The summer will be another busy one for Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships and its programs, as the small nonprofit scrambles for the funds that are its lifeblood. “I don’t seem to be able to learn from my mistakes,” said Nola Theiss, Fort Myers-based HTAP’s founder and executive director. “Every single year, I say yes to more projects than we really can handle. But we handle them and then we struggle financially. That’s the main limitation we have, is getting the funding to do as many programs as we’re asked to do.” Formed in 2006, HTAP is dedicated to preventing human trafficking in Southwest Florida through educational programs on the topic and.
I have a black-and-white picture of my father, teaching. High School history, in Colorado, for $6,000 a year. This was about 1962 when John F. Kennedy was in the White House. I’d decided to marry my fourth grade teacher, Miss Compton, and daddy was in his mid-30s earning a salary with the spending equivalent of $746,460 in 2016 dollars, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

He had three kids and he’d been at it since 1959, three years. My mother didn’t work (for money).

In Florida today, the average annual salary of a teacher is $45,723, which ranks about 39th in the nation — but “teachers average 12.29 years of experience across degree levels,” in the rather dry account of the Florida Department of Education. So newly certified teachers should expect nowhere near that amount.

What a deal for a professional. You work 12 years with our nation’s youth and you too might earn $46,000.

Good teaching is ultimately alchemy, not just method — a potion drawn from experience, knowledge, energy, an eccentric appreciation for little people — and you too might earn $46,000.

Many teachers have that magic. If Americans decided to solve half the social problems we face in a single generation, we’d simply establish a teacher-student ratio of 1 to 10 in every public school in the nation. And we’d pay every teacher a salary roughly equivalent to that of a construction manager — about $88,000 per year, according to the BLS. In short order we’d be spending a great deal less than we do now mopping up the broken lives of students who don’t make it through our current high-test, public-education gauntlet.

Teachers do that every day. They’re in the business of construction, too, just like construction managers. And generally they deal not with one or two construction projects at a time, but with 100 or more (at four classes of 25, per day).

There’s no point in arguing this. Everybody knows that one good teacher with 10 kids can do a lot more for those whippersnappers than one good teacher with 25 or 30 kids.

Could we afford it? Well, we’ve afforded the Iraq War, apparently, now almost certain to exceed $6 trillion and run up toward $9 trillion as damaged veteran’s ans age. A 1 to 10 student-teacher ratio would cost a fraction of that; the U.S. Department of Education estimates we now spend roughly $650 billion a year on elementary and secondary public schooling in the 50 states. A transformation would result in huge savings on the back end, 30 years down the line. Unlike the Iraq War.

Meanwhile, my father — dead 19 years or 19 minutes, I’m not sure which — is still standing in front those students (the first baby boomers to hit 17) with the cocky grin he sometimes wore when amused and challenged.

He’s dressed in a white shirt and tie, hands squarely on his hips. Somebody has stacked his two desks one on top of the other. Suspended on a string from the ceiling above them, and him, is a dead chicken.

He’d probably been teaching medi eval European history, an honors class he sometimes talked about in which the Catholic Church figured prominently. And he’d likely been tracing with graph ic delight the pagan roots of that monu mental Western religion, which included sacrifices; hence, the sacrificial chicken.

Dad was never paid what he deserved before stepping out to lead a more lucrative life.

Sadly, countless good teachers make the same choice today. About 40 percent of new teachers quit the profession in Florida within five years, state records indicate, a rate more than 15 percent higher than the national average.

There’s one obvious way to change that: Vote. We vote for any would-be legislator who insists on hiring and fairly paying more teachers.

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OPINION
Leaked lies

There’s one aspect of the saga about the newly released batch of Jim Comey memoranda that I totally love. First, a bit of background.

In one of the contemporaneous memos the then-FBI director wrote to himself detailing conversations with the new President Donald Trump, Trump and Comey did agree on one issue: Both expressed a mutual concern for leaks and leakers. And they also seemed to feel that the reporters who publish leaks were fair game for putting the squeeze on, up to and including jailing us if we didn’t reveal our sources. The new documents contain such tidbits just declassified and sent to Congress by the Department of Justice after pressure from Republicans. Now, here’s the part I love: The documents were immediately leaked to reporters.

The hypocrisy is exquisite. Jim Comey acknowledges leaking earlier memos. Donald Trump is a serial leaker, even to the point of creating aliases and avatars who could leak favorable stories. He’s built an entire career with phony accounts of his prowess and riches. Even to the point of creating aliases and memos. Donald Trump is a serial leaker, even to the point of creating aliases and memos.

But now that his presidency is being eroded by constant leaks, he’s scorning the leakers, which is to say everybody around him, and is launching attacks on anyone who threatens his increasingly slipping hold on the presidency. Even his network of enforcers is crumbling. One of his personal lawyers, Michael Cohen, just had his files scooped up by federal agents looking into his activities on behalf of Trump. The crimes for which Cohen is being investigated could carry several years in prison if he’s found guilty, or less if he works a deal and flip on higher-ups.

President Trump is the highest-up, of course. From his lofty perch, he’s tweet- ing like crazy, screeching that all threats to him are threats to America. Of course, from his lofty perch, he’s tweeting like crazy, screeching that all threats to him are threats to America.

Power: A Tragicomedy

In a gift for the ages, Republicans won all elected branches of the federal government in 2016. But the initial ecstasy over Trump “signing their stuff” has given way to the reality that they don’t have stuff to send him.

Republicans couldn’t roll back Obamacare, in part because the party hadn’t thought through what the Republican alternative was.

They passed a tax cut that included important reforms that even the Democratic repeal bills don’t want to completely undo and that are boosting the economy.

That’s all to the good. But tax cuts aren’t a magic political elixir. First, Trump is right, as he said at an event a couple of weeks ago when he tossed away his script, that they are boring. They don’t have the emotive appeal of issues like trade and immigration. Second, there are limits to how effectively you can run on the one thing you accomplished last year.

This is the truly extraordinary aspect of the current situation. Republicans are content not to do anything else of significance in Congress this year. They passed an omnibus spending bill that was rightly denounced as a disgrace by Trump even as he signed it, and the Senate is working to confirm Trump nominees. That’s pretty much it.

They aren’t trying to wring every last ounce of what could be their waning months of unified control of Washington — for years to come. They aren’t determined to give their voters some other reasons to support them in November. They aren’t attempting to create action in Washington besides Trump’s feuds with James Comey and Stormy Daniels.

Republicans are resting on their laurels, when they still occupy the commanding heights of American politics. They aren’t trying to wring every last ounce of what could be their waning months of unified control of Washington — for years to come. They aren’t determined to give their voters some other reasons to support them in November. They aren’t attempting to create action in Washington besides Trump’s feuds with James Comey and Stormy Daniels.

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Bob Franken is an Emmy Award-winning reporter who covered Washington for more than 20 years with CNN.
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BY DEENA BAXTER

An orchestra works best when each musician has mastered the score and each instrument is in tune. The same applies to our health. When we talk about health, we need to focus on whole health, not just one piece, such as our heart rate, blood pressure or cholesterol level. Those scores are important, but even when they are fine-tuned we can still be off-key.

We have to focus on the whole person and make use of the tools and resources that benefit minds and bodies together. Sometimes, what’s required is a mental health tune-up.

Mental mending can be simple or more complex, just like mending a broken arm or a failing heart.

One of the biggest obstacles preventing people from getting proper treatment is the stigma associated with ailments of the mind. Thankfully, brain science and research are advancing rapidly and physicians are understanding the important links between our brains, our guts (digestion) and our moods.

Each illness has its own symptoms, but common signs of mental illness in adults and adolescents can include the following: extreme mood changes, including uncontrollable “highs”/euphoria or prolonged or strong feelings of irritability/anger; avoiding friends and social activities; difficulties understanding or relating to other people; changes in sleeping habits or feeling tired; changes in eating habits such as increased hunger or lack of appetite; changes in sex drive; difficulty perceiving reality (delusions or hallucinations); in which a person experiences and senses things that don’t exist in objective reality; inability to perceive changes in one’s own feelings, behavior or personal identity; substance abuse (drugs, alcohol, etc.); risky behavior (overspending, promiscuity); multiple physical ailments without obvious causes, such as headaches, stomach aches, vague and ongoing “aches and pains”; thinking about suicide; inability to carry out daily activities or handle daily problems and stress; an intense fear of weight gain or concern with appearance.

Mental illness does not discriminate: It affects up to 25 percent of the population, regardless of color, creed, religion, age, fortune or fame. In spite of media hype, people suffering from mental illness or brain disorders are far more likely to be bullied and shamed than to harm others.

Help is here

There are several local and national organizations that can help those who are experiencing mental health challenges, plus support and awareness training for caregivers and the community.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness — NAMI of Collier County — offers an array of helpful programs and services, including mental health first aid, crisis intervention training (CIT) for first responders, recovery-focused support groups, support groups for family/caregivers and friends, HUGS, early intervention for children ages 3 months to 18 years old, and the Sarah Ann Drop-In Center where adults with serious mental illness find a welcoming, safe and supportive place to engage, socialize and build life skills.

In 2017, NAMI of Collier County provided innovative education, support and advocacy services at no cost to more than 16,000 individuals.

Many strong and resilient people have made peace with, and befriended, their dark side. Some have made peace with, and befriended, their dark side. Some have made peace with, and befriended, their dark side. Some have made peace with, and befriended, their dark side. They no longer fear the dark. Perhaps we would all be healthier if we celebrated both the light and the dark. The Rev. Laura Randall encourages us to, “Trust that there is value in absence as well as abundance... We can learn from the darkness as well as the light. In fact, we need both.”

If you or anyone you know is suffering in silence, please reach out to NAMI at www.namicollier.org. Professionals there can help you or someone you know get out of the darkness and find the light with a mental mending tune-up. Toby Mac said it well: “Not all storms come to disrupt your life. Some come to clear your path.” Life is worth living. Someone needs you today and tomorrow. We want the whole of you to be here to play in tune with them.

—— Naples resident Deena Baxter launched the Surviving Suicide and Sudden Loss Project in partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Collier County in 2014. The project’s mission is to promote life-affirming wellness. It includes a book titled “Surviving Suicide: Searching for Normal with Heartache and Humor,” a creative arts website at www.WriteOnMyMind.com and various mental health advocacy and outreach programs. All profits flow to NAMI of Collier County.
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collaborating with other organizations and governmental agencies. Ms. Theiss, a former Sanibel Island mayor, and her four-person staff train victim-care providers, law enforcement, health care and social service providers and the general public in how to recognize human trafficking’s signs and how to respond if it is suspected.

The organization also instructs youths ages 8 through 18 in Lee and Collier counties in how to protect themselves against trafficking and teach their peers about the issue through hour-long presentations and its ARTREACH program.

ARTREACH consists of five, two-hour-long sessions where participants learn about human trafficking, whether it’s for forced sexual purposes, or for labor or other exploitative purposes, and the associated risk and vulnerability factors. The youths then use the information presented by the program’s volunteers and instructors as the basis for a painting expressing their views on the topic.

HTAP uses the paintings at events to raise awareness of trafficking in the community. They’re also found in the ARTREACH book, which displays paintings created by some of the approximately 1,000 youths who’ve participated in the program since its 2010 start.

“It’s very interesting to watch how they grow, how they change, how they learn and their attitudes,” said Ms. Theiss. “We keep track of how much they say they’ve changed and how much they think they’ve learned, so we know it makes a big impact.”

She said ARTREACH has primarily been conducted at Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA’s, church youth groups, summer camps, community associations and in the schools, including alternative schools such as the Lee Adolescent Mothers Program School in Fort Myers. The program is most commonly offered during the summer.

Vanessa Williams, 13, of South Fort Myers, has taken part in ARTREACH three times since turning 9 and gained knowledge of what it means to be old enough for the program. “It depicts a school setting encircled by the coils of a snake.”

ARTREACH gives children the opportunity to create paintings depicting human trafficking.

“The snake is the trafficker and the school is the children who are being captured and trafficked,” explained Ms. Williams.

Ms. Theiss said the ARTREACH book is free. “We’ll give it to anybody as long as they promise they’re going to read it and that when they’re done, they’ll pass it on to their friends,” she added. “So it’s another way of getting that information out to the world.”

HTAP also offers two programs for adults: Point of Contact/Point of Rescue and Train the Trainer.

Point of Contact/Point of Rescue educates law enforcement, doctors and nurses, social services providers, hotel workers, and others, in how to recognize possible trafficking victims they may encounter. Train the Trainer teaches people how to lead an ARTREACH presentation.

The organization is making its presence felt in the community. During 2017, HTAP’s school programs served 724 students, while ARTREACH and other summer time events reached 152 youths. There were 797 adults who took part Point of Contact/Point of Rescue and Train the Trainer. Community outreach events and programs drew 4,437 people, while community meetings and collaborations with other organizations reached another 157 people.

