Naples man is friend of the last of Doolittle’s Raiders

BY ROGER WILLIAMS
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Retrospect is a great trivializer for many, but not for Fred Valentine, at 94 a vibrant Neapolitan still young enough to celebrate a living hero, the last of 80. He’s still struck to his core by what those men did starting 75 years ago this week, he says: In 132 days between Dec. 7, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and April 18, 1942 — led by Lt. Col. James Doolittle and his co-pilot, Lt. Richard Cole — they traded comfortable flatland lives on stateside Army airbases for the heaving deck of the U.S.S. Hornet deep in the western Pacific Ocean, sailing eastward in great peril.

Mr. Valentine, a veteran himself, befriended Mr. Cole, the last of Doolittle’s Raiders, and flew to Comfort, Texas, to visit him in August.

“None of them knew if they would come back,” he says simply, a man awed not only by their courage in embarking, but by the sheer audacity of the feat.

Retired as a lieutenant colonel from a 30-year Air Force career, Mr. Cole, now 101, of Naples, calls Richard Cole, 101, a friend and a hero.

SEE RAIDERS, A11

COURTESY PHOTO

Fred Valentine, left, of Naples, calls Richard Cole, 101, a friend and a hero.

Wayne Sallade, the retiring emergency operations manager for Charlotte County and west coast weather guru, may be the only human left in the region who’s seized a real estate opportunity with money from the now decade-old, pre-recession boom — the one that led to the crash, which in turn led to the energetic market growth of the last six years, which finally brought us to a “flattened” or slightly diminished 2016 market from Naples to Port Charlotte.

“For 11 years, I never touched the money from (a house sale) in 2005 — we just sat on it,” he says.

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The government of the United States is not known for its efficiency. But it functions as a well-oiled machine when it comes to the unrelenting screwing of our Native American population.

The government has been shafting Native Americans for so long that it has almost become second nature. So routine is this institutionalized mistreatment that most of us give it little thought.

Our history is befouled by the brutalization and displacement of Native Americans, which began shortly after the first Europeans arrived. From there it was a short hop to the Trail of Tears, the establishment of a “Permanent Indian Frontier” (which was scandalously short-lived), the Indian Wars, countess broken promises and treaties and the establishment of reservations that remain a source of national disgrace.

Andrew Jackson, the architect of the Trail of Tears, was hailed by Americans, which began shortly after the first Europeans arrived. From there it was a short hop to the Trail of Tears, the establishment of a “Permanent Indian Frontier” (which was scandalously short-lived), the Indian Wars, countess broken promises and treaties and the establishment of reservations that remain a source of national disgrace.

This blatantly racist theory still holds. According to a lawsuit filed late last month, some 200 protesters have been injured. Their injuries included seizures, facial burns, broken bones, bruises and eye damage. One woman, the suit claims, nearly lost her arm.

Taylor, a Lakota warrior of the plains, whose call to battle was “hoka hey,” hoka hey, when loosely translated, means “It is a good day to die!”

It is excruciatingly sad that so little attention has been paid to this affair. Had this sort of ferocious treatment been unleashed on other oppressed minorities — African Americans, Latinos, members of the LGBT community, Muslims, to name a few — the outrage would have been overwhelming.

It is mildly encouraging that not everyone is turning a blind eye. Some 2,000 military veterans were converging on North Dakota, vowing to act as “human shields” for the protesters. Tulsi Gabbard, an iconoclastic congresswoman from Hawaii, has joined the fray. The vets and Ms. Gabbard are true heroes. The media will pay close attention only if the violence escalates to horrific levels. Otherwise, this will be just a curious little story about Native Americans raising hell in North Dakota.

The odds are stacked against the tribes, for sure, but they persist, unafraid and undaunted. They live in the grand tradition of Crazy Horse, the fierce Lakota warrior of the plains, whose call to battle was “hoka hey.” Hoka hey, when loosely translated, means “It is a good day to die!”

Ominously, given the officially sanctioned violence that has occurred so far, hoka hey might be an appropriate rallying cry for those brave souls who seek justice for Native Americans in the frozen wastelands of North Dakota.

Native Americans have been physically protesting the pipeline, and it has turned ugly. North Dakota law enforcement agencies have dealt harshly with the protesters. To quell demonstrations, authorities have employed sound cannons, tear gas grenades and rubber bullets. They also used a skin-peeling, high-pressure, hothot rain of water cannon on the crowd in sub-freezing temperatures.

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Note: The Army Corps of Engineers will pay close attention to the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and its supporters. It is a good day to die!
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**Bitter harvest**

The Founding Fathers planted their flag on the highest of grounds. But they knew the creed was aspirational. They were no strangers to human bondage and in many former colonies. But more purpose was their construct. It was the rock upon which to build a young nation toward a transformative form of self-government found nowhere else in the world. This was the toughest of tough love. It was the founding parents’ plan of discipines. And the Founders intended it as an instructional, democratic, hopeful form.

President-elect Trump repudiates this vision. He wants to arrogate the creed with an authoritarian form of government that is antithetical to democratic. If he can come to see the call of the nation’s Charters of Freedom. It includes the Declaration of Indepen- dence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, documents foundational to our democracy. They have guaranteed the rights of at least half of all Americans for more than 200 years.

Their prologue is a revolutionary principle unique to the United States and its form of democratic governance. It states “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Cre- ator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” This is the American creed, the fundamental principle through which government is granted the consent of the governed. The Founding Fathers intended it so.

Adherence to the creed is a true test of whether we are worthy of equal protection under the law ensures the rights and responsibilities of citizenship are broadly shared.

President Barack Obama won’t explicitly say this, but he is on the wrong side of history, but surely he believes it.

The president basically thinks anyone who deviates in his way is transgressing the larger forces of history with a capital “H.” In 2008, he declared John McCain “on the wrong side of history right now” (the “right now” was a generous touch — allowing for the possibility that McCain might get right with History at some future date).

Obama takes a particular strain of this phrase and argument obse- sively. It is deeply embed- ded in his, and the larger progressive, mind — and frequently contributed to the left’s catastrophic defeat on Nov. 8.

For the left, History is not a vast, unpre- dictable, untamable force, but has all the characteristics of a stereotypical Whole Foods shopper. History reads The Huff-ington Post, and follows Lena Dunham on Twitter. It really cares whether trans- gender people get to use the appropriate bathroom. History was probably hanging out at the Javits Center on election night, and collapsed into a puddle of tears right around the time Ways and Means was called.

The political dangers of this point of view should now be obvious: It assumes that certain classes of people are retrograde. Why would Democrats bother to try to appeal to working-class whites if they are stamped with the disapproval of History?

It becomes a warrant for all manner of things. History is evidently favored try- ing to get nuts to sign up for contrac- tives they didn’t want and forcing small businesses to bake gay weddings. And, if History is right to have an ascendant electoral coalition (and a hell of a data operation), it creates an unjudicious sense of political impotence. This is what the theorists of the “emerging Democratic majority,” and most pundits on the left, believe: The whole of its resurrection.

Meanwhile, liberals are licking their wounds and publicly shamed. Self- recriminations proliferate as the sum of their failures total up to nothing controlled everything. The most-oft repeated narrative? The vote for Trump was the primal scream of hard-working (white) Americans tired of being on the losing side of economic prosperity. Voting for a racist, xenophobic, sexual predator was therefore seen as justifiable. So, shame on everyone who didn’t feel the pain and fear of the (white) working class. A vote for Trump was their cry for help. And, oh, yes. Not all people who voted for Trump are racist or sexophobes. I get it. But it doesn’t change the fact decent people voted for someone who is all those things. This isn’t a figment of the liberal imagination.

But Trump is a hero to extremist, right-wing groups advocating for a white suprema- cy. Trump’s “chief strategist and senior counselor,” Steve Bannon, is on record for encouraging conspiracy theo- ries and anti-Semitic, racist and misog- ynic rhetoric. He is the white nationalists’ desk in the White House.

The yield of nativist, racist spawn — a strange and bitter crop” that targets the most troubled past, and Trump is the sym- bol of its resurrection. It is a “strange and bitter crop” that awaits the nation’s harvest.

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**Leslie Lilly is a native Floridian. Her professional career spans more than 25 years leading major philanthropic institutions in the South and Appalachia. She writes frequently on issues of politics, public policy, and philanthropy, earning national recognition for her leadership in the charitable sector, her family and her community.**

Email her at lilley@floridaweekly.com and read past blog posts on Tumblr at lilley15.Tumblr.com.
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Karen Conley is the founder, president and CEO of Charity for Change, a nonprofit organization currently serving 10,000 afterschool, summer school and in-school K-5 students with its animated community service, math and character education Giver Program (see www.charityforchange.org).

In existence for nine years now, Charity for Change is best known for its Giver Program — which has reached more than 10,000 children weekly in the 2014-15 school year.

Providing a weekly curriculum, the Giver Program engages elementary school children in standards based on math, supporting STEM and aligning with what the students are learning in the school day. An interactive program, it provides teachers and parents with support, is fun, engaging and volunteering their time while learning (vetted in advance by Charity for Change) charities the students/classrooms select.

Karen’s prior community service includes co-founding Naples Equestrian Challenge; Board of Directors of Senior Friendship Centers; Grant Committees of Community Foundation of Collier County and Champions for Learning.

Karen is a 2002 graduate of the Greater Naples Leadership Masters Program. She is a recipient of the Jefferson Award for Public Service; Florida Weekly Power Women Award; and Women of Achieve-ment Award from the Association of University Women.

Karen’s previous experience includes eight years as manager of Second Chance Foundation, a nonprofit organization currently serving 10,000 afterschool, summer school and in-school K-5 students with its animated community service, math and character education Giver Program (see www.charityforchange.org).

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December 2016
Dear Friend,

It’s that time of year and we’d like to take a moment to wish you and your loved ones a very safe and happy holiday season.

We invite you to share in the spirit of giving during our partnership with the Salvation Army Angel Tree program, where you can donate new and unwrapped toys to children in need in your community.

While shopping at Bealls for our exclusive brands that celebrate the unique Florida lifestyle such as Leoma Lovegrove® or Reel Legends®, we invite you to register to win a shopping spree or a brand new boat! This year we are giving away many prizes including a Reel Legends® custom-wrapped Hell’s Bay 18 foot Glades Skiff boat, complete with an Evinrude 30HP motor and a custom trailer valued at $39,500.

You are the reason Bealls has been a part of the Florida community for more than 100 years, and we would like to thank you for your continued support. We look forward to many, many more years together and wish you and your family a sunshine-filled holiday season and a very Merry Christmas!

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Bealls Department Stores, Inc.

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Senior Vice President
Bealls Department Stores, Inc.

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“We’ve been through six years of double-digit recovery — positive permitted growth — and this is the first year where we saw it not only level off, but we saw a slight decrease in building permits pulled in the three-county area, for multi-family and single-family construction. So there’s no clear crystal ball for 2017 and 2018, and so many changing dynamics.”

— Randy Thibault, a long-time analyst and the owner and founder of Land Solutions Inc.
Baby boomers' influence on the housing market is substantial as they continue to age and retire. These older adults often seek homes that accommodate their individual needs, such as those with low HOA fees for the over-55 set, and buyers can pick up villas on a golf course for $60,000. “It's a good deal if you are a golfer, otherwise the fees make it unattractive,” Mr. Green says.

The problem is we’re running out of those homes,” notes Mr. Thibault. “The interest-rate conundrum, he explains: “Think of it this way: For every one percent of increase in interest rates, that's $20,000 less buying power the buyer has.”

So if a buyer can qualify for a $275,000 house and the interest rate goes up even one percent, that drops the buyer to a $255,000 qualification. When the millennial or the boomerang buyer enters the market and decides to buy — and that sometimes happen when they get married or there's a birth event — they're affected by interest rate increases.”

But there's a yin and a yang in the interest-rate conundrum, he explains: “Buyers moving down from the north-east and Midwest, maybe for retire-ments, their earnings have not kept up with their expenses after five or six years of low interest rates. So now they're coming to our sunshine with less buying power. But if the interest rates go up, there will be a lag time, maybe two or three years, but they'll have more buying power.”

Meanwhile, to find the best deals at the sweet spot, look east, he suggests, and north. “All that is where for the next 24 months the meat of the market will lie.”

Babcock Ranch in southern Charlotte County is zoned for 19,000 new homes. How will it affect the real estate market nearby?

“Syd Kitson is creating a longer vision for the decades to come, as far as where growth is going to go,” offers Randy Thibault, a long-time market analyst. “In the meantime, it’s fortu-nate he has a long-term vision and the staying power because the seeding of that large a community takes time. And it will take three to five more years to see the fruits of all that labor and to test the success of his vision because there is so much work to be done to create so big a project. "In the meantime, some of his chal-lenges will be other projects: the tran-sitional market between infill and outlying suburban areas all the way to LaBelle. “What we’re see-ing come to life and where there are new-home increas-es and permit val-ues in places like River Hall and Portico, you have an inventory of existing communities that have infrastructure, shopping, they’re close to I-75 — so for the next two to three years they will absorb buyers, and Babcock Ranch will be competing with them. “Beyond the next two, three or four years: Those projects will get sold out, and Kitson will be in the meat of the market.”

If you’re not on the waiting list, you can probably pick up villas on a golf course for $60,000. “It’s a good deal if you are a golfer, otherwise the fees make it unattractive,” Mr. Green says.

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Holocaust movie hosted by Italian American Foundation

GenShoah of Southwest Florida and the Naples Italian American Foundation host a screening of the award-winning documentary “My Italian Secret” at 7 p.m. Thursday Dec. 8, at the NIAF, 7035 Airport-Pulling Road.

GenShoah is an organization of children of Holocaust survivors and others interested in preserving the history of the Holocaust, connecting the second generation with one another and supporting the Naples-based Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida.

With narration by Isabella Rossellini, “My Italian Secret” tells the story of cycling idol Gino Bartali, Dr. Giovanni Borromeo and other Italians who risked their lives to carry out ingenious schemes to rescue Jews, partisans and refugees from Nazi-occupied Italy. As an entire continent was engulfed in genocide, more than 80 percent of Italy’s Jews survived. Oscar-nominated director Oren Jacoby reveals the stories of a secret underground that has remained largely unknown until now.

Admission is free, but reservations are required. Call 579-5210 or email genshoahswfl@icloud.com.

Conservancy welcome kids for winter camp

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida is taking reservations for its 2016 Winter Camp for kids in grades two through five. Sessions from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 28-29, combine outdoor adventures, live animal encounters and engaging nature-based activities for the budding environmentalist.

Campers will venture into the unique habitats of Southwest Florida, including cypress swamps and mangrove estuaries, in search of alligators, turtles, wading birds and other wondrous wildlife.

Cost is $60 per day for children of Conservancy members, $80 for others. Space is limited. Sign up at www.Conservancy.org/Camps.

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RAIDERS

From page 1

101, became a Texas citrus farmer in his later life.

“There is great sight is great, his hearing is great, he walks without a cane — and this week he’s in Pearl Harbor (for the 70th anniversary of the Japanese attack),” Mr. Valentine notes, shaking his head in admiration of his hero and friend. A lucky thing, too, by any measure — lucky that Mr. Cole even survived his first combat mission, let alone the rest of the war when he was frequently in great danger.

On Saturday morning, April 18, 1942, the Hornet found itself loaded with 16 B-25 Mitchell medium bombers, each with a crew of five who were now deep in the western Pacific surrounded by a small task force, headed toward Japan.

Few or none, Americans or Japanese alike, imagined they could accomplish or even attempt what they were about to do.

Unfortunately for the Americans, shortly after 7:30 a.m. the Hornet was spotted by a Japanese scout boat more than 250 miles shy of the planned launch coordinates, and still more than 600 miles from the Japanese coast. Their cover was blown.

Navy gunners sunk the boat, but almost immediately Doolittle ordered his crews to man their bombers. The B-25s had been designed only to operate from long runways. The B-25s had done it once in a good-weather, good-wind test off Norfolk, Va.

Doolittle’s Raiders themselves, including former stunt and test pilot Jimmy Doolittle, had merely practiced on concrete strips, mostly in Florida.

One of the pilots, retired Col. Jack Sims, a Neapolitan like Mr. Valentine who died in 2007, described their training this way in a conversation with a historian: “We practiced, over and over, ramming the engines at full power, taking off at 65 miles per hour in a 500-foot run. It could be done, as long as an engine didn’t skip a beat.”

But since Doolittle and Richard Cole were in the lead aircraft, they had only 470 feet of flight deck to get into the air. They were also loaded to capacity. But they did it, and so did every crew behind them.

“I flew as a crew member in a B-25,” says Mr. Valentine, recalling the day he met the last Raider, “and now I’m sitting in a café for 2½ hours with Cole, a real hero — I was so thrilled.”

Hosting a visitor in his sunny living room near an end-table model of a B-25 and a portrait of his late, beloved wife last week, Mr. Valentine is loathe to talk about his own experiences.

For the most part so is Mr. Cole, he says, describing him as friendly and unassuming, a man who only agreed in recent years to let writer Dennis Okerstrom tell his story in the 2015 book, “Dick Cole’s War: Doolittle Raider, Hump Pilot, Air Commando,” a title that suggests how lucky Cole was just to live through the war.

Although 73 of Doolittle’s Raiders survived that first combat mission, 10 more were later killed in the war and several captured by either the Japanese (who tortured them, executing three of the last Raiders) or the Germans. Although no Raider was shot down by the Japanese, every plane was lost — either ditched at sea, abandoned in the air by its crew, crash-landed in China, or in one case landed on a strip in the Soviet Union and confiscated.

Mr. Valentine is describing his conversation with Mr. Cole: “I asked him, ‘Were you scared?’”

“He said, ‘I was scared all the time.’”

“So I asked him, ‘Was there one time when you were the most scared?’”

“He said it was after they bombed Japan — there were thunderstorms and weather.

‘Doolittle said we were going to run out of gas, we were going to have to abandon the aircraft,’ he told me. ‘When we opened the hatch to bail out and I looked down into that black hole — that’s the most scared I’ve ever been,’ he said.

‘Dick landed in a tree and stayed there all night. It was in Japanese territory.’

Most historians now acknowledge that the mission — which only did minimal damage to the Japanese military and industrial targets Doolittle’s Raiders attacked — had an immense psychic impact, boosting the morale of Americans and putting the Japanese on notice: the United States was coming.

Following the war, Doolittle’s Raiders gathered annually for a toast to the crews and the mission, each man drinking from his own cup and all of them vowing to continue to the last man.

“As they passed,” explains Mr. Valentine, “their cups would be turned upside down. They finally had to stop after 2013.”

There were still four at the time, but three weren’t well enough to make the trip.

“Time, like all things, passes. ‘It’s ironic,’ says Mr. Valentine, quietly: ‘Cole was the first off the deck. And now he’s the last Raider alive.’”

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Almost all law enforcement agencies in America use the Scott Reagent field test when they discover powder that looks like cocaine, but the several agencies that have actually conducted tests for “false positives” say they happen up to half the time. In October, the latest victims (husband-and-wife truck drivers with spotless records and Pentagon clearances) were finally released after 75 days in jail awaiting trial — for baking soda that tested “positive” three times by Arkansas troopers (but, eventually, “negative” by a state crime lab). (Why do police love the test? It costs $2.) The truck drivers had to struggle to get their truck back and are still fighting to be re-cleared to drive military explosives.

**Unclear on the concept**

Activists told Vice Media in November that 100,000 people worldwide identify as “ecosexuals,” ranging from those who campaign for “sustainable”-ingredi-ent sex toys to those who claim to have intercourse with trees (but sanding the bark for comfort might provoke concerns about being “abusive”). A University of Nevada, Las Vegas professor studies the phenomenon and knows, for example, of humans who “marry” the Earth or prefer sex while rolling in potting soil or under a waterfall. On one “arborphilia” support blog, a female poster regretted her choice to have “convenient” sex with the sycamore outside her bedroom window instead of the sturdy redwood she actually covets. (Yes, some “main-stream” environmentalists somehow are not completely supportive.)

**Groundbreaking legal work**

The Schlitterbahn Waterpark in Kansas City, Kan., got the message in November on two counts of rape. Three women were assaulted by waterpark employees after the three custom-molded slides were not ready. It was only a quarter-million-dollar restitution (but acquitted at trial) and another $0 Down 36 Month (1/2 OFF Furnace $47 COOL TUNE-UP), during our Year-End Clearance Sale and get total home comfort and reliability. At Best Home Services, our knowledgeable team will gladly help you choose the absolute best system and options for your home.

**Questionable judgments**

It was only a quarter-million-dollar grant by the National Institutes of Health, but what it brought, according to budget scrutiny by The Washington Free Beacon in November, was the development of a multiplayer computer game (inevitably competing for attention in an overstuffed commercial market) hoping to teach good reproductive health habits. “Caduceus Quest” employs role-playing as “doct-ors, policymakers, researchers, youth advocates” and others to “solve medical mysteries and epidemiological enigmas” — including the target, according to the University of Chi-cago grant proposal, is African-American and Latino teenagers around Chicago.

**Ironies**

If you see something, say something

Ricky Berry and his roommate walked in to a CVS store in Richmond, Va., in November to ask if it carried sliced cheese but were told no. Minutes later, all the employees walked to the back of the store, hid in a locked room, and called the police. Berry and pal, and a third customer (with a toothache and desperately needing Orajel), were bewildered by the empty store until a Richmond police officer arrived. After observing that the three custom-ers appeared nonthreatening, he muses along with Berry that “this is how weird, apocalyptic movies start.” WRIC-TV reported later that the employee who panicked and called police will “possi-bly” need retraining.

**Perspective**

It offered surveillance video of the three in a lobby planning the murderer’s details via sign language as they waited for an elevator to take them up to the eventual crime scene.

If you see something, say something: **Even baking soda could land you in jail**

Even baking soda could land you in jail

In October, a court in Australia’s Victoria state began considering an appeal on whether three deaf people might be too intellectually challenged to have planned a murder. The prosecutor

**Ironies**

Gary Zerola was arraigned in Bos-ton in November on two counts of rape. He is a defense lawyer, former prosecu-tor, one-time “Most Eligible Bachelor,” and was a finalist in the first season of ABC-TV’s “The Bachelor.” He was also accused of two counts of rape in 2016 (but acquitted at trial) and another in 2007 (but the charge was dropped).

**Perspective**

It was only a quarter-million-dollar grant by the National Institutes of Health, but what it brought, according to budget scrutiny by The Washington Free Beacon in November, was the development of a multiplayer computer game (inevitably competing for attention in an overstuffed commercial market) hoping to teach good reproductive health habits. “Caduceus Quest” employs role-playing as “doct-ors, policymakers, researchers, youth advocates” and others to “solve medical mysteries and epidemiological enigmas” — including the target, according to the University of Chi-cago grant proposal, is African-American and Latino teenagers around Chicago.

**How to tell if you’re too drunk**

How to tell if you’re too drunk

On Nov. 16, Richard Ruini, 54, was charged with DUI in St. Charles, Ill., after he drove off of a street, going airborne, hitting close to the top of one house, rebounding off of another, uprooting a tree (sending it onto a roof), and knock-ing out electricity to the neighborhood when the car clipped a utility pole guide wire — and his car landed upside down in a driveway. He was hospitalized.
Historic Palm Cottage returns to its roots for the holiday season

The oldest house in Naples unveils a more refined holiday house décor to complement the sophisticated holiday style of its neighbors in downtown Naples for the annual Christmas at Palm Cottage.

“Less is more this year,” Elaine Reed, president and CEO of the Naples Historical Society, says about the cottage decorations. “Instead of a highway of twinkling lights streaming across the front entryway and porch, the house focuses on small, period-relevant holiday items for a more simple traditional Christmas theme.”

Constructed in 1895 of tabby mortar (a handmade concrete consisting of sand, shells and water), the two-story cottage was built by Walter Haldeman and boasts 3,500 square feet of original and donated artwork, furnishings and tools spanning more than 100 years.

In response to the success of the new online tour booking system that allows guests to secure individual and group tours of Historic Palm Cottage months in advance, the society has extended the hours of Christmas at Palm Cottage to accommodate more visitors.

