan Style: Royal style from Queen Elizabeth I to the current monarch, Queen Elizabeth II
• June 10: Royal Jewels
• June 24: Diana, Style Icon: The enduring style of Diana over three decades of fashion

Fit for a Princess cruise tickets are $49 and includes tax and donations to The von Liebig Art Center, Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support and the NCH Mammogram Fund. For reservations, call 649-2275 or visit www.naplesprincesscruises.com.

Admission to the “Princess Diana: Dresses of Inspiration” exhibition at The von Liebig is separate from the Fit for a Princess cruise price. For more information, call The von Liebig special events line, 262-6577, 15, or visit www.NaplesArt.org.
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Wicker furniture has been made since the days of ancient Egypt. The cradle for the first American baby born to the Pilgrims was made of wicker.

But the glory days of wicker furniture in America started on the docks of Boston in 1844. Cyrus Wakefield, a grocer, noticed volunteers taking away the rattan used to tie the ship’s cargo. He thought it would be a good material for furniture, so he experimented. Upon finding it worked well for chair parts and seats, he started importing rattan and selling it to others.

The business grew, and Mr. Wakefield began importing cane, the strips of bark from the rattan palm tree stalks, as well as the rattan itself. He continued to experiment and made furniture with bentwood and rattan fancywork. He worked with a machine that split the bark and used it for chairs, tables and other furniture. By the late 1870s, he was the country’s leading maker of wicker furniture.

Cyrus Heywood, a 19th-century chair-maker, began using wicker, too. He owned a loom that wove cane into sheets to make set-in seats. The two companies were rivals until they merged in 1897.

The popularity of ornate Victorian styles and Japanese designs helped increase sales of wicker furniture. But tastes changed in about 1900. The straight lines of arts and crafts furniture, the introduction of forced-air home heating (which dried out wicker) and new furniture styles created by Austrian designers changed the way manufacturers used wicker. By the 1930s, wicker furniture was scorned, and Heywood-Wakefield was making light-colored wooden furniture in new, simple modern designs. Wicker did not regain its popularity until the 1990s.

Ms. Kovel answers your questions:

Q: I have a blue-and-white cup and saucer I received as a wedding gift. The pieces each have a stamped mark on the bottom with “R & M Co.” inside a diamond. They are decorated with pictures of musicians and composers. Haydn, Gounod, Wagner and Meyerbeer are on the cup; Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin and Mendelssohn are on the saucer. Can you tell me when the cup and saucer were made and how much they’re worth?

A: Souvenir plates and cups picturing famous people and places and historical events were very popular from the 1890s until World War I. They are often marked with the maker’s name, the importer’s name or both. Your cup and saucer were originally sold by Rowland & Marsellus, a New York City importing company that was in business from about 1893 to 1937. They imported plates, cups, saucers, vases and other items from different potteries in the Staffordshire district of England. Your cup and saucer are worth about $100.

Q: When was the first Frisbee made? I collect plastic Frisbees with advertising or logos on them. I am trying to determine their age.

A: The modern Frisbee was invented in 1948 by a man named Fred Morrison. The original Frisbee was made of wood and was marketed as a toy for children. The modern Frisbee is made of plastic and is designed for flying and catching. The first commercial Frisbee was made in 1957 by Wham-O, a company based in Los Angeles. The original Frisbee was made of wood and was marketed as a toy for children. The modern Frisbee is made of plastic and is designed for flying and catching. The first commercial Frisbee was made in 1957 by Wham-O, a company based in Los Angeles.
KOVEL
From page A10
other decorations.

At The Frisbee Pie Co. of Bridgeport, Conn., were the inquisi-
tion for the toy we know today. It is said that bakery workers took breaks and went outside and played catch with the tin. Soon some college stu-
dents also played with the tins.

But perhaps the real begin-
ing of the Frisbee came in the mid 1940s. Walter Morrison and Warren Franscioni started Pepco in Los Angeles and made dollars of plastic they called Flyin’
Saucers. They began demonstrating the toy on beaches and started selling it, but money problems closed the company. In 1953 Mor-
ris decide on a deal with him and began to sell the toy. College kids called them “Frisbees” and eventually the name stuck. The plastic disc sold by Wham-O changed its name to Frisbee in 1956. Since then, millions of Frisbees have been sold, and Walter Morrison became rich. He died in February at the age of 90.