Statistics show that human trafficking is a serious problem in Florida, where there are 4.7 victims per 100,000 people, last year ranking behind only California and Ohio, according to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

“It is all over and we have it a lot because we’re a tourist destination and what happens in Florida stays in Florida, at least, some people think that; and the rules don’t apply,” said Ms. Theiss. “We have a lot of agriculture and we have a lot of tourism. Those are the two main industries that bring trafficking to a state.”

Grants and donations from individuals and local foundations, churches and other organizations are HTAP’s primary funding source. Ms. Theiss said the damage wrought by Hurricane Irma last September has probably played a role in tough sledding for fundraising so far in 2018.

“It hit shortly after we sent out our annual fundraising direct-mailer,” she added. “We hardly received any response at all and I understand that, but we count on that money and it didn’t come. A lot of small nonprofits have had that problem this year.”

The financial picture was brightened by a $40,000 grant received from the Wildcats Run Charitable Foundation, located in Estero. The award was presented at this year’s “Music Under the Stars” fundraiser at the Shangri-La Springs Resort in Bonita Springs, which featured live music of keeping the organization from the ARTREACH program. The event raised $5,500 for the organization.

“We’re looking for funding all the time to supplement what we’ve got,” said Ms. Theiss, who also explained that staff hours had to be reduced due to financial concern. “Of course, $40,000 is great. It’s going to get us through the summer, but then we’ll be back to worrying where we’re going to get the next batch money. I don’t like asking for money, but we need to raise what we do in very large amounts. It takes time. It takes energy. It takes resources. And we’ll be all over Southwest Florida, so it takes gas.”

She said, “as we see HTAP have sufficient funding to add staff needed to handle demand and to also allow for it to further expand its reach in Collier County.”

Karen Patti, chairman of the organization’s board of directors, said the future where the demands of fundraising are lessened.

“It is still in the works, but I think it’s the future. The Rock and Role,” the “role” honoring the women who direct the four organizations and the inspiration they provide to others who want to run charities. It will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Millenial Brewing Company in downtown Fort Myers. Tickets are $75 per person for the event, which will include a fashion show, raffles, auctions, dinner and ‘50s and ‘60s costume-wear. There may also be a craft beer tasting.

“It’s still in the works, but I think it’s going to be a really great event,” said Ms. Theiss.

Human Trafficking Awareness Partnership is located at 7275 Concourse Drive, Suite 400, in Fort Myers. For more information about the organization, its programs and events or to volunteer, see www.humantraffickingawareness.org, call 239-323-5 or send an email to info@humantraffickingawareness.org.

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FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE

FSW celebrates a tradition of academic and cultural impact

BY JOE TURNER
Special to Florida Weekly

The year was 1965, and on what was considered the outskirts of town, the campus of the area’s first college, Edison Junior College, opened on an 80-acre site with three buildings, offering the local community an opportunity to attend a college right in Fort Myers. Since that time the college has grown and expanded to meet the needs of not only its students academically, but in the greater community with arts programs, athletics and much more.

Florida SouthWestern State College (formerly Edison Junior College) takes its position in the community seriously and has a history of offerings that have enriched the lives of southwest Florida residents for generations. The proof is never more evident than in the annual musical and theatrical performances hosted by the students studying in various disciplines of the arts.

In 1963, shortly after the founding of the institution, the Curtain and Cue Club was organized to stir an interest in dramatics among students. Since then, FSW has performed dozens of stage productions open to the community, offering a variety of plays that might normally be missed by larger theater troupes. These performances are professional and prepare FSW students for their future in the arts.

While the theater students continue to practice their lines, the area’s best and brightest musicians are perfecting their skills, which culminates twice a year during a series of concerts held at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall on campus. Thousands of music lovers throughout the area have been treated to free recitals featuring the FSW Orchestra and Choir, Concert Band and Jazz Bands.

Another area where FSW provides the community with engaging activities is in college athletics. Since its earliest days, the institution has fielded teams in several different sports. In 2016, after a nearly two-decade halt to its athletic programs, the college brought back men’s and women’s basketball, as well as baseball and softball. With the completion of the Suncoast Credit Union Arena in 2016, the institution has brought fast-paced and highly competitive teams onto the arena floor. This season, both teams were winners of their respective Suncoast Conference championship titles, with the men’s team visiting the national tournament for the first time ever. The state-of-the-art arena also provides the community with live concerts, like Chicago, trade shows and other sporting events, including the annual City of Palms Classic.

For those who enjoy watching sports outdoors, FSW baseball and softball are played at the City of Palms Park in downtown Fort Myers, former Spring Training home of the Boston Red Sox. This provides fans several months of baseball and softball in order to satisfy the area’s insatiable appetite for sports brought on during the annual spring training season. In its first three years, the FSW softball team has won its conference title each year and continues to represent southwest Florida on a national level at the annual softball tournament.

FSW has long stood as a central hub of community and cultural activity. Without its strong commitment to the community it serves, Southwest Florida would be hard-pressed to find alternative outlets that would provide the programs and venues that exist on the campus of Florida SouthWestern State College. While preparing its students for professional success, FSW is also providing the surrounding community with experiences not found anywhere else in Southwest Florida.

— Joe Turner is the director of institutional programs and development at Florida SouthWestern State College.
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Event co-chairs Melissa Blazer and Alex Breault with CCCR Executive Director Nicole Howard.

Annual art event raises record amount for CCCR

Collier County kids received a big boost thanks to some big impressions at Collier Child Care Resources’ seventh annual Big Impressions by Little Artists event. CCCR provides education and childcare services to children from birth to age 5

More than 200 people attended this year’s event to create images that go on display at venues such as Art Fest Naples and the Naples Art Association gallery. Other programs include baseball, basketball, bowling, cooking classes and improvisation workshops.

For more information, call 994-9007 or visit www.starability.org.

New name reflects foundation’s focus

The Foundation for the Developmentally Disabled has changed to the STARability Foundation, dedicated to shining a light on ability, not disability. The foundation serves young adults with disabilities who have aged out of the school system, as well as their caregivers, by providing programs and activities focused on continuing education, teamwork and community involvement. Since 2014, the number of people the foundation serves has surged by 40 percent, and the amount of program offerings has almost doubled.

“We want to give our members avenues and opportunities to stay active and engaged, because that’s what leads to the quality of life they seek and deserve,” Karen Govern, STARability executive director, says. “We’re seeing the demand, and we’re adapting to meet the growing need in the community.”

STARability’s Trailblazer Academy, launched in 2016, provides daily hands-on training for jobs and life skills that help participants accomplish what they might otherwise think impossible.

STARability is also the only affiliate of the Next Chapter Book Club in Southwest Florida for people with intellectual disabilities, and STARability’s photography workshop guides members to create images that go on display at venues such as Art Fest Naples and the Naples Art Association gallery. Other programs include baseball, basketball, bowling, cooking classes and improvisation workshops.

For more information, call 994-9007 or visit www.starability.org.

Immmokalee Middle School students learn about career in the arts

The Immokalee Foundation has partnered with Young Audiences of Southwest Florida Arts for Learning to bring a variety of programs in the fine, performing and media arts into Immokalee Middle School this year. The collaboration’s goal is to widen the range of career opportunities for middle school students.

The inclusion of arts into the classroom makes it more fun to learn, and more approachable to kids,” said Cynthia Arnold, director of the Young Audiences local affiliate. “Children need to be engaged in learning and to learn in ways that can hold their attention, the way social media and internet sites like YouTube do. The easiest way to do this is to make it fun and interesting. The inclusion of arts does this for a wider range of children.”

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 understands your business needs and the local market. As a community bank, we tailor our services to fit your business needs and goals. Here are three great offers to help you get started with a bank that cares.
Post-secondary students enrolled in The Immokalee Foundation programs will begin this next phase of their lives not only with scholarships for their education, but also a particularly sweet gift from the Massoud and Isabella Eghrari Charitable Foundation.

The students recently learned that they have received $500 scholarships to spend on themselves.

Dr. Massoud Eghrari and his late wife, Isabella, knew that pursuing an education and career is difficult, particularly for students with limited resources. So in addition to funding scholarships for higher education through TIF, their nonprofit gives $500 scholarships to first-year post-secondary students to use for whatever students wish. Recognizing the hard work of these young people — and the financial challenges that students frequently face in their first year of study — the Eghraris wanted to reward them in a unique manner, which they referred to as “fun money.”

The fun money scholarships are as forward thinking as all other TIF programs. The foundation provides a road map to the future, with a goal of making students wise, useful and independent adult members of society.

“My point of this scholarship was to use it on something other than school, which was very unexpected because most scholarships are intended for tuition or books. This scholarship can be used on everything but school specifically,” Ms. Cervantes added.

“Receiving the fun money scholarship is not the first time she was able to envision a brighter future than she otherwise could have imagined.”

“Many of them return to Immokalee and share what they have learned. You don’t have to wait a generation to see what a difference the scholarships make. We appreciate that the money directly benefits the students,” Dr. Eghrari said.

To receive the award, students completed an application with general information and an essay stating what they would do with the money if they received it. To support the spirit of the scholarship, the students are required to spend the funds on themselves rather than others.

That stipulation made quite an impression on Graciela Cervantes.

“That stipulation made quite an impression on Graciela Cervantes. Receiving this scholarship helped me feel like there was someone who not only cared about my education, but about me as well,” she said.

“The point of this scholarship was to use it on something other than school, which was very unexpected because most scholarships are intended for tuition or books. This scholarship can be used on everything but school specifically.”

“TIF provides a range of education programs that focus on building pathways to success through college and post-secondary preparation and support, mentoring and tutoring, opportunities for broadening experiences and life skills development leading to economic independence. To learn more about The Immokalee Foundation, volunteering as a career panel speaker or host, becoming a mentor, making a donation or including the foundation in your estate plans, call 430-9122 or visit www.immokaleefoundation.org.
Irony

At Pennsylvania State University, the Outing Club, founded in 1920, provided students with outdoor recreation opportunities such as hiking and camping. But no more. Penn State has announced that after this semester, the university will no longer allow the club to organize student-led trips because it is too dangerous out in the wilderness, according to the offices of Student Affairs and Risk Management. Two other outdoor clubs, the Nittany Grotto Caving Club and the Nittany Drivers Scuba Club, have also been restricted from club activities outdoors. Michael Lacey, president of the Caving Club, told the Centre Daily Times: “Penn State’s just been clamping down really hard on the nature of activities” since the Jerry Sandusky scandal. University spokesperson Lisa Powers said Penn State will offer school-sponsored outdoors trips, but students noted the cost will be much higher.

Unclear on the concept

In a perhaps unintentional bid for the worst criminal disguise of 2018, Kerry Hammond Jr., 22, broke into a GameStop store in St. Marys, Ga., at 1:49 a.m. on April 13, where he was captured on camera wearing a clear plastic wrapper (of the sort that holds bundles of bottled water) over his head. Even with the plastic “mask,” WJXT reported, Hammond’s face is clearly visible in surveillance video, and St. Marys police quickly identified him and captured him on April 17. Hammond already had two active felony warrants for his arrest for burglary and second-degree criminal damage to property.

Fun-suckers

In Oslo, according to Reuters, tradition calls for recent high school graduates to participate in “Russ,” a several-weeks-long party that includes drinking, nudity and public sex, sometimes resulting in fatal car crashes. So this year, the Public Roads Administration issued a statement on April 18 headlined “No to sex on roundabouts,” warning that students should refrain from running naked and having sex on bridges and roundabouts, because such behavior gives drivers “too much of a surprise.” Terje Moe Gustavsen, head of the administration, said: “Everyone understands that being in and around roundabouts is a traffic hazard. It may not be so dangerous for someone to be without clothes on the bridge, but drivers can ... completely forget that they are driving.”

Bright ideas

■ Resorting to a low-tech, but possibly offensive strategy, Largo detectives visited a dead man at Sylvan Abbey Funeral Home in Clearwater and attempted to use his finger to unlock his smartphone. Linus F. Phillip, 30, was shot and killed by Largo police March 23 after he tried to drive away from an officer wanting to search him. As part of their investigation, police said they needed to access and preserve data on Phillip’s phone.

■ Legal experts generally agreed the detectives had not broken any laws, but Phillip’s girlfriend, Victoria Armstrong, 28, was less forgiving: “Nobody even called us ... to let us know detectives were coming there at all is very disturbing,” she told the Tampa Bay Times. “I’m very skeptical of all funeral homes now.”

■ United Press International reports that in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, the mayor has employed a clever way to keep his finger on the pulse of the city. When he goes out, he wears a fake beard so he’ll blend in and not be recognized as the capital city’s leader.

Mayor Albek Ibraimov told Fergana, a Russian news agency: “I dress in old clothes ... take off my tie and I go and look, and see how things actually are.”
Good behavior can earn kids Slurpees

Watch out, kids. If a Collier County Sheriff’s office deputy catches you in the act, you might just get a “ticket” as part of the agency’s participation in 7-Eleven’s Operation Chill, a program that aims to reduce crime and build rapport between kids and law enforcement.