The cottage is at 137 12th Ave. S., one block east of the Naples Pier. Admission is $13 (free for NHS members). Reservations can be made at www.napleshistoricalsociety.org. Here’s the schedule through Saturday, Dec. 31:

- Tuesday-Friday: Reservations required for Christmas at Palm Cottage tours at noon and 1, 2 and 3 p.m.
- Thursday-Friday: No reservations required for extended hours from 4-8 p.m.
- Saturday: No reservations required for tours between 1-8 p.m.

Historic Palm Cottage will be closed to the public. For more information, visit the website or call 261-8164.

Holiday open house on tap

Naples Preserve will be transformed into a holiday wonderland for its annual Holiday Spirit Open House from 4:30-6 p.m. Friday through Sunday, Dec. 9-11. Visitors will meet live animal ambassadors from several local organizations, including Trooper, the blind raccoon from Wildlife Education Project who was featured on Nat Geo WILD channel’s “Unlikely Animal Friends” this spring. Rabbits from Southwest Florida House Rabbit Rescue and other animal ambassadors will be there, too.

A child-sized gopher tortoise burrow replica will provide kids a fun place to explore while learning about this environmentally critical species that calls the Naples Preserve home. Story time will entertain the youngest visitors and older children as well, and special guest “The Litter Critter” mascot will be available for photo opportunities as he teaches children about the importance of recycling.

Entrance to the preserve is at 1690 Tamiami Trail N. Admission is free. For more information, call 261-4290 or follow Friends of the Naples Preserve on Facebook.

Embrace the spirit of giving this holiday season! Donate to the Little Red Wagon Fund and keep young patients in need close to home at Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida.

Visit LeeHealthFoundation.org and Click ‘Donate Today!’

Lee Health Foundation
26410 Monarch Blvd
(239) 214-0642
LeeHealthFoundation.org
YOU’VE NEVER SETTLED FOR MIDDLE OF THE ROAD. SO WHEN PLANNING YOUR NEXT MOVE, GO WITH A CHOICE THAT PUTS YOU IN THE DRIVER’S SEAT.

Our expansive, new resort-style retirement community offers luxurious independent living options, quality amenities and exceptional continuing care including assisted living, memory care, short-term rehabilitation and residential healthcare. Plus, with a 95% refundable entrance fee, it’s Naples’ most attractive resort retirement community!

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Call (239) 307-3050 for your personal tour.
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The Arlington of Naples welcomes people of all faiths, beliefs and traditions. A Lutheran Life Community—serving seniors and their families for more than a century. Lutheran Life Communities: Empowering vibrant, grace-filled living across all generations.

LUXURY RETIREMENT LIVING

THE BEST next thing

How to help during this holiday season

Churches, clubs, nonprofits, business offices and groups of all kinds conduct holiday toy and food drives all around town. Here are some that will appreciate your donations:

- Sue Huff of E. Sue Huff & Associates, Inc. is helping coordinate a toy drive with First Assembly Ministries of Immokalee. Individuals can donate new, unwrapped toys now through noon Wednesday, Dec. 14, at multiple locations throughout Naples.
  The goal of the toy drive is to collect at least 200 toys for girls and boys ages of 1-12. Toys will be distributed to children in the downtown Immokalee community on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 18, immediately following the morning service at First Assembly in Immokalee.
  “Many of these children will go without toys this holiday season because their families just can’t afford to purchase them,” says Arnie Coones, pastor at First Assembly Ministries.
  “We want to reach out to the community around us and try to show love and compassion to those who are among the poorest of the poor.”
  Any toys leftover after the distribution will be delivered to the homes of children in the community immediately surrounding the church facility on Tuesday, Dec. 20.
  Drop off locations for the Children of Immokalee Toy Drive are:
  - KGP Remodeling, 1045 Collier Center Way
  - Ooh La La Jewels Du Jour, 900 Neapolitan Way
  William C. Huff Companies, 4227 Progress Ave.
  For more information, call Ms. Huff at 596-7790 or visit www.esuehuff.com.
- MarineMax Naples has partnered with The Salvation Army of Collier County to “Fill the Boat” with toys and food for the less fortunate this holiday season.
  A Boston Whaler Outrage has been designated as the collection vessel for new, unwrapped toys that will be distributed through the Toys for Tots campaign. Donations are welcome through Monday, Dec. 12, at the yacht center next to Tin City.
  Customers who contribute a new, unwrapped toy valued at $10 or more will receive 10 percent off a purchase in the MarineMax Naples Parts and Service Department or $500 off the purchase of a new boat.
  The center holds a holiday open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, complete with seasonal music, hamburgers and hot dogs and the final push to fill the Boston Whaler with toys.
  For more information about the toy and food drive, call Jennifer Miller at 262-1000 or email Jennifer.Miller@marinemax.com.
- The Shelter for Abused Women & Children is collecting holiday food items for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. All donations will be distributed to residents of the Shelter’s emergency shelter or participants in its outreach programs.
  Turkeys, hams, gravy, stuffing, potatoes, yams/sweet potatoes, corn, onions, green beans, cranberry sauce, apples, pies, dinner rolls and aluminum and foil pans can be dropped off at The Shelter Options Shoppe, 968 Second Ave. N. For more information, call 775-3862.
- For the 33rd year, the Northside Naples Kiwanis Club will serve more than 3,000 holiday dinners to Immokalee residents on Christmas Day. To make Christmas in Immokalee complete, Santa will hand out toys for the children and gloves, socks and bandanas for the adults.
  Donations of food and presents from general businesses help make the event possible, as do financial gifts from individuals. If you would like to contribute, call 591-2831 or email joezaks@aol.com.
Two service organizations join forces to stabilize Lovers Key

Lovers Key State Park beach is now a safer place, thanks to a joint service project conducted by The Urban Land Institute of Southwest Florida and Keep Lee County Beautiful. This safety project did not involve security or surveillance systems. Rather, more than 40 volunteers participated in planting more than 2,400 sea oats 150 to 200 feet inland from the Gulf of Mexico’s mean high tide line.

“Sea oats are very valuable as a dune builder and stabilizer during Florida’s hurricane season and provide protection for sea turtle nests,” explains Katie Moses, who was the park services specialist at Lovers Key State Park and now serves as assistant park manager at Koreshan State Historic Site. “To have such a large group of motivated volunteers help plant over 2,400 sea oats is incredible,” she said.


The Urban Land Institute, or ULI, is a member-supported global nonprofit education and research institute with a mission to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in sustaining and creating thriving communities. ULI was established in 1936 and has about 36,000 members who represent all aspects of land use and development disciplines. It sponsors educational forums and events, including conferences on trends, project tours and programs on transportation and housing.

Keep Lee County Beautiful is a nonprofit that brings people together to build and sustain vibrant communities. With a network of individuals, businesses, civic, environmental and governmental organizations, it works with thousands of volunteers to take action in their communities by offering solutions that create clean, beautiful public places, reduce waste and increase recycling, generate positive impact on local economies, and inspire generations of environmental stewards.
Honda has always been good at identifying practical needs, and then creating a product around this sensible list. But often our choice of vehicle comes from the heart just as much as it comes from the head. There’s no better example than the truck market. After all, we may never need three feet of ground clearance and wide off-road tires, but we sure do lust after it enough to put it in our driveways.

So what happens when the realistic minds at Honda go after the emotional truck market? The new Ridgeline is the answer. The redesigned 2017 model is Honda’s second generation of the pickup, and it tells a lot about their lessons learned. The exterior carries the latest design lines shared with Honda’s crossovers, but the rear bed is unique to the Ridgeline, and it is quite a change from the previous model.

The old truck’s silhouette had a flying buttress to gradually separate the cab from the bed. It appeared to want to flaut how the vehicle was one seamless construction. The new Ridgeline does not. There is an abrupt 90-degree cut at the end of the passenger area, and even the sheet metal has a crease to create the allusion of separation between the cab and the bed. This dividing line is the Ridgeline’s effort to hide its difference from traditional pickups.

Conventional trucks use a ladder frame construction. It acts like a Lego set where one platform specifically engineered for hauling has different cabs and beds that can be easily locked into place. These separate components create a pleat where they meet. The unibody Ridgeline doesn’t need this wrinkle, but the new one adds it just to appear like the rest of the trucks out there.

Honda does reinforce the body so that when towing and hauling is in-line with mainstream midsize pickups, but this one was not built for the industrial crowd. The Ridgeline’s bed is shallower than the competition, and thus, the cargo volume is a few cubic-feet less. For those who don’t mind the last few bags of mulch hanging above the tailgate line, there are some nice benefits.

The new Ridgeline continues to have a genuine lockable trunk beneath the bed. This is more than just an area to store tools. With over seven cubic feet of volume, it’s deep enough to give luggage watertight storage outside of the passenger cabin. There’s even a drain plug, so this could be filled with ice and be the ultimate tailgate party cooler.

In fact, the Ridgeline seems to be squarely aimed at those who love to entertain on the weekends. There are a host of features aimed at the party time crowd, and at the top of the list is the built-in exterior audio system. There are weatherproof “exciters” that can broadcast the equivalent of a 540-watt stereo system all through the truck bed. This can be operated via Bluetooth, so the DJ doesn’t have to be near the truck to control it. This feature isn’t available on the $30,375 base model, but the $43K upper level trims come with every option box checked, including the in-bed audio.

When the party is over, the Ridgeline can return back to a staid and stable Honda. The interior is quite similar to the Pilot crossover that it shares an assembly plant with in Alabama. That means there are plenty of options available to make the Ridgeline just as comfortable as any family hauler.

The Ridgeline further rebels against more of the traditional truck crowd by offering a fully independent suspension. This helps with its commuter image, but takes away from the off-road scene. The optional all-wheel drive is a similar level of capability where it is great for muddy roads, but it might not be the first one to blaze a new trail.

In the end, the practical minds at Honda have once again rationalized their way through truck design. The 2017 Ridgeline might not have all the right features for real truck people, but it has a host of exclusive amenities that work well in real life.
100 years ago, we JOINED HEALTH with the community.

Today, we renew this commitment with a new name: Lee Memorial Health System is now Lee Health.
SWFL Children’s Charities Inc.’s annual signature fundraiser is the Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest. The festival has raised $66 million in eight years, making it the most successful fundraising event in Lee County and one of the top-grossing wine fests in the country.

The nonprofit SWFL Children’s Charities Inc. donates 100 percent of the event proceeds to three local beneficia-
ries, including Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, the event’s primary beneficiary.

This year, those dollars will be dedicated to the pediatric behavioral health initiative at Golisano, giving area children access to quality mental health care, as there is a lack of resources for children in need of mental health care.

About 1 in 5 young people ages 13-18 — 21.4 percent — experience a severe mental disorder at some point in their lives, reports the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and “for children ages 8-14, the estimate is 13 percent.”

“It’s no longer a taboo subject,” said Christin Collins, co-chair, Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest. “Children’s behavioral and mental health care is complex, and it’s heartbreaking for the children and families who are suffering. This need is underserved and has reached a crisis point,” she said. “Mental health care must become a priority for children in our community. The mission of the SWFL Children’s Charities is to advance health care services available to children in our region, and we have a huge responsibility to lead the way for improving access to care for children and families who are suffering with mental illness in Southwest Florida.”

In Southwest Florida, more than two-thirds of pediatric patients are on Medicaid and are considered low income. Reimbursement rates for behavioral and mental health make it difficult for health-care providers to meet the current and growing demands for services, and an estimated 46,000 children have or have had a debilitating mental disorder.

“The pediatric behavioral health initiative at Golisano Children’s Hospital is building a foundation for excellence in care for the mental health needs for the children and families of our area,” said Dr. Denise Dutschke-Parmenter of Golisano Children’s Hospital. “The support of SWFL Children’s Charities Inc. will bring tremendous resources to boost our efforts. Dr. Dutschke-Parmenter emphasized that “mental illness crosses all boundaries and affects every aspect of a child’s functioning, whether it’s a complex medical condition, their school performance or their family and friends. Our goal is to allow patients to access a multi-layered approach through individual group and family therapy, coordination with schools and their primary care doctors to promote the patient’s best and optimal functioning now and for their lifetime. As our patient population grows, we anticipate the addition of providers and services dedicated to the advancement of mental health care in our community,” Dr. Dutschke-Parmenter said.

The pediatric behavioral health initiative at Golisano Children’s Hospital is dedicated to treating the wide spectrum of behavioral and mental health needs, including psychiatric diagnoses that may include ADHD, anxiety and mood disorders, autism and psychosis. “Philanthropy will be the only way for Chron’s disease, colitis sufferers

Managing inflammatory bowel disease is an issue for more than 1.6 million Americans. To help guide those affected by IBD, the Cronh’s & Colitis Foundation of America presents seminars from physician experts and health-care professionals on topics important to IBD patients, families and caregivers from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, at Naples Regional Library.

Guest speakers and their topics are:

- Dr. Raymond Phillips, biosimilar, Dawn Gray, nutrition; Paula Allain, clinical studies; and Dr. Sandra Jara, alternative approaches.

- Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis are painful, medically incurable illnesses that attack the digestive system. Symptoms can include abdominal pain, persistent diarrhea, rectal bleeding, fever and weight loss. Many patients require hospitalization and surgery. These illnesses can cause severe complications, including colon cancer in patients with long-term disease. Most people develop the diseases between the ages of 15 and 35.

- Admission to the conference for $5 includes breakfast and a chance to win a one-hour massage at a local spa. Reservations are suggested, as seating is limited. Call Jamie Diaz at (561) 239-2929 (option 1, ext. 8) or visit www.ccfa.org/chapters/florida.

Guided sessions can help awaken your spirit

If the stress of daily living and family and global tensions are weighing you down, don’t despair. Here’s an oasis. Registration is underway for the next six-week spiritual intensive meditation program based on the teachings of Eckhart Tolle.

Sessions meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 19-Feb. 23, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples. Cost for all six sessions is $35. The registration deadline is Jan. 12. Participation is limited to 50 people.

This is not a discussion group. Facilitator Linda Allen has been a student of Eckhart Tolle for 16 years and has led intensives in Wisconsin for several years in and Southwest Florida since mid-2013. She has practiced the art of meditation for more than 40 years.

To sign up or for more information, call Donna Carty at 784-7734 or email journeytopresence@gmail.com.

Conference experts will offer insights for Chron’s disease, colitis sufferers

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CLUB NOTES

- The DPI-SIG Naples Digital Photography Club meets from 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the VFW Post 7721, 800 Neffs Way in Naples. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. Attendance is free, and all are welcome. For more information, call Madonna Crame at 455-7295 or visit www.thegscc.org.

- The Florida Native Plant Society-Naples meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, at Naples Botanical Garden. Presenters Savannah Grant and Alex Miranda of Florida Gulf Coast University will discuss the "Economic Value of Annual Carbon Sequestration in Southwest Florida State Parks, and Expedite Tree Core: Climate Change and the Phoenix Islands." Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free and all are welcome. Bring a snack to share if you can. For more information, follow the Naples Chapter of FNPS on Facebook.

- The PCBUG computer and technology club invites all those interested in learning more about computers and mobile devices to its meeting at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at Naples Regional Library, 650 Central Ave. For more information call J Burke at 609-0639 or email paddy62@hotmail.com.

- The Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance meets from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at 1455 Pine Ridge Road. Admission is free, and all are welcome. Jerry Steele will share his best practices for growing cattleyas and will have some of his new hybrids and old favorites for sale. The alliance welcomes donations of out-of-bloom or unwanted orchids, which members use for educational purposes. Free pick up is available and can be arranged by calling 498-9741. For more information about the alliance, call 649-4445 or visit www.gulfcoastorchidalliance.com.

- The Naples chapter of PFLAG, Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, a support, education and advocacy group for families with gay or transgender members, meets at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at Naples United Church of Christ, 5200 Crayton Road. For more information, call 963-4670 or visit www.pflagnaples.org.

- Naples Ship Modelers is an informal group dedicated to building wooden ship models. Members meet at 9:30 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of the month at the Landmark Naples community in North Naples. The next meetings are Dec. 17 and Jan. 7. Members should bring their works in progress and be prepared to share techniques and tips. All are invited to enjoy lunch afterward at Fitzgerald's. For more information, call Dick Ritchie at 594-0780 or email dritchie@comcast.net.

- The Naples base of the U.S. Submarine Veterans (USSV) meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at the VFV Post 7721, 800 Neffs Way in Naples. The next meeting is Dec. 19. Membership is open to active duty and retired submariners who have earned the Qualified in Submarines designation. The local USSVI base commander is Jack Hogan of Naples. For more information, visit www.ussvlor.org/ base/naples.asp.

- The Genealogical Society of Collier County meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, at Faith Lutheran Church, 4150 Goodlette-Frank Road. In "Journals and Jewels," Gary Johnson will discuss how journals, diaries and heirlooms can bring vivid pictures of our ancestors to light. New officers will also be installed. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Attendance is free, and all are welcome. For more information, call Sue Lester 289-8268.

- Alumnae of Gamma Phi Beta in the Naples area meet for lunch and conversation on the second Monday of each month. The next meeting is Dec. 12. For more information, call Lynne Nordhoff at 594-8420 or email lynnecnordhoff@gmail.com.

- Alumnae in Naples, Marco Island & Bonita Springs holds their holiday party the evening of Sunday, Dec. 11, at the Club at Olde Cypress. For reservations, call Betsy Penzo at 404-3075 or email penzob@comcast.net. For more information about additional chapter activities, visit www.naples.gamma.phibeta.org.

- The National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution Naples-on-the-Gulf chapter meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month in North Naples. Meetings begin with a program related to the mission of DAR: historical preservation, promotion of education and encouragement of patriotic endeavor. On Dec. 12, members will hear about "The Immokalee Four "Frontiersmen" and Nomi Perez, program services director, and Laura Krauth, stewardship and donor relations director. Any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. For more information or to make a reservation, call Juliana Meek at 262-2699 or email julianadar@comcast.net.

- The Pilot Club of Naples/Naples Pilot Foundation meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Perkins on Pine Ridge Road. The next meeting is Dec. 8. Guests and new members are always welcome. Attendees order from the menu and pay for their meals. Pilot International focuses its charitable and educational efforts on brain-related disorders and disabilities, including traumatic brain injuries, dementia and autism. For more information, call Juliana Meek at 262-2699 or email julianadar@comcast.net.

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- Email club news to Cindy Pierce at cpierce@floridaweekly.com.
PET TALES

Three new books answer your questions about cats

BY DR. MARTY BECKER,
KIM CAMPBELL THORNTON
AND MIKKEL BECKER
Universal Unltd.

We at Pet Connection have always suspected that cats are aliens who have enslaved us to do their furry bidding. They train us to feed them, scoop their litter boxes and be their sidekicks — when they want us to be.

Cats are the most popular pets in the United States, with between 74 and 96 million of them sharing our homes. More than half a billion have colonized the world. And yet, they are still alien to many people. Fortunately, three authors have taken on the challenge of revealing the secrets of cats in all their infinite variety.

Abigail Tucker grew up with cats, but it wasn’t until she became a mother herself that the science writer began to explore the lure of the cat, struck by her daughters’ absorption with them. With her cat Cheetoh as muse, she explores feline natural history, behavior and relationships with humans in her book “The Lion in the Living Room.”

She’s friendly, a terrier bully mix.  He weighs about 51 pounds, a 1-year-old domestic short-hair. He is an 8-month-old female brown brindle and white bully mix. She’s friendly, affectionate and beautiful.

Three new books answer your questions about cats. Abigail Tucker grew up with cats, and her cat Cheetoh as muse, she explores feline natural history, behavior and relationships with humans in her book “The Lion in the Living Room.”

Cats are complex and sensitive, with many special needs.

Whereas Tucker gives an overarching view of the little hypercarnivores, cat expert Ramona Marek has written a guide to living with them successfully. Marek says the biggest mistake people make about cat habits and needs they might never have considered. For instance, she says people are often surprised to learn that cats prefer to have food and water in different areas. They don’t know that cats are true carnivores with specific nutritional requirements. “Catinization hacks” help them set up their homes in ways cats will like.

“By recognizing normal feline behavior, we can accommodate the home environment to fit their needs, which helps build a stronger, positive human-animal bond, keeping more cats in homes and out of shelters,” she says.

For a more specialized take on feline foibles, award-winning author Dusty Rainbolt talks to veterinarians, veterinary behaviorists and cat consultants about the No. 1 — and No. 2 — cat behavior problem: inappropriate elimination. In other words, not using the litter box.

In “Cat Scene Investigator: Solve Your Cat’s Litter Box Mystery,” Rainbolt takes readers through the detective work necessary to figure out which cat is the culprit in a multi-pet home, why he’s breaking cat law by pooping or peeing outside the box and how to send him to rehab instead of death row. Often, he’s not misbehaving at all, but reacting to a treatable medical problem or a conflict with a person or other pet. Rainbolt’s tips address how to identify and resolve issues and, best of all, how to get rid of the stain and stink.

“Litter box behavior is complicated,” Rainbolt says. “It’s like a mile-long mathematical equation. There are a lot of potential variables. But once you figure out what the variables are, you can solve the problem.”

and more.

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Three new books answer your questions about cats. Abigail Tucker grew up with cats, and her cat Cheetoh as muse, she explores feline natural history, behavior and relationships with humans in her book “The Lion in the Living Room.”

To adopt or foster a pet

This week’s pets are from Collier County Domestic Animal Services. Adoption fees for cats are $60 and dogs are $85 and include sterilization surgery, vaccinations, pet license, 1 microchip and a bag of food. Visit DAS at 7610 Sates Blvd. from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Adoptable dogs and cats from DAS are also at For Footed Friends in Marquesa Plaza on Livingston Road from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first Saturday of every month. For more information, call 252-7387 or visit www.colleargvet.net/pets.

Cats are complex and sensitive, with many special needs.

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Images reflect another time in our racial history

Thurmond called on the sheriff and asked what it would take to get his maid back. According to family lore, he paid the sheriff $1,000. Florine came home to the Glades and took care of my cousins.

For better or for worse, that was racial justice in Florida in the 1940s, and a reflection of cultural norms of the day.

I think of those days in Mount Dora whenever I see photos of Al Jolson in blackface or remember how Hattie McDaniel was refused entrance to the Atlanta premiere of “Gone With the Wind.” She went on to win an Oscar for her portrayal of Mammy in the movie.

It seems like another world, yet it was not that long ago. One hopes we have changed, but I sense we still have far to go.

---

**THE FIND:**

78 RPM record of children’s music


**Cost:** $20

**The skinny:** I saw this 7-inch 78 RPM record and was smitten with the graphics, with their bold primary colors. The record, issued in 1948 by Voco Records, includes recordings of the songs “Oh Susanna” and “Chicken Chatter,” performed by Bob Kennedy in a country-swing style. It’s of cardboard with a grooved plastic playing surface on each side.

The side featuring the Stephen Foster song, “Oh Susanna,” portrays two children in blackface. It’s shocking to see those images on a children’s record, but black memorabilia of that era is popular among African-American collectors, who see these messages as part of their heritage.

I see it as an opportunity to learn, regardless of the price.

---

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How to celebrate the holidays with your bosses and colleagues

BY DON MANLEY
Florida Weekly Correspondent

'Tis the season for Herculean shopping, holiday decorations, sharing time with loved ones and another yuletide staple: the company Christmas party. Businesses traditionally close out the year with a festive gathering for employees, whether at the office or off-site, during working hours or after the workday's end. While the booze-heavy blowouts of Christmas parties past have become less common over the years, companies still keep the accent on fun at the parties, in some cases marrying them to local charitable causes.

Fort Myers-based FineMark National Bank and Trust is among the companies that incorporate giving into their Christmas celebration. The bank has branches in Southwest Florida, Palm Beach, Arizona and South Carolina.

"Something we do here that's really nice is each office picks a charity to make a donation to," said Jessica Catti, FineMark's marketing director. "Also, our associates collect money among themselves and adopt families through United Way. So every year we have six families that we buy gifts for, children and parents." FineMark's expansion over the last

Jessica Catti
FineMark's marketing director

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INSIDE

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The Membership Directors Association of Southwest Florida. B7-8 ⬤

Hot homes
Vanilla Ice home a hot resale. B12 ⬤

House Hunting
A Spanish beauty in Marsh Cove. B9 ⬤
November 27th - Molly Lane, Senior Vice President / General Manager of William Raveis Real Estate Florida is pleased to announce that Christopher A. Braun has joined the William Raveis team located at 792 Broad Avenue South in Naples.