Q: I found several old stock and bond cer-
tificates in my attic and wonder if they are still worth anything. The stock certificate is for 20 shares of Polish American Naviga-
tion Corp., issued in 1920. There are two

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Write to Kovel, (Florida Weekly), King
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York, NY 10019.

A: The Polish American Navigation
Corp. operated cargo and passenger
ships between New York and Danzig
(now Gdanz), Poland, between 1919 and
1924. The company closed in

January 1922. The National City
Bank of New York is now part of Citigroup. Your stock and bonds probably have minimal value as col-
lections since they are not ornately decorated, elabo-
rate or engraved or signed by a famous person.

There are companies that specialize in research-
ing old stocks and bonds; they charge a fee. They
can be interested in buying the stocks and
bonds. You can do the research yourself, if you’re
ambitious. Try your library. Look in the
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Information Inc.) or Capital Changes Daily
(Commerce Clearing House). You also can
contact the U.S. Securities and Exchange
Commission at SEC Headquarters, 100 F St.
N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549 or online at
www.sec.gov/answers/oldsec.htm. Even if
the certificates cannot be redeemed, they
may have value as decorative art.

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Eat like a king at Hilton Naples

Dine like, well, royalty at “Dine Like Royalty” at Shula’s Steakhouse on Sunday, June 27. The six-course wine dinner will benefit Bosom Buddies, the NCH Mammogram Fund and The von Liebig Art Center Scholarship Fund.

Special guests will be Darren McGardy, former senior chef at Buckingham palace and the late Princess Diana’s personal chef; Suzanne King, owner of several of the princess’ gowns that are on display at The von Liebig; and Richard Dalton, the princess’ hairdresser.

Hosts for the evening are e’Bella magazine and Marianna Foggin of Coldwell Banker. A champagne reception begins at 6 p.m. Tickets are $150 per person or $225 for VIP seating with one of the guests of honor. For reservations or more information, call 591-2709.

Tea dance will benefit ICAN

It’s the official party of the summer, and everyone is invited. Make a difference and dance for a cause at the Red Ribbon Tea Dance to benefit the Island Coast AIDS Network from 2-6 p.m. Saturday, June 12, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort.

Dance the afternoon away to the music of Tommy T on the hotel’s Caloosa Terrace. A celebrity dunk tank will be part of the fun.

Tickets for $50 per person include a picnic buffet. There will be a cash bar, plus numerous auction items. For more information and to purchase tickets, call ICAN at 337-2391, ext. 211, or e-mail Mitch Haley at mhaley@icanswfl.com.

Area concierges plan dinner dance

The Southwest Florida Concierge & Guest Service Association is holding a dinner dance and silent auction beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, June 25, at the Hilton Naples.

Among the “Concierge Favorites” up for bid will be: A chef’s dinner for 10 at Shula’s Steakhouse; a Hawaiian fusion cooking class for 10 at Roy’s; dinners

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Tickets are $30 per person; there will be a cash bar. For reservations, call 877-4607 or e-mail hotesparkie@aol.com.

Have a heart for Hospital Ball

We don’t have a lot of details yet, but we do have the date and we know that the NCH Hospital Ball on Saturday evening, Oct. 23, at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples, will benefit NCH Cardiology. Co-chairs are Sharon Treiser and Ellin Goetz; auction co-chairs are Stacey Herring and Vicki Tracy; sponsorship chair is Jeanette Simmermon. That’s enough information to warrant saving the date until the formal invitation arrives in the mail. For more information, call 436-4511 or e-mail foundation@nchmd.org.

Beatles party will benefit Youth Haven

The first-ever British Invasion to benefit Youth Haven takes place from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, May 22, on the rooftop parking deck at Mercato. The ideal answer to a hard day’s night, the festivities will take concertgoers back to the ’60s with a musical tribute to The Beatles by the tribute band Let It Be. The Pub at Mercato will provide food and drink with British flair.