When a deputy spots a child wearing a helmet, picking up trash or observing crosswalk rules, that child could be issued a “ticket” for a free small Slurpee at 7-Eleven.

Hundreds of agencies around the country have participated in the program since it began in 1995. It’s a great way for law enforcement officials to develop relationships with the youth in their communities, and to remind kids of the value of making good decisions, being kind and doing the right thing.

CCSO deputies will have an APB out for good behavior as they patrol area parks, community events and summer camps in the months ahead.

Area veterans are invited to the semi-annual Freedom Waters Foundation Veterans Meet and Greet for a free cruise on the Naples Princess from 3-4:30 p.m. Monday, May 21. Boarding begins at 2:30 p.m. at the dock, 550 Port O Call Way. Light refreshments will be served. Each veteran can bring one guest.

The cruise provides a therapeutic on-the-water experience giving veterans a place for vet-to-vet camaraderie as well as socialization with civilians they can trust and be comfortable with. Approximately 125 veterans participate. Because space is limited, reservations are required by calling 263-2377 by May 18. The event is sponsored by Naples Princess.

Freedom Waters Foundation’s mission is to improve the lives of individuals with special needs and veterans by providing therapeutic marine-related experiences on the waters of South Florida. Learn more at www.freedomwatersfoundation.org.

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SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Six days a week, 52 weeks a year, rain or shine, local letter carriers deliver everything from bills and birthday cards to catalogs and coupons. But on the second Saturday of May, postal workers in Collier Country will deliver something more as they go along their routes: hope in the form of food for those in need.

Saturday, May 12, marks the National Association of Letter Carriers 26th annual Stamp Out Hunger, the nation’s largest single-day food drive, when postal customers are asked to leave donations of non-perishable pantry items for their carriers to pick up. In Collier County, these food donations are delivered to Collier Harvest Foundation, which has partnered with the NALC since the food drive began.

The drive occurs just as Southwest Florida’s seasonal residents leave; its success is critical to the efforts of feeding those less fortunate in our area throughout the summer, especially students from low-income families that rely on breakfast and lunch provided by Collier County Public Schools during the academic year. (CCPS reports serving on average 21,369 free or reduced meals a day). In addition, many families will see reduced or eliminated work hours in industries that provide seasonal services, further strain-
Many of the same volunteer drivers sign up year after year to follow letter carriers along their routes picking up food donations already stretched budgets.

Stamp Out Hunger donations are sorted, boxed and stored at the Collier Harvest warehouse for distribution to dozens of local agencies, such as Providence House, Youth Haven, Collier Senior Resources, NAMI and other nonprofit organizations and churches.

The goal is to collect enough food to see these agencies through the summer, as well as have enough food to aid in the event of a hurricane or other disaster. Letter carriers last year collected 260,000 pounds of food donated by their customers.

“I can’t tell you how much this helps us. We feed many, many people every day, and this helps us tremendously,” chef Amy Peters at the David Lawrence Center says.

Stamp Out Hunger is a community-wide event in which residents can participate on many levels:

- Seasonal residents who are leaving before the May 12 collection day are encouraged to take their unopened, non-perishable items to the closest postal branch or give them to their mail carrier.
- Businesses, schools and other organizations can collect food ahead of the drive to increase the donation total.
- On the day of the food drive, volunteers are needed to help unload, sort and box food at the Collier Harvest warehouse. The busiest time of day is from 3-7 p.m. as the carriers finish their routes; volunteers are asked to commit to two-hour shifts.
- “It’s an amazing day filled with community spirit as individuals, youth groups, businesses and civic organizations come together to help feed those less fortunate who live right here in Collier County,” says Connie Preu, Collier Harvest executive director. “We typically have up to 200 volunteers, working shifts, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- We have pizza, refreshments and even live music to keep everyone motivated while they work. It’s a fun and rewarding way to give back to the community.”
- To sign up to volunteer for Stamp Out Hunger or for information about other volunteer opportunities at Collier Harvest, call 455-5663 or visit www.collierharvest.org.

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The Naples Orchid Society welcomes members and guests to meetings on the first Thursday of the month at Moorings Presbyterian Church, 791 Harbour Drive. The next meeting is May 3. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for flower registration. Judging is at 7:10 p.m., followed by a short meeting at 7:15 p.m. and the program at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.naplesorchidsociety.org.

Collectors and admirers of Corvettes are welcome to meet like-minded others when Corvettes of Naples meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, 1225 Piper Blvd. off of Immokalee Road in North Naples. The next meeting is May 3. For more information, visit www.corvettesofnaples.com.

The Naples Christian Women’s Connection invites area women to a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Friday, May 4, at the Club at Longshore Lake, 11399 Phoenix Way. Cost is $28 ($14 for first-timers). For reservations or more information, call 591-3797 or email cwcnaples@gmail.com.

Wine Tasters of Naples members meet from 5:30 p.m. every Friday at different locations around town. Members enjoy socializing and working together on philanthropic and service projects to benefit the community. Members pay a $7 door fee; guests pay $9. Light bites are served, and attendees pay for their own beverages. The May 4 meeting place is Real Seafood, followed by Seasons 52 on May 11 and Barbatella on May 18. For more information, visit www.winetastersofnaples.org.

Solo Singles of Collier County creates and promotes recreation, cultural, charitable and social activities for those persons single, divorced or widowed. Members gather at a different restaurant at 5 p.m. every Friday for happy hour and dinner. The May 4 place to be is Under the Shady Palm, followed by Bayside Seafood Grill and Bar on May 11 and Brunia Italian on May 18. For membership information, call Carey Hughes at 262-0278 or email careyjh@aol.com.

The Naples Ship Modelers’ annual social and model exhibition gives members the chance to share their projects with fellow members and guests. Member Craig Carragan holds his model of the USS Constitution with Molijane Wahl, Clare Carragan and Stu Wahl. See more photos on page C22.

The Jane Austen Society of Southwest Florida, a branch of the Jane Austen Society of North America, meets from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, May 5, at South Lee County Regional Library, 2100 Three Oaks Parkway in Estero. Professor Sara Dustin of Florida Southwestern State College will discuss “The Misfortune of Poetry: Retrenching through Literature in ‘Persuasion’ and ‘Sanditon.’” The presentation will be a preview of the breakout session Ms. Dustin will lead at the 2018 annual meeting of the JASNA in Kansas City in September. Attendance at the local meeting is free, and all are welcome. To sign up, email jasnaswf@gmail.com.

Naples Ship Modelers meets at 9:30 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of every month at the Landmark Naples community in North Naples. The next gatherings are May 5 and 19. All are invited to enjoy lunch together afterward at a location TBA. For more information, call Dick Ritchie at 594-0868 or email dritchie@comcast.net.

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Naples Junior Woman’s Club, aka the Juniors, hosts its annual Derby Dash from 5-8 p.m. Saturday, May 5, at Naples Botanical Garden. Tickets are $75 and $100, and all are welcome. The club is comprised of young women committed to philanthropy, volunteering and improving the Naples communi-
May 8, at Painting with a Twist, 13500 season from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, are invited to the final gathering of the Bonita Springs, Estero and Marco Island 592-0447.

Golf Estates in North Naples. A French picnic starting at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 6, in the party room by the pool at Bermudanautica, which is tools for finding information about subjects and records that may have been generated about one's ancestors. Attendance is free and all are welcome. For more information, visit www.thehgc.org.

Serving Naples and Collier County since 1960, the Naples Nites Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays at Perkins Restaurant at Pine Ridge Road and I-75. The next meetings are and May 8 and 22. All are welcome. For more information, call 293-6369 or 352-2827.

Are you new to Naples and interested in making new friends? The Naples Newcomers Club could be for you. Members meet for lunch at country clubs throughout the area on the second Thursday of each month. Groups also get together to explore Naples and beyond and for conversations over coffee and to enjoy a variety of interests from books and mah-jongg to yoga and gourmet cooking. Members have been full-time residents of Naples for less than five years. The next luncheon is May 10. For more information, visit www.naplesnewcomers.com.

The Naples chapter of Sons of the American Revolution meets for lunch and a program starting at 11:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of the month at Tiburon Golf Club. The next meeting is May 10. Guest speaker will be Judy Goby-Oxtoby, first vice regent, Big Cypress Chapter, DAR. Visitors and prospective members are welcome. For more information, call Toni Nichols at 732-0620 or visit www.NaplesSAR.org.

Cheez of Marco meets for casual games of chess from 9 a.m. to noon every Monday at Marco Lutheran Church. Free and open to all, Club founder Wade Keller, along with students from the CHESZ K-12 club, also welcome anyone who wants to learn the game. The next session begins class at 10:30 a.m. every Saturday at the Marco Island Library. For more information, call Mr. Keller at 305-2525.

Naples Park Area Association holds beginning lessons in Mahjong for anyone who would like to learn the game. Regular games are played from 3-4 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday. For information about lessons, send an email to Donna Caccese at naplesmahjong@gmail.com.

Naples MacFriends User Group has hundreds of members who share a passion for all things Apple and who love to learn from one another. Weekly meetings are open to all, free of charge, and take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday at Naples Regional Library, 601 Central Ave. For more information, visit www.naples-macug.com.

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HEALTHY LIVING

Take a spin at the Y for a good cause

The Greater Naples YMCA invites everyone to get a great workout that will also benefit a great cause at the Cinco de Mayo Spin-a-Thon from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 5. Dozens of spinning bikes will be ready for riders in an air-conditioned room at the Y. Three different instructors will keep spirits high and energy flowing while guiding each group through 20-minute riding sessions.

Riders of all ages and all levels of experience are welcome to participate for any or all of the rides. The first ride begins at 8:30 a.m. and the day’s final ride starts at 11:30 a.m. Being a hand towel and a bottle of water. Registration is $20 per ride, and all proceeds will benefit the Pedaling for Parkinson’s program to provide new SPIN bikes, heart rate monitors and instructor training for the program. For more information, call Diana Sidner at 963-3761 send an email to dsidner@greaternaplesymca.org.

Free skin checks for new patients at Riverchase

In recognition of Skin Cancer Awareness Month and Melanoma May, Riverchase Dermatology offers new patients at its 19 practices in Florida free skin cancer screenings for appointments scheduled through May 31. The nearest Riverchase offices are in Naples and Fort Myers. The American Academy of Dermatology reports that one in five Americans will be diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime; and one person dies from melanoma — the deadliest form of skin cancer — every hour. Skin cancers are easily treated if diagnosed early.

The free skin-cancer screenings are for new patients only. Call 800-591-3376 or visit riverchasedermatology.com/melanomamay to make an appointment.

UF: Intermittent fasting can lead to significant weight loss and slow aging

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

North American wolf packs can feast on bison or elk and then go two weeks before the next kill. But the wolves’ bodies and brains still perform at high levels as they hunt for their next meal, researchers say.

Humans, too, appear well adapted to periods of hunger. This is likely a trait evolved from early human hunter-gatherers who, like wolves, alternated between periods of feast and famine.

The answer as to how the body manages this, according to University of Florida researchers, provides insight into intermittent fasting as an increasingly popular dieting strategy. Researchers said emerging findings in scientific literature show intermittent fasting can be a reliable means of weight loss and might optimize physiological functioning, enhance performance and slow the aging and disease process.

To understand why, one must look to how the body essentially flips a “metabolic switch” during fasting. This means the body moves from burning glucose, or sugar, for energy to fatty acids and their byproduct, ketones.

During fasting, the body converts fat into fatty acids, which can be absorbed by the blood. Ketones, he added, are a cleaner source of energy than glucose, protein or carbohydrates, the body’s other sources of energy. That is because ketones produce fewer “metabolic disrupters,” or molecules that can harm cells.

“This switch can happen after a certain period of time fasting,” said Mr. Anton, who also is affiliated with the UF Institute on Aging. “It’s a gradation in which your metabolism over time shifts to use higher and higher amounts of ketones for energy.”

Typically, he said, after eight to 12 hours of fasting, the levels of ketones in the blood significantly increase.

Mr. Anton’s paper looked at two popular forms of intermittent fasting. The first is time-restricted feeding, when the dieters eat during discrete windows during the day. For example, they might fast up to 16 hours a day, eating during the other eight hours.

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The answer as to how the body manages this, according to University of Florida researchers, provides insight into intermittent fasting as an increasingly popular dieting strategy. Researchers said emerging findings in scientific literature show intermittent fasting can be a reliable means of weight loss and might optimize physiological functioning, enhance performance and slow the aging and disease process.

To understand why, one must look to how the body essentially flips a “metabolic switch” during fasting. This means the body moves from burning glucose, or sugar, for energy to fatty acids and their byproduct, ketones.

During fasting, the body converts fat into fatty acids, which can be absorbed by the blood. Ketones, he added, are a cleaner source of energy than glucose, protein or carbohydrates, the body’s other sources of energy. That is because ketones produce fewer “metabolic disrupters,” or molecules that can harm cells.