“We are very excited to have Chris join our company, he has an exceptional track record and is a true professional,” said Lane. “Chris was the #1 sales associate with his former office, and we couldn’t be happier to welcome him to the Raveis family.”

Originally from Bergen County, New Jersey, Chris graduated from Naples High School and went on to obtain his undergraduate degree from Furman University. Chris and his wife Julia are blessed with 5 children, 3 boys and 2 girls. Chris is an active parishioner at St. Ann’s Catholic Church in the Olde Naples area whose personal passions include spending time with his family, back country spin-cast and fly fishing, writing, music, woodworking, attending athletic and music events, and exercising / boxing. Chris is competitive and deeply committed to the highest levels of ethics and integrity within both his personal and professional pursuits.

Chris’ professional achievements are numerous. Chris has received the highest awards of distinction that the Naples Area Board of Realtors (“NABOR”) NABOR has to bestow upon a Realtor member for overall exemplary service as well as commitment above and beyond to the Realtor profession and Code of Ethics including Realtor of the Year and induction into the highly select NABOR Hall of Fame. He served as the President of NABOR in 1998, and was named Best Realtor in Southwest Florida by the Naples Daily News Reader’s Choice Award in both 2012 & 2014. He was the #1 Realtor company-wide at the firm of his prior affiliation and received a legion of other awards during his 22 year tenure there. “Having been a full time Realtor here in Naples for the past 32+ years, the decision to join the professionals at William Raveis is compelling on behalf of my clientele for a host of reasons. This is a long range decision based upon Raveis’ truly national and international tools and services to deploy particularly for my many clients who are sellers both now and in the future. As the 8th largest brokerage in the United States, Raveis’ commitment to the Naples community and their Florida operations raises the bar for our brokerage industry and I am excited to be a part of that. I look forward to all my seller and buyer clients experiencing the expanding services and results that will follow because fundamentally great brokerage is about trust and great performance … and both Raveis and I are philosophically as well as practically deeply committed to both.”

William Raveis Real Estate was founded in 1974 in Connecticut, and has since expanded to be the largest family-owned real estate company in the Northeast, with offices in Connecticut, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The company prides itself on its unique approach to the real estate industry by focusing on its sales associates, providing them unique tools and the leading technology so they can build their own businesses within the company. “Our sales associates are our customers. Our management team mentors and empowers our agents to innovate and grow their businesses,” said Bill Raveis.

“We continue to have an overwhelmingly positive response to our business model here in Naples. William Raveis Real Estate plans to open 30 offices in Florida over the next 10 years.”

William Raveis Real Estate, Mortgage & Insurance
William Raveis Real Estate, Mortgage & Insurance is the No. 1 family-owned real estate company in the Northeast and the No. 8 real estate company in the country, according to REAL Trends 2015. With $9 billion in real estate sales annually, $1 billion in mortgages annually, and more than 6,000 insurance customers, William Raveis’ Real Estate, Mortgage and Insurance divisions have been awarded the Gold Medal distinction by the Commercial Record and by Banker & Tradesman. The firm was named the Most Innovative Brokerage by Inman News, and has consistently been ranked the best place to work by Fox CT, Hearst Connecticut and the Boston Business Journal. William Raveis has over 4,000 highly trained sales professionals in 120 offices from Florida to Maine. For more information, visit the best website in real estate, raveis.com, or blog.raveis.com.

Contact Christopher A. Braun 239.572.2200
CHRIS@ALLNAPLES.COM WWW.ALLNAPLES.COM

These are a selection of closed sales that occurred with Christopher A. Braun as the Listing Realtor prior to his affiliation with William Raveis Real Estate.
Clive Daniel Home named National Furnishings winner

Furniture Today, a national communications company serving the home furnishings industry, recently named Clive Daniel Home the national winner in its inaugural Furniture Industry Leadership Awards program. The national program recognized best-in-class retail organizations at three sales volume levels with nominees selected by retailers, manufacturers and consumers.

Clive Daniel Home was honored as the nation’s number one furnishings retailer with sales under $50 million in the Peer Honors category, selected by a survey of industry retailers.

Clive Lubner, chairman of Clive Daniel Home, was on hand to proudly accept the prestigious national award reflecting their recognition by industry peers. The awards were presented at the Leadership Conference Awards Dinner in Orlando on Wednesday, Nov. 30.

The 85,000-square-foot flagship Clive Daniel Home showroom, located on U.S. 41 in Naples, opened in April 2011 by innovative retailers Clive and Daniel Lubner. The company continues to receive awards for design excellence, amassing 167 national and regional awards since its opening. A second Clive Daniel Home is located in Boca Raton.

COURTESY PHOTO


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434 3rd Avenue South LISTED AT $4,700,000
- 3909 sq. ft. under air; 4971 sq. ft. total
- 4 bedrooms + Den, 4 full baths + 2 half baths
- 2 Blocks to Downtown 5th Ave South, 4 blocks to beach
- Luxurious Pool Area with Southern Exposure

489 1st Ave South LISTED AT $4,090,000
- 3347 sq. ft. under air; 3913 total sq. ft.
- 4 bedrooms + loft, 3 full baths, 1 half bath
- 4 blocks to the beach and 4 blocks to 5th Ave. S.
- Western exposure with private pool

2025 Crayton Rd. LISTED AT $3,925,000
- 4,119 sq. ft. Under Air; 6,270 sq. ft. Total
- 4 Bedrooms + 2 Lfts, 4 Full Baths + 1 Half Bath
- Oversized Corner Lot with Southern Exposure • Spacious Outdoor Area • Fully Furnished

3435 Gordon Drive LISTED AT $13,995,000
7,472 sq. ft. under air, 15,157 sq. ft. total • 6 Bedrooms + Den and Flex Space 7 Full Baths; 3 Half Baths • Gulf View

354 3rd Avenue South LISTED AT $1,950,000
- Listed at: 2,150,000 • 3120 Sq. Ft. A/C 3587 Sq. Ft. Total • 3 Bedrooms, 3 Full Baths
- 3 Blocks from the Beach with Southwest Exposure • Charming Old Naples Living

Dante DiSabato
Broker Associate

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*Prices and/or renderings are subject to change without notice.
Your company’s holiday gathering is just around the corner.

Time to let loose and party with your co-workers after a long year, right?

Wrong.

According to business etiquette expert Hilka Klinkenberg, the cardinal rule is to remember that no matter how festive the occasion it’s still about business. Don’t fall off the fast track to success or risk damaging your professional reputation in one night of inadvertent blunders.

Ms. Klinkenberg offers the following advice to ensure a smooth, enjoyable event:

■ Before party time, find out who can come to the event. Spouses and significant others are not always on the guest list. Ask ahead of time to ensure avoiding anything uncomfortable.

■ Eat, drink and be merry—but in moderation. Where else but the office party can you find the CEO and the mailroom clerk bellied up to the bar together? But remember: Alcohol plus you and your boss can add up to “I can’t believe I said that” come Monday morning. If you choose to drink, do so minimally.

■ Publicly appropriate for the occasion. Ms. Klinkenberg says this rule especially applies to women who sometimes use company parties to strut their stuff. Leave anything short, tight or revealing in the closet. You’ve worked hard to create a professional image, and revealing clothes can alter your coworkers’ and manager’s perception of you as a competent professional.

■ The company party might be the only time you see the president, CEO or vice presidents in person. Introduce yourself. This is a great opportunity to become visible to your organization’s higher-ups.

■ At the very least, don’t spend the entire evening with your regular office buddies. Get in the holiday spirit and mingle with people from other departments.

■ If you’ve been a star performer in your organization, you might be honored with a toast. Accept the honor gracefully, but don’t drink to yourself or clap when others are applauding you. Also, make a toast to the person who toasted you, thanking him for the recognition.

■ Pay attention to the time you arrive and when you leave. Even if you don’t really want to attend, avoid arriving 20 minutes before the end just to make an appearance. On the flip side, don’t party into the wee hours either. Co-workers and managers will notice both errors in judgment.

■ Be sure to thank those who coordinated the party. They likely put in a great deal of effort hoping you would have a good time. Not only is saying thank you the nice thing to do, it also makes you stand out from the many employees who don’t.

On the planning side

If you’re in charge of planning the company party, here are a few reminders:

■ Consider the diversity of everyone who works for the company. A Christmas party may alienate some staff. A holiday party is more inclusive.

■ Is a daytime or evening party more convenient for most attendees? For employees with children, arranging childcare for an evening event may be an issue. If you plan a party during office hours, however, make sure every one can attend.

■ Clearly convey to employees who is invited to the party. If spouses or children are not included, say so.

■ Plan an event that reflects well on the company. Choose an appropriate location, control the alcohol flow and take your employees’ interests into consideration.

— Susan Bryant is a contributing writer at www.susantimes.com, a global online employment solution for people seeking jobs and the employers who need great people.

PARTY

From page 1

few years first necessitated a change in Christmas party locations from the bank’s headquarters to the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in downtown Fort Myers. Today, each branch holds its own party so that employees don’t have to travel.

Ms. Catti said the parties make for a nice conclusion to each year, and enable the bank to thank employees and foster camaraderie, even though everyone no longer gathers in a single location.

“If there’s one bad thing about not having to party it’s that we don’t get to see everybody,” she added. “When you’re with people, but not in your work environment, it’s a different situation. I think it’s important to be with each other when you’re not just in work mode.”

At Priority Marketing in Fort Myers, holiday parties are not a static affair.

“Traditionally we see a holiday party for our employees and their significant others,” said Holly Boldrin, director of public relations. “It’s generally different every year. In the past, we’ve done restaurant luncheons. Last year, we did it at my house and had it catered. The idea is to bring everyone together. Every one works so hard throughout the year and the holidays are the time to celebrate our friendship.”

An ugly sweater contest is also part of the fun for the company’s roughly 30 employees, as are a Secret Santa gift exchange and gift cards for local restaurants or for one of the company’s clients, Norman Love Confections.

Priority Marketing employees also raise money during the Christmas season to buy gifts for a needy family or to donate to a charity, such as a Kiwanis Club party for special needs children.

Company luncheons are the holiday party option of choice for many offices, including Marco Island’s Condee Cooling and Electric.

After-work gatherings are difficult to schedule for companies that offer 24-hours service, explained Erik Condee, vice-president and operations manager of the family-owned business. So the company treats its staff of 60 to an on-site, steak luncheon on the Friday before Christmas, with the managers doing the cooking. There are also give-aways of tools and a gift box containing a 5-pound ham, premium cheeses and more.

“We turn the phones over to the answering service so everyone can participate,” said Mr. Condee.

A luncheon at Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar is this year’s option for the Naples law firm of Grant Fridken & Wells. Off-site is a tradition, but the timing of the celebration can shift from year to year, said the firm’s office manager, Judy Wright.

“We take a poll to see what our staff prefers,” Ms. Wright said. “Sometimes we do luncheons. Sometimes do dinners. But we always do an event for the holidays.”

At the Fort Myers headquarters of Chico’s FAS, the annual holiday party can be a breakfast or an afternoon event for the campus’ approximately 1,200 employees. The festivities include raffles and contests in which groups compete by decorating a holiday sweater or snowman, something the fashion design and creative teams love, said Jessica Wells, vice-president of public relations and corporate communications.

There is also a charitable aspect to the celebration through the company’s association with the Page Park Association and the Children’s Home Society. Each year, Ms. Wells said, employees collect gifts for more than 200 children.

When thoughtfully planned by those in charge and approached responsibly and in the right spirit by all who attend, company holiday parties can blend together three of the holiday season’s most essential elements: fun, camaraderie and providing a vital lifting of the spirits for those in need.
One of my favorite lines from one of my favorite movies is during a tense battle sequence in “The Hunt For Red October” when Captain Mancuso calmly states, “The hard part of playing chicken is knowing when to flinch” before he skillfully destroys the enemy sub. Well, last week the game of chicken that OPEC and Russia are playing with each other and alternate energy producers came to an abrupt end as the largest oil producers backed away from the market’s narrative to dictate oil prices. Instead, after eight years, the oil cartel went back to the days of capping supply to drive up prices. So what can we learn from this grand experiment and what does the future hold for OPEC and oil prices?

First, OPEC’s decision validates James Carville’s saying, “It’s the economy, stupid!” Meaning economics trumps almost everything. Many believed that political or religious differences between Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq would make it impossible for OPEC to form a cohesive agreement. But when the Saudi Royal Family was forced to start selling the kingdom’s royal jewels, both literally and figuratively, I guess those things didn’t matter so much any more and cooperation ensued. Maybe there is hope for this world after all.

Second, the cartel’s decision confirms another great expression, “Pigs get fat but hogs get slaughtered.” For decades, oil producers greatly profited off of high energy prices by keeping the price of supply and demand. But non-OPEC Russia and the U.S. started to ramp up their production, OPEC became greenish and rather than share the oil wealth it strived to drive their competition out of business by pushing prices down and grabbing market share any way it could. And while prices did plummet and some oil companies did go bankrupt, it was the OPEC countries that relied on huge oil revenues to fund their welfare states that hurt the most.

Third, OPEC is learning the hard way, “Not to put all of your eggs in one basket.” It is true that for decades these oil-producing countries made billions of dollars supplying the world with oil. But they then became complacent and assumed that this would continue indefinitely into the future. But then shale drilling started. And then Russia modernized its infrastructure. What if tomorrow some scientist invents cold fusion? Countries like Saudi Arabia are starting to diversify their economic base but this process should have started decades ago.

Finally, the oil-producing countries finally understood that, “Perception is more important than reality.” The day OPEC and Russia announced their production cuts, oil prices shot up 10 percent. But after looking at the details of the agreement, many analysts questioned whether the price increase was justified. The production cuts were minor, many doubt that Russia could cut production even if it wanted to. Oil has to flow from its cold weather pumps or it will freeze. Libya and Nigeria were exempt from the agreement. Iran was given special consideration as it ramps up production after decades of sanctions, and most OPEC members cheat on their quotas anyway. But just the perception of production cut added billions of dollars to oil-producing economies.

So what is in store for oil prices down the road? As prices rise, the shale oil producers here in the U.S. will once again ramp up production. And while oil demand is expected to rise again next year, alternative energies and more efficient uses of energy are not positive for energy prices in the long-term. So most analysts believe that we will see higher prices in the short run, but once again lower prices in the years ahead. But I always remind myself, “Prediction is very difficult, especially if it’s about the future.”

— Eric Bretan, the co-owner of Rick’s Estate & Jewelry Buyers in Punta Gorda, was a senior derivatives marketer and investment banker for more than 15 years at several global banks.

### GET OUT FOR A GOOD CAUSE

- **Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve** hosts its 2016 Rookery Bay Adventure Race at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10. Participants complete a 3K kayak paddle on Henderson Bay and a 4K trail run on the organization’s property. Registration includes a T-shirt, post-race refreshments, water bottle and free admission to the Environmental Learning Center. Awards will be presented to the top finishers in several categories. $41 through Nov. 21.

- **Girls on the Run of Collier County** holds its annual Reindeer Run 5K setting out at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Community School of Naples. Participants are encouraged to fundraise ahead of the event and show up in festive attire. Registration is $15-$35. Kids under 5 can register for the Santa Sprint for $5. For more information or to register, call 530-5940 or visit www.rookerybay.org.

- **The ninth annual WINK News Feeds Families Hunger Walk** takes place at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at Miromar Outlets to benefit Harry Chapin Food Bank. The 2-mile, non-competitive family and pet-friendly walk is the organization’s biggest fundraiser to help feed children, families, and seniors through the food bank’s network of partner agencies. Supporters are encouraged to form teams to raise money for the cause. Same-day registration is at 8:30 a.m. For more information or to register, call 734-7007 or visit www.harrychapinfoodbank.org.

- **Baby Basics of Collier County** holds its eighth annual Walking Challenge at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at North Collier Regional Park. Participants can walk from ½ miles to 6 miles to raise funds to help the organization provide diapers for low-income, working families. For more information, visit www.babybasicscollier.org.

- **Humane Society of Naples** hosts its 11th annual Race for the Paws 5K Walk/Run at 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at Naples Municipal Airport. Early registration is $20 through Dec. 31. Same-day registration ends at 7:45 a.m. To sign up or for more information, call 643-1555 or visit www.hsnaples.org.

- **The second annual Boston Red Sox Celebrity Classic to benefit Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida** tees off Tuesday, Feb. 21, at The Forest Country Club in south Fort Myers. Registration is $400. For more information, visit www.leshealth.org.

- **Friends of the National Alliance on Mental Illness-Collier County** step out for the 14th annual Walk for NAMI-Collier on Saturday morning, Feb. 27, at Cambier Park. To form a team or for information about sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, email jacquelyn@namicollier.org.

- **The 11th annual Southwest Florida Komen Race for the Cure** takes place Saturday, March 4, at Coconut Point in Estero to raise awareness about and funds to fight breast cancer. For registration details, visit www.komenfsfwl.org.

- **Naples Pathways Coalition** hosts its Naples Bike Brunch & Family Festival at 7 a.m. Sunday, March 5, at Lowdermilk Park. Guests should bring their bikes, kids and pets for a day of outdoor fun. $40. For more information or to register, call 777-7718 or visit www.naplespathways.org.

- **Redlands Christian Migrant Association** hosts its 2016 Lipman Golf Classic at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, May 6, at Naples Heritage Golf Club. Same-day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and participation includes breakfast, a post-game buffet and prizes. Registration is $225 and benefits Immokalee migrant farm workers. For more information, call (800) 282-6540 or visit www.rcma.org.

— Email items to lnesmith@floridawEEKLY.com.
The Motley Fool Take
Take to the Sky

Skyworks Solutions (Nasdaq: SWKS) is a major supplier of chips to smartphone giants such as Apple and Samsung, with the growth of mobile devices and wearables driving revenues from $1.5 billion to $3.2 billion in just three years. It’s positioned to broaden its revenue base. In addition to supplying RF (radio frequency) chips for smartphones, it also sells analog semiconductors for wireless infrastructure, broadband applications, and the automotive, medical and military markets, among others. The company is also well positioned to supply chips for a rapidly expanding global 4G LTE network.

Skyworks is a play on the future of the Internet of Things (IoT), too — where a wide range of products (such as thermostats, cars, heart implants and oil rigs) connect to the internet and one another via sensors. Unfortunately, that’s the long-term case for Skyworks, and Wall Street, with its short-term mindset, has sold off shares due to worries about slowing smartphone sales and the company’s slowing revenue growth.

If Skyworks can get its RF chips into many devices accessing a rapidly expanding 4G LTE network, lessen its dependence on Apple for top- and bottom-line success, and expand into more IoT categories, this stock could be a big winner over the next decade. Give it a closer look. (The Motley Fool owns shares of and has recommended Skyworks Solutions.)

The Motley Fool Fool’s School
Learning From Phil Fisher

You may not know the name Phil Fisher, but you want to make sure you don’t make the same mistakes he did when he invested in stocks, you’d do well to learn about him. A renowned investment thinker, he penned the book “Common Stocks and Uncommon Profits” (Wiley, $25). Below are some of his key lessons.

1) Buy stock in companies with disciplined plans for achieving dramatic long-term growth in their businesses. They must also have competitive advantages that make it hard for new competitors to get into the game. (An example would be economies of scale or strong brands.)

2) Aim to find such companies when they are out of favor — when market conditions are not favorable or the financial community does not properly see their true worth. (That’s when you can buy them at attractive prices.)

3) Hold on to the stocks until there has been either a fundamental change in the company’s condition or it has grown to a point where its growth is likely to lag that of the overall economy. Don’t sell your most promising stocks for short-term reasons.

4) Be willing to look beyond dividends for great growers, as some don’t pay any dividends at all.

5) Know that mistakes are inevitable. Learn from them so you don’t repeat them. Be prepared to take losses in some stocks while letting profits keep growing in your more promising stocks.

6) Understand that there are relatively few truly outstanding companies. Concentrate your money in the most desirable opportunities. Investing more than 20 companies is unmanageable (and “a sign of financial incompetence”).

7) Don’t blindly follow the crowd. Have more knowledge than others, and apply your judgment after thoroughly assessing specific situations. You’ll need courage to follow your convictions.

8) Your success will depend largely on a combination of hard work, intelligence and honesty.

Next week we’ll cover how Fisher evaluates companies.

The Motley Fool My Dumbest Investment
ETFs Would Have Been Better

I got into investing when a business professor said the day the price of gas went up or down because he owned stock in the gas company and collected his dividend regardless, I repeatedly saw new investors encouraged to buy just one stock and get some skin in the game. I would have preferred to be encouraged to buy exchange-traded funds (ETFs) when I had limited funds, especially since I can buy well-diversified ETFs through my brokerage if I hold for more than 30 days. That is a really great way to get some skin in the game. I am a believer in ETFs that charge low fees, as that has helped my portfolio’s performance.

The Motley Fool Responds: You’re smart to seek out low fees, as that can make a big difference in your results over long periods. The advice to start by buying into one stock isn’t necessarily bad. You might find much more interesting and motivating to be invested in a certain company you like and believe in than a fund made up of dozens or hundreds of companies. If a fund does diversification, this is generally required to file quarterly and annual reports, evaluating factors such as its debt load, profit margins, free cash flow and growth opportunities.

Superinvestor Warren Buffett says that he looks for “(1) businesses we can understand, (2) with favorable long-term prospects, (3) operated by honest and competent people and (4) priced very attractively.” It’s hard to beat that formula.

The Motley Fool Ask the Fool
Signs of a Good Stock

How can I spot signs of a good stock in the economic environment matter?

— T.B., Janesville, Wisconsin

Contrary to what many think, a struggling economy can be good for buying stocks, as it typically features more bargains than an economy firing on all cylinders. People sell stocks when the market is booming, but many stocks are overvalued then. The small picture matters more, though. With any stock you’re considering, you need to get to know the underlying company very well, so you’ll be buying a piece of it and not just a future earnings growth and quarterly reports, evaluating factors such as its debt load, profit margins, free cash flow and growth opportunities.

Superinvestor Warren Buffett says that he looks for “(1) businesses we can understand, (2) with favorable long-term prospects, (3) operated by honest and competent people and (4) priced very attractively.” It’s hard to beat that formula.

What distinguishes a public company from a private one?

— P.A., Staten, Texas

A public company has sold some shares of itself to the public and is generally required to file quarterly earnings reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission, detailing revenue, expenses, taxes, debt loads, cash levels, income or losses and much more. These reports are available to the public.

Privately held companies don’t have shares available for the public to buy, and they don’t have to reveal much. According to Forbes, the 100 biggest private companies in America include grain processors Cargill, Koch Industries, Altria, Altria, Albertsons, Dell, Mars, Publix, Deloitte, Bank of America, Facebook, Fidelity Investments, Toys R Us, SC Johnson & Son, Amway, Bloomberg, Petsmart, Pella, Kohler, Eastman Kodak, Levi Strauss. Outside the U.S., IKEA, Bosch and Aldi are private giants, too.

Want more information about stock ratings? Visit foolnews@fool.com.

BUSINESS MEETINGS

The Above Boardroom Chamber holds its holiday party from 5:30-7 p.m. Dec. 8, at Arlington of Naples. Guests are asked to bring an item of non-perishable food for donation to a local nonprofit organization. To sign up or for more information, visit aboveboard-chamber.com.

A “Jingle & Mingle” holiday party for members and guests of the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce takes place from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 777 7th St., Naples. $15. Call 992-2943 or visit www.bonitaspringschamber.com.

Young Professionals of the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce holds its holiday party from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Teatro Ristorante in the new Southwest Florida Performing Arts Center in Bonita. RSVP by Dec. 12. Call 992-2943 or visit www.bonitaspringschamber.com.

Members of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce celebrate the holidays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the Hilton Naples. RSVP by Dec. 13. Call 992-2943 or visit www.napleschamber.org.