Tickets for $75 per person include hors d’oeuvres, one drink ticket, musical entertainment and valet parking. Groovy attire is encouraged. For more information, call Jamie Gregor at 687-5153 or e-mail jamie.gregor@youthhaven.net.

Sea Salt evening will benefit, Exploited Children

Sea Salt on Third Street South is hosting a wine dinner to benefit the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children on Wednesday, Nov. 10. Save the date and watch here for details.

Ring in 2011 with Paul Anka and the Philharmonic

It’s never too early to make plans for New Year’s Eve. Ring in 2011 with Paul Anka and members of the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra at the Phil. Early birds can celebrate with champagne and hors d’oeuvres at 5 p.m. followed by a 6 p.m. performance. Those who like to stay up late can enjoy a 9:30 p.m. performance followed by dessert and champagne. Either way, tickets are $129 per person, $200 for limited “guest circle” seating. Reserve your spot now by calling 597-1000.

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

COURTESY PHOTOS

The David Lawrence Center and Foundation
Patron party and luncheon welcome Christopher Kennedy Lawford

2. Truly Nolen (seated), Robin Stranahan, Kathryn Rieger, Suzanne Otterbeck, Valerie Dieten, Penny Anderson and Cindy Carlson at the patron party
3 David Lawrence Center Alumni Association volunteers with Christopher Kennedy Lawford
4. Christopher Kennedy Lawford with Penny and Lee Anderson

COURTESY PHOTOS

FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY
Racing for Rescues
A Derby Day benefit for Humane Society Naples

1. Mary Jane Vestman, Joseph Libertelli, Mildred and Millic Schott
2. Patricia Connell and Sue Haberkorn
3. Ellyn Graycen
4. Lisa Maness and Joan Hartman
5. Mitzi Nicholas, Arlene Weil and Sonja Grove

COURTESY PHOTOS
We take more society and networking photos at area events than we can fit in the newspaper. So, if you think we missed you or one of your friends, go to www.floridaweekly.com and view the photo albums from the many events we cover. You can purchase any of the photos too.

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

1. Beverly Horton, Dick Munro, Alan Horton, Myra Daniels and Jane Thompson
2. The 2010 Golden Apple recipients
3. Mary Asta, Kathy Connelly, Craig Trevelyan, Stacey Herring and Jennifer Aureye
4. Shannon Rumpous, Cindy Obrecht, Krystal Delle Chiaie, Consttance Byrne, Angie Nourse, Donna Brown, Marquis and Lindsay Horne
5. Maciele Fernandez, Kaleigh Grover, Brian Stock and Claudine Legge-Wettzel
6. Laurie Nowlin and Jessica Flores
Dining out can be a delightful experience or a complete disaster. Here are some capsule summaries of previous reviews:

➤ Angelina’s, 24041 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; 390-3837
This gorgeous remake of the old Sani-bel Steakhouse is a knockout, especially the glass-enclosed tower with spiral staircase that shelters Angelina’s stellar wine collection. The Italian food of chef Nick Costanza is vibrant and imaginative. A ceviche trio—tuna, scallops and grouper with shaved fennel, grapefruit-radicchio salad and yellow pepper relish — was as much a work of art as an appetizer. The house-made pasta was as much a work of art as an entree. The staff is attentive and imaginative.
Food: ★★★★★★ Service: ★★★★★★ Atmosphere: ★★★★★

➤ AZN, Mercato, 918 Strada Place, Naples; 593-8818
This chic Pan-Asian establishment does a fine job of delivering the best of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Indian and Vietnamese fare as well as intriguing cocktails, sake and a well-chosen wine list. Both the Shanghai spring roll and a dumpling combination (two each of shrimp, vegetable and pork) were beautifully plated. The spring roll was crisp, with great texture and enhanced with a side of mango vinaigrette. Wanchai walnut shrimp wasn’t as colorful as other dishes, but the fried shrimp bathed in lemon aioli and topped with honey-dusted churrir with fleur de sel caramel and cayenne fudge sauces. Service was exemplary, as was the wine list. Full bar.
Food: ★★★★★★ Service: ★★★★★★ Atmosphere: ★★★★★