“This switch can happen after a certain period of time fasting,” said Mr. Anton, who also is affiliated with the UF Institute on Aging. “It’s a gradation in which your metabolism over time shifts to use higher and higher amounts of ketones for energy.”

Typically, he said, after eight to 12 hours of fasting, the levels of ketones in the blood significantly increase.

Mr. Anton’s paper looked at two popular forms of intermittent fasting. The first is time-restricted feeding, when the dieters eat during discrete windows during the day. For example, they might fast up to 16 hours a day, eating during the other eight hours.

Free skin checks for new patients at Riverchase

In recognition of Skin Cancer Awareness Month and Melanoma May, Riverchase Dermatology offers new patients at its 19 practices in Florida free skin cancer screenings for appointments scheduled through May 31. The nearest Riverchase offices are in Naples and Fort Myers.

The American Academy of Dermatology reports that one in five Americans will be diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime; and one person dies from melanoma — the deadliest form of skin cancer — every hour. Skin cancers are easily treated if diagnosed early.

The free skin-cancer screenings are for new patients only. Call 800-591-3376 or visit riverchasedermatology.com/melanomamay to make an appointment.

UF: Intermittent fasting can lead to significant weight loss and slow aging

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

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**Coalition hopes programs will empower seniors**

The Leadership Coalition on Aging hosts a three-part educational series on senior empowerment in May, July and September. The programs are free and open to the public.

The “Spirituality and Aging” takes place from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, May 10, at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples, 6340 Napa Woods Way. In a panel discussion, spiritual leaders from area churches and temples will share their unique perspective about spirituality and aging.

“Senior Housing and How to Pay for It” takes place from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, July 12, at Bradford Square, 3255 Vanderbilt Beach Road in Naples. Attendees will gain insights from area experts about senior housing options and how to pay for it.

“Advanced Planning: Getting your Affairs in Order” is set for 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, at South Regional Library, 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway. Experts from the legal, medical, financial and real estate professions will help attendees get a better perspective on advanced planning.

The sessions are free and open to the public. To sign up, call 687-3156. For more information about the Leadership Coalition on Aging, visit www.collierseniorresources.org or send an email to info@collierseniorresources.org.

**Parkinson association has programs to support patients and caregivers**

The Parkinson Association of SWFL Inc. offers several classes and support groups to help those at various stages of the disease as well as their caregivers. Classes range from exercise and movement to balance skills and drills, tai chi speech and singing. Classes take place at PASFI headquarters at 5926 Premier Way in Naples and also at Fleischmann Park and Terracina Grand in Naples, Bentley Villas in North Naples, The Terraces at Bonita Springs, Marco Island sessions will resume in the fall.

Here are the upcoming programs:

- Early Onset PD, a support group for those ages 55 and younger diagnosed with PD, from 6-7 p.m. every Tuesday. Keep Calm and Do Improve, a free class
- Parkinson patients and their caregivers from 10:30 a.m. to noon Friday, May 18. RSVP required: 236-3931 or margo-tescott@mac.com.
- Hurricane Prepared, offered in partnership with the Collier County Sheriff’s Office at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 23. RSVP required: 417-3465 or www.pasfl.org.
- The above programs all take place at PASFI headquarters, 5926 Premier Way in Naples.
- Patients and their caregivers also enjoy a monthly Lunch Bunch at changing locations, with the next one set for Thursday, May 17, at Bayside Seafood Grill & Bar. RSVP by calling 417-3465 or by going to www.pasfl.org.

**FAST**

From page 18

And in that window, the dieters aren’t restricted to what they eat. “Of course, we recommend healthy food,” Mr. Anton said.

The second approach is called alternate-day fasting. In the more common model of this fasting regimen, people limit their meals on one day, usually 500 calories. On the next day, they can eat anything at all. “It can be truly called a fasting day,” Mr. Anton said.

Mr. Anton said research in rodents and other nonhuman species points to the possibility that food restriction, and the turning of that metabolic switch, can lengthen life span; improve metabolic health, cognitive and physical performance; lower inflammation; and lead to superior cardiovascular health.

In a review of scientific literature, Mr. Anton and his colleagues found that people lost significant body fat in 10 of 10 clinical trials involving alternate-day fasting. “So in my mind, it’s not a question of whether it works for producing fat loss,” he said.

Three of four time-restricted feeding studies demonstrated significant fat loss. In most studies, participants did not lose significant lean tissue, which is tissue other than fat that includes the body’s organs, muscles and skeleton. An adequate amount of lean tissue is necessary to help maintain good physiological function as people age, among other health benefits.

Other forms of dieting, however, often lead to a reduction in both fat and lean tissue.

Mr. Anton said research in rodents and other nonhuman species points to the possibility that food restriction, and the turning of that metabolic switch, can lengthen life span; improve metabolic health, cognitive and physical performance; lower inflammation; and lead to superior cardiovascular health.

An important takeaway is that we all have the ability to switch our metabolism from glucose to ketone utilization,” he said. “And that switch has the potential to have profound health benefits for us, in addition to the positive changes in body composition.”

He urges anyone considering a new diet to consult with a physician, noting fasting may not be the right fit for everyone.
PET TALES
Walking the dog

At our house, a long dog walk is 45 minutes each way and may involve stairs and beach walking. A moderate walk is 20 to 30 minutes around the block. A short walk is 10 to 15 minutes around our complex.

We first devised those dog walk descriptions for our then-9-year-old cavalier King Charles spaniel, Harper. It wasn’t unusual for her to walk anywhere from 2 to 7 miles daily.

What amount and distance of walking does your dog need? It’s a common Google search: “How long should I walk my cockapoo/a common Google search: “How long should I walk my cockapoo?”

The answer? It depends.

Cavaliers like Harper are among the dogs who can switch from couch potato to avid walker or hiker depending on their person’s energy level and time available on a particular day, but many dogs need and demand longer or more strenuous outings every day, and often more than once or twice. And some, of course, would prefer gentle walks — the shorter, the better.

While there are always exceptions, it’s smart to assume that dogs bred to herd (border collies, Australian cattle dogs, German shepherds and Australian shepherds, for instance) or hunt (the various retrievers, pointers, setters, spaniels) require large amounts of daily exercise to burn off their vast energy reserves.

Daily walks have physical and mental health benefits not only for dogs, but also for people.

Dog trainer Liz Palika of Kindred Spirits in Oceanside, California, lives with two English shepherds, Bones and Hero, and previously had several Australian shepherds. When her dogs were young, they get an hour to an hour and a half daily of running off leash in her training yard or retrieving balls and toys. Once their growth plates close — an age that varies by breed and ranges from 10 to 20 months — they gradually introduce them to running several miles a day alongside her bike in the morning, plus their hour or more of play in the evening.

“We generally take Sunday off,” she says.

In Allentown, Pennsylvania, Deb Rabuck’s Pyrenean shepherds (small French herding dogs) get walks of a half-hour to an hour, or 1 to 3 miles.

New York City Leonbergers Cleah, 10, and Emily, 5, walk about 2 miles daily on city streets, plus one or more 16-story stair climbs, says owner Mara Bovsun. On Long Island, they have the opportunity for off-leash runs and 1 1/2-mile walks or runs in the woods.

Older dogs can be surprisingly active when it comes to walks. Susan Rosenau’s dogs, a 10-year-old Boston terrier and a 10-year-old French bulldog, get four walks daily, two for 20 minutes and two that are shorter. Jenn Stollery’s cavalier King Charles spaniels walk 1 to 4 miles daily.

Age and infirmities don’t deter dogs from their daily walks.

“My oldest sets the pace,” says Stollery, of Parsippany, New Jersey. “He is 13 but still loves a serious walk.”

Chris Fox of Seattle drives his 13-year-old pug Lola, who is blind, to a nearby park for daily walks. While Lola used to love hiking on trails, Fox says now it’s better for her to explore an open field so she doesn’t run into trees or stumble over rocks. Mika, a 10-year-old German shepherd mix, and 9-year-old Hina, a chow-Akita mix, take owner Mary Wakabayashi for a 45- to 60-minute walk every morning, plus a 1- to 3-mile walk after Wakabayashi gets home from work.

The average adult dog benefits from at least 30 minutes of exercise daily, which can be broken up into two or three walks. Harper, now 10 1/2 years old, still enjoys a 2-mile walk or several short walks daily. It’s good for her health and mine, and best of all, it makes both of us happy.
His love for P!nk leaves her tickled

As a man approaching 61, my husband is several years older than I, and he enjoys all the things that a 61-year-old guy would typically gravitate to — golf, Heineken, Liam Neeson action movies, trucks, target practice at the range, steak, watching SEC football and the pop singer P!nk.

I know — Todd is an unlikely fan, but P!nk is his jam. He owns all of her music, he has all of her live concert DVDs — he even follows her on Twitter. You’d think that most dudes his age would be into 70s rock or country music, and while he does listen to Stevie Ray Vaughan and Garth Brooks occasionally, he almost exclusively has P!nk blasting through his earbuds. His phone alarm even wakes him up to the P!nk ballad, “Glitter in the Air.”

I like P!nk — I do — but I don’t LOVE P!nk. I admire her for her fierce feminism and the lyrics in her songs that send strong messages to women and girls about empowerment and self-acceptance.

And I appreciate that she’s never been a Britney or a Miley — I embrace the example she sets and I think she’s more talented than most pop stars. But there it is — I consider P!nk a pop star.

My musical tastes have always been farther of the grid — I love Sinead O’Connor, Tori Amos, Kate Bush and Joan Armatrading — basically, artists you rarely hear on the radio.

But last fall, when P!nk announced that her “Beautiful Trauma” concert tour was coming to the BB&T Center, barely two hours away in Sunrise, I knew that it was time for Todd to finally see his idol live in concert and to mark that off his bucket list. And for an overnighter on the east coast, I was happy to go along for the ride.

As the concert date got closer, we joked that Todd might be one of the oldest fans there, but then it got worse — he injured his knee and as he awaits insurance to approve a partial knee replacement, he’s been using a walker. But no way would a walker stop him from seeing P!nk. Have walker, will travel.

Sure enough, the estrogen levels were high as we approached the stadium, and most of the other guys there were holding hands with their same-sex partners. There were a lot of mothers there with their young daughters and quite a few adult daughters escorting their older mothers.

Todd pressed on with his walker until we got our seats and I waited to see if I, too, would fall in love with P!nk, which pretty much happened a minute or two after she catapulted into the arena on a wire like a force of nature. What’s more, her rendition of Nirvana’s “Smells Like Teen Spirit” and then disappeared under the stage to fly around some more on her wire did all while doing somersaults, and continuing to sing LIVE, I was obsessed.

She grabbed outstretched hands in the audience, signed autographs while performing, paid tribute to the victims of the Parkland shooting and did stripped down acoustic versions of her ballads. The two-hour show had it all. As a new fan, I was on my feet, dancing, whooping it up and applauding loudly.

Meanwhile, my husband sat there quietly, smiling and in awe.

To P!nk, I raise my glass — and to my not-so-typical husband, I thank you for introducing me to some pretty perfect new (to me) music.
Any large show is a great way to get to know a new car — that’s a good rule for the public as well as journalists. Press releases and glossy photos promise groundbreaking designs, but an industry event is the first place they’ll really have to prove it. There’s time to feel the grain of the plastic, see the precision of the panel gaps and test out the latest technology. After all, it’s easy to embellish in an email, but it’s hard to fool the senses.

That experience seems to be a bit endangered both for a journalist like me and for the public. The best example goes back to the debut of the current-generation Mustang.

Ford showed the latest pony car in December 2013 with plenty of glamour but not a lot of info. So, another writer and I thought it was worth seeing it in-person at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. The January 2014 expo would give us a head start on Detroit’s North American international Auto Show the next week.

The usual CES attendees are interested in technology, and so the new Mustang was far from the show’s star in the back of a massive expo hall. We were free to inspect the curves of the sheet metal, test out the seats and really check out the details.

We also happened to break the trunk latch of this pre-production car (the only one in all of Las Vegas. But people didn’t seem to notice the Mustang’s rear awkwardly sticking up, because the tech-heavy crowd wasn’t interested in Ford’s classic nameplate.

Still, this wasn’t a complete automotive strike-out. Audi was getting its money’s worth showcasing its new Virtual Cockpit. The stand was filled with people who might not know cars, but they were enthralled by the 3D maps going into them. In fact, Audi nurtured a great story, but not a lot of info. So, another writer and I even had to temporarily join a tech panel gaps and test out the latest technology.

The following week in Detroit had plenty of automotive journalists hungry for a big story, but Audi didn’t need to feed this monster. It already had an abundance of press from CES. Instead, these Germans released as every other major manufacturer was battling to be the big story of the NAIAS.

It seemed like a savvy play on Audi’s part, and I wasn’t the only one who took notice. Cars are becoming rolling super-computers. So, other automakers have quickly adapted and poured more money into a showing at CES as an ideal way to stand out and showcase new technology.