The Collier Building Industry Association holds its Holiday Happening and buffet dinner at 6 p.m. Thursdays, Dec. 15, at Florida Everglades Country Club. Tickets are $50. Reservations required by Dec. 9. Call 436-3878 or email nancy@cbia.net.

A Job Search Support Group meets from 9:30-12:30 p.m. Mondays at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce. Contact Karen Klukiewicz at kluk77@comcast.net or visit www.napleschamber.org.

Consultants from the Small Business Development Center at Florida Gulf Coast University are available at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, 2390 Tamo Suite 102, Naples, Thursday. To make an appointment for a free session, call Suzanne Specht at 747-9861.

BNI Downtown Naples Networkers meet at 7:30 a.m. every Thursday at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 777 Mooring Line Drive. Call Jamie Bergen at 239-560-7566 for more information.

Email business meeting announcements to cpierce@floorweekly.com.
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Fort Myers, FL 33907
(239) 433-4535

NAPEX
889 111th Ave N, Suite 201
Naples, FL 34108
(239) 261-0428

CAPE CORAL
4707 SE 9th Place, Suite 102
Cape Coral, FL 33904
(239) 772-5400

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NETWORKING

The Membership Directors Association of Southwest Florida

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2. Niki Dutton and Stephanie Glasco
3. Joseph Ewell and Nancy Dagher
4. Daniella Jacob and Danita Osborn
5. Sandy Cotter and Brian Washam
6. Katie Forsten and Pat Schulz
7. Pat Schulz, Kathie Peddi and Holly Stephens
8. Debbie Lohan and Donald Sawin
9. Melissa Hansen and Stephanie Glasco

“Like” us on Facebook.com/NaplesFloridaWeekly to see more photos. We take more society and business 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 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 business networking photos. Include the names of everyone in the picture. Email them to cpierce@floridaweekly.com.

VICKI BAKER / FLORIDA WEEKLY
Overlooking the golf course and lake, this stunning home in Marsh Cove of Fiddler’s Creek displays a delightful Spanish flair. There are three bedrooms, a den, three full baths and one-half bath, two fireplaces and a wrought iron staircase with wood handrails and Mexican tile risers. Underlining the Spanish feel, dark wood flooring and window accents are set off by white backgrounds and furnishings throughout the home. The gourmet kitchen boasts marble countertops, marble topped island, brick backsplash and stainless steel appliances. Expansive floor-to-ceiling windows allow for bountiful natural light. The master bath has a claw foot soaker tub, dual sided walk-in shower and numerous cabinets with marble countertops. There is no shortage of spaces to enjoy the view and meticulously groomed grounds. The open pool area offers a fantastic Hemingway-style pool with fountain features and stone deck with grass inlay overlooking the golf course. Offered at $2,224,999, 3259 Tavolara Lane, Naples. For information, contact Michelle Thomas, Michelle.thomas@sothebysrealty.com, 860-7176, Premier Sotheby’s International Realty.

A Spanish beauty in Marsh Cove
MARCO BEACH

MARCO ISLAND
- Water Direct, Open Bay View, No Bridges
- 4 BR + Den, 3.5 BA
- $2,499,000 MLS 216066798
Starr Whiting 239.204.1219

GLASGOW
- Full Golf Membership Included
- Over 6,000 S.F., 4 Bedrooms + Den
- $2,480,000 MLS 216064092
Patti Fortune & Charles Golf 239.272.8494

TWIN EAGLES
- Lakefront Executive Home & Cabana
- 6 BR + Den, 5.5 BA, Pool/Spa
- $2,195,000 MLS 216063632
Liz Appling 239.272.7201

TREVISO BAY
- 12th Floor, End Unit
- 3 BR, 2 BA Condo
- $1,079,000 MLS 216073316
Gary, Jeff & Becky Jaarda 239.273.4596

FOUR SEASONS
- Visit 7401HylmoWay.com for Details
- Southwest Exposure, Golf Course Setting
- $1,079,000 MLS 216067366
Gary Ryan 239.273.6796

NAPLES
- 3 BR + Den, 2.5 BA, 3-Car Garage
- Upgraded Kitchen/Breakfast Bar
- $575,000 MLS 216065941
Vito Bauer 239.777.7080

RIVERSTONE
- March 2022, 3 BR, 2 BA, 3-Car Garage
- Turnkey Furnished + Extra Storage
- $459,000 MLS 216025749
Liz Appling 239.272.7201

NEW LISTING
- OPEN 12/11 1:00PM - 4:00PM
- NEW LISTING
- OPEN 12/10 & 12/11 12:00PM - 4:00PM
- OPEN 12/11 10:00AM - 4:00PM
- OPEN 12/11 11:00AM - 4:00PM
- OPEN 12/11 1:00PM - 4:00PM
- OPEN 12/11 1:00PM - 4:00PM
**Highlands, Sapphire Valley/Lake Toxaway**

**1.9101 cala and Sanibel Island**

**Coral, Captiva Island, Fort Myers, RoyalShellRentals.com**

- **$289,000** MLS 216057662
  - Lovely Golf Course & Preserve Views
  - 1st Floor 3 BR, 2 BA Coach Home, 2-Car Garage

- **$449,900** MLS 216047734
  - Spacious Lot
  - Completely Remodeled 4 BR, 4 BA

- **$775,000** MLS 216051235
  - Private Pool/Spa Surrounded by Lush Vegetation
  - Quiet Wooded Lot with Park Next Door

- **$2,495,000** MLS 216032097
  - Visit 3481Creekview.com for Details

**Bonita, Estero,**

- **$285,000** MLS 216062391
  - Outstanding Lake & Sunset Views
  - Immaculately Kept 2 BR + Den, 2 BA Condo

- **$397,500** MLS 213015237
  - 155 Acres, Just 28 Homesites, Two 5 Acre Lakes
  - 3/4 Acre Waterfront Lot in Gated Community

- **$755,000** MLS 216015753
  - Beautiful Wooded View
  - Best Value in Bonita Lakes

- **$2,350,000** MLS 216071271
  - /nobreakspace 4 BR + Den, 4.5 BA, 5,342 S.F., Upstairs Bonus Room
  - A Must See, Exquisite & Modern Lake View Home

- **$820,000** MLS 214030966
  - Investors: Existing One Year Lease at $3,000/Mo.
  - 3 BR, 3.5 BA Waterfront Townhouse

- **$1,699,000** MLS 216062218
  - New Construction
  - 3 BR + Den, 3.5 BA, 2,651 S.F. Living Area

**Naples, Fort Myers, West Palm Beach**

- **$595,000** MLS 216071295
  - Large Great Room & Dining Room
  - 3 BR + Den, 3 BA w/Private Elevator

- **$984,000** MLS 216070217
  - New Construction
  - 4 BR, 4 BA, 2,651 S.F. Living Area

**Golden Shores**

- **$429,900** MLS 216031502
  - Lanai w/Water Views
  - 2 BR, 2 BA, 1,450 S.F. Under Air

**Everglades City**

- **$1,579,000** MLS 216062883
  - Remodeled Kitchen, Soaring Ceilings, Open Floor Plan
  - Private, Gated, Luxury Community

**Bonita Bay, Naples, Fort Myers Beach**

- **$1,700,000** MLS 216069692
  - Circular Driveway, Gracious Entry
  - Elegant Brick-Front Estate Home

**Naples, Fort Myers, Sanibel Island**

- **$699,000** MLS 216047741
  - Building & Land Suitable for Restaurant
  - Gateway to the 10,000 Islands

**Island Beach Club, Pelican Ridge**

- **$669,000** MLS 216066715
  - Large Great Room & Dining Room
  - 4 BR, 4 BA, 2,651 S.F. Living Area

**Naples, Fort Myers Beach**

- **$1,069,000** MLS 216062218
  - New Construction
  - 3 BR + Den, 3.5 BA, 2,651 S.F. Living Area

**Downtown Main St. Circle**

- **$609,000** MLS 216047741
  - Spacious Lot
  - Completely Remodeled 4 BR, 4 BA

**Bonita Bay, Naples, Fort Myers Beach**

- **$895,000** MLS 216047741
  - Large Great Room & Dining Room
  - 4 BR, 4 BA, 2,651 S.F. Living Area

**Naples, Fort Myers Beach**

- **$1,199,000** MLS 216062218
  - New Construction
  - 3 BR + Den, 3.5 BA, 2,651 S.F. Living Area

**Estero, Naples, Fort Myers Beach**

- **$649,000** MLS 216066715
  - Large Great Room & Dining Room
  - 4 BR, 4 BA, 2,651 S.F. Living Area

**Naples, Fort Myers Beach**

- **$1,579,000** MLS 216062883
  - Remodeled Kitchen, Soaring Ceilings, Open Floor Plan
  - Private, Gated, Luxury Community

**Island Beach Club, Pelican Ridge**

- **$350,000** MLS 216020353
  - Less Than 1 Mile to the Beach & Mercato
  - 2-Story Villa with Large Lot, 2 BR, 2.5 BA

**Talis Park, Pelican Ridge**

- **$1,910,1 cala and Sanibel Island**
  - 3 BR, 3.5 BA Waterfront Trowhouse
  - Investors: Existing One Year Lease at $3,000/Mo.
  - 2 BR, 2 BA Coach Home, 2-Car Garage

- **$350,000** MLS 216068134
  - Beautiful Long Lake Views
  - 2-Story Villa with Large Lot, 2 BR, 2.5 BA

**Bonita Bay, Naples, Fort Myers Beach**

- **$350,000** MLS 216068134
  - Beautiful Long Lake Views
  - 2-Story Villa with Large Lot, 2 BR, 2.5 BA

**Estero, Naples, Fort Myers Beach**

- **$669,000** MLS 216066715
  - Extra Large Lanai, Phenomenal Views
  - 3 BR, 3 BA, 16th Floor Residence

**Naples, Fort Myers Beach**

- **$595,000** MLS 216071295
  - Large Great Room & Dining Room
  - 3 BR + Den, 3 BA w/Private Elevator

**Tamarind Trace, Naples, Fort Myers Beach**

- **$775,000** MLS 216051235
  - Quiet Wooded Lot with Park Next Door
  - Private Pool/Spa Surrounded by Lush Vegetation

**Bonita Lakes, Estero, Naples, Fort Myers Beach**

- **$285,000** MLS 216062391
  - Outstanding Lake & Sunset Views
  - Immaculately Kept 2 BR + Den, 2 BA Condo
Rapper home a hot resale

Hot property, hot celebrity builder and hot location? Back in the 1990s, who knew that international rap star Vanilla Ice would become a premier renovator and designer of sexy, contemporary mansions that check all the boxes on everyone’s dream list, making him an undisputed star in two very different and very competitive businesses.

Always one who liked to make things, Rob Van Winkle’s foray into the construction/renovation business came about by accident, when after finishing a music tour, took a look at the California and New York properties he had purchased earlier in case he needed a pad to crash and realized neither had ever been used. He decided to sell and was stunned at the profits he made. He turned to renovating and flipping homes around his hometown of Palm Beach. Also quite talented in selling himself, this parlayed into the popular HGTV program, the “Vanilla Ice Project,” where viewers get the chance to watch him in action.

One of his most glamorous projects is now on the market giving some lucky person the opportunity not only to live in one of Vanilla Ice’s creations, but also a guarantee of cocktail conversation for years to come. Located in Lighthouse Point, near the Hillsborough Inlet and sited on a canal, tropical views of the canal across the pool terrace is not only great viewing but at the end of the dock is a 21-foot SeaRay boat included in the sale. Be on the ocean for fishing in no time or enjoy shrimping in the inlet when the night tide is coming in and shrimps eyes glow in your spotlight.

If that sounds like magic, the home’s interior is designed to please the contemporary buyer looking for high style. Seamlessly awash in white and framing the water view, it’s a sleek blank slate acting as a neutral background against which contemporary decor, art and collections take center stage. Forward thinking design in kitchen and baths create a cohesive show house for the perfectionist. At 4,051 square feet, the house has four bedrooms, four baths and a spacious open plan for entertaining that spills out onto the pool terrace and dock.

Live like a celebrity in the house designed and executed by Rob Van Winkle of the Vanilla Ice Project fame. Priced at $2.395 million.

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Property Address</th>
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<th>Phone Number</th>
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<td>4225 Gordon Drive</td>
<td>Lisa Tashjian</td>
<td>239.259.7024</td>
<td>KURL11090416</td>
<td>$7,250,000</td>
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<td>3550 Gordon Drive</td>
<td>Cristal O'Meara</td>
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<td>640 Admiral Point Parke</td>
<td>Michael G. Lawler</td>
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<td>544 Galleon Drive</td>
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<td>832 28th Court</td>
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<td>Villas Di Marino #1</td>
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<td>Old Towne #1</td>
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**Notes:**
- All prices are in USD.
- The listings are sorted by property address.

**Additional Information:**
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- BY SALES VOLUME
- Premier Sotheby’s International Realty
- PREMIERSOTHEBYREALETY.COM
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<tr>
<td>7888 Valencia Court</td>
<td>Luna Jones</td>
<td>239.370.5340</td>
<td>Web ID: 216029023</td>
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<td>538 Eagle Creek Drive</td>
<td>Larry Caruso</td>
<td>239.394.9050</td>
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<td>Marina Cove #2-203</td>
<td>Steve Smiley</td>
<td>239.298.4327</td>
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<td>644 Lambton Lane</td>
<td>Texa McCarthy</td>
<td>239.207.0118</td>
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<td>The Colony #1302</td>
<td>Beth McNichols</td>
<td>239.821.3304</td>
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<td>2165 Ark Court</td>
<td>Sonya Brubaker</td>
<td>239.887.2797</td>
<td>Web ID 216078642</td>
<td>$1,850,000</td>
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<td>2221 Canna Way</td>
<td>Mary Joyth Brooks</td>
<td>239.272.6867</td>
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<td>1302 Noble Heron Way</td>
<td>Michael Williams</td>
<td>239.248.7228</td>
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<td>1931 Cocoplum Way</td>
<td>Teraza Sosa</td>
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<td>3420 Night Hawk Pointe</td>
<td>Daniel Guenther</td>
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<td>1231 Gordon River Trail</td>
<td>Susan Gardner</td>
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<td>28921 Canoe Terrace</td>
<td>Valeria Bas</td>
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<td>11861 Hedgestone Court</td>
<td>John D Amelio</td>
<td>239.961.9996</td>
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<td>9809 Rocky Bank Drive</td>
<td>Patrick O Connor</td>
<td>239.293.7411</td>
<td>Web ID: 216040702</td>
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<td>3172 Mercato Lane</td>
<td>Susan Gardner</td>
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<tr>
<td>11874 Bella Vista</td>
<td>Angela R Allen</td>
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<tr>
<td>6855 Mercato Way</td>
<td>Mary Kavanagh</td>
<td>616.957.4428</td>
<td>Web ID: 210055453</td>
<td>$1,295,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aqua #310</td>
<td>John D Amelio</td>
<td>239.961.5996</td>
<td>Web ID: 216052627</td>
<td>$1,459,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>29056 Leonardo Avenue</td>
<td>Lynn Kappelbush</td>
<td>239.376.5055</td>
<td>Web ID: 216026288</td>
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<tr>
<td>10892 Phoenix Way</td>
<td>Susan Gardner</td>
<td>239.565.0650</td>
<td>Web ID: 210055941</td>
<td>$649,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9845 Clear Lake Circle</td>
<td>Lynn Kappelbush</td>
<td>239.293.9461</td>
<td>Web ID: 216041070</td>
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<tr>
<td>57011 Avenue North</td>
<td>Rosanne Jaske</td>
<td>239.450.2520</td>
<td>Web ID: 210491949</td>
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<tr>
<td>3283 Jude Island Way</td>
<td>Michelle Thomas</td>
<td>239.860.7276</td>
<td>Web ID: 210052430</td>
<td>$465,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>588 Lakeshore Avenue</td>
<td>Otlyya_Wolf</td>
<td>239.297.2960</td>
<td>Web ID: 210053027</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>598 Lakeshore Avenue</td>
<td>Otlyya Wolf</td>
<td>239.297.2960</td>
<td>Web ID: 210053027</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10873 Avalon Way</td>
<td>Susan Gardner</td>
<td>239.565.0650</td>
<td>Web ID: 210055941</td>
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<tr>
<td>463 Gulfview Drive</td>
<td>Melissa McMurray</td>
<td>239.775.4546</td>
<td>Web ID: 210060552</td>
<td>$399,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>336 Oak Avenue</td>
<td>Ann Marie Shimer</td>
<td>239.825.9000</td>
<td>Web ID: 210054679</td>
<td>$1,895,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vanderbilt Gulfside #301</td>
<td>Jan Darby</td>
<td>239.290.3112</td>
<td>Web ID: 210062567</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beachwalk Gardens #0-102</td>
<td>Gayle Farley</td>
<td>239.250.6651</td>
<td>Web ID: 216036999</td>
<td>$439,000</td>
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*Wall Street Journal and REAL Trends Top 500 OVER $4 BILLION IN SALES VOLUME IN 2015*

Over 900 associates and employees
37 locations throughout Florida and North Carolina
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<td>Michelle Thomas</td>
<td>239.860.7176</td>
<td>Web ID 216074669</td>
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<tr>
<td>320 Wild Orchid Lane</td>
<td>Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll</td>
<td>239.642.1133</td>
<td>Web ID 216075582</td>
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<tr>
<td>1561 Kingston Court</td>
<td>Dave Thompson</td>
<td>239.404.0490</td>
<td>Web ID 216072779</td>
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<td>246 Hideaway Circle North</td>
<td>Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll</td>
<td>239.642.1133</td>
<td>Web ID 216075305</td>
<td>$1,695,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>172 Richmond Court</td>
<td>Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll</td>
<td>239.642.1133</td>
<td>Web ID 216056507</td>
<td>$1,385,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3405 Collingswood Avenue</td>
<td>Cathy Brooks</td>
<td>239.272.2275</td>
<td>Web ID 216090905</td>
<td>$1,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7706 Mulberry Lane</td>
<td>Darlene Roddy</td>
<td>239.404.0685</td>
<td>Web ID 216042004</td>
<td>$975,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5842 Balanago Drive</td>
<td>M. Meade</td>
<td>239.293.4851</td>
<td>Web ID 216058704</td>
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</tr>
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<td>3248 Tavolara Lane</td>
<td>M. Meade</td>
<td>239.293.4851</td>
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<tr>
<td>761 Mulberry Lane</td>
<td>M. Meade</td>
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<tr>
<td>9217 Campanile Circle</td>
<td>Michelle Thomas</td>
<td>239.860.7176</td>
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<td>Marengo #201</td>
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<td>239.293.4851</td>
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<td>M. Meade</td>
<td>239.293.4851</td>
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NINETEEN HOMES
WITH OUR MOST
MAGNIFICENT
STANDARD FEATURE

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What do Ohio, New York, Illinois and Texas have in common? They all live at Naples Square! Residents come from across our great country to experience this unique downtown lifestyle. So whether you’re a Wolverine or a Buckeye—a Yankee or a Sox fan—we’re proud you’ve chosen to live at Naples Square. Take a look at the list below to see where others are from who are living here.

Thank you!

So Upscale. So Downtown.
“I think for so many years (we’ve) been the go-to place for theater in Naples that we have rested on our laurels a bit in serving the community to the fullest.”
— Bryce Alexander, artistic director at The Naples Players

BY NANCY STETSON
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

His office is bare, like an empty stage awaiting the sets and props of a new show.

“Right now, it’s pretty stark. All my stuff is still in a box, on the way from Denver.”

He does have a couple of important things pinned to his bulletin board, though, reflecting his current focus: a photograph of The Naples Players staff and a list of all the nonprofits in Collier County.

“That’s so I can think through how I’m going to engage,” he says.

Mr. Alexander joined TNP in early October. Former artistic director Dallas Dunnagan stayed for the next month to

SEE DIRECTOR, C4

Take advantage of Naples Restaurant Week deals

BY LINDSEY NESMITH
lnesmith@floridaweekly.com

So are you going to wait until season heats up to visit the good restaurants? Don’t, unless you like waiting for your dinner. As it happens, Naples Restaurant Week continues until Dec. 11 and offers steals at 25 local spots with three-course, prix-fixe menus for $35 (you’ll even find the occasional $25 lunch special, too). It’s the perfect time to save some cash and easily snag a seat while restaurants have their game face on and guests aren’t arriving with their elbows out. After Jan. 1, local diners will have to deal with the crowds or wait until the off-season when all those fancy chefs close shop for some needed rest and relaxation.

And it’s always nice to support local restaurants, especially through the holidays when hostesses find their smiles cracking because the recently swinging doors seem shut tight.

“Because restaurants have that lull after Thanksgiving, if the locals wanted to get out and eat that would be the best time to go before season starts,” said organizer Guy Clarke. “Let the leftovers sit for an extra day.”

SEE DEALS, C24

Lots to do

We have top picks for things to do in town — and a short drive away.

SEE C6-9

Latest films

“Man Down” has three intersecting storylines, and each is compelling in its own way. C15

Arts commentary

Oy! “Coney Island Christmas” at the Sugden. C10

Premier Sotheby’s

Marco Island | 239.642.2222
Broad Avenue | 239.434.2424
Fifth Avenue | 239.434.8770
Estuary at Grey Oaks | 239.261.3148
Mystique at Pelican Bay | 239.598.9900
The Village | 239.261.6161
The Gallery in Central Naples | 239.659.0099
Vanderbilt | 239.594.9494
Residences at Mercato | 239.594.9400
Bonita Springs | 239.948.4000
Sanibel Island | 239.472.2735
Rentals | 239.262.4242
“Reckless Creed” by Alex Kava.

Alex Kava’s highly original Ryder Creed series gets better and better as the title character gains in complexity. His interaction with FBI Agent Maggie O’Dell allows fresh challenges for this fine title character of the author’s earlier series. The originality of the Creed series lies in the occupation of its protagonist; the former marine is now an established, sought-after trainer of search-and-rescue dogs. He has a thriving facility on the Florida panhandle.

The plot concerns a bird flu contagion that might have been manipulated, if not an unintended consequence of radical experimentation under the wraps of government agencies. How do you test an antitode without developing victims to catch and carry the disease? Among the alphabet soup of government medical research operations, something sinister is going on. Is there a chance that some research operations, something sinister to catch and carry the disease? Among...}

...that offers readers with the privilege of entering a special world of unexpected feeling and understanding. This uplifting experience has a bold spiritual dimension. The effort to uncover the contamination source and the hoped-for solution.

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

Threat of bird flu epidemic sets canine-aided security force into action

**FLORIDA WRITERS**

In southern Alabama, Ryder Creed’s favorite search dog, Grace, discovers a young woman drowned in a river with rocks in her pockets. In Nebraska, Maggie O’Dell sees redwing blackbirds falling from the sky.

Bird flu is the link, and Creed’s dogs are the hoped-for solution.

Can they be trained to sniff out bird flu contamination? And can they do so without becoming sick or dying? If so, such dogs and their handlers could be instrumental in stopping an epidemic.

In following this plot thread, the author once again allows us to enjoy the canine-human relationships her series has already put stage center. Creed’s training of and partnership with Grace and his other dogs provides readers with the privilege of entering a special world of unexpected feeling and understanding. This uplifting experience has a bold spiritual dimension.

The effort to uncover the contamination source and the hoped-for solution.

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

**DERMATOLOGY WITHOUT THE WAIT!**

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Top authors to join Florida Celebration of Reading Feb. 17

Best-selling authors Chris Gardner, Elin Hilderbrand, Candice Millard and Laura Numeroff will join the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy for the 17th annual Florida Celebration of Reading on Friday, Feb. 17, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs.

The Florida Celebration of Reading was founded in 2001 by former Gov. Jeb Bush and his wife, Columba. The annual event features guest appearances by members of the Bush family, including Jeb Bush Jr., who will serve as the event’s honorary chair, and best-selling authors who read from their works during the event.

Mr. Gardner’s autobiography, “The Pursuit of Happyness,” was on the New York Times best-sellers list for more than 20 weeks and was the inspiration for the movie of the same title that starred Will Smith. Mr. Smith received numerous Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild and Academy Award nominations for his performance as Mr. Gardner in the 2006 film.