➤ Ridgeway Bar & Grill, Third Street South and 13th Avenue South; 262-5500
Chef Tony Ridgway and his business partner, wine expert Sukie Honeycutt, have been integral members of the Naples dining scene for more than two decades and they still deliver inventive food and intriguing wines with gracious hospitality. The menu features top-drawer ingredients — crab cakes full of big chunks of crab, shaved slices of grana padano atop a well-balanced Caesar, fresh Florida seafood and a house-made apple galette with cinnamon ice cream that caused sighs of contentment from all at our table. Whether it’s comfort fare, such as a Bell & Evans herb-roasted chicken, or something more contemporary, like the grilled red snapper with mango salsa and potato and artichoke gratin, it’s perfectly prepared and artfully plated. The staff is as polished and appealing as the menu. Full bar.
Food: ★★★★★★ Service: ★★★★★★ Atmosphere: ★★★★★

➤ Stoney’s Steakhouse, 403 Bayfront Place, Naples; 435-9353
I’m generally not big fan of steak-houses, but Stoney’s is a noteworthy exception. An independent restaurant, Stoney’s oozes grandeur and treats its customers like treasured guests while also providing great value and quality. From the oversized chairs with extra pillows for comfort to the vast wine list, the tableside preparation of prime rib, bananas Foster and cherries jubilee, and the stellar service, Stoney’s makes a meal a special occasion. I can recommend the French onion soup (which comes with a pair of scissors for snipping the cheese), a lobster-stuffed portobello mushroom, the well-seasoned prime rib, grouper Provençal over Parmesan risotto and the aforementioned cherries jubilee. An added bonus: Entrees come with side dishes included in the price. Full bar.
Food: ★★★★★★ Service: ★★★★★★ Atmosphere: ★★★★★

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Even though it’s in a shopping center, the British Open Pub in Bonita Springs has the ambiance of a neighborhood joint, where customers and the management all seem to meld into one convivial bunch.

During a recent dinner there, I lost count of the number of people who spent time chatting with the friendly hostess or shooting the breeze with the manager. Quite a few mingled with customers at other tables as well, their conversations about travel, family and their most recent golf games making it clear they were well acquainted.

As my companion and I were newcomers, we were made to feel welcome as well, by the aforementioned hostesses, who handed us a numbered golf ball (the pub’s substitute for flash- ing pages), the bartender who offered us drinks as we waited for our table, the server who waited on us and the manager who stopped by to see how we liked what we were eating.

The room lends itself to that sort of camaraderie, with its hunter green walls sporting photos of golfers, displays of antique golf balls, the occasional club, scenes of the British countryside along with whimsical touches about the room.

The booths, which were the predomin- ant seating options in the dining room, had comfortable red upholstered bench- es made for settling in and raising a pint or two.

The menu isn’t huge, but it offers quite a few British specialties along with some American staples such as chicken wings and pizza.

As you might expect, there are plenty of beers from which to choose. We ordered a Bass ale and a dry vodka martini, both of which were nicely chilled and refreshing on what had turned out to be a pretty steamy day.

We started off with the baked Brie ($8.50) and sausage rolls ($6.95).

The latter consisted of four delicately seasoned sausages each wrapped in a light pastry crust. They were hot and fresh, but their presentation was under-whelming with the four rolls simply piled on a small plate atop a lettuce leaf. I had liked some mustard, which would have added color to the dish as well as a tangy bite, and perhaps a pickle to add some sourness.

The Brie, by contrast, was beautifully executed, the wedge of cheese topped with sliced almonds, a small loaf of hot bread on one side and apple slices fanned out around the plate’s perimeter, with melba sauce drizzled over them. The cheese was warm and gooey, and both the bread and apples paired well with it, espe- cially with a few of the nuts for crunch and a touch of the raspberry sauce.