In contrast, the NAIAS has been declining steadily for the last three years. Where once minor players had to exhibit in the lobby, the 2018 show seemed to offer them main floor space as large as Mazda once occupied (it was one of many manufacturers that didn’t attend at all).

The outlook for 2019 is even worse. Mercedes-Benz has held one of the largest and most prominent NAIAS spaces for a decade, but it is not returning next year. BMW has also followed suit. It joins car companies like Porsche, Volvo and Land Rover, which have already packed up and left town. This leaves huge holes in the show’s traditional floorplan, and so the organizers are scrambling for solutions.

One suggestion is to move the event from a frigid Detroit January to a milder October. This is a mistake. A fall show doesn’t take into account an important factor: the public.

Michigan cherishes its outdoor time, and October is that last brisk gasp of pee- wee football and apple picking before buttoning down for the long winter. An indoor auto show can’t compete with that. But in January, the NAIAS is a local blessing where families and first dates have a place to go that’s warm and unique. These people generate ticket revenue and introduce thousands to new cars that they can’t see on the snow-covered dealer lots.

Another is that the CES is not open to the public. I even had to temporarily join a tech company’s PR team just to solidify my credentials for Las Vegas. Auto shows are open to the public for as long as two weeks. During that time, any exhibitor (automotive, tech, etc.) gets direct feedback that answers the essential question, “Will anyone buy it?”

So how does Detroit rebuild its advantage? In my opinion, it’s about being both humble and dynamic.

The NAIAS cannot return to the prestige it had a decade ago. So, it’s time to be humble with a cost that reflects current value. Porsche left the show a few years ago, citing the seven-figure budget needed to run its medium-sized stand could fund an entire racing program. In fact, the latest auto company exodus feels like a long-term tactic to get cheaper rates for displays.

Being dynamic will also help drive traffic to the show. Just as CES is a less-congested place for generating auto news, the NAIAS staff should be actively courting more tech companies to save their big automotive-related premieres for Detroit. The seeds of that can already be seen with a small technology exhibit space that takes place one level below the main auto show floor. But now is the time to literally elevate the sideshow out of the basement.

A car show’s chemistry is the perfect balance of manufacturers, journalists and the public. So it’s worth remembering that it takes everyone to get the formula right.
Theoretically, an efficient way to discover a sleepy, once-upon-a-time place to live or retire might be simply to see if the town or region has a food delivery service. If not, it could be a backwater.

During the last six or seven years food delivery services have become big business throughout the country, but usually only in metropolitan areas or regions with a sufficiently dense admixture of restaurants and people.

“Bring your favorite restaurant home in minutes”

BY ROGER WILLIAMS
rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

FOOD to YOU

“Bring your favorite restaurant home in minutes.”

FOOD: /spacelining to /spacelining /YOU

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“I think food delivery is ideal when you want to eat something you can’t prepare at home.”

— Beth Preddy,
Neapolitan food lover

— Email business meeting announcements to cpierce@floridaweekly.com.
We take some delivery food for a test drive …

Here, Florida Weekly writer Evan Williams tests Bite Squad:

“I placed the Bite Squad order from Cantina Laredo, a gourmet Mexican restaurant at Bell Tower, at 5:27 p.m. The website estimated it would take 5 minutes, but the food got here in 37, at 6:04. I ordered Carne Asada (a skirt steak with chimichurri sauce, $20.99), a side of guacamole ($1.99) and fajita veggies ($2.29) along with flank for dessert ($6.99). With a booking fee of $2.99, an automatically added 20 percent tip of $7.44, and taxes and fees of $3.20, the total came to $45.89.

“A few minutes ago when I used the Bite Squad app on my phone, it had allowed me to choose what to tip. Now, a Bite Squad ‘live-chat’ employee explained, it was added for the benefit of drivers.

“The website tracked when my order would arrive and provided a map showing my driver, Axan C., in real time on the way. A notification on my phone let me know he was about to arrive. Axan, a young guy in a green Bite Squad polo shirt and ballcap, came to the door with a huge insulated container full of orders, handed over a large fragrant brown bag, and left swiftly to further deliver the sacraments of a Tuesday in Fort Myers.

“The meal was as I’d ordered it — no rice sub veggies — and also came with a bag full of tortilla chips and salsa. Cantina Laredo is a mainstay, and dinner was as richly flavorful as expected, the grilled meat pairing well with a sharp, dark-green cilantro-garlic blessing of chimichurri surrounded by zucchini and peppers. The flan was a thick, rich happy ending.”

Amber Phillips, founder and owner of Sage, in Naples.

Evan Williams used Bite Squad to bring him some delicious food from Cantina Laredo.

A happy ending is what it’s all about. The NICEST delivery service in the business (sageevents.net):

“When I was in the hospital last year having my gall bladder removed I posted about the ordeal on Facebook and when I returned home there was Amber Phillips knocking at my door with trays of food — roasted chicken and vegetables — and for the next four days, while I was recovering, she came with delicious food in enormous trays,” recalls Neapolitan Beth Preddy.

“What a gift! I don’t know if anyone has ever been so kind to me. Naturally her gesture inspired me to order meals from her for a few weeks while I got up to speed after the surgery. I chose vegetarian, paleo and whatever her special of the day was. I think this says a lot about what kind of company Amber is running.”

Yes. But that’s a whole other story. ■

FOOD

From page 23

In Palm Beach County or along the southwest coast from Naples to Fort Myers and from Sarasota northward — increasingly crowded locations with numerous restaurant options — customers can now choose from a competitive handful of tech-savvy services that partner with restaurants to deliver hot food to home or office right off the menu of almost any place customers choose, for roughly the same price they’d pay by going out to the restaurant.

With a computer or smart phone and a credit card, a customer can make the order from the restaurant’s menu and see the order placed (restaurants have tablets that signal them when online orders come in).

The customer can then track it out of the kitchen, track the driver’s progress in real time, sometimes even see the driver, receive notification a few minutes before the food arrives, and take the order at the door or on the curb for delivery fees ranging from $0.99 up to about $5, depending on location and distance.

People seem to love it, especially people with busy lives.

“It’s the convenience, and the price — we don’t mark up,” said Liz Sniegocki, a spokeswoman for Bite Squad, a Minneapolis-based service in more than 15 Florida cities, including Fort Myers where it employs 150 drivers and partners with about 80 restaurants, and Naples, where it began operations in mid-April after acquiring a local operation called Naples Express Meals.

There, Bite Squad has about 50 drivers and roughly 70 restaurants, including Fuji Sushi Bar & Asian Bistro, Cosmos Cafe & Pizzeria, Michielob’s Rib & Steak, Araya Sushi Asian Grill, Dylan’s Drafthouse, Hurricane Grill and Wings, Tijuana Flats, The Counter Burger and California Pizza Kitchen.

The company also expanded into Lake- land, Winter Haven and Plant City last week.

“People are busy, becoming more accustomed to on-demand services, whether it’s Netflix or Amazon or something else, and everyone has to eat three times a day. So the convenience of the delivery and the variety is a lifesaver.”

But not yet in Port Charlotte. “They’re on our radar,” Ms. Sniegocki acknowledged. “We look for a variety of restaurants at the right mix of people who want it.”

A lot of people want it, apparently. “As far as we can tell, we’re the market leaders in the state,” she said. “With aggressive growth plans for the east coast in the next ‘90 days, and our eye on a few other areas, including Port Charlotte, you see our footprint continue to grow in the state.”

How it works

Restaurants in general pay a 20 percent to 30 percent partnering fee to the delivery service on any meals sold, simply because the service is bringing them business they wouldn’t otherwise have, and marketing a given restaurant at the same time.
ON THE MOVE

Jennifer Figurelli, managing partner and co-founder of Andrew Hill Investment Advisors Inc., has been certified as a professional daily money manager by the American Association of Daily Money Managers. Ms. Figurelli earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Florida Southern College and a legal assistant certificate from Florida Atlantic University. She is also a graduate of Leadership Collier.

Moises Moraga has joined Matthew Norton Mosteller Wright & Co. as an IT support specialist.

Dan Wilcox has joined the Hughes Center for Functional Medicine in Naples as an infusion technician. The center offers a variety of IV therapies for patients seeking nutrient therapy in lieu of pharmacy or pharmaceutical treatments. Mr. Wilcox spent 15 years as a firefighter for the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District and Collier County EMS. He also has experience as an emergency room technician at Physicians Regional Medical Center and NCH. He earned an associate's degree in emergency medical services from Edison College (now Florida SouthWestern State College).

Sara James has been named director of membership and marketing at Kensington Golf & Country Club. Ms. James has more than 15 years of golf and country club experience with properties in Collier and Lee counties. Most recently, she was a sales and marketing consultant for The Commons Club Estero. She has also worked with Wildcat Run Golf & Country Club, Peli- can Sound Golf & River Club, West Bay Creek and Bonita Bay Group’s Mediterra and Twin Eagles. She earned a bachelor’s degree in English and political science at Ohio State University.

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NETWORKING

Naples open house with the SWFL Harmony Chamber of Commerce

1. Gretchen Berger, Kristina Gers, Kit Matthews and Olga Piacere
2. Claudia Guerero and Michelle Pire
3. Amy Eisinger, Ollie Gentry, Sue Christiano and Scott Cornish
4. Ollie Gentry, Arlene Goldberg and Leslie Weinreb
5. Amy Eisinger and Mary Walker
6. Arlene Goldberg, Michelle Hudson and Sue Christiano
7. Olga Piacere and Crystal McCullough

Florida Weekly welcomes submissions for the Networking photo pages from business events, grand openings, professional association meetings, etc. We need 300-dpi photographs of groups of two or more people, facing the camera and identified by first and last names. Questions? Email editor Cindy Pierce at cpierce@floridaweekly.com.

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NETWORKING

Collier and Lee medical societies at Miromar Design Center

1. April Donahue and Julie Ramirez
2. Charles Camisa and Kathryn Camisa
3. Eileen Hanus and Mike Hanus
4. Anastasia Albonis and Vlasos Albonis
5. Peter Camisa, Wendy Humphrey, Robert Hanson, Lisa Girardi and Karen Swain
7. Rhena Ruiz-Nowero and Levi Nowero
8. Curtis Cooper and Marilyn Varcoe
9. Cesar De Leon and Diana De Leon
10. Steve Cohen and Catherine Noward
11. Chadwick Prodomos, Marilyn Prodomos and Ronald Kumin
12. Corey Howard and Bonji Howard

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NABOR, MIAAOR members will vote on merger proposal

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Members of the Naples Area Board of Realtors and the Marco Island Area Association of Realtors will vote to either approve or deny a strategic merger of the two long-time independent Collier County-based organizations later this month. If approved by members of both boards, the combined entity would serve more than 7,000 active members in Collier County.

The plan-of-merger document has been approved by both NABOR and MIAAOR boards of directors but requires majority approval by members in order to proceed. If approved, members will be served by a single MLS system and enjoy greater networking, expanded services and increased professional development.

“In early January, we formed a merger task force consisting of members from both groups who discussed features of the consolidation that would produce best outcomes,” Gary Elliott, MIAAOR board president, said.

The move to merge is consistent with a trend occurring among independent boards in other geographic areas of the country, including Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale.

“This is a great benefit for brokers and members alike as it will simplify their day-to-day processes,” said Rick Baranski, NABOR board president. With consolidation, he added, brokers will no longer be required to pay for access to two MLS systems, two board membership fees and two separate IDX fees.

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COASTAL REAL ESTATE GUIDE

WEEK OF MAY 3-9, 2018

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3971 Gulf Shore Blvd N #1203

Del Mar at Coquina Sands $415,000
1300 Gulf Shore Blvd N, #509

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House Hunting

4051 Gulf Shore Blvd. N., #20-D

This three-bedroom, three-bath D-unit residence in Park Shore Towers is available for immediate beachfront memories. Since 2009, the building has undergone a $22 million total renovation. The party room, fitness center and most recently the luxurious pool deck have all been updated and beautified.

Venetian Village shops and restaurants are just a short stroll away. Residents can also purchase boat decks or rent kayaks on Venetian Bay.

This extraordinary residence is offered at $2,550,000 (professionally staged furnishings and accessories also available for purchase). For more information or to arrange a showing, contact Emily K. Bua or Tade Bua-Bell at John R Wood Properties by calling 595-0097. See more properties at www.BuaBell-SellsNaples.com.
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MIAAOR's approximately 550 members are encouraged to vote online from May 21-30. NABOR members will cast their votes at the May 31 membership meeting. If approved, a merger application will be submitted for review to the National Association of Realtors. Once NAR approves, the two boards will begin combining their MLS systems, both of which are managed by CoreLogic. The combined system will provide members access to more than 18,000 listings totaling more than $10 billion in inventory. Homebuyers and sellers both will gain increased market exposure.