Ms. Hilderbrand is the New York Times best-selling author of 17 novels, including “Winter Street” and “Here’s to Us.” “Winter Storms,” her 18th and most recent novel, is the third and final book in the Winter Street trilogy.


Ms. Millard’s most recent book, “Hero of the Empire,” is based on Winston Churchill’s little-known exploits during the Boer War.

Author Laura Numeroff wrote the children’s book “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie,” which was followed by a series of related 16 titles that sold more than 15 million copies worldwide. Her recent book, “Raising a Hero,” is the first of the Work for Biscuits illustrated series for children. The book supports Canine Companions for Independence, a nonprofit organization providing assistance dogs to children, adults and veterans with disabilities.

Proceeds from Florida Celebration of Reading support Barbara Bush Foundation literacy programs. Individual tickets are $250 and include the reading program and dinner. See www.BarbaraBush.org/events.

Meet the family of Roald Dahl, author of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”

SANTA IN WONKALAND
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11
NOON TO 3PM
Santa meets Willy Wonka at this sweet holiday event!
WHERE:
Christmas tree in the main piazza & lawn across from Silverspot
FREE ACTIVITIES!
DJ • Stilt Walker • Dance Performances
Face Painter • Lawn Games • Bounce House
SWEET SHOP
featuring Cotton Candy, Lollipops, Cupcakes, Snow Cones, Hot Cocoa, Donuts & more!
Photos with Santa are just $5.
Proceeds from photos and purchases of signed copies of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” benefit Baby Basics of Collier County.

NAPLES Santa Pub Crawl
6th Annual
Naples Santa Pub Crawl
Friday, December 9th
Hosted by Michael & Lori Smith
Dress to IMPRESS in your favorite festive holiday attire!
KICKOFF PARTY 6-9pm
Bring an unwrapped toy to support The Shelter for Abused Women & Children. Toy drive donors will be entered into a Raffle to win a 65” TV and more prizes!
Presented By:
SMITH PLASTERING INC
489 Bayfront Place, Naples
239.530.2225

Movies on the Lawn
Tuesday, December 20th, 5:45p
Elf
starring Will Ferrell and James Caan
help show him the ropes.

On his first day, he says, he walked in, put his stuff on his desk and got to work. He worked through the evening, as it was the first night of rehearsal for "Coney Island Christmas." The first show he's directed for TNP, is run through Dec. 18 at the Sugden Community Theatre. His first day on the new job didn't end until 10 p.m.

"I'm a glutton for punishment," he jokes.

Mr. Alexander moved here from Denver, Colo., with his wife Katie, who is an Equity actress. "She grew up in Colorado and was ready to never see snow ever again," he says. "It was time for a journey to a new organization. I thought we could do a lot of good for the community." Though Mr. Alexander had visited Naples in the past, he'd never been to Naples.

He was happy to move from a seller's market to a buyer's market, he says, and to "a slower pace of life."

The 28-year-old comes from The Phamaly Theater Company, based in Englewood, Colo., just outside of Denver. The venue (pronounced "family") is comprised of professional actors with disabilities.

"If you were a working actor who acquired a disability, it would be hard for you to work anywhere about the country," he says. "Serving that community, we became nationally known. We are the go-to connection to the community, regardless of disabilities. We were known for our hard work in making the arts accessible."

He joined the company in 2007 and became artistic director there in February 2013. During his time there, he doubled the staff, increased funding and instituted year-round programming. He also took the troupe on its first international tour, traveling to Osaka, Japan.

Prior to that, he received a graduate degree from the University of Colorado-Boulder in theater performance. In school, he says, he "made great connections with the regional theater in Colorado... I was mentored by Kent Thompson, the leading producing artistic director at the Denver Centre Theatre Company."

He was also an intern director at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis and worked with artistic director Joe Dowling on one of his last shows.

"I was fortunate to see these two massive men of artistic direction in my life at a very young age, and be able to reference their work," he says, adding they helped shape how we would eventually run the Phamaly.

When he heard about the opening for the artistic director at TNP and looked into the position, Mr. Alexander says, he was encouraged and motivated by all the resources available here.

Now in its 63rd year, TNP is considered one of the nation's top community theaters. It's been cited by CNN, Money Magazine and Smithsonian Magazine in articles written about Naples being one of the best small towns in America.

So what does Mr. Alexander see as the strengths and weaknesses of his new company?

"Our strengths are in quality and motivation as a professional staff," he says. "You have facilities here, you have a professional staff here, and you have motivation here that is not found in most theaters of this size around the country. You have a staff that wants to engage the community and want to do good art at the same time, which is not always easy. No doubt The Naples Players want to be the jewel of Naples, and not just our building."

As for weaknesses:

"I think for so many years we've been the go-to place for theater in Naples that we have rested on our laurels a bit in serving the community to the fullest," he says. Mr. Alexander's plans to make the theater "more welcoming" also include marketing directly to a younger audience, but to other areas of our community as well."

He wants to make some renovations to the building "to make it more relevant to the community," he says, adding, "It doesn't have that appeal that would engage the community and want to do good art at the same time, which is not always easy. No doubt The Naples Players want to be the jewel of Naples, and not just our building."

He wants to make some renovations to the building "to make it more relevant to the community," he says, adding, "It doesn't have that appeal that would make it feel like a welcoming, warm space to come explore art."

He envisions "a true space where someone could walk into the front doors of the business side of our theater and understand that they are welcome here... As long as there are people who walk down Fifth Avenue and look at the building and think it's a library, we're not engaging the community enough. We want them to understand: This is a place they are welcome."

Mr. Alexander's plans to make the theater "more welcoming" also include marketing directly to a younger audience, performing Shakespeare on the front plaza for free and selling a better quality of wine and allowing patrons to bring it into the theater with them.

"I think audiences will notice how much friendlier and accessible the building is and our policies are," he says. He wants to have sensory-friendly performances, for people with autism or older people with Alzheimer's, "who need less stimulation or a more formal environment. We want to make sure we're opening our doors not only to a traditional theater audience, but to other areas of our community as well."

Ideally, he says, every production next season will have a community partner — "not a sponsor. We'll take a thematic element of the play and link it to their own community."

He also wants to talk with local restaurants, shops and galleries and persuade more of them to stay open later so people can go out and eat after seeing a show.

As far as appealing to a younger audience, "We want to demonstrate that the arts are accessible to them," he says. "Walk down Third Avenue South or Fifth Avenue South and you see lots of young people; they're everywhere in Naples. We want to make it clear that — they can look forward to seeing not only the classics but the more exciting recent Broadway hits available here, as well as material that you could find in any major city around the country."

When asked for examples, he lists "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" and classics such as "White Christmas."

Immediately next on his agenda: directing "Dead Accounts," a 2012 play by Theresa Rebeck that opens at the Sugden on Feb. 1. "It's a great play, a modern look at family," he says. He's settling into his new home.

"I feel extraordinarily fortunate," he says. "It's a wonderful place to be, a great creative home."
Jones' punch bowls are rare and exquisite finds

By Terry Kovel and Kim Kovel

If you were getting ready for the traditional Christmas party in 1860s England, you might have been searching the storage cupboards for the holiday punch bowl. Colorful, decorative majolica serving pieces were popular then, and George Jones made some of the best. Starting in 1866, he made then, and George Jones made some majolica serving pieces were popular day punch bowl. Colorful, decorative ining the storage cupboards for the holy- in Boston for $3,075. auctioned at Skinner’s puppet character Punch and held by the famous decorat ed with holly eaves. It is 4 cubes by 5 cubes. The copyright date is 1889. The pictures made by assembling the cubes are from the children’s book, “The Night Before Christmas,” published by McLoughlin Brothers. This Santa Claus cube puzzle sells for over $2,000 in almost perfect condition.

Q: While preparing for home reno- vations, we found a few dozen vintage beer cans carefully preserved in our attic. Many of the cans were opened from the bottom, preserving the “pop top.” They are all cans from mid-1900s. How can we determine the value and best venue for selling?

A: Beer cans with aluminum pull tops were first made in 1962. Iron City Beer was the first beer in cans with ring-type pull tabs. The ring tabs came completely off the can and were discarded. The Sta-Tab was invented in 1975 and was first used on cans of Falls City beer. The price of old beer cans varies from under a dollar to several hundred or more for a rare and desirable can. There are several sites online that list beer cans and their value, although most of them are sites that are selling beer cans, so the prices will be higher than what you can expect to get. By checking several sites, you can get an idea of value. If there is an advertising or breweriana show in your area, you can check out prices there and perhaps can sell them to a dealer. Check out Brewery Collectibles Club of America (bccb.com) for a list of events.

Q: I inherited my grandparents’ table, buffet and bookcase. I think they’re walnut and they haven’t been refinished. They were in my grandmother’s basement for over 40 years and there is some mold on them. What is the best way to treat these pieces without damaging them?

A: To avoid breathing mold spores, be sure to wear a dust mask and safety goggles. Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter and brush attachment to remove any loose mold. Then, clean the surface with a solution of dishwashing detergent and warm water. Scrub gently with a sponge, cloth or brush, being careful not to soak the wood. You can use bleach or a mold killer, but be sure to test it on an inconspicuous place on the furniture before using it. Rinse with a clean cloth dipped in water and wring out. Dry the furniture with another clean cloth. If mold remains, the spot may need to be sanded. A combination vacuum-sander should be used. After the wood is completely dry, you can polish it.

Q: How much is a book called “National Encyclopedia of Business and Social Forms” worth? It was published in Chi- cago by G.W. Borland & Co. in 1882. The book has a leather cover.


Tip: Most old majolica pieces have a colored bottom. The newer pieces have white bottoms.

— Terry Kovel and Kim Kovel answer questions sent to the column. We cannot guarantee the return of photographs, but if a stamped envelope is included, we will try. The amount of mail makes personal answers or appraisals impossible. Write to Kovels, (Florida Weekly), King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.
WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

COMING UP

One Fish, Two Fish – Delnor-Wiggins State Park teaches anglers how to cast net for bait at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 15. Free with park entry fee, but reservations required. 597-6956 or www.floridastateparks.org.

Marketplace – Hodges University hosts a lecture about how financial markets and presidential elections collide from 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15. $25. 2647 Professional Way. 988-6443 or www.hodges.edu.


Holiday Pups – Santa Claus takes photos with four-footed friends from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at Venetian Village. 262-6511 or www.venetianvillage.com.

Dinner with the Artist – Naples Art Association pairs glass artist Conrad Williams and Creative Catering’s executive chef Bob Shultz for an unforgettable dinner from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at the organization’s headquarters. $25. 585 Park St. 262-6517 or www.naplesart.org.


Strings Sing – Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs hosts a “mostly Mozart” chamber concert featuring the flute, violin, viola and cello from 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15 at 10150 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

Cool Winter Nights – Collier County Sheriff’s Office hosts a family fun night with a bounce house, rock climbing, video games on an inflatable screen and more from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at Corkscrew Middle School. Free. 261-6100 or www.colliersheriff.org.

Choir Concert – The Voice of Unity Choir and the Seacrest Country Day School high school choir perform a holiday concert with FGCU musicians Noelle Aparate and Simmy Shim at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at Unity of Naples. 775-3009 or unitynaples.org.


Love A Parade – Marco Island’s annual Christmas Island Style parade marches down San Marco Road at 6:30 p.m. 394-7549 or www.marcoisland-chamber.org.

Funk You Up – Uptown Express performs from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Norris Center. $22. 213-3049 or www.naplesgov.com.

Wonderful – Jeremy Kendall brings to life more than 30 characters in the one-man show “This Wonderful Life” at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Centers for the Performing Arts Bonita Springs $20-$25. 10150 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.


The Beach Boys – 50 years of Good Vibrations – Christmas & Hits takes the stage at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at 4 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14. — bbmannpah.com

The Beach Boys perform Christmas and hits at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14 at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers. — bbmannpah.com

Martha McBride brings her all-new Love Unleashed Tour to the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11. — bbmannpah.com

Judy Collins performs at 7 p.m. Dec. 11 at the SanJuan Theater at the Southwest Florida Performing Arts Center, 11151 Bonita Beach Rd. $35-$55. — swflpac.com

An Evening with Groucho starring Frank Ferrante performs at 8 p.m. Dec. 9 at the Center for Performing Arts. — artcenterbonita.org

12.8 Pauly Shore performs tonight though Sunday at Off the Hook Comedy Club. Show times vary. — www.offthehookcomedy.com

12.9 "An Evening with Groucho" starring Frank Ferrante at 8 p.m. Dec. 9 at the Center for Performing Arts. — artcenterbonita.org
WHAT TO DO

Santa in the Sand – Santa presides over a toy drive along with lunch, games and prizes on the beach at Lovers Key State Park from 1-4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19. Park admission fee and one unwrapped toy required for participation. Registration required. (708) 359-0466 or fjgreenwood@gmail.com.


Films for Film Lovers – Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs screens “Mrs. Henderson Presents” at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19. Laura Henderson buys an old London theater and opens it up as the Windmill, a performance hall that becomes known for its all-nude revues. $10. 10150 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or www.classichamberconcerts.org.

Chamber Concert – The Peliska Brothers perform works by Handel, Vivaldi and Mozart at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19, at Sugden Community Theater. $60. 434-8505 or www.classichamberconcerts.org.

String Superstar – Itzhak Perlman performs with the Naples Philharmonic at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, at Artis—Naples. 597-1900 or www.artisnaples.org.


Tortoise Talk – Delnor-Wiggins State Park hosts a talk about gopher tortoises at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 22. Free with park entry fee, but reservations recommended. 597-4900 or www.floridastateparks.org.


Films for Film Lovers – Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs screens “A Simple Life” at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 26. After suffering a stroke, an altruistic maid announces that she wants to quit her job and move into an old people’s home. 10150 Bonita Beach Road. $10. 495-8989 or www.classichamberconcerts.org.


Marco’s Got Talent – Marco Island kids ages 6-18 are invited to participate in a talent show at Marco Island Center for the Arts from 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28. 8510 Winterberry Drive. 294-4221 or www.marcoislandarts.org.
WHERE TO GO

Naples Art Association pairs glass artist Conrad Williams and Creative Catering’s executive chef Bob Shultz for an unforgettable dinner from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at the organization’s headquarters. $125. 585 Park St. 262-6517 or www.naplesart.org.


Like It Loud – Butch Trucks, legendary drummer and founding members of The Allman Brothers Band, performs with The Freight Train Band at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30, at the Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs. $40-$50. 10150 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

Tickling the Ivories – Concert pianist Richard Dowling performs pieces by Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Chopin at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, at Center for the Performing Arts Bonita Springs’ Hinman Auditorium. $20-$30. 10150 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

Songwriter Expo – Friends of Lovers Key showcases the talents of local singer/songwriters Alan Bradford, Dave Clayton and Bill Veach from 3:45 p.m. to sunset Thursday, Jan. 5, at the Lovers Key gazebo. Free with park entry fee. 463-4588 or www.friendsofloverskey.org.

Masterworks – Pianist Hélène Grimaud joins the Naples Philharmonic in a program of works featuring Brahms, Mendelssohn and Schuman at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Jan. 5-6, at Arts—Naples. 597-1900 or www.artisnaples.org.

Artistic Weekend – Naples Art Association hosts the 21st annual Naples New Year’s Art Fair from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 7-8, at Cambier Park. 262-6517 or www.naplesart.org.

Soul Provider – Multiple Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Michael Bolton performs at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at Arts—Naples. 597-1900 or www.artisnaples.org.

Spook-tastic – Forbidden Broadway presents a spoof on today’s biggest musicals at 6 and 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at Arts—Naples. 597-1900 or www.artisnaples.org. Email calendar listings and high-resolution photos to Lindsey Nasmith at Lsnasmith@floridaweekly.com. Please send Word or text documents and jpegs with time, date, location, cost and contact information. No pdfs or photos of fliers. Deadline for calendar submissions is noon Monday. No phone calls, please.

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WHERE TO GO

MEET THE ARTIST

Sable Robbert

IN FREE CONCERT

New Year’s Eve Party Palooza

2016

NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY  WEEK OF DECEMBER 8-14, 2016 | C9

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One of my favorite family stories revolves around my mother and her sister acting in a play, “Mr. McGregor's Garden,” when they were young. My mom played a string bean, and many of her friends were also vegetables. But my Aunt Hazel was a rabbit — Flopsy or Mopsy Cottontail, I believe. The photo is priceless: there's my aunt in a white bunny outfit and round wire-rim glasses, looking like French philosopher Simone Weil in a bunny suit.

“They chose me because they said I could project,” she once said proudly. “That meant I was loud.”

Shirley Abramowitz in “Coney Island Christmas” (Sugden Community Theatre, through Dec. 18) has the same gift: a loud voice. For that reason, she’s chosen to be the lead of her grade school’s Christmas play in 1930’s Brooklyn.

The only problem is: she’s chosen to play Jesus Christ. And she’s Jewish. Her mother has a fit when she learns about it and forbids her to participate. But her father tells her she can go if she still fulfills her responsibilities at home. But, on the first night of Hanukkah, she fails to get home by sundown and misses out on lighting the menorah. And her mother discovers she's still Fulfilling her responsibilities at home. But, on the first night of Hanukkah, she fails to get home by sundown and misses out on lighting the menorah. And her mother discovers she's still working and behind that roller coaster.

As Mrs. Abramowitz would shriek, “Oy!” I was really surprised. The work's written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Donald Margulies, who’s given us gems such as “Dinner With Friends” and "Shipwrecked: An Entertainment." I greatly admire his work.

And it's based on "The Loudest Voice." short story by Grace Paley. It attempts to show that what some see as a drawback can actually be a gift, though at one point he gives a strange little speech about how Christmas and Hanukkah aren't really religious holidays but based on pagan rituals.

I just wish director Bryce Alexander, who inherited this play from the previous administration, had insisted on more depth from his actors. Many of them, unfortunately, verge on caricature and playing them more fully would've provided more humor and more depth. The humor is too broad and doesn't elicit that many laughs. “Coney Island Christmas” doesn't tug on your heartstrings as much as it makes you want to roll your eyes like an exasperated teenager.

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

1 3 5 6 8 2 9 7 4
2 7 9 5 4 3 8 6 1
8 4 6 7 1 9 3 2 5
7 1 3 2 5 8 4 9 6
4 6 2 1 9 7 5 3 8
5 9 8 4 3 6 2 1 7
3 8 1 9 7 4 6 5 2
6 5 4 3 2 1 7 8 9
9 2 7 8 6 5 1 4 3
Puzzles as the saving goes

Horoscopes

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A bright holiday, with all of those pesky problems finally resolved in your favor. Share the good times with people you love and, of course, who love you.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your plans should not be set in stone and cemented over. Leave some openings in case you need to make changes. Spend the holidays with your nearest and dearest.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Surprise! This holiday finds you on the receiving end of the generosity of those who are usually the recipients of so much that you give so freely and lovingly.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) That piece of good news assures that you'll be swimming in clearer, calmer waters this holiday season. There might be a storm or two ahead, but you'll weather it all in fine style.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) I know, dear Lamb, that you don't like anyone trying to take charge of one of your projects, but try to be a bit more flexible. A new idea could help hasten a positive result.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You'll get news that will make you glow brighter than the lights of the holiday season. Be sure to use what you learn both carefully and kindly, to avoid giving the wrong impression.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) That frayed relationship could be mended in time for the holidays if you were more flexible. Give a little, and you could get back a lot more.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your positive reaction could ensure that he or she will have a happy holiday experience.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Don't be rushed into wrapping up that workplace problem. Consider leaving it until after the holidays. This way you'll have the facts you need to reach the right resolution.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Some things might not seem to be settling down as quickly as you would prefer. But it might be just a little holiday time flutter. You'll soon get news that will lead to more stability.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) That was the gift... and now you want a gift? Do you have more of that holiday shopping. But don't relax yet. Wrap those gifts now to save yourself lots of unwanted pressure.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your positive reaction could ensure that he or she will have a happy holiday experience.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) Your plans should not be set in stone and cemented over. Leave some openings in case you need to make changes. Spend the holidays with your nearest and dearest.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) Surprise! This holiday finds you on the receiving end of the generosity of those who are usually the recipients of so much that you give so freely and lovingly.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) That piece of good news assures that you'll be swimming in clearer, calmer waters this holiday season. There might be a storm or two ahead, but you'll weather it all in fine style.

Aries (March 21 to April 19) I know, dear Lamb, that you don't like anyone trying to take charge of one of your projects, but try to be a bit more flexible. A new idea could help hasten a positive result.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) You'll get news that will make you glow brighter than the lights of the holiday season. Be sure to use what you learn both carefully and kindly, to avoid giving the wrong impression.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) That was the gift... and now you want a gift? Do you have more of that holiday shopping. But don't relax yet. Wrap those gifts now to save yourself lots of unwanted pressure.

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Scorpio (October 23 to November 21) Your positive reaction could ensure that he or she will have a happy holiday experience.

Riddle of the Week

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a flair for seeing things as you'd like them to be, as well as a gift for turning your perceptions into reality.

By Linda Thistle

Difficulty level: */5

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.

See answers, C11
CONTRACT BRIDGE

First things first

BY STEVE BECKER

Whenever declarer is playing a suit contract, he is faced with the questions of whether or not to draw trumps, whether or not to take certain finesses, whether or try to establish a long suit, and so on.

Some or all of these things might have to be done, but the order in which they take place is usually of prime importance. Timing often spells the difference between the success or failure of a contract.

Take this case where South was in four hearts and West led a spade. He won with the ace and immediately led the jack of trumps and finessed, losing to the queen. Back came a spade to South's king. Eventually, he lost four tricks — a spade, two hearts and a diamond — and went down one.

Declarer failed to make the contract because he did not get his priorities in order. By tackling trumps at once, he in essence pinned all his hopes on limiting himself to one trump loser.

South should have seen that he could afford to lose two heart tricks and still make the contract, provided he escaped the loss of a spade. This could have been achieved by leading the king of diamonds at trick two. After the defense took the ace, dummy's third diamond would establish dummy's third diamond as a trick. In that case, the jack of clubs would serve as the entry to dummy for the discard.

In most suit contracts, declarer plays trumps at once. But when there is more urgent work to be done, as in this deal, declarer should delay trump extraction until a more propitious time.
C14 | WEEK OF DECEMBER 8-14, 2016 | NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY

FILM CAPSULES

Bleed For This ★★1/2
(Miles Teller, Aaron Eckhart, Katey Sagal) Boxer Vinny Pazienza (Mr. Teller) is a world champion when he breaks his neck in a horrific car accident. The story of his road to recovery, with his trainer (Mr. Eckhart) by his side, is inspirational — in spite of the standard boxing movie plot points it includes. Rated R.

Nocturnal Animals ★★★★1/2
(Amy Adams, Jake Gyllenhaal, Michael Shannon) An art gallery owner (Ms. Adams) reads a manuscript from her novelist ex-husband (Mr. Gyllenhaal) that hits close to home. It's a three-tiered and densely complex story, and a stellar one at that. Ms. Adams and Mr. Gyllenhaal are terrific. Rated R.

Arrival ★★★
(Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker) When aliens land in 12 cities across the globe, linguist Louise (Ms. Adams) and scientist Ian (Mr. Renner) attempt to communicate with the new arrivals. Although slow at times, it skillfully captures an existential concept in an extraordinary way. Rated PG-13.

Loving ★★★
(Joel Edgerton, Ruth Negga, Will Dalton) Richard (Mr. Edgerton) and Mildred (Ms. Negga) Loving are happily married in late 1950s Virginia. But it's illegal for white Richard to be married to the black Mildred, which prompts a legal case that goes to the Supreme Court. Strong performances from Mr. Edgerton and Ms. Negga propel the sometimes slow-moving narrative forward. Ultimately, it's too important and timely a story to pass up. Rated PG-13.

Doctor Strange ★★★1/2
(Benedict Cumberbatch, Tilda Swinton, Rachel McAdams) Arrogant neurosurgeon Stephen Strange (Mr. Cumberbatch) seeks help from the mystical The Ancient One (Ms. Swinton) after he loses control of his hands. The visual effects are spectacular and the story holds up well enough, making it yet another strong entry in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Rated PG-13.