We had to do a bit of shuffling with the appe- tizer plates when the entrees arrived, but they, too, were steaming hot and fresh. My compan- ion had classic fish and chips ($12.95), while I tried chicken and mushroom pie ($11.95). A large fillet of flaky cod came out perfectly fried, accompanied by thick fries, peas, tartar sauce and a wedge of lemon. It was both colorful and appetizing. If there was one thing I’d change, it would be to add some seasoning to the bread, which was on the bland side.

Fried cod and large fries with tartar sauce constitute a proper version of fish and chips.

A large puff pastry sat on the plate. The server then opened it up and poured the chicken, mushrooms and creamy sauce into it at the table. It kept the pastry from getting soggy and was a love- ly way to serve it. It, too, came with thick fries.

Warm, chewy bread pudding ($5.50) with raisins served in a pool of cream made for a sat- isfying dessert.

Although our server was busy and occasionally took a bit longer to get to us than we’d like, the lapses weren’t extended or troubling. He made sure that we had a sufficient amount to drink, that the dishes served were to our lik- ing and that our meal was moving along without incident.

While there’s no cutlery around broken here, what’s served is well prepared and true to its origins. Prices are reason- able, and the friendly spirit that prevails provides ample reason to become part of the pub family.

In the know

British Open Pub, 24060 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; (849) 206-3840.

Rating:

Food: ★★★★½
Service: ★★★★
Atmosphere: ★★★★½

Hours: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Reservations: No
Credit cards: Major cards accepted.
Price range: Appetizers, $3.25-$9.95; entrees, $8.95-$13.95
Beverages: Full bar
Parking: Lots.

Specialties of the house: Sausage rolls, chicken alfredo, the gray beer-battered onion rings, fish and chips, bangers and mash, cottage pie, Cornish pasties.

Volume: Moderate to high
Parking: Free lot

Submit event listings to karen@floridaweekly.com.

Karen Feldman Florida Weekly

Baked Brie, served with warm bread, apples and melba sauce, makes a great starter for two or more to share.

Karen Feldman Florida Weekly

British Open Pub makes guests feel like family

second summer wine dinner features a tour of Tuscany. On the menu: lobster and goat cheese cannelloni, citrus rock shrimp with butter and fennel pollen, slow-roast- ed loin of Niman Ranch pork stuffed with sausage and peppers, charred rappini and cannellini beans two ways, Chian- tish breaded short ribs, jamon and ricotta cheese croquette, and hazelnut torte, all paired with highly rated wines; $89, 24041 S. Tamiami Trail, Naples; 239-301-3840. Reservations required.

Thursday, May 20, 5:30-8 p.m.: Decanted: The Ultimate Wine Throwdown features top wines from area dis- tributors; limited to 50 people; $25, 1410 Pine Ridge Road; 434-3844. Reservations required.

Saturday, May 15, noon, Robb & Stucky KitchenAid Culinary Center: Chef Martin Murphy creates antipasto platters with traditional Italian flavors; $55, 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; 299-5550. Reservations required.

Thursday, May 13, 246-3840. Reservations required.

Wednesday, May 19, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Robb & Stucky KitchenAid Culinary Center: Chef Martin Murphy creates antipasto platters with traditional Italian flavors; $35, 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; (866) 206-3840. Reservations required.

Tuesday, May 18, 5:30-8 p.m., Decanted: Taste Trappist beers, pale ales and other Belgian brews; $5, 1410 Pine Ridge Road; 434-3844. Reservations required.

Monday, May 17, 6 p.m., Whole Foods Market in Downtown Naples; $10, Mercato, 901 S. Ocean Blvd; 552-5000. Register at www.acevantas.com/Go/LifestyleCenter.

Saturday, May 15, 6:30 p.m., Robb & Stucky KitchenAid Culinary Center: Chef Martin Murphy demystifies fish and demonstrates easy ways to prepare it at home; $40, 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; (866) 206-3840. Reservations required.

Dining Calendar

Sunday, May 16, 6-8 p.m., Fuji Sushi Bar & Asian Bistro Join the Fuji team for the restaurant’s last evening with host Shipiki Kamio featuring four premium cold sake pairs with four tapas dishes; $40, 6355 Naples Blvd; 399-3550. Reservations required.