MIAAOR will become the Marco Island Area Chapter of NABOR and receive full access to all NABOR member services and benefits. “Marco Island members’ involvement in and commitment to the island community and its residents will continue,” MIAAOR CEO Shirley English said. This includes participation in the city of Marco Island’s Fourth of July fireworks display and the town’s annual prayer breakfast, she added. The Marco Island staff and offices will remain in tact, she added.

Key benefits of the merger include:

- Reduced dues for MIAAOR members from $369 per year to $157 per year;
- Increased educational opportunities, many at no cost;
- Increased networking opportunities;
- Shared technologies;
- A larger referral base; and
- Stronger political advocacy.

NABOR offers several important classes for free, Mr. Baranski said. Recently, NABOR started live streaming classes and meetings so members can access training from their offices or homes.

“We also offer mediation services at no cost to members,” Mr. Baranski said. NABOR CEO Marty Manion said another great advantage of the merger will be stronger political representation in Marco Island.

“Our government affairs director will attend many of Marco Island’s City Hall meetings so we will have a better understanding of their unique real estate matters and as a result, work to strengthen advocacy and the protection of private property rights for Marco Island residents,” Mr. Manion said. To foster adequate representation, Mr. Elliott will join the NABOR board of directors nominating committee.

Collaboration amongst the two boards is not a new venture, as many MIAAOR members already volunteer on NABOR committees.

For more information, call NABOR’s Mr. Manion at 597-1666 or Ms. English at MIAAOR at 394-5616.
Active, healthy lifestyle awaits Seaglass residents

Acknowledged as a place where residents and nature connect, Bonita Bay’s stewardship of the land is legendary. A respect for nature and its preservation guided the community’s design. More than half of Bonita Bay’s acreage was set aside for natural areas and open space, and residential neighborhoods were sited to take advantage of views of nature without impacting it. The result is a distinctly different community that embraces the unspoiled natural beauty of Southwest Florida.

For residents of The Ronto Group’s 26-floor, 120-unit Seaglass high-rise tower that is nearing completion, Bonita Bay’s amenities range from a 60,000 square feet Lifestyle Center, to five championship golf courses, a Tennis & Aquatic Center that includes a 8,000-square foot Sports Center, a full-service marina, a residents-only private beach park, on-property hiking and biking trails, and three parks. The three-story Lifestyle Center includes a 20,000 square foot Fitness Center, a 9,000 square foot spa and salon, and the WAVE Café that serves healthy fast food, organic juices, and smoothies.

The Bonita Bay Club’s golf staff includes 25 PGA Professionals. Three on-property Bonita Bay West courses were designed by Arthur Hills. The three courses achieved Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary status in 1999. 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 36-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 1999.

The Tennis and Aquatic Center’s renovated pool includes four lap lanes, a beach entry and a spa. The Bonita Bay Bar and Café features a poolside outdoor dining experience and offers casual fare, including salads, grilled items, and fresh sandwiches. An open-air bar under roof is available for a poolside beverage. The pool deck features two fire pits with built-in seating that offers a perfect place to relax and enjoy cool spring evenings. A new 8,000-square foot Sports Center positioned between the tennis complex and the aquatic area. The Sports Center includes a tennis pro shop with a professional staff, racquet services, a tennis retail shop, and dedicated men’s and ladies’ tennis locker rooms. Court assignment television monitors are placed throughout the facility. A covered patio overlooks and runs the entire length of the new Championship Court and provides a prime location for viewing matches.

Five new pickleball courts have also been completed. Located adjacent to the Bonita Bay Club’s Lifestyle Center, the cushioned/Laykold Gel courts are equipped with LED lighting. The pickleball complex includes a championship court and an IPTA certified professional.

The Bonita Bay Marina is located on the west side of the community and is the closest marina from the waters of the Gulf. Wet slips and dry boat storage are available, as well as marine retail and repair services. Owned by the residents of Bonita Bay, the Marina accommodates a wide variety of vessel sizes from sailboats to 65-foot yachts. The wet slip lifts can hold vessels up to 16,000 pounds and the dry storage can fit boats up to 32-feet long. Trailer loading and unloading service is available for most boats.

A marina includes a boat ramp, 40 boat slips, and canoe storage. A boce ball facility was added in 2013 joining the tennis, pickle-ball, and basketball courts already in place. The bocce facility was named recipient of a 2013 Green Star Honor Award from the Professional Grounds Management Society in the Park and Recreation category. Riverwalk Park also offers a playground, picnic areas, restrooms, pet stations, and a Parcourse fitness trail. A canoe and kayak storage and launch facility is available at Spring Creek Park. The park’s shaded nature trails meander through a subtropical forest and observation deck on Spring Creek provides a spot for appreciating the setting. Attractions include a bocce ball court, a picnic area with grills and tables, a children’s playground, a pet station equipped with a water fountain, gazebos, and restroom facilities.

Bonita Bay’s Estero Bay Park is being preserved to share its rich historical and archeological significance, including a series of 5,000-year old Native American shell mounds. An 800-foot boardwalk winds its way through mangroves to reach a pier on Estero Bay. One of Estero Bay Park’s most treasured attractions is the Butterfly Garden that is planted with native and tropical flowers. The park’s nature trails are outfitted with interpretive signs to enhance the experience. Visit the Seaglass 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.seaglassatbonitabay.com.
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ESTATES AT BAY COLONY GOLF CLUB

PENDING

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OLDE NAPLES
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1. 3231 Green Dolphin Lane
   Karen Van Arsdale 239.860.0894
   $12,500,000

2. 1351 Spyglass Lane
   Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
   $5,995,000

3. 1601 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #31
   Cindy Thompson 239.860.6513
   $2,675,000

4. 1851 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #304
   Ryan Nordyle $795,000

5. 3450 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #208
   Larry Roorda 239.860.2534
   $1,795,000

6. 222 Harbour Drive #205
   Robyn/Tim Wexler 239.370.5335
   $588,000

7. 1910 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #212
   Larry Roorda 239.860.2534
   $325,000

8. 2100 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #102
   Gary Blaine 460-900
   $210,000

9. 383 Cuddy Court
   Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
   $4,295,000

10. 515 Riviera Drive
    Karen Van Arsdale 239.860.0894
    $3,995,000

11. 1810 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #404
    Heather Hubcock 239.370.3944
    $2,895,000

12. 500 Admiralty Parade
    Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
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13. 1000 Galleon Drive
    Karen Van Arsdale 239.860.0894
    $11,900,000

14. 711 Galleon Drive
    Karen Van Arsdale 239.860.0894
    $11,500,000

15. 1300 Spyglass Lane
    Ruth Trella $8,700,000

16. 1351 Spyglass Lane
    Peter Reppucci $9,500,000

17. 2386 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #212
    Larry Roorda 239.860.2534
    $525,000

18. 1910 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #212
    Larry Roorda 239.860.2534
    $525,000

19. 1300 Spyglass Lane
    Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
    $5,995,000

20. 336 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #101
    Patrick/Phylis O’Donnell 239.250.3360
    $1,795,000

21. 2919 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #101
    Patrick/Phylis O’Donnell 239.250.3360
    $1,795,000

22. 3443 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #507
    Pat Dugan $795,000

23. 3108 Gulf Shore Boulevard North #404
    Heather Hubcock 239.370.3944
    $2,895,000

24. 1000 Galleon Drive
    Karen Van Arsdale 239.860.0894
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<td>16838 Cabrero Drive</td>
<td>Jutta V. Lopez/Al Lopez</td>
<td>239.659.5113</td>
<td>$584,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51200 Medici Way</td>
<td>Tom/Tea McCarthy</td>
<td>239.293.4851</td>
<td>$1,295,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9123 Strada Place #7517</td>
<td>Susan Gardner</td>
<td>239.438.2846</td>
<td>$929,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15528 Montecillo Lane #8-202</td>
<td>Tom/Tea McCarthy</td>
<td>239.438.2846</td>
<td>$699,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6145 Las Palmas Way</td>
<td>Dave/Ann Renner</td>
<td>239.784.5552</td>
<td>$569,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7622 San Sebastian Way</td>
<td>Dave/Ann Renner</td>
<td>239.784.5552</td>
<td>$569,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Omega will feature three tower residencies per floor. The 01 and 03 tower residences will include 4,485 square feet of air-conditioned living space, outdoor terrace areas totaling 1,055 square feet, and an 80-square-foot private air-conditioned storage space on the same floor as the residence. The 01 and 03 tower floor plans feature four bedrooms, a den, or fifth bedroom, and four-and-a-half baths. The 02-tower plan offers 4,230 square feet under air, 540 square feet of outdoor terraces, and 72 square feet of private air-conditioned storage space on the same floor as the residence. The 02-tower floor plan includes three bedroom suites, a den, and three-and-a-half baths. All three of the tower plans present open-concept living areas with a spacious great room, a double-island kitchen, and a dining area. The first and 03-residences with a large walk-in pantry, and a dining area. The first and 03-residences have a private elevator lobby and a private enclosed two-car garage. Tower residents will also enjoy a rooftop amenity deck. Already reserved, the four penthouses will be on levels 26 and 27 and measure 6,470 or 6,480 square feet under air plus 1,685 square feet of outdoor terrace areas with gas grills. Each penthouse comes with its own private elevator lobby, a private air-conditioned storage space on the same level as the residence, a private three-car garage, and a private rooftop amenity deck boasting an additional 1,485 or 1,985 square feet of breathtaking views. Each of the penthouse floor plans includes five bedrooms, a den, and five-and-a-half baths. Open-concept living areas include a great room with a fireplace, a double-island kitchen in the 01 and 03 residences with a spacious walk-in pantry, and dining spaces that open to splendid terraces that wrap around the corner of the building. luxuriously designed finishings will be included in the fully completed Omega residences. Flooring in the living areas will be wood, stone, or porcelain tile. The island kitchens will be outfitted with designer selected cabinetry, quartz or granite countertops, and premium appliances including SubZero refrigerator and 36-inch freezer, Wolf gas ranges and ovens, a Miele dishwasher, and Dornbracht plumbing fixtures. The bathrooms will also feature designer selected cabinetry and quartz or granite countertops. Dornbracht plumbing fixtures, and Toto toilets. Visit Omega Sales Center at 2635 Country Club Drive within Bonita Bay from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and Sundays from noon to 5:00 p.m. Call 239-301-4940 for a sales appointment.
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I’m loving the award-winning tennis program at Mediterra!

Hope everyone has had a great season and that you had an opportunity to attend the Mediterra Model Home Showcase over the past three Sundays. Seven fabulous models by London Bay Homes were on display. If you missed it, be sure to stop by the Sales Center and tour the models with a Sales Executive. I think you’ll be as impressed as I was.

I had a great time attending the final matches of The Club at Mediterra’s annual Tennis Club Championship. The 2018 tennis season culminated with a celebration that included presentations of awards to Club Champions in 21 divisions that featured 80 participants competing in singles, doubles, and mixed-doubles matches over a two-month period. The celebration also recognized the achievements of Mediterra’s league teams and acknowledged the efforts of the team captains. The caliber of the play was amazing and very exciting.

Last month, I discovered Mediterra has a tennis pro shop and eight Har-Tru tennis courts, including a stadium court and an award-winning coliseum court. The U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) recognized Mediterra’s tennis program for its outstanding facilities. While I was at the Club, I met Michael Baldwin, Mediterra’s Director of Tennis and Pickle Ball. He’s a USTA Certified Tennis Professional and ITPA Certified Pickle Ball Instructor and very passionate about making tennis an awesome experience for Club members. He introduced me to Mediterra’s tennis program, and helped me get involved with lessons, cardio tennis, group clinics, and round robin tournaments. I had a chance to speak with him about how the residents enjoyed the tennis program during the 2018 season.

“The 2018 tennis season at Mediterra was outstanding,” said Michael. “The number of residents who participate in the program continues to grow and the Club Championship was a huge success. During the off-season, we’ll continue our cardio tennis sessions, as well as our clinics. and round robin. Members from reciprocal clubs are welcomed to participate. Many beginners find cardio tennis an ideal way to become adept at the game and make new friendships. These cardio tennis groups become like family. Cardio tennis sessions are held three mornings per week and are open to all skill levels. Participants run and hit tennis balls while listening to upbeat music. It’s a workout more than it is about how good a tennis player you are, and the repetitive ball striking allows beginners to become more comfortable with the game while improving their overall fitness. As they hit more balls, or take a few more private lessons, group lessons, or jump into a few round robins, most folks get onto a league team. Some people just want to take lessons, or just want help finding a game. Game matching is one of the most important things a tennis program needs to do. People want that convenience.”

Michael and his team do a great job getting people involved in the tennis program, introducing the game to beginners, making everyone feel comfortable, and helping the newbies to meet new friends. They take a proactive approach to getting the residents involved with tennis.