Trolls ★★★
(Voices of Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake, Zooey Deschanel) Trolls Poppy (Ms. Kendrick) and Branch (Mr. Timberlake) try to save fellow trolls from being eaten by the bigger, badder Bergens. The animation isn’t impressive, but the mash-ups of pop hits and the strong message of finding one's own happiness are enough to make this worth recommending. Rated PG.

Inferno ★★★
(Tom Hanks, Felicity Jones, Omar Sy) Robert Langdon (Mr. Hanks) wakes in Florence, Italy, with no memory of how he got there, but soon is thrust into stopping a deadly virus that could wipe out half the world’s population. Director Ron Howard’s ("A Beautiful Mind") pace is brisk and the story is a fun puzzle to piece together. Rated PG-13.

■

THE BAY HOUSE
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LATEST FILMS

‘Man Down’

**½**

Is it worth $10? Yes

“Man Down” doesn’t start well. Sol-地毯 Drummer (Shia LaBeouf) is seen rescuing his captive son in an abandoned building as heli-copters fly overhead. Why he has to rescue his son, why there’s no context, which means it’s an action scene without identity of the antagonists are

incohesive mess.

Any of these plotlines on mankind. Any of these plotlines on man) about the horrible events he expe-

In “American Honey” his character represents the degradation of the American dream to its most primal level, and Gabe is a soldier who doesn’t know how to cope with his life being torn apart. These are intense, complex roles that Mr. LaBeouf handles well; mind you his talent was never an issue, so if what he’s doing can get people to work with him again, mission accomplished.

One thing “Man Down” does well by the end is showcase the terrors of military veterans’ PTSD, and in doing so it suggests it’s a much bigger problem than most people realize. Beyond identifying the problem, though, is the larger issue of how to help the veterans suffering from it. “Man Down” might help in that regard, but the film is unlikely to be embraced on a large enough scale to make a significant difference.

---

**PREVIEW RECEPTION**

Friday, December 9
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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PREVIEW RECEPTION

Friday, December 9
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

EXHIBITIONS

December 10 – January 21

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Renée Ferr
doage in Motion
Pat Kumičič
Artist with a Brush Cut
Lynn Ondercin
Diamond Ring
Miami transforms into the art capitol of the world during Art Basel

BY ERIC RADDATZ
eraddatz@floridaweekly.com

Miami transforms into the art capitol of the world during Art Basel, with overwhelming, exciting and brilliant curations that set it ahead of any of the finest museums on the planet for one full week. It also makes my personal top five events to attend of all time.

Now in its 15th year and always scheduled for the last few days in November and the first weekend in December, it has become the destination for hundreds of thousands of art aficionados, celebrities, partygoers and investors who flavor the event — uniquely set in the American Riviera — with a particular panache.

With over 289 galleries from all over the world bringing their A-game — over 4,000 on display at the Convention Center alone — there is now way to see everything. Surrounding the epicenter are other private and public exhibits of collections at Art Miami, Scope, Design Miami, Satellite, NADA, Wynwood, Pulse, Untitled and more.

This year at the Convention Center, masterpieces were not that evident. Of course, that depends on who you ask. While many of the galleries brought mesmerizing and expensive, classically recognizable pieces, many brought pieces I found less than exciting, with accompanying prices that seemed laughable. It often seemed the exact opposite while at the satellite fairs, like Scope, for example, where you walk into galleries with younger, experimental, less expensive and fresher pieces by up-and-comers (with galleries and artists paying much less in rent space.)
But art is subjective so I really will not attempt to say anything other than there is something for everyone. And yes, maybe I just DON’T GET IT. This was reiterated as I walked past Jose Arellano, who asked if I would take a picture of him and his friend in front of a smaller 2-D black-and-white piece of what appeared to be a Q-Bert inspired upside down pyramid.

“Full length, three quarter or bust?” I asked. “Horizontal or vertical?” I am pretty conscientious when it comes to snapping a stranger’s shot, and I peppered off a dozen while saying, “One, Two, Three.”

“Do you like the piece?” the gentleman asked. “Oh, is this yours?” “Yes.” I had an easy time being honest about not really liking the piece. Still I found nice things about it.

“Well, it is simple and understated, which I generally like. It Reminds be a bit of Q-Bert, the old arcade game, except with a more limited palette, which I also generally enjoy. I would say, though, surrounded by such colorful and provocative pieces I’m afraid I would not have paid this much attention as it seems somewhat, well, dull and less than visually inviting.”

Yes, I was honest, rude even. But I really believe honesty in art perspective yields satisfaction and growth at unmeasured levels.

He looked at me, without any sense of offense, and simply asked me to step back a few steps, which I did.

“Now stare at the center and walk to your right.” I did this. As I slowly to your right. I did this. As I walked past Jose Arellano, who asked if I would take a picture of him and his friend in front of a smaller 2-D black-and-white piece of what appeared to be a Q-Bert inspired upside down pyramid.

After an apology for not really “getting” it at first, I explained what I’ve learned about myself for years. I am often wrong at first, I explained what I’ve learned about myself for years. I am often wrong about things and quicker than ever to accept when I am.

The artist, like many others at the exhibits, I’m sure, has deeper meanings, stories and points of view if you just take an extra minute to explore and discuss them. Which reminded me of what makes almost missed entirely.

Jose Arellano poses in front of his moving piece at Scope, Miami Beach 2016.
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Comedy, mystery, romance converge in ‘A Christmas Cactus’ on Marco

The Marco Players’ 42nd season continues with “A Christmas Cactus” on select dates through Dec. 18 at Marco Town Center Mall. Showtime is 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

Comedy, mystery and romance converge on Christmas Eve for private investigator Cactus O’Riley. Annie Rosemond directs playwright Eliot Byerrum’s story about the sassy PI who’s suffering the holiday blues as she solves mysteries, delivers small miracles and takes a second chance on love and sleuthing. As might be expected, goodwill and justice triumph.

Shelley Gothard stars as Cactus. Erik Olson, Marilyn Hilbert, Alex Costello and Kevin Kenneally round out the cast.

The Marco Players’ season continues with:

■ Feb. 8-25: “Cookin’ with Gus” by Jim Brochu – A comedy about a food columnist and cookbook author who is offered her own daily network TV show.
■ March 15-April 2: “Driving Miss Daisy” by Alfred Uhry – Beverly Dahlstrom will direct this perennial favorite.
■ April 19-May 7: “Heaven Help Me” by Joseph Simonelli – A haunting comedy about a family whose string of restaurants is falling apart. Auditions are Saturday, Dec. 17 (for information about trying out, call 404-5908 or email info@themarkoplayers.com).
■ Tickets are $28 and $30. Visit the box office in Marco Town Center Mall, call 642-7270 or go to www.themarkoplayers.com. Visit the website and join the mailing list or follow the company on Facebook to keep up with the latest from behind the curtain.

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DECEMBER 15TH, 2016 - THURSDAY, 5:00PM-7:00PM
Join us for our Holiday Open House & Toy Drive. All clients will receive 20% off products during the event. New clients enjoy 20% off spa services*, while existing clients will receive a $25 spa gift card for any new client they bring in to attend. Mingle with spa industry experts and representatives, and learn tips, tricks and techniques to make you look and feel your best for the holidays. Enjoy delicious hors d’oeuvres and refreshments while listening to live entertainment. Receive $50 OFF an Area of Botox and/or Volbella by bringing in gifts for children. La Piel Spa will be accepting donations and toys benefitting children in Southwest Florida that will be distributed through the Bonita Kiwanis YP appropriately.

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Il Volo Notte Magica
Join the international superstar trio, Il Volo, and special guest Placido Domingo for a night of music under the stars in Florence, Italy’s, Santa Croce Square.

FRIDAY, DEC. 9, 8:30 P.M.
Charlie Rose: The Week
The best stories and interviews of the past week in the news, the sciences, the arts and entertainment.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10, 8 P.M.
An evening of the best of WGCU.

SUNDAY, DEC. 11, 9 P.M.
Great Performances
The Hollow Crown: Henry VI, Part 1
England is in crisis. War and civil strife threaten the crown. Young Henry VI causes outrage by marrying Margaret of Anjou. The scene is set for civil war.

MONDAY, DEC. 12, 10 P.M.
Remember Pearl Harbor
Tom Selleck narrates the documentary commemorating the attack at the 75-year mark.

TUESDAY, DEC. 13, 8 P.M.
An evening of the best of WGCU.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14, 8 P.M.
Nature: Legendary White Stallions
Go backstage with the Lipizzaners and their riders at the famous Spanish Riding School of Vienna. The ancient “court of kings” trains horses for years on end.

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| Sea Salt |
| Shula’s Steak House |
| Tartine & Tartelette |
| The Local |
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1. Go to our website
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3. Make reservation or walk in
4. Order from the prix fixe menu

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NaplesRestaurantWeek.com

The Boys & Girls Club of Collier County is the official nonprofit benefactor of Naples Restaurant Week. A percentage of every $35 prix fixe menu sold will directly benefit their mission to help enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

#DineWithPurpose
Christmas on Sunday means uber early shipping dates

With Christmas Day falling on a Sunday this year, it's more important than ever to get your holiday shipping organized. If you want a gift to arrive by Christmas, you should shoot for a Dec. 23 delivery. All three major carriers will have only modified service on Saturday, Dec. 24, and make no deliveries on Christmas Day.

Packages that don't make it by Friday might not see delivery until Dec. 27, as Monday, Dec. 26, is an additional non-delivery day.

United States Postal Service

Coast to Coast: Drop first-class letters and cards in your mailbox by Dec. 20; Dec. 15 for parcel post.

Cutting it Close: Priority (1-3 day) service by Dec. 21; Express Overnight service by Dec. 23.

Where to take it: Your local post office or arrange for carrier pickup. Use ups.com to order supplies, print postage and access a host of other services.

Contact: www.usps.com

UPS

Coast to Coast: Dec. 14 to be safe, check transit times on website or at drop-off location.

Cutting it Close: Ship 2-Day Air by Dec. 21 or Next-Day Air Dec. 22.

Where to take it: UPS Stores nationwide. Go to ups.com or call 800-789-4623 to find a location or schedule pickup.

Contact: www.ups.com; 1-800-PICK-UPS

FedEx

Coast to Coast: Dec. 16 for all FedEx Ground packages.

Cutting it Close: Overnight by Dec. 22; 2-Day Air by Dec. 21 for delivery Dec. 23; big spenders can utilize priority overnight or same-day delivery on Friday, Dec. 23 for Christmas Eve delivery (in some areas).

Where to take it: Any FedEx Office location or FedEx authorized shipper

Contact: www.fedex.com; 1-800-GO-FEDEX

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Lee McCarthy, President
DEALS
From page 1

Each restaurant created a custom menu that highlights the chef’s best offerings and often includes luxury items like the filet and foie gras plate at Naples Grande Beach Resort’s signature restaurant, Catch of the Pelican. Mr. Clarke and his partner, Rafael Feliciano, asked participating chefs to showcase the best their establishment offers to diners taking advantage of Naples Restaurant Week, and it seems to have paid off.

“We tell every restaurant that it’s their opportunity to expose their signature dishes and their restaurants soul to new diners,” Mr. Clarke said. “We ask them to really push the limits of the sizes, the proteins and main ingredients.”

Many restaurants have included a few extras to help customers get even more bang for their buck. For example, T-Michael’s Steak & Lobster House allows diners to choose among a seven-ounce lobster tail, an 8-ounce New York strip steak, Scottish salmon or Milanese pork chop as an entrée, with $55 upgrades available that include a 10-ounce filet mignon, 14-ounce prime rib and a seafood trio that includes lobster tail, scallops and shrimp. La Moraga tosses in a complimentary amuse-bouche before the first course.

New restaurants like French spot Tartine & Tartelette, which opened earlier this year, and El Gaucho Inca, which made its Naples debut in November, are jumping on the chance to show Naples what they got. According to an OpenTable survey, 80 percent of restaurant week diners return to spots they enjoyed during the promotion.

“We are very new. We opened just one year ago,” said Axelle Bechu, who owns Tartine & Tartelette with her husband, Jean. “It’s good for us because people come and try the restaurant and they come back.”

To take advantage of the deals, customers can visit the promotion’s website to select a participating restaurant and tell the hostess while making a reservation or upon arrival they would like to see its Naples Restaurant Week menu. Several spots provide a glass of wine or beverage options with their selections. For more information about Naples Restaurant Week, visit its website at www.naplesrestaurantweek.com.
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CAPA Cultural and Performing Arts Center hosts its 10th annual gala, “Decade of CAPAbilities... A Celebration of the Arts,” Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the Naples Sailing & Yacht Club. Tickets for $295 include a cocktail reception, entertainment by the Naples Carolers led by vocalist Rebecca Richardson, dinner and a live auction. For reservations or more information, call 775-2800 or visit www.capacenter.org.

The Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida holds its third annual ladies luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 15, at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort. Keynote speaker Louise Borden is the author of “The Journey that Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of H.A. and Margret Rey.” For more information, call Tim Morrison at 263-9200 or email Tim@holocaustmuseumswfl.org.

The fourth annual Visionaries of the Visual Arts awards and benefit dinner presented by the Harmon-Meek Gallery takes place Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017, at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club. Featured artist will be internationally acclaimed watercolorist Gary Bukovnik, who is creating floral paintings for the centerpieces. Three individuals will be honored for their contributions to bringing the visual arts to children.

Tickets are $175 or $1,500 for a patron table for eight. The event is entirely underwritten by the gallery, with 100 percent of contributions from tickets, table patrons and program advertising benefitting at-risk youth and children’s art programs in Southwest Florida through the Harmon-Meek Gallery Fund at the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. For more information, email Kristine Meek at kmeek@harmonmeek.com.

Shine up your dancing shoes for the David Lawrence Center’s “Magical Musical Tour: Dancing Through the Decades,” from 6-11 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13, at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort. The signature event promises a memorable evening of dining, dancing and fundraising in celebration of the center’s five decades of serving the mental health

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SAVE THE DATE

and substance abuse needs of our community. The gala committee promises a world-famous band and live entertainment inspired by the 1960s to today, from swing and Motown to rock and disco. Decade-inspired cocktail attire is encouraged.

Tickets are $550 ($1,500 for patron tickets). For more information, call Jennifer Denike at 704-3870 or email jennifer@dlcm.com.

■ “An Evening in Paris,” the 11th annual Wishmaker’s Ball to benefit Make-A-Wish Southern Florida, takes place Saturday, Jan. 14, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. Rick and Brenda Brown are co-chairing the gala; honorary chairs are Dr. Thomas and Amy Hale. The affair begins with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in the Court of Palms and continues in the ballroom with dinner, a live auction and dancing to The Chase Band. Tickets are $350. Sponsorship packages start at $5,000. For more information, visit www.wishmakerball.net.

■ The Friends of Opera Naples host “An Evening in Monte Carlo by Renata Scotto” Friday, Jan. 20, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. A world-renowned soprano, stage director and teacher, Ms. Scotto performed on the stages of the world’s greatest opera houses for 40 years. Her repertoire included more than 60 roles, and she has a wealth of awards as well as a substantial catalogue of recordings. She performed 26 roles with the Metropolitan Opera and inaugurated the “Live from the Met” telecast opposite Luciano Pavarotti.

With a mix of Princess Grace Kelly’s glamorous sophistication and Monte Carlo’s prestigious casinos, the black-tie gala for Opera Naples will offer ticket holders the opportunity to “game” for luxurious prizes, dine on fine cuisine and enjoy an evening of opera performances.

Individual and table reservations range from $350 to $5,000. For more information, call Signe Larson at 963-9050, email info@operanaples.org or visit www.operanaples.org.

■ The Shelter for Abused Women & Children’s Gentlemen Against Domestic Violence hold their annual Tailgate Party: “Casino Royale” starting at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23, at Roy Colony Golf Club. Chaired by Bill Villafranco with co-chairs Ron Ciesla and John Jordan, this year’s event will include Vegas-style casino games as well as the traditional golf contests, cocktails, live music and dinner followed by a cigar and scotch lounge.

Tickets for $250 can be purchased at www.naplesshelter/tailgate.org. For information about sponsorships, call Tamika Seaton at 773-3862, ext. 217, or email tseaton@naplesshelter.org.
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SAVING THE DATE
The Parkinson Association of SWFL welcomes Rasheda Ali, the daughter of Muhammad Ali, who suffered from Parkinson’s disease, as guest speaker at a luncheon Tuesday, Jan. 24, at LaPlaya Beach and Golf Resort. Ms. Ali’s book, “I’ll Hold Your Hand So You Won’t Fall,” was inspired by her father and has been praised by influential sources including Dr. Timothy Johnson, medical editor for ABC News, and Parkinson’s advocate Michael J. Fox.

Luncheon tickets are $125. For reservations or more information, visit www.pasfl.org/speaker_lunch.

Champions for Learning honors community leaders for their support of public education at the annual Night of Champions set for Thursday, Feb. 2, at the Naples Grande Beach Resort. Honorees are recognized for their their impact on the lives of students through mentoring, leadership, collaboration and community involvement with educators and students.


Tickets are $250, with proceeds benefitting the student programs of Champions For Learning, such as Take Stock In Children and the Real World Learning Model. Table and event sponsorships are also available. For more information, call Jason Karek at 643-4755 or email JKurek@ChampionsForLearning.org.

The 2017 American Cancer Society Imagination Ball: “Glitzy, Glamour & Giving” takes place Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Pavilion. BMQ Private Bank returns as presenting sponsor for the fourth year.

Marathon President Debra Shanahan, whose husband, Dick, died earlier this year of hepatobiliary cancer, is the event chair. New treatments for the type of cancer Mr. Shanahan had are direct results of research funded by the American Cancer Society.

The evening will include a cocktail reception, dinner and dancing to music by the Stacey Allison Band along with silent and live auctions. The annual Grado Award will be presented to Jim and Allyson Richards in honor of their contributions to the fight against cancer.

For tickets or more information, call 642-8800 or email sue.olszak@cancer.org.

— Email details about your charity gala or fundraising soiree to Cindy Pierce at cpierce@floridaweekly.com.

CHEF BILL’S LUNCH SPECIALS
LUNCH SERVED 11:00–4:00

Lunch Haddock Caesar $13
Topped with grilled scallops and cheddar cheese and served with rice and veggies

Lunch Grilled Swordfish $10
Topped with lemon Beurre blanc and served with rice and veggies

Open Faced Roast Pork Sandwich $9
Topped with gravy and served with mashed potatoes and veggies

Blackened Chicken Caesar Salad $9
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Country Club of Naples celebrates a new clubhouse

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2. Betsy Grant, Dick Singleton and Catharine Singleton
3. Elle Andrews, Bob Andrews, Doris Nemore, Chuck Feeny and David Nemore
4. Roger Knoll, Chris Knoll, Karen Cosner and Ruth Cosner
5. Jan Ward, Will Ward, Brookie Garrett Selvidio, Migena Gace and John Granholm
6. Sharon Rees, Jan Feeny, Joan O’Connor, Susa Shurik, Monica Hughes and Louise Kangisser
VIP donor preview of ‘Windows and Doors to History’ at the Marco Island Historical Museum

1. Eileen Arsenault and Paul Arsenault
2. Austin Bell
3. Muffy Clark Gill, Warren Gill and Kathleen Patston
4. Ron Rutledge, Pat Agnew, Pat Rutledge and John Agnew
5. Donna Reiley, Cindy Crane and Betty Newman
6. Pat Rutledge and Rick Medwedeff
7. Garrett Richter, Diana Richter, Tom Waggoner, Betty Newman and Alex Parker
8. Linda Sandlin and Sonja LaRue
9. Pat Kaufman, John Agnew and Scott Kaufman
10. David Everitt and Elke Everitt
11. Barb Madden, Roger Willers and Sharon Hood
12. Krista Popoff and Jarrett Stinchcomb

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SOCIETY

Guadalupe Center’s 35th annual Thanksgiving in the Park in Immokalee

1. Deneen Crandall, Jim Rice and Gemma Crandall
2. Guadalupe Center staff members Kelly Knapp, left, and Sheila Cox, fourth from left, with volunteers from Enterprise
3. Happy to serve
4. Emma Montecalvo and Dawn Montecalvo
5. The kids’ craft table at Thanksgiving in the Park
6. John Coyle and Gretchen Coyle
7. Lining up for turking and all the trimmings
8. Ready for dinner
9. Volunteer helpers from the wrestling team at Palmetto Ridge High School
10. Megan Becker, Susan Popejoy and Kelly Hammer
11. Guadalupe Center staff members Tracy Connelly, Bob Spano and Rick Martin

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**CUISINE NEWS**

**Brooks Burgers**

- People anxious to see Naples’ culinary scene represented on the national stage should look no further than The Food Network at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, when it airs an episode of “Guy’s Grocery Games: Impossible” featuring local chef Andy Hyde as a competitor. The tournament-style games are staged over three episodes with Chef Hyde entering in the second round to shop and prepare a steakhouse-style meal in thirty minutes.

- Mr. Fieri imposed a 6-pound limit on the groceries Chef Hyde and his co-competitors could place in their cart.

  “The 30 minutes is real time, so six pounds is really a challenge,” Chef Hyde said. “It was one of the most intense experiences of my life. It was like my graduation and first job hire all at one time.”

- Locals will recognize Chef Hyde as a private chef who often works out of his business, Chef Hyde Catering, to provide services to diners in Naples. He describes his culinary style as “intercontinental,” often blending European techniques and flavors with dishes and ingredients from his Ghanaian background. He has worked in Gordon Ramsey’s London Hotel in Los Angeles, as well as several Michelin-starred spots around the country.

  “I’m not eager to chase Michelin stars, just eager to share what I’ve learned growing up with this multicultural background,” he said. While Chef Hyde won’t disclose details of filming, he did say that Guy Fieri’s high-energy personality is totally authentic.

  “Guy Fieri is hilarious. He’s definitely the guy he portrays on television,” he said. The chef remaining at the end of the tournament will win $10,000 and the opportunity to double their money when they compete against “Dinner: Impossible” host Robert Irvine. For more information about “Guy’s Grocery Games: Impossible,” visit www.foodnetwork.com.

**Brook’s Gourmet Burgers & Dogs**

- Recently opened second location at Pavilion Shopping Center in North Naples. Located at the corner of Vanderbilt Road and Tamiami Trail, the new spot takes the place of Kitchen 845 next to the Paragon Pavilion movie theater and showcases a classic car theme in the décor.

  “We are very happy to finally be open. It has been long months of planning and remodeling but I believe our customers will love the ambiance of our new spot,” said owner Todd Brooks.

- Brook’s Gourmet Burgers & Dogs is also located at 330 Ninth St. South in downtown Naples. For more information about the restaurant, call 262-1127 or visit www.brooksburgers.com.

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In my experience there are two kinds of winemakers: those who are bound by respect for the traditions of their regions, and those who purposely go in exactly the opposite direction. Back in the day, winemakers from Old World countries like Spain, France, Italy and Germany made wines the way their grandparents did, and any new techniques or ideas were actively — sometimes violently — discouraged. A winemaker in Bordeaux, for instance, would never consider using any grapes but the ones prescribed by custom and convention.

However, there’s one winemaker who takes the whole blending thing way over to the top. I wrote about Dave Phinney in this space about two years ago, but he’s worth a revisit, and I recently had the chance to chat with him about his (very) unconventional approach to blending.

In his new enterprise, which he calls “Locations,” Mr. Phinney takes a wide departure, here… 100 percent Pinot Noir. He’s apparent that Dave knows his website, www.winewhisperer.com.

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In his new enterprise, which he calls “Locations,” Mr. Phinney takes a wide variety of grapes from diverse areas of the world, pours them all together, shakes them up, and creates a line of bistro-style wines that get glowing reviews.

The hallmark of Mr. Phinney’s wine-making style is his unconventional (to say the least) approach to blending not only widely different varietals, but also grapes from widespread regions.

“The first winemaker I worked with once told me that if have a bunch of good wines and you put them together, you can get one great wine. It works. Most of the time.”

His foray into unorthodox blending started in 2000. “I had some Zinfandel with high residual sugar, a Cabernet that didn’t meet my expectations, and some small lots of Syrah. I didn’t want to bottle them separately, so I mixed them together.” The result? A wine he called The Prisoner… and it put him on the charts.