Wednesday, May 19, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Robb & Stucky KitchenAid Culinary Center: Chef Martin Murphy creates antipasto platters with traditional Italian flavors; $35, 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; (866) 206-3840. Reservations required.

Wednesday, May 19, noon, Robb & Stucky KitchenAid Culinary Center: Chef Martin Murphy creates antipasto platters with traditional Italian flavors; $35, 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; (866) 206-3840. Reservations required.

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Real estate isn’t even the first domino. Everything that happens in real estate can happen because of other things,” Norris said at a conference earlier this year. In this report, I’m looking at all those other things and finally seeing that they play a big part, if not the biggest part, in how things work out,” said Norris.

The report shows the various government programs for delinquent and financially challenged homeowners and reveals a disturbing fact. “All the delinquency trends for all the types of loans are up,” said Norris. “It doesn’t matter if it’s prime or sub-prime.” “The national average is 13.2 percent for total non-current (both delinquencies and foreclosures), California ranks at 15 percent, Illinois at 14 percent, Pennsylvania at 10.7 percent, and Florida, the highest, at 23.5 percent. “My friend Alex lives in Florida in Orlando and houses that were selling for $180,000 to $220,000, he’s regularly buying for $200,000 to $220,000,” said Norris.

The national average for the total non-current FHA loans (including delinquencies and foreclosures) is 17.4 percent. California is at 9.7 percent, Illinois at 21.3 percent, Pennsylvania at 15.3 percent, and Florida is at 23.8 percent.

Norris thinks this will provoke more usage of the 203(K) Mortgage by HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development). The “Streamline” (K) Limited Repair Program permits homeowners to finance an additional $35,000 into their mortgage to improve or upgrade their home before move-in. “They’ll actually loan you more than the house is worth, intentionally,” said Norris. “Right now it’s only available for owner-occupants but I’m sure that’s about to change,” he said.

“All of us who thought that we were going to see REOs (real estate owned by lending institutions) all over the place for the last few years are quite surprised,” he said. “It’s because there was intervention.” But how will that intervention and the aging population impact us? The report states that having a Federal debt that is trillions of dollars (and growing) and the size of the baby boomer generation will cause big changes that affect finances and real estate. “You’re going to expect higher taxes,” he said. Norris predicts, maybe even up to 45 percent for top tax bracket in 2011 and possibly higher after that. “If we’re going to try to resolve some of our problems and pay for stuff that’s gone on in the past, I think you’re going to have to say ‘We’re going to have to pay some higher taxes.” Norris also predicts higher unemployment, aging consumers buying less and saving more which he says will mean more burden on the government due to fewer tax revenues and greater expense for government.

Perhaps the good news is the prediction for consistently low interest rates. “This is one of the conclusions that I didn’t think I was going to come up with. I really thought that we’d probably have some scary interest rates but I just don’t think so. Without an overheated economy, I don’t see the big inflation risk for the next period of time. I see the big picture that it could be very scary but for the length of time that I’m trying to cover in this report, I’m not as afraid of it as I thought I’d be,” said Norris.

He thinks over the next eight years, interest rates will be under 8 percent “and you may have times where they are as cheap as they are now.” Norris anticipates milder price increases in real estate as well as a decline in ownership coupled with a constant inventory available. The report also points out something that buyers are already facing, “regulation of finance markets might make it harder to get finance.” He predicts the median price to increase for California to approximately $460,000 in the beginning of 2018 due to factors such as migration. And if the employment conditions improve in the state, Norris thinks migration numbers will do even better, helped in part due to retirees moving into the state. Norris expects more emphasis on housing for seniors, which seems to be a trend in many states.

“I view the next eight years as a pivotal turning point,” Norris said. “I see the big picture that it could be very scary but for the length of time that I’m trying to cover in this report, I’m not as afraid of it as I thought I’d be,” said Norris.

The good news is that Norris predicts less volatility in the real estate market and expects increases, albeit, not as drastic as in the past.

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