“Every new Club member gets a call offering them a complimentary evaluation/lesson,” said Michael. “We’ll get you out there as our treat. Other Club members will walk by and we’ll introduce you to them. We’ll assess your skill level, see if you want to get on a team, or if you want to do lessons for a while. After a few lessons, you might be comfortable with jumping into our lower level round robins and lower level clinics. If you want lessons, either as a beginner or as a player needing a tune-up, our teaching professionals have fantastic resumes, and an ability to make the rawest beginner feel welcomed and at ease. That approach starts with our Head Professional, Tim Keegan. He won the National USTA Clay Court Tournament last year.”

Pickleball was the star of the 2018 season at Mediterra. The program is also overseen by Michael. Three new pickleball courts with a Laykold masters’ gel surface that reduces the force of impact by 17%, have oversized perimeter areas that allow each court to stand alone without interfering with play on adjacent courts. The Club’s first Pickleball Championship was held this season.

“Some people felt tennis was too much area to cover and had too much impact on the body, so they’re loving pickle ball,” said Baldwin. “We’ve got about 200 people on our pickle ball interest list and about 100 actively playing. We did our first Pickle Ball Championship this year, and we had four unique members in ten divisions sign up. Next year, we’ll have league teams just like we do with tennis. It’s getting people out there who weren’t really doing anything active. But now they’re playing all the time. We’re looking at possibly putting in four more courts. We have our pickle ball 201 for people who have never played before, then there’s pickle ball 202, and skills and drills. We have round robin practically every day. Some are playing pickle ball and deciding to give tennis a try, so it’s adding to the tennis program.”

I’m looking forward to playing as much tennis and pickleball as I can before I go up north for the summer. See you all next week!

Visit the Mediterra Sales Center at 15836 Savona Way off Livingston Parkway two miles north of Immokalee Road. The Sales Center and model residences are open daily. Visit Mediterra online at MediterraNaples.com.”
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Just minutes from Naples’ award-winning beaches and countless cultural offerings, the model homes at Residences at Mercato are open daily. Visit the Le Ciel, Enclave and Le Rivage models to experience the ease of indoor-outdoor living, privately positioned within cosmopolitan Mercato.

Tour the Le Ciel, the newest home within Residences at Mercato. The 3,037-square-foot, two-story detached residence features three bedrooms and four-and-a-half baths. Le Ciel boasts a new coastal style with a fresh color palette of warm backgrounds. The open floor plan makes it ideal for entertaining. A special feature is a flexible cabana space – with its own en-suite bath – ideal for a home office or guest room.

Explore the Enclave, a 2,924-square-foot, three-bedroom plus den, three-and-a-half-bath residence with a coastal contemporary vibe. Its two-story great room with natural gas fireplace transitions seamlessly to an expanded outdoor living space. A covered seating area is styled with a second fireplace and integrated retractable roll-down screens. The summer kitchen, al fresco dining space, pool with a cascading waterfall fountain and spa. Interior design was created by Charlie Hansen of Clive Daniel Home. Le Rivage received the Collier Building Industry Association 2017 Award for Overall Excellence in Construction and Design in the $2.251 million to $2.5 million category.

Situated on 11 acres, Residences at Mercato is a gated neighborhood accentuated by custom open-air living spaces designed to emphasize year-round outdoor leisure. Winding paver roads, lush landscaping and coastal inspired facades showcase urban living at its finest.

The luxury amenities of Mercato continue to evolve with exciting new offerings throughout 2018. Saratoga Sundress has recently opened, with Southern Tide and Rocco’s Tacos scheduled to open soon. The Hampton Social, a Chicago-based restaurant by the Parker Restaurant Group, will also debut later this year in the former McCormick & Schmick’s space. The Hampton Social will feature a wide array of seafood including a raw bar, more than 50 rosé wines and live music. Last but not least, exercise enthusiasts will delight in the arrival of Cycle Bar, part of the world’s largest network of indoor premium cycling studios.

With the very best shopping, dining and entertainment right outside your door, Residences at Mercato is also just 1.7 miles from the beach. Exclusively marketed and sold by Premier Sotheby’s International Realty, the sought-after community is 70% built out and 65% sold out; only 11 homesites are available for your selection and personalization.
Broker participation welcomed. Prices, plans and specifications subject to change without notice.

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A KITSON & PARTNERS COMMUNITY
London Bay’s newest custom home – The Watlington – is now open for viewing at 41 5th Street South in Old Naples. The Watlington not only offers close proximity to award-winning restaurants near downtown Fifth Avenue and Third Street South, but also a captivating interior design by Jennifer Stevens of Romanza Interior Design.

Designed around a flowing open concept floor plan with numerous entertaining destinations – including a formal dining room and three fire features – the Watlington expands London Bay’s offering of luxury homes and homesites from Park Shore to Port Royal as part of its prestigious Naples Collection.

The home’s location near downtown and the Gulf of Mexico also provides a wealth of options for window shopping at Marissa’s Collections while taking in daytime festivals, live entertainment and nationally-acclaimed theatrical productions by the Naples Players or Gulfshore Playhouse.

Finishes and furnishings selected by Jennifer Stevens, Romanza’s senior design director, include specialty ceiling and wall treatments, wire-brushed ash flooring in main living areas, and wood tones mixed with polished nickel, glass, capiz, graphite, aged silver, metallic pewter, chrome and shimmering crystals.

“This home has generously sized spaces, which are enhanced by soaring ceilings with backlit beams and the glimmer of metallic and reflective surfaces,” the designer said. “The great room is spacious and has ample upholstered furniture and case goods providing comfortable seating for entertaining and conversation. There is also a large TV anchored by an oversized, floating media cabinet adjacent to pocketing glass doors to the outdoor living area.”

The Watlington offers four bedrooms, a study and a second-floor bonus room within 4,182 square feet of living space. “It’s a great floor plan for entertaining,” Stevens said. “I envision dinner parties being hosted in the dining room amid the glow of its blue-flame glacier crystal linear fireplace. It has a wonderful table with seating for eight.”

The adjoining kitchen and a butler’s bar make staging that dinner party a breeze. The connection between large indoor rooms and outdoor areas enhances the Watlington’s entertainment quotient. The great room flows out to a covered living area and open-air pool and patio spaces. Christian Andrea of Architectural Land Design created the home’s outdoor spaces to maximize the home-site by carving out areas for dining and sitting pool or fireside. Acquatico, London Bay Homes’ in-house custom pool and outdoor design division, managed the installation.

“The sunken spa is really dramatic with its stone-clad walls, water features and a sheltering trellis,” Stevens said. “There’s a dining area and lounge seating at an outdoor fireplace that gives the space an island retreat feel.”

Indoors, the island ambience carries over into the model’s master bedroom. “It’s designed as a retreat with a calm feel and views of the firepit, pool and spa,” Stevens said.

Guests will also enjoy privacy in the three suites on the second floor, each offering a full bath and one featuring a built-in desk. Two balconies are accessible from the bonus room and a bedroom – allowing for breezy cocktails while taking in the sunset.

To schedule a tour of the new Watlington model or additional Naples Collection homes, call Toby Cloutier at 239-280-7367 or visit www.LondonBay.com.
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Stock Development is showing off the best it has to offer this weekend. Homebuyers are invited to tour the homebuilder’s beautifully furnished models and inventory homes at nearly a dozen communities across Southwest Florida.

“With 30 models in 11 different communities, we have one of the largest selections of homes available in the area,” said Brian Stock, CEO of Stock Development. “They are found in three tiers of excellence: Stock Classic Homes, Stock Signature Homes and Stock Custom Homes.”

With only 20 new homes remaining for sale, time is running out for homebuyers who wish to purchase a new home at Lely Resort! The legendary community is nearing sellout in its final neighborhoods of coach homes.

Lely is home to three spectacular championship golf courses and four clubhouse and is the eight time recipient of the Collier Building Industry Association’s Community of the Year Award.

Coach homes have been selling quickly. These residences are available in Signature Club and Tasori, priced from just the $300’s and a furnished model is open.

The Tasori neighborhood is located within The Classics, a stunning gated enclave along one of Lely’s three championship golf courses. It also features an array of beautiful lake and nature views along The Classics Championship Golf Course. Each coach home building offers four luxurious residences with the spacious feel of single-family homes.

An on-site sales center is located in Signature Club. It showcases the coach home residences of both neighborhoods. 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 a selection of amazing lake and golf course views across The Classics Championship Golf Course.

Stock has a few superb opportunities remaining for homebuyers at Esplanade Golf and Country Club of Naples, a beautiful, private community. Only a limited number of home sites remain.

Stock has opened the beautiful Regency Manor model. This four-bedroom, four and one-half bath home features a formal dining room, a study, an outdoor living area and a three-car garage. It offers 3,699 square feet under air and total of 5,544 square feet. Featuring an stunning interior design by Clive Daniel Home, it is sold and being shown on leaseback.

Stock is also scheduled to complete a new furnished model this summer. The Margo is a four-bedroom, four and one-half bath home with 3,578 square feet under air. It is built with an expansive great room design that includes a formal dining room, a study, a large island-style kitchen and an attached three-car garage with a motorcourt. Outside is a covered lanai with an optional outdoor kitchen and fireplace. A sundek surrounds the pool and spa. It is priced at $1,423,770.

Stock Signature Homes has a beautifully furnished model open for viewing in the Isles of Collier Preserve, as well as three stunning inventory homes that are available for immediate occupancy.

The Cocoplum model, which showcases an interior by Soco’s Daniel Kilgore, the 3,641 square feet residence includes 1,004 square feet of covered lanai space. A move-in ready Cocoplum inventory home is priced at $1,392,465.

At Fiddler’s Creek, Stock Signature Homes has opened three beautifully furnished models within the exclusive gated village of Marsh Cove, two of which have already been sold.

Stock’s homes in Marsh Cove include single-family custom estate floor plans, featuring three and four bedrooms plus a study and range from 2,600 to 3,600 square feet of air-conditioned living space. The homes feature three-car garages and multiple outdoor living areas overlooking the lakes and fairways of the Arthur Hills-designed Creek Course. The base price for Stock’s homes at Marsh Cove begin at $729,900, plus lot.

At TwinEagles, Stock is selling single-family homes in the Hedgestone and Lake Estates neighborhood of this stunning North Naples country club community. A Golf Membership is included in the cost of every new home.

Priced at $2,508,850 fully-furnished, Stock’s Wyndham model offers 4,298 square feet with three bedrooms, a bonus room or fourth bedroom, four-and-a-half baths, a great room, kitchen and breakfast nook, a formal dining room, a 983 square-foot outdoor living area overlooking the lake that includes an outdoor kitchen, fireplace, bar area, dining and conversation areas, and a pool and spa, a two-car garage, and a one-car garage with dedicated golf cart storage.

Quail West, one of Stock Development’s premier golf and resort-lifestyle communities in North Naples, is a prestigious luxury community in Southwest Florida. The community is experiencing another strong year this year due to the debut of the expanded and renovated clubhouse, the enhancements to the two championship golf courses, and the number of furnished models and inventory homes in the community.

The furnished Cristale model is a four-bedroom plus library/four-and-a-half bath home with 4,427 square feet under air and 7,190 total square feet, including two, two-car garages with a porte-cochere and motor court.

The Cristale is priced at $3,580,105 and features an interior by Diana Hall and Laurie Walter, of Cinnabar Design. Visit a Stock sales center this weekend to find your dream home!