“The success of my first wine gave me a lot of encouragement. I like to experiment with different varietals. Of course, it doesn’t always work out, but look at it this way. Imagine if a chef used only one ingredient — the food wouldn’t be very interesting. So for me there are no rules, no vintages, no apppellations. I’ll consider any grape from any region, though in my blends one varietal is usually predominant.”

Like many winemakers, Mr. Phinney has mixed feelings about critics’ wine ratings. “If you get a good rating, read it once, then throw it away. If you get a bad rating, read it once, then throw it away.” He does believe, however, that ratings can be a guide for consumers who are not well versed, or are new to the wine world. “There are so many wines, and so many regions. Nobody can know them all.”

It’s apparent that Dave knows a lot. Some recent additions to his wine lineup include…

Locations CA 4 ($20) — A California blend of Petite Sirah, Barbera, Tempranillo, Syrah and Grenache (whew!). Intense red and black fruit flavors, pranillo, Syrah and Grenache (whew!).

Locations OR 4 ($24) – 100 percent Pinot Noir. Black plum, raspberry, and spices accent this something more traditional blend of Washington State Syrah, Merlot and Petite Sirah. The tannins are very soft, considering these bold varietals, so you can enjoy this wine the day you buy it. WW 92.

Ask the Wine Whisperer

Q: I’ve noticed that there are a lot more boxed wines in stores than I’ve seen in the past. Why are they getting so popular?

— Caroline L., Port St. Lucie

A: I’ve noticed the same thing. Every day, there seems to be an ever-widening selection of boxed wine brands and varietals.

Many of them are improving somewhat in quality and value. While some consumers fear that boxed wines are loaded with sugar, that’s not always the case, though many are made sweeter because it’s a popular style. Most boxed wines are meant to be consumed right away, because the plastic bag inside admits a bit of oxygen, and the wine will start to fade after about a year.

— Jerry Greenfield is The Wine Whisperer. He is creative director of Greenfield Advertising Group, and his book, “Secrets of the Wine Whisperer,” is now available through his website or on Amazon. Read his other writings on his website, www.winewhisperer.com.

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Few culinary sensibilities are as well developed as the very core of any cooking. In the case of Chef Mike Mueller, executive chef at Café Lurcat on Fifth Avenue, who has worked with the company for several years after coming out of the high stakes restaurant game in New York City. Recently promoted to executive chef of D’Amico’s American restaurants, Chef Mueller tells us about his dedication to the culinary arts and how his glittery resume contributes to the dining scene in Naples.

Q: What is your culinary background?
A: I have always held cooking and restaurant-related jobs. I grew up in Minnesota and started out waiting and busing tables in restaurants in the Twin Cities, then moved into entry level kitchen roles to work my way through college in Duluth.

Q: How were you inspired to become a chef?
A: My parents are great cooks who frequently hosted dinner parties. Even as a young child, I invariably ended up in the kitchen with them. I even dressed as a chef one year for Halloween when I was about 8.

Q: What brought you to Naples?
A: After four years of working insane hours in New York restaurants and working my way up the culinary food chain, I really needed a change and felt like I was ready to move to the next level. I had worked in various D’Amico properties in Minnesota during college and the organization has a great reputation for developing chefs. A sous chef role was open at Café and Bar Lurcat in Naples and I thought this would be a perfect opportunity for me to grow in the D’Amico “famiglia.”

Q: Was your first taste of food service as a chef?
A: No, my first taste of food service was as a young child, I invariably ended up in the kitchen with them. I even dressed as a chef one year for Halloween when I was about 8.

Q: What was it like working at Jean-Georges and other hot spots in New York City? How did it pay off professionally?
A: Working in NYC is so unlike anywhere else you go. It doesn’t matter whether you’re a banker, a doctor or in real estate — the best of the best battle it out in New York City and the competition was fierce. Many cooks there, including myself, worked a ton for free and it was what we signed up for. Jean-Georges was such an eye-opening experience, as is any Michelin three-star restaurant. Working in the Trump building on Columbus circle was surreal. My greatest schooling was with Andrew Carmellini and his crew at A Voce. Funny story — he actually fired me after I had accepted the job to come to Naples. It’s public knowledge he fired David Chang as well and we all know how that turned out!

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Q: Which dishes are you particularly proud of?
A: At this point in my career, I am most proud of the great dishes that my team develops. Giving them a little direction and watching them run with a dish is very fulfilling. With Lurcat’s ever-changing Voyage concept (a section of our menu that changes to highlight world or US cuisine) it’s whatever is relevant after 60 days. As we transition out of the fall Voyage menu, which featured low Country cuisine, and into the early winter menu that will feature modern India, we are ecstatic about all of the new dishes.

Q: What do you find challenging?
A: Without question it’s the seasonal aspect with our geographical location. Creating, motivating, and managing are ancillary to adjusting in and out of season.

Q: Who or what are your greatest culinary influences?
A: Richard D’Amico; Instagram; Chef’s Table (a Netflix documentary series); many great chefs including my colleagues Andrew Wicklander (chef at The Continental), Roel Nesta (chef at Masa), my former D’Amico mentor Jay Sparks, Andrew Carmellini, Greg Brainin, Vincenzo Betulia, Jean-Georges Vongerichten, John Ochiatto, Ron Gallo, Luke Ostrom, Matt Greco; my sous chefs and my parents.

Q: What has been one of your favorite culinary experiences?
A: Some of philanthropic work has been incredibly rewarding. Working with great organizations and events like Naples Community Hospital, City Meals at Rockefeller Center, Grape Escape, St. Matthew’s House, Naples Wine Festival, SWFL Food and Wine Festival, Little Black Dress, etc. has been wonderful. Also, eating my way through Vietnam and Italy with my wife was a couple of life-changing experiences.

Q: What are your favorite culinary resources (books, blogs, etc.)? How do you keep your dishes relevant?
A: I read everything, listen to others, follow Instagram, and watch Chef’s Table and Mind of a Chef. Most importantly, I collaborate with colleagues. We meet literally every single day to dissect dishes.

Chef Q&A
Chef Mike Mueller

They basically had chain link fence suspended on cement blocks with hundreds of pounds of charcoal beneath. At that point of my life, it was more about making money to buy baseball cards and gas for my little boat. However I loved the heat, the smells, and the rush of the whole experience.

Q: After earning a business degree from University of Minnesota — Duluth, you studied at the Culinary Institute of America in New York. Was it your plan to marry the two fields or was it a perfect opportunity for me to grow in the D’Amico “famiglia.”
A: Your first taste of food service included cooking 300 chickens outdoors at a farm in Minnesota at age thirteen. Could you tell us a little more about that unusual experience and whether it influenced you?
A: It was for a property in New Prague, Minnesota called Cedar Lake Farms and they did company picnics. They basically had chain link fence suspended on cement blocks with hundreds of pounds of charcoal beneath. At that point of my life, it was more about making money to buy baseball cards and gas for my little boat. However I loved the heat, the smells, and the rush of the whole experience.

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Amenities for an Active Lifestyle
Ave Maria has amenities for all ages. Panther Run Golf Club at Del Webb, the on-site 18 hole course designed by Gordon G. Lewis, offers challenging play alongside natural beauty and wildlife. Ave Maria’s water park, open exclusively to residents, features two waterslides, interactive water adventure playground, resort and lap pools, spa, and beach volleyball. The North Park boasts a playground, baseball, basketball, and soccer fields. The South Park is a great spot to walk your four-legged friend or play bocce. Pack a picnic and relax at the covered outdoor pavilion.

Quality of Life
In Ave Maria, homeowners realize the importance of quality of life. Top notch education is available to all children whether it’s from our highly-rated Collier County Public Schools, the private K-12 Donahue Academy or Ave Maria University. The preferred method of transportation in town? A golf cart! Nothing beats zipping to Publix or to the pub on your golf cart. Best of all, new friends are easily made in Ave Maria with so many opportunities through the calendar of events hosted by the Master Association as well as the natural gathering spots of the coffee shop, pub, and outdoor patios of our town center restaurants. Life—made simple.

CC Homes
CC Homes, presents 3-6 bedroom homes in one and two-story floor plans ranging in size from 1,133 to over 5,000 square feet and priced from the high $100s. Homes are offered in three neighborhoods: Maple Ridge, Maple Ridge Reserve, and Coquina at Maple Ridge. Customize your dream home with several options including outdoor oasis with pool, kitchen, and cabana bathroom or an extra bedroom or flex room above the garage.

Visit the on-site sales center and tour 14 model homes open daily. Ask about several move-in ready homes.

Del Webb Naples
Del Webb Naples is the smart choice for active adults desiring a well-rounded southwest Florida lifestyle. Del Webb Naples offers ten floor plans from 1,133 to over 2,500 square feet, with 2-5 bedrooms and prices from the high $100s. Choose from golf course, lake or preserve view when selecting your home site from the nation’s highly awarded home builder. The on-site Oasis Club at Del Webb Naples features over 2,000 square feet of resort and lap pools, tennis courts, bocce and pickleball, fitness center, library, café, fire pit, arts & crafts studio, and library. Dine at the brand new Busy Putter for breakfast, lunch or afternoon bites. Visit an on-site sales representative to learn more about the Del Webb lifestyle. 5 model homes open daily.

Pulte Homes
With 17 popular single-family home designs in Hampton Village, Emerson Park, and Avalon Park priced from the high $100s, Pulte Homes offers quality construction home buyers can trust. These neighborhoods are located near the Town Center, private schools, and outdoor recreation. A well-known and respected name in home building, Pulte Homes features Life Tested® features in their home designs built for life and how you live it. Two models open daily in Avalon Park.

Visit Us
For more information visit Ave Maria at 5076 Annunciation Circle # 104, ave-maria.com or by calling 239-352-3903. Follow us on social media to be the first to learn about specials and incentives. Take Immokalee Rd. east; turn right onto Oil Well Rd; then left into the main Ave Maria entrance.
Kalea Bay’s community amenities popular with buyers

Tower residences priced from $1.3 million

The clubhouse is the social and recreational centerpiece of a community where Kalea Bay’s will surely be one of the busiest places in the gated, luxury residential high-rise community located on Vanderbilt Drive in North Naples.

“There are several reasons buyers have decided to purchase at Kalea Bay,” said Inga Wilson, Vice President of Sales & Marketing for Kalea Bay. “The first is the beautifully designed three-bedroom plus den/three-and-a-half-bath and four-bedroom/four-bath floor plans with Gulf views. The other is our spectacular community clubhouse. Not only will it be a dramatic sight as residents and visitors drive into the community, but it will also be the envy of every community in the Naples area.”

Kalea Bay’s 88,000-square-foot clubhouse is located on the north side of the large lake at the community’s entrance. The clubhouse, which is currently under construction, will feature three individual floors, including a resort pool, an adults-only pool and a children’s pool, plus an expansive pool deck, an open air bar, an indoor/outdoor restaurant, a snack bar, an Internet cafe and a gifts and sundries shop.

“All three pools will overlook the lake and provide a multitude of recreational options for everyone who lives and visits here,” said Wilson. Expansive sun decks with lounge chairs and native, tropical plants separate each of the three pools for the ultimate in privacy.

If basking in the sun or taking a refreshing dip in the pool isn’t on a resident’s schedule, perhaps meeting friends for lunch, dinner or drinks is.

“We have the perfect place for all three," said Wilson. "The indoor/outdoor restaurant will serve phenomenal meals throughout the day. And what better way to celebrate the good life in Florida than meeting family and friends for drinks while watching the sun set over the Gulf of Mexico? This is what living in Florida is supposed to be.”

Just a short walk from the clubhouse will be the tennis pavilion with six lighted Har-Tru tennis courts. Nearby are 24 guest suites to accommodate overnight guests and family members.

“Having that number of guest suites is unusual for a luxury high-rise community, but it’s an amenity many of our residents are excited about especially when they have extended family visiting," said Wilson. Rather than putting their guests up in hotels throughout the Naples and Bonita Springs area, they can vacation within the community. It’s a real convenience.”

There will also be a shuttle service, originating from the clubhouse, to the beach.

“Two of the top rated beaches in the country are only minutes away from Kalea Bay,” stated Wilson. Construction on the clubhouse is slated for completion in the fall of next year and will coincide with the anticipated move-in of the residents in the first tower.

The 22-story tower, with 120 residences, and open-air fitness center.

All residents of Kalea Bay will revel in Gulf views, open floor plans, a private elevator leading directly into their residence, and wood floors throughout.

The custom kitchens have Wolf and Sub-Zero appliances, a natural gas range, Downsview cabinetry, quartz countertops and floor-to-ceiling windows and doors that open to large lanais with transparent glass rails. High-tech wiring and fully equipped laundry rooms round out the list of features.

Wilson said spectacular views are available to every resident, no matter which floor they live on. That’s because the tower’s amenities are located on the rooftop, including the sky lounge, pool and open-air fitness center.

“From the rooftop our residents can enjoy daily views of the Gulf of Mexico, the nature preserves that surround us, and of course, the beaches,” said Wilson.

For more information regarding Kalea Bay visit the on-site sales center. Due to bridge closings in the North Naples’ area, take US 41 to Wiggins Pass Road, then right on Vanderbilt Drive, two-tenths of a mile. Additional information is available by calling (239) 793-0110 or online at Kaleabay.com.

Above: This recent aerial of Kalea Bay shows the first tower reaching skyward. Below: The 88,000-square-foot clubhouse features three separate pools. One of the three pools at the Kalea Bay clubhouse (on right) is for adults only. Kalea Bay residents will enjoy their clubhouse day and night.

Kalea Bay’s first tower was designed with rooftop amenities, including a sky lounge, spectacular pool and open-air fitness center.

NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY
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Ronto offers limited opportunity to customize residences at Seaglass

With nearly $109 million in sales contracts already processed, and the building 50% sold, the award-winning Ronto Group announced it is making a limited opportunity available to purchasers of residences on the 20th through 23rd floors of the 26-floor, 120-unit Seaglass at Bonita Bay high-rise tower within the Bonita Bay community. Ronto is offering homebuyers an opportunity to join two upper units together to create a luxurious 6,200 square foot residence with scintillating views of the Gulf of Mexico. Each of the expanded residences will come with four protected access under-building parking spaces.

With construction of the highly anticipated Seaglass tower well underway and on schedule for completion in just 18 months, opportunities for future residents to customize their residences and to specify preferred finishes will become increasingly limited. The designer-selected finishes on display at the Seaglass Design Studio and Sales Center at 26951 Country Club Drive within Bonita Bay are suited to the open concept living spaces at Seaglass. In addition to the selections available through Ronto’s innovative Finishing Touches Program, future residents may also specify finishes from other sources. Prospective homebuyers are encouraged to make their buying decisions and finish selections promptly.

Seaglass will feature fully-completed, ready for occupancy residences with designer-selected premium finishes, including flooring, paint, and trim. Each residence will come with two protected access under-building parking spaces. Private enclosed two-car garages will be available. With the combination of the building’s captivating tower floor plan choices, various Bonita Bay Club membership opportunities, and Bonita Bay’s amenity-rich lifestyle, Seaglass is redefining the luxury high-rise living experience in Southwest Florida.

Recognized as one of the ten healthiest clubs in America by Prevo Health Solutions, Bonita Bay’s amenities include a 60,000 square feet Lifestyle Center, five championship golf courses, expanded tennis facilities, a full-service marina, numerous dining venues, a residents only private beach park, and on-property hiking and biking trails. The three-story Lifestyle Center includes a nearly 20,000 square feet world-class Fitness Center, a 9,000 square feet spa and salon, and the WAVE Café that serves healthy fast food, freshly made organic juices, and smoothies that can be enjoyed on-site or prepared to go. Three on-property Bonita Bay West courses were designed by Arthur Hills.

The three courses achieved Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary status in 1995. Two Tom Fazio designed courses at the nearby Bonita Bay Club Naples provide a pure golf experience on over 1,000 acres that includes preserved wetlands but no residential development. It was the first private 18-hole club in the world to achieve certification through the Audubon International’s Signature Program and has been designated as a Certified Signature Sanctuary since 1998.

A recent expansion of Bonita Bay’s 18-court tennis complex included the addition of an exhibition court and two oversized courts. The 10,000 square feet building that formerly housed the community’s fitness center and spa will be transformed into a tennis clubhouse with casual dining and an indoor/outdoor bar. The space will include a tennis pro shop, locker rooms, a stretching room, multi-function rooms, and a relaxing lobby area. Nano doors will open the entire space to the outdoors and the exhibition court.

A full-service on-site marina with direct access to the Gulf of Mexico provides wet slips and dry boat storage, as well as on-site fueling and light mechanical services. The Marina accommodates watercraft with a maximum draft of thirty-six inches. Charts, bait, tackle, and other items are available at the Ships Store.

The Bonita Bay Club redesigned the kitchen and traditional dining areas in the clubhouse and incorporated a 40-feet long buffet station in the dining space. The former golf pro shop was transformed into the 55th Hole, an approximately 3,500 square feet high-end casual bar experience. The design capitalizes on both the interior space and the immediately surrounding areas to create a captivating indoor/outdoor venue. Backwater Jack’s, a relaxing waterfront dining and lounge experience at the Bonita Bay Marina, is a favored gathering place for the community’s boater enthusiasts.

Located on the Gulf of Mexico, Bonita Bay’s Residents-only private beach park is on Little Hickory Island, just 10 to 15 minutes from the community. Picnic pavilions, grills, beach chair and umbrella service, showers, and rest-rooms equipped with infant changing stations are provided for residents in a setting landscaped with native beach-front vegetation. Personal chairs, umbrellas, and other beach items are welcomed. Residents also enjoy Bonita Bay’s network of hiking and biking paths that weave through the community’s lush tropical setting. A kayaking and canoeing lodge offers additional recreational possibilities.

The space will include a tennis pro shop, locker rooms, a stretching room, multi-function rooms, and a relaxing lobby area. Nano doors will open the entire space to the outdoors and the exhibition court. A full-service on-site marina with direct access to the Gulf of Mexico provides wet slips and dry boat storage, as well as on-site fueling and light mechanical services. The Marina accommodates watercraft with a maximum draft of thirty-six inches. Charts, bait, tackle, and other items are available at the Ships Store.

The Bonita Bay Club redesigned the kitchen and traditional dining areas in the clubhouse and incorporated a 40-feet long buffet station in the dining space. The former golf pro shop was transformed into the 55th Hole, an approximately 3,500 square feet high-end casual bar experience. The design capitalizes on both the interior space and the immediately surrounding areas to create a captivating indoor/outdoor venue. Backwater Jack’s, a relaxing waterfront dining and lounge experience at the Bonita Bay Marina, is a favored gathering place for the community’s boater enthusiasts.

Located on the Gulf of Mexico, Bonita Bay’s Residents-only private beach park is on Little Hickory Island, just 10 to 15 minutes from the community. Picnic pavilions, grills, beach chair and umbrella service, showers, and rest-rooms equipped with infant changing stations are provided for residents in a setting landscaped with native beach-front vegetation. Personal chairs, umbrellas, and other beach items are welcomed. Residents also enjoy Bonita Bay’s network of hiking and biking paths that weave through the community’s lush tropical setting. A kayaking and canoeing lodge offers additional recreational possibilities.

A choice selection of tower residencies remains available at Seaglass. Three tower residence great room floor plans range from 2,889 to 3,421 square feet under air and are priced from just over $1 million. The tower residences will include dual private elevator grand foyers, island kitchens, three bedrooms and three-and-a-half baths, or three bedrooms plus a den or fourth bedroom and three-and-a-half baths, walk-in closets in the owner’s suite, and sliders opening to multiple outdoor spaces that include a gas grill. Ten-foot ceilings are included per plan. Three furnished tower residence models will be available for viewing upon completion of construction.

Visit the Seaglass Design Studio and Sales Center from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and Sundays from noon to 5:00 p.m. Visit Seaglass online at www.seaglassatbonitäbay.com.
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- **AVIGNON** - LONDON BAY HOMES
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- **MON PARADIS** - MCGARVEY CUSTOM HOMES
  - 4 bedrooms & 4 2/12 baths

- **OAKMONT** - SEAGATE DEVELOPMENT GROUP
  - 4 bedrooms & 4 2/12 baths

- **AQUALINA** - STOCK SIGNATURE HOMES
  - 4 bedrooms & 4 2 1/2 baths

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LUXURY HOME OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 12 P.M.-4 P.M.
Stock Signature Homes to start second model on Marco Island

Stock Signature Homes announced it is poised to begin construction of its 3,629 square feet, two-story furnished Malibu model on Marco Island. The Malibu will be the award-winning homebuilder's second residence on Marco Island and will join the 3,903 square feet, two-story Polynesia model that is under construction and slated for completion in late May.

The Malibu model will showcase an interior designed by Vogue Interiors’ award-winning designer, Sheila Corasaniti, IDS, who has infused the home’s open-concept floor plan with an air of casual living that speaks to Marco Island lifestyle. The great room plan includes a spacious island kitchen, formal dining room, study, five bedrooms, five-and-a-half baths, a first floor outdoor living area with a summer kitchen, pool, and spa, a covered outdoor terrace on the second floor that can be accessed by two of the three upstairs bedrooms, and a three-car garage.

Inspired by the scenic Marco Island location and the wild beauty of the nearby tropical Ten Thousand Islands, Corasaniti envisions the Malibu model as a casual, relaxed island lifestyle home filled with multi-textured natural materials set against a sea-inspired watercolor palette of off-white, soft aqua and palm green. The main floor will be a highly polished 24 by 24-inch off-white porcelain and all main area walls will be painted in a calming soft sand dune tone. Window treatments throughout the house will be custom island style white panels designed to catch the coastal breezes.

In the expansive welcoming foyer, a huge natural shell chandelier will hang in the weathered wood open stairwell. Across from the stairwell, a sculptural live edge console fashioned from an exotic multi-toned wood with a swirling grain will sit on the opposite wall. A vibrant original coastal inspired oil painting will hang above the console to provide an introductory pop of color to the rest of the home.

The dramatic two-story great room will open to a covered lanai. The custom designed media wall will feature a floor-to-ceiling four-piece framed mural mounted on an LED backlit wall above the television console. The television console will appear to float in front of the softly glowing wall. A large sofa and two club chairs will be upholstered in a neutral tone swirl and cabinetry will be done in off-white quartz with a subtle sand finish. Countertops will be the same soft sandy color of the island cabinets. Driftwood nets will be finished in a soft off-white color. Accent pillows will surround the concrete dining table. The spacious upstairs lanai will look down the pool and have bar table seating and sleek teak benches for relaxing.

The furnished Polynesia model will feature a family friendly interior by Soco Interiors’ Daniel Kiglore. The open concept plan includes a great room, dining area, and island kitchen, a study, four bedrooms, four full baths and two half baths, an upstairs loft, a three-car garage, and an outdoor living area with a summer kitchen, fireplace, pool and spa.

For information about residences by Stock Signature Homes on Marco Island and in prestigious communities and neighborhoods throughout Southwest Florida, visit stockdevelopment.com.
From holiday crafts to New Year’s laughs

Whether crafting the perfect holiday treat or celebrating with friends and family, you’ll love the lifestyle in Ave Maria. Come visit us today. Discover 22 model homes and 40 floor plans to choose from. 2 to 6 bedroom homes range in price from the high $100s to the $500s. And don’t forget to bring your camera. There’s so much to see and do you’ll want to capture every moment. Ave Maria. Picture Perfect.
Move-in ready homes & new amenities available at Lely Resort

Stock Development and Lely Resort are synonymous with beautiful residences and amazing lifestyle amenities. For more than a decade, Lely has been one of the Naples real estate market’s biggest success stories. As sell out of the community nears, Stock continues to improve the community with additional lifestyle amenities. The company is also building additional move-in ready homes.

The Players Room is the latest addition to The Players Club & Spa. This multi-purpose building is located adjacent to the main clubhouse. It offers a Movie Theater with seating for 72. There is also a kitchenette, bathrooms and ten tables for card play and games. The lobby features elegant banquette seating.

“Pride ourselves on addressing the changing needs of our residents and providing them with the best possible amenities,” said Brian Stock, CEO of Stock Development, the developer of Lely Resort Stock. The Players Room is a wonderful addition to an amenity complex that has won numerous Best Clubhouse Awards over the past decade.”

Homebuyers also have a tremendous number of multi-family and single-family residences to choose from at Lely Resort.

Stunning coach homes are also available in Signature Club and Cipriani. The new coach home sales division has opened on-site in the Signature Club where they are showcasing the coach home residences of both neighborhoods. Furnished models are open.

Signature Club has a beautiful private, gated entry with water features, beautiful landscaping and a stone entry monument. Each coach home building at Signature Club offers four residences. The neighborhood features an array of amazing lake and golf course views across The Classics Championship Golf Course. Prices start at $471,645.

Cipriani is within The Classics, a stunning gated enclave along one of Lely’s three championship golf courses. The neighborhood also features an array of beautiful lake and nature views along The Classics Championship Golf Course. Each coach home building at Cipriani offers four luxurious residences with an idyllic lake and golf course views. The neighborhood is new and prices begin at just $48,100.

Lely also has amazing single-family homes. In Lakoya, Stock offers a wide variety of single-family homes and twin villas from its existing sales center. This exclusive 242-acre enclave has a private guard entrance, landscaped ponds, classical gardens, spectacularly choreographed fountains and elegant paved walking paths. Beautifully furnished models are open in the neighborhood and these floor plans have exceptional standard features packages.

The exquisitely designed and beautifully furnished Majestic II is perfectly suited to take advantage of The Lakoya neighborhood with its extraordinary lakes and fairway views along the Gary Player-designed Classics championship golf.

This four-bedroom, four-bath home offers 3,643 square feet under air and a total of 5,735 square feet. The spacious floor plan features a formal living room and an elegant formal dining room, both of which provide direct access to the covered lanai via stacked sliding glass doors. The home melds the outdoors and indoor living areas to provide homeowners with a large, open environment for entertaining. An outdoor kitchen and an elaborate pool and spa package complete the idyllic scene.

Raised tray ceilings throughout the living areas add to the homes spacious feel. There is a large island style kitchen, and a formal study with French doors. Stunning Interiors by Beasley & Henley add to the appeal. The attached three-car garage offers an air-conditioned storage area. It is priced at $849,990, fully furnished.

Lely Resort has three championship golf courses and a spectacular club facility. The Player’s Club & Spa is an amazing 30,000 square foot club that is both elegant and highly functional for its members. It has earned a Sand Dollar Award for best clubhouse.

The 6,000 square foot Fitness Center now includes a spectacular second exercise room with state-of-the-art equipment, a huge aerobics studio that has nearly tripled in size and a “spin” studio. Personal training is available, as is onsite physical therapy treatment. The beautiful Spa Wing includes four treatment rooms, a relaxation room, a manicure and pedicure salon, facial and skin care treatment rooms, as well as opulent shower and changing rooms. Outside, a second free-form pool has been built, dramatically increasing the number of people who can be accommodated by these extraordinary resort-style amenities at any time.

The tennis facility’s thirteen state-of-the-art tennis courts are open for play on a spacious 4-acre site that includes an outdoor café.

Don’t miss your chance to everything that is new at legendary Lely Resort! Lely Resort Realty is now located at 8038 Signature Club Circle Bldg 8-102, Naples, FL 34113. Visit www.stockdevelopment.com or call 239-793-2100.
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Quail West’s legacy of luxury continues to expand in 2016

Since completing its purchase of the 234 remaining home sites at Quail West on May 25, 2012, Stock Development has furthered the community’s legacy of providing one of Southwest Florida’s most compelling luxury lifestyles. Celebrating its 15th year as Southwest Florida’s leading developer and luxury homebuilder, Stock Development has been nationally ranked in Builder Magazine’s BUILDER 100 for four consecutive years and was recently recognized as the Best Residential Builder in Gulfshore Business Magazine’s 2016 Best of Business Awards. Stock’s unique brand of excellence is especially evident at Quail West, a gated golf course community in North Naples that provides a refined country club living experience.

Stock’s success at Quail West has been the result of new product introductions that have diversified the community’s residential choices and a commitment to providing luxury homebuyers with a readily available supply of completed and soon-to-be-completed residences in all product categories. There are now 507 completed homes at Quail West, 81 of which were completed in 2016. An additional 43 residences started construction this year. Quail West’s Preferred Builders are offering 17 furnished models and unfurnished move-in ready homes that are completed or scheduled for completion during the 2017 winter season. Product choices range from single-family villa homes, to luxurious one and two-story single-family homes, and estate residences that are continuing Quail West’s legacy of providing Southwest Florida’s finest estate lifestyle experience. A choice selection of home sites, furnished models, and unfurnished move-in ready residences are available in all product categories for discerning homebuyers who value a lushly landscaped setting, residences offering elegance and an exceptional level of livability, and an array of world-class amenities that include two championship golf courses.

Designed to meet the needs of Quail West’s growing membership and the changing lifestyle characteristics of the community’s members, a substantial two-phase renovation of the community’s clubhouse and two golf courses budgeted at a cost of approximately $30 million began in 2016. The improvements will provide the latest in physical facilities and state of the art technology while further solidifying Quail West’s position as Southwest Florida’s leading golf course community. To avoid the disjointed building configuration prevalent at other clubs, the renovation design is focused on providing an integrated club experience in a single location. The renovation of the 70,000 square foot clubhouse complex will feature a new 12,000 square foot dedicated fitness and wellness building; enlarged and redesigned pre-function spaces to enhance the members’ experience during events; enhancements to the casual dining facilities and outdoor dining areas; an Internet Café with grab and go service; and a complete renovation of the kitchens to improve food preparation and service in all dining venues in the Club.

The design of the improved club-house spaces has been a cooperative effort of Quail West’s members, Humphrey Royal Architects, and Clive Daniel Home. Their design concept is intended to enhance the club’s current high-end finishes while incorporating new design elements consistent with the new building additions. Phase 1 of the clubhouse enhancements is expected to be completed in early 2017, including the redesigned lobby and gathering places, the renovation of the upstairs banquet room, and the two-story dedicated fitness and wellness center building.

Quail West has long been acknowledged for providing one of Southwest Florida’s finest pure golf experiences. The club’s amenity enhancement initiative will further that legacy. While the original design and character of the Preserve and Lakes courses designed by golf course architect Arthur Hills will remain essentially intact, the renovation initiative is focused on improving the playability of both courses for all golfers. The renovations will address enhancements to the irrigation systems, green complexes, the adjacent bunker, fringe, and grass areas, and the fairways. New irrigation technologies will be introduced to embrace best water conservation practices and to reduce overall operating costs.

The golf course enhancements are being overseen by J. Drew Rogers, a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects who is highly regarded for his ability to undertake golf course renovation projects. Rogers is familiar with Quail West’s golf courses, having worked with Arthur Hills to design two nine-hole layouts that would later comprise the Lakes Course.

Improvements to the Preserve course are underway. The course is expected to reopen in early 2017. Improvements to the Lakes course will begin in spring, 2017 with completion anticipated December 2017. Luxury homebuyers will have an opportunity to experience Quail West’s refined lifestyle and exquisite residences during the community’s Estates of Excellence Home Tour in March. The Tour will showcase Quail West’s collection of furnished estate residences situated on sites featuring the community’s water, fairway, and preserve views. The Tour will feature eight completed furnished estate residences by award-winning homebuilders Stock Signature Homes, Seagate Development Group, LLC, McGarvey Custom Homes, Diamond Custom Homes, Fox Custom Builders, Florida Lifestyle Homes, and London Bay Homes. The residences showcase architectural and interior designs by Southwest Florida’s leading architects and interior designers. In addition to the residences included on the Tour, estate homes are under construction and scheduled for completion throughout the 2017 winter season. Estate home and home site packages are priced from $2.5 million to over $7 million.

Quail West is located east of Interstate 75, one mile south of Bonita Beach Road. Take Exit 116 (Bonita Beach Road) east. Turn right on Bonita Grande Drive and follow the signs to the sales center. Call 239.592.1010. Visit Quail West online at www.QuailWest.com.
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TWIN VILLAS - LAKOYA
NAPOU 2/2 1,855 SF WAS $499,260 NOW $449,260
CAPRI 3/2 2,107 SF WAS $518,185 NOW $468,185
SIENNA 2/2 2,195 SF WAS $588,110 NOW $532,110

SINGLE FAMILY HOMES - LAKOYA
SAN REMO III 2/2 1,809 SF WAS $711,940 NOW $671,940
TIVOLI III 3/3 2,062 SF WAS $731,865 NOW $691,865
WINDSOR III 4/4 4,155 SF WAS $1,651,170 NOW $1,601,170
MAJESTIC II furnished 4/4 3,843 SF WAS $1,921,994 NOW $1,849,990

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The perfect sunset is one of life’s simple pleasures; all that is required are two basic elements: the sun, and a vantage point from where to admire it. At ALLURE, the new, luxury condominium to rise 32-stories over the glistening Caloosahatchee River in Historic Downtown Fort Myers, perfect sunsets are standard.

When complete, the “Amazing” residence layout of this architecturally-stunning building will have a northwest exposure, with unobstructed views of the tranquil sinking sun. In addition, this floorplan is designed as a pass-through home that also offers southeast views, which means residents can see both sunsets and sunrises from the comfort of their homes.

More than breathtaking views, each of these residences offers an incredible amount of living space. The “Amazing” layout features three bedrooms and three baths, and measures a generous 2,322 square feet in total interior space, with an additional spacious, 524-square foot terrace.

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Luxe Living’s Michael Korb asks designers Ed Jordan and Dorry Christy of Gary David Designs about their work, their style and their ability to create warm, livable spaces that clients love.

Q: What was one of the first moments you knew you wanted to be an interior designer?

Dorry: I am the product of a long line of Southern women who had as a main priority in life creating a beautiful home for their family. As a child I heard my grandmother talking about having “the decorator” come to her home in Macon, Ga., and I remember my mother working with designers doing beautiful draperies and matching slipcovers and lovely wall coverings in our home in Jacksonville. I was always intrigued by that activity as a child.

Ed: As a child and young adult I was always interested in architecture and art. In my travels I always admired the way beautiful rooms made me feel special. I think that’s what drew me to this profession.

Q: How do you describe your design style/aesthetic?

Dorry: I adore any and all things that have been beautifully designed, from an antique cherry chest of drawers to a contemporary Barcelona chair. It’s all about knowing how to put items of good taste together in order to meld them so that they... SEE Q&A, PAGE 16

Neutral walls, upholstery and window treatments contrast with pops of color from the area rug, accent pillows and wall art. Walnut stained wood flooring adds warmth to the space. antique cherry chest of drawers to a contemporary Barcelona chair. It’s all about knowing how to put items of good taste together in order to meld them so that they
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The foyer of the penthouse at Aqua at Pelican Isle invites guest to appreciate things as soon as they get off the elevator. A shiplap-covered dropped ceiling floats above, giving a visual cue that directs the eye towards just one of the many spectacular views from the 11th floor. The entryway also features a checkerboard wall that is backlit and seamlessly hides a secret door that leads to the service elevator.

By Michael Korb
Florida Weekly Correspondent

There comes a time in most people’s lives when they want to simplify. Perhaps they clean out their closets, donate a piece of furniture to Goodwill or sell a car they don’t use. Roma and Bob Michnal went a step further. They sold off a gorgeous beachfront home in Stuart, a large home in Atlanta and a condo in Michigan. Then they sold their 14,000-square-foot home in Mediterra and downsized to a 6,000-square-foot penthouse in Aqua at Pelican Isle, off Vanderbilt Drive in North Naples. You know, to simplify things. And they’re loving every minute of it.

“We wanted to be able to travel, so we’d looked at every condo building down here but never found anything that we really, really liked,” Mrs. Michnal says. “And then once this building was built and the penthouse was available, we knew this was it.”

Thanks to the move, their life is leaner. And in a way, they’ve come full circle. Before they were married 35 years ago, the duo started a mail-order supplement business from their kitchen table. True, that one-bedroom apartment in Atlanta was a far cry from the literal heights they’re experiencing now, but owning and maintaining just one place feels like simpler times.

Yet, the penthouse at Aqua is a three-bedroom, 3½ bath beauty that exudes a warmth and sense of organics you don’t see a lot of in Naples. In fact, if not for its stunning views of the Gulf of Mexico, you’d never know the building contains just one residence.

The foyer of the penthouse at Aqua at Pelican Isle invites guest to appreciate things as soon as they get off the elevator. A shiplap-covered dropped ceiling floats above, giving a visual cue that directs the eye towards just one of the many spectacular views from the 11th floor. The entryway also features a checkerboard wall that is backlit and seamlessly hides a secret door that leads to the service elevator.

See High Life, Page 6
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from Collins & DuPont Design Group, who not only handled the design of this penthouse but also the Michnals’ home in Mediterra. “And they wanted to carry that element over, although a lot of those elements — the wood and stone — were mainly used outside at Mediterra. So it’s a little different feel. A bit more Polynesian or Californian.”

Those elements give the space a glow and natural feel that belies its physical location, some 11 stories above the ground. Even more impressive is that the unit was basically an empty shell when they purchased it a couple of years ago. Aside from cabinetry in the baths, kitchen and laundry, it was a blank slate.

Ms. DuPont worked off of the tones of the existing cabinetry and created nooks and gems just about everywhere — even the 11-foot ceiling. “We love every inch of it.”

“Like the ceiling that you see in the living room actually drew from the shape of the 11-foot ceiling.”

So when I saw this feature in a magazine, “I said, ‘Let’s do it.’” And now the foyer is “the most beautiful room on this floor.”

In fact, when you arrive at the penthouse and the elevator doors open, you’re greeted by a gorgeous backdrop checkerboard wall that hides a secret door to the fire staircase and service elevator.

And before we get off the ceiling, it should be noted that the wooden beams that you see following the curvature of the building’s exterior are actually just boxed out sheetrock that has been faux painted to look like wood. That masterful artistry also took place in the master bathroom. The marble columns that ground the standalone tub are again faux-painted portions of sheetrock. It turns out that when Ms. DuPont wanted to continue the marble up the columns, it was no longer available, forcing the faux paint artist back into action.

Structural changes were kept to a minimum, but because Mr. Michnal wanted a fireplace in the living room, Ms. DuPont moved the wall it would be on in order to have it face the seating area a bit better. That move gave more space in the study. And because there were no gas lines in the living room, Ms. DuPont used a hologram fireplace, which is the very definition of slick. “They’re quite nice now,” she says.

“So now the Michnals can sit back and relax in the living room, enjoying the glow of the fireplace and still glance out at the lights of the marina below.” You know, that’s the thing we really didn’t like about living on the beach — at night it’s pitch black out there,” Mrs. Michnal says. “But here, we see the lights of the marina and waterway below,” Mr. Michnal adds. “It’s just beautiful.”

“There is absolutely nothing in this condo that we would change,” he adds. “We love every inch of it.”

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Black/white. North/south. Conservative/liberal. These are widely held notions of opposites. We might want to add the complete transformation of this single-family home on Ncapolitan Way to the mix.

When the home was purchased a couple of years ago fully furnished, its interior design was euphemistically French country — replete with rooster statuary. But when the owner, a newly divorced businessman in his mid-50s from Ohio, decided to renovate, he called custom homebuilder 41 West, who promptly called Little Palm Design Group.

His request? Make it awesome. And did they ever.

“It was very dated,” says interior designer Kirsten Workinger, who works with principal designer Dawn Harmon on Little Palm. “Seriously, there were a lot of roosters and French country antique furniture all over. … We believe at some point there was an addition that made it feel very choppy. In fact, the whole home needed remodeling.”

Other than one guest bedroom and the travertine flooring, everything got changed. It is now unashamedly one of the premier bachelor pads in town.

“It’s definitely geared toward ‘guy,’” Ms. Workinger says. “He wanted it very contemporary. He wanted it to have a lot of contrast. He liked the idea of light floors with dark wood, and he is very much into chrome and bubbly champagne. He wanted it to be sexy and chic — a very cool spot to entertain, which he does a lot.”

The design concept began taking shape while picking tile. The owner spotted the blue tile that now makes up the focal wall of the powder room. He told Ms. Workinger he loved it and to figure out where they could use it.

The porcelain tile with a gemstone printed onto it comes in four different 36-inch by 72-inch panels. “We literally used all four panels to do the wall, so it looks like you have a real type of precious stone on your wall, but it’s not,” says Ms. Workinger. The mirror floats in front of it and is backlit.

It makes the powder room feel like a jewel box. And that vibe carries into the kitchen, which, if you can believe, was once very traditional with yellow walls, dark cabinets and granite.

Above: Overlooking Venetian Village, the living room previously embraced a relaxed French country vibe. The recently-single homeowner, a bachelor, asked Little Palm Design Group to make it sexy and chic. Plenty of chrome and luxurious textures now make it perfect for entertaining.

Right: The powder room off the living room used to be forgettable. But when the homeowner found this gemstone print porcelain tile, it not only made the room a showstopper, it set the tone for the entire house.
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“With roosters,” Ms. Workinger adds. “Then we had this idea to do an interesting wood veneer on the islands, again creating that contrast he likes. 41 West’s woodworking shop had a zebra wood that when stained with a clear coat gives you that line effect that has a lot of movement and character.”

The trend continues into the expansive living room, where texture rules. The old arches and fireplace were removed and upgraded to a plaster modular panel fitted with a 72-inch linear fireplace flanked by niches upholstered with a navy blue wallpaper that sparkles when light hits it.

“I think with everything said and done, it turned out exactly as we imagined,” the designer says. “It’s very with the times, but also classic. I think he can easily live with this for 10 to 15 years.”

— Little Palm Design Group
9051 N. Tamiami Trail, No. 102
598-2001
www.littlepalmdesigngroup.com

— 41 West
1250 Ninth St. N., Unit 201
208-6530; www.41west.com

Above: Talk about going from bland to bling. The kitchen was a pale yellow being swallowed by a sea of brown cabinets and granite. Now it features two islands wrapped in high gloss zebra wood veneer and topped with white quartz surfaces. The high-gloss cabinets work perfectly against the leathered granite backsplash.

What was a very traditional fireplace built-in with dated arches, above, became a streamlined conversation piece with plastered modular paneling surrounding a 72-inch linear fireplace, right. The balanced niches feature navy wallpaper that sparkles under light.
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MH2G brings clean lines, modern look to Southwest Florida

BY MICHAEL KORB
Florida Weekly Correspondent

When you think of Naples, “modern” is not the first word to come to mind. After all, for what seems like an eternity, we’ve romanticized Mediterranean and traditional furnishings above all others. And only recently have we begun to embrace coastal contemporary.

But the times they are a-changin’ and the modernist vibe so firmly rooted on the east coast has finally embraced the modern. “Well, no longer. It looks like we’ve finally embraced the modern,” Mr. Cary says.

The openness of the rooms, the cleanliness and order, the lack of clutter, the larger spaces are water resistant and washable. Flexible custom-designed cabinets in cream lacquer beautifully contrast with the split face travertine that covers the fireplace feature wall. Sleek custom-designed cabinets in cream lacquer beautifully contrast with the split face travertine that covers the fireplace feature wall.

The whole reason we came over is that we were getting so many people driving over to our other stores from Naples saying, “There’s no modern in Naples,” Mr. Cary says.

Modern design has finally moved to the west coast. MH2G has added a store in Naples, top, to compliment its three east coast locations. The attractive Saviello modern outdoor sofa set, above, features a contrasting wide-band woven wicker design that is made of eco-friendly polyethylene and reinforced with aluminum tubular frame. Its fabric cushions are water resistant and washable.

Dorry: I graduated from FSU in 1974 with a bachelor of arts in interior design. In 1978 I passed the NCIDQ (National Council for Interior Design Qualification), making me eligible to become a Professional Member of American Society of Interior Designers. I guess that puts me at four decades of interior design work. Believe me, it’s flown by.

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From page 2

compliment each other. That is my calling card: tasteeful, timeless, beautiful interiors. It takes a skilled hand and a discerning eye. And that’s what you get when you hire a capable designer.

Ed: Actually, my goal has always been to try to avoid having a specific style. Of course, it’s impossible to avoid having a certain influence in the look of a finished project, but I prefer to interpret what my clients envision in my work.

Q: What do you look for when you first walk into a home?

Dorry: The openness of the rooms, the light, the ceiling height and any features that might be able to be used to play an integral part. As a designer, I always, first and foremost, consider the likes and dislikes of my client … When all is said and done, my job is to make sure that they love their interior.

Ed: Some jobs involve going into a home that is already furnished but that the clients want to complete or update. Once I understand the scope of the work, I determine what improvements are required and make suggestions about what elements need to be replaced.

Q: Talk a little about your background. How long have you been a designer?

Dorry: I graduated from FSU in 1974 with a bachelor of arts in interior design. In 1978 I passed the NCIDQ (National Council for Interior Design Qualification), making me eligible to become a Professional Member of American Society of Interior Designers. I guess that puts me at four decades of interior design work. Believe me, it’s flown by.

Ed: My background is in art history and the romance languages. This is tied to my love of travel, architecture and fine art. I’ve been a licensed interior designer working in Southwest Florida for more than 30 years.

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Frequently asked home remodeling questions and answers put together to help you in your remodel planning.

Our focus is to make this process painless for our remodeling clients.

Can I meet with one of your designers for a free estimate and to discuss my remodeling project?

One of our designers would be happy to meet with you to discuss your project at your home or at one of our Design Center Showrooms. During that meeting our designers will share preliminary ideas for your remodel and give you an estimate of the budget range.

How do you begin planning the remodel?

To ensure the best remodel with the fewest issues we begin with a design phase. By investing the time to consider all of the details, including the impact on your project’s budget, it greatly reduces the likelihood of costly surprises. We always start with our design phase to ensure that we create the best overall plan that works for our clients.

What goes into the design phase?

We start by asking you questions about how you and your family use your kitchen, bathroom or other living space you want to remodel. We need to know what is important to you. If you have a wish list, please share that. For example, if you have gathered photos of kitchen or a master bedroom suite you admire, we would like to see them. We want to see your home and your project through your eyes so that we can add our expertise to the mix and develop the best design for you.

What is the Florida Regulations of Contractors and why is it important to hire a licensed contractor?

The State of Florida construction licensing regulatory agency is the Florida State Statute, all contractors must be licensed to perform any type of construction work. A business license is not the same as a contracting license. By not hiring a licensed contractor, you run the risk of being scams and not having recourse should there be a problem with your project. Cornerstone Builders of Southwest Florida is appropriately licensed and carries the required insurance workers compensation and bonds.

Can you provide references?

Upon request we will provide contact information for clients who have had similar projects completed.

Do I need to board my pets while my home is being remodeled?

It depends on whether your pets can handle the disruption of favorite napping spots and on the size and length of your project. We have found that most of our clients don’t need to worry about their pets.

How much will my home life be disrupted during the process?

Most of our clients remain in their homes during the process. We do all we can to minimize disrupting your life as much as possible.

How early in the morning does the crew work?

We can accommodate most schedules. We typically start the day between 7:00 am and 8:00 am.

Does someone need to be home at all times during construction?

No. Being present during the remodel is not necessary. We remodel homes for people whose primary residences are out of state. We can keep you apprised of the progress of your project via videos and photos.

ABOUT US

Our team of designers and construction managers carefully determine the full scope of each project, providing space planning and utilizing our 28 years of experience to ensure that each client’s lifestyle is blended with the newest technology and design available.

Cornerstone Builders of Southwest Florida provides solutions that align with your goals and budget.

We require NO Deposit to began the job and provide a lifetime warranty on materials we manufacture as long as you own your home.

INTERESTED IN SCHEDULING A FREE IN-HOME CONSULTATION?

Just let us know, and we will schedule a consultation with one of our design specialists.

FORT MYERS SHOWROOM
239.332.3020 14680 S. Tamiami Trail
Monday-Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm - Evening Appointments Available

NAPLES SHOWROOM
239.332.3020 7700 Trail Blvd. N.
Monday-Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm - Evening Appointments Available

www.cornerstonebuildersswfl.com

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