To see all that Stock has to offer, please visit the Stock Development website at www.stockdevelopment.com. Email at info@stockdevelopment.com or call (239) 592-7344. Stock Development is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FLStockDevelopment.
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- 2 BR, 2.5 BA Townhouse, Great Location
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- Vahle Team 239.450.7805

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- 9415 GULF SHORE DR. #301, NAPLES
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- Carol Jones 239.250.4310

**INDIO LAKES**
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- Dru & Greg Martinovich 239.220.4040

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- $349,000  MLS 218024360
- Corye Reiter, The Lummis Team 239.273.3722

**HACIENDA VILLAGE**
- 26448 BRICK LN., BONITA
- Visit 26448bricks.com for Details
- 3 Bedrooms + Den, Pool/Spa
- $1,199,000  MLS 218019976
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- 5025 BLAUVELT WAY #201, NAPLES
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms + Den
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- Liz Appling 239.272.7201

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- Linda Ramsey 239.405.3054

**SAN CARLOS ESTATES**
- 4536 SANTIAGO LN., BONITA
- Hurricane Windows, New Hot Water Tank
- $260,000  MLS 2180246675
- Linda Ramsey 239.405.3054

**TARON BAY - NEPTUNE BAY**
- 445 DOCKSIDE DR. #204, NAPLES
- Hurricane Windows, New Hot Water Tank
- $274,900  MLS 218008285
- Sue Ellen Mathers 239.877.2726

**MARBELLA LAKES**
- 5025 BLAUVELT WAY #201, NAPLES
- Hurricane Windows, New Hot Water Tank
- $260,000  MLS 2180246675
- Linda Ramsey 239.405.3054

**SHADOW WOOD AT THE BROOKS**
- 4425 DOVER CT. #603, NAPLES
- 2-Car Garage w/Built-In Cabinets
- $439,000  MLS 218029417
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- Steve Suddeth 239.784.0693

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- 2 BR, 2 BA Home w/Backyard
- $279,900  MLS 218030297
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**VILLAGE WALK**
- NEW PRICE
- 28354 MORAY DR., BONITA
- 2 BR, 2 BA Home w/Backyard
- $279,900  MLS 218030297
- Jim Nott, Koffman & Assoc. 239.284.3008

**PALMETTO RIDGE**
- 4536 SANTIAGO LN., BONITA
- Hurricane Windows, New Hot Water Tank
- $260,000  MLS 2180246675
- Linda Ramsey 239.405.3054

**SERRANO**
- 262 KETCH DR. #2, NAPLES
- Newly Remodeled 2 BR, 2 BA Condo
- $279,900  MLS 218018627
- Taylor Elovich 239.370.7715

**MOORINGS**
- 27012 ADRIANA CIR. #202, BONITA
- 2nd Floor Condo, 4 BR, 2 BA
- $274,900  MLS 218008285
- Sue Ellen Mathers 239.877.2726

**BONITA BAY - BAYVIEW**
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- 2 BR, 2.5 BA Townhouse, Great Location
- $279,900  MLS 218030297
- Jim Nott, Koffman & Assoc. 239.284.3008

**LAKEFRONT**
- 12070 MATERA LN. #201, BONITA
- 2 BR + Den, 2nd Floor Condo
- $182,900  MLS 218028964
- Doug Haughey 239.961.1561

**HACIENDA VILLAGE**
- 27870 HACIENDA EAST BLVD. #202C, BONITA
- 2 BR, 2.5 BA Townhouse, Great Location
- $225,000  MLS 218014683
- Vahle Team 239.450.7805

**INDIO LAKES**
- 9231 PALMETTO RIDGE DR. #101, ESTERO
- 2 BR, 2 BA + Den, 1 Car Garage, 1,669 S.F.
- $349,000  MLS 218024360
- Sue Ellen Mathers 239.877.2726

**BONITA BAY - BAYVIEW**
- 262 KETCH DR. #2, NAPLES
- Newly Remodeled 2 BR, 2 BA Condo
- $279,900  MLS 218018627
- Taylor Elovich 239.370.7715

**TARON BAY - NEPTUNE BAY**
- 1720 TARON BAY DR. S. #202, NAPLES
- 2 BR, 2 BA + Den, 1 Car Garage, 1,669 S.F.
- $274,900  MLS 218008285
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PORT ROYAL

5895 SUNRISELOPE DR., NAPLES
• 4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, 2 Car Garage
• Pool, Golf Course Views, Gated Community
• 2 BR, 2 BA + Den, 2,248 S.F., 2 Car Garage

23097 FOXBERRY LN., ESTERO
• 3 BR, 2.5 BA + Den, Pool Home
• Lake & Golf Course Views
• $299,000 MLS 218031307

1059 MARBLEHEAD DR., #39, NAPLES
• Golf Community Membership
• Located to Downtown & the Beach
• $275,000 MLS 218056928

15011 BURANO CT. #101, NAPLES
• Beachfront & Golf Course Views
• 3 BR, 2.5 BA + Den, 2 Car Garage
• $275,000 MLS 218071288

2872 MEGAN DR., ESTERO
• 2 BR, 2 BA + Den, 2,400 S.F., 2 Car Garage
• Pool, Golf Course Views, Gated Community
• $299,000 MLS 218031307

2413 BRYNWOOD DR., NAPLES
• 5 Bedrooms, 6 Bedrooms + Den
• Furnished, Transitional Style Courtyard
• $899,000 MLS 217050184

3845 LA PALMAS CIR., BONITA
• Panoramic Views of Lake & Golf Course
• $410,000 MLS 218020226

20295 CAULICE CT. #1003, ESTERO
• 3 Bedrooms + Den, Elevator
• Stunning Lake & Golf Course Views
• $340,000 MLS 218041256

4851 BONITA BAY BLVD. #804, BONITA
• Beautiful Lake, Golf Course & Preserve View
• 280 SQ. FT. 2,220 S.F., 1 Car Garage
• $256,000 MLS 218020226

1201 GALLEON DR., NAPLES
• http://royalshell.com/galleondrive
• Extravagant 5 BR, 5.5 BA Estate, Over 7,000 S.F.
• $1,387,000 MLS 217052267

5895 SUNRISELOPE DR., NAPLES
• Pool, Golf Course Views, Gated Community
• 2 BR, 2 BA + Den, 2,248 S.F., 2 Car Garage

28180 ROBOLINI CT., BONITA
• Heated Saltwater Pool & Spa
• 4 Bedrooms + Den

12945 KINGSMILL WAY, FORT MYERS
• 3 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths + Den, 2 Car Garage
• Visit Tavira804.com for Details

27025 SHELL RIDGE CIR., BONITA
• Bright & Airy Floor Plan, 1 Car Garage
• Beautiful 2 BR, 3 BA + Den Townhouse

28451 LAS PALMAS CIR., BONITA
• Beach Club, Pickle Ball, Bocce & Marina
• Stunning, Remodeled, New Floors & Kitchen

9340 SPANISH MOSS WAY, BONITA
• Beach Club, Pickle Ball, Bocce & Marina
• Stunning, Remodeled, New Floors & Kitchen

9844 TREASURE CAY LN., BONITA
• Outstanding Lake, Golf Course & Preserve Views
• $340,000 MLS 218041256

1095 MARBLEHEAD DR., #39, NAPLES
• Golf Membership Included
• Your Miles to Downtown & the Beach
• $275,000 MLS 218056592

21179 BUTCHERS HOLLER, ESTERO
• Lake & Golf Course Views
• $294,000 MLS 218079593

8820 STERLING GREENS PL., #2104, NAPLES
• 1 Floor, Furnished, 2 BR, 2 BA
• $291,000 MLS 218027340
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A PERFECT PUTT. I CHOOSE TO WALK FASTER THAN I
THOUGHT I COULD. I CHOOSE MEDITERRA.”

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Arborwood Preserve in Gateway: A resort lifestyle community

Arborwood Preserve is a gated master planned community offering a resort lifestyle for today's active homebuyer. Encompassing 332 acres, Arborwood Preserve's array of intimate neighborhoods are nestled among 73 acres of lakes and more than 20 acres of preserve.

Arborwood Preserve's convenient Fort Myers location — north of Daniels Parkway and just 1.3 miles east of Treeline Avenue — gives residents easy access to Southwest Florida International Airport and dining and shopping at Gulf Coast Town Center, sporting events at JetBlue Park at Fenway South and Germain Arena, and cultural activities and concerts at Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall.

This vibrant community offers a fabulous collection of homes, including single and multi-family options surrounded by lakes and preserves. There are 21 home designs to choose from that include Executive, Manor, Coach, and Patio homes, starting from the low $200s. All are elegantly suited homebuyers seeking an active lifestyle in a more relaxed, casual community.

Arborwood Preserve has just completed their 23,252-square-foot town center that serves as the hub for social activities and community events.

Outside, a sparkling resort-style pool offers dedicated lap lanes, plus a spacious deck and lounge area for sun soaked relaxation. It is also complete with beach entry, large waterfall and grotto, and a fire pit with seating for fun-filled evenings.

Neighbors can convene for casual lunch and dinner at the outdoor covered dining and bar area at their own restaurant, Sunsets Poolside Dining. The menu offers everything from lighter options, to bar fare, and full entrees. One of the favorites is the short rib, mushrooms, asparagus tips, cherry tomatoes, pappardelle pasta, and peppercorn cream sauce.

Four Har-Tru tennis courts, four pickle ball courts, and two bocce ball courts provide additional recreation opportunities. Nearby, a fitness studio awaits with state-of-the-art cardio and weight-training equipment, plus a separate yoga and aerobics studio, and a spa treatment room.

With approximately 15,252 air-conditioned square feet, Executive Homes range between all types of floorplans for any type of family. They range from 3 bedrooms to 5 bedrooms, come in one or two stories, and offer many choices between dens, bonus rooms, lofts, open floor plans, or separated rooms. Executive homes start from the high $200s.

Manor Homes range from 2,244 air-conditioned square feet to 3,867, and are available from 3 to 6 bedrooms. The various designs accommodate all types of lifestyles from great rooms, to split floor plans, single or two-story, and many bonus rooms, lofts, and dens.

There are two unique models that are offered as a ‘home within a home’. This design has a main home with everything you’d expect, and also includes a next-gen connected separate suite with its own bedroom, bath, car, living room, and garage. It is a perfect home for those who have family needs, or an easy guesthouse to offer with all the bells and whistles.

The Coach homes are offered in both buildings of six or four, and range in size from L175 to 2,141 square feet of air conditioned living space. The buildings of six start at the low $200s and have one car garages, and the buildings of four start at the mid $200s and come with two-car garages.

All homes come with Lennar's Everything's Included package, full of upgrades everywhere you can imagine. Modern coastal elegance is a central theme throughout the palettes and designs for a true Southwest Florida lifestyle.

One of the newest features for these homes and all others from Lennar, is the inclusion of the world's first and only Wi-Fi Certified homes into their Everything's Included package. Lennar has partnered with Amazon to incorporate their Echo digital voice assistant into all of their homes. This will enable home-owners to do things like control door locks, blinds, lights and more all from the sound of their voice. The whole homes will be connected with the most desirable technology brand devices, and the entire home is designed to have full Wi-Fi with no dead zones anywhere in the home. Lennar is the first National Builder to offer this exciting technology in their homes setting the bar even higher for what customers have come to love about Lennar’s “Everything’s Included” homes.

Lennar’s homes are built with energy efficient construction and included features to enhance the quality of your home, decrease your monthly utility bills, and reduce your carbon footprint.

From the exterior to the interior of their homes, Lennar includes modern designs and finishes, plus upscale appliances and fixtures, without compromise or additional cost.

Plus, Lennar supports your home purchase with a range of subsidiary services through affiliated mortgage and title companies, and extends special programs and online services that carry over into the homeownership experience.

Homebuyers can visit the sales center to learn more about Arborwood Preserve. The sales center is located at 11730 Arborwood Preserve Blvd. Fort Myers, Florida 33913.
At London Bay Homes, we are proud to introduce our latest array of stunningly designed masterpieces:

**NAPLES COLLECTION**

Naples’ most desirable neighborhoods are home to London Bay’s newest, most breathtaking properties. Tour our award-winning, single-family model homes and discover a range of residences to suit your specific tastes and preferences.
When Watercourse residents Betty Sue and Todd LePage first visited Talis Park, they were impressed by its attractiveness and pleasant, youthful atmosphere. Seeking proximity to the Vyne House clubhouse with views of the water, they chose a residence in Watercourse, an enclave of single-family detached villas built by Artisan Associates, the exclusive builder of homes by Distinctive Communities.

“The floor plan is well thought-out, and it perfectly suits our needs,” said the LePage’s. “We love having a pool, a beautifully landscaped outdoor area, and a roomy lanai. We heartily recommend Talis Park, Watercourse, and Artisan Associates to anyone considering purchasing a home in Naples.”

Watercourse’s 29 Spanish Eclectic lakefront residences range from 2,530 to 3,638 square feet in three- and four-bedroom great room plans with studies, island kitchens, and landscaped outdoor living areas with heated pools or spas. Standard features include architecturally detailed ceilings in the living areas, Viking kitchen appliances, and porcelain tile flooring. Options include natural gas outdoor grills and fire pits. A $30,000 Talis Park Sports Membership is included with every Watercourse purchase.

Distinctive Communities now offers a one-story, four-bedroom Azurea II floor plan on homesite six in the neighborhood. Offered at $1.385 million, the 2,948-square-foot home will be the only one-story, four-bedroom Watercourse residence to feature a private driveway.

The Berolina furnished model is available for viewing daily. The residence has 2,979 square feet of living area with three bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths and more than $100,000 in upgrades, and is offered at $1.5 million furnished. Watercourse residents enjoy immediate access to Talis Park’s award-winning Vyne House clubhouse with formal and casual dining, two fitness centers, spa, wine room, board room, golf pro shop, resort-style pool and deck, and rotunda with a double-sided fireplace overlooking the 18th green. The nearby Sports Complex features six lighted Har-Tru tennis courts, bocce courts, lap pool, and playground.

Talis Park’s “come-as-you-are” atmosphere encourages residents to live exciting lives among privacy and concierge-style service. Members enjoy complimentary daily beach access via the Beach Runner, the community’s exclusive Mercedes-Benz beach shuttle service, in addition to numerous adult-, family- and pet-friendly social events ranging from daily fitness classes, sports clinics, and costume parties to ballroom dancing and cooking classes, bocce nights, and outdoor movies and concerts.

Prospective homebuyers may experience Talis Park by participating in the Gold Pass program. Gold Pass holders enjoy member status and amenities access for two consecutive days, including one round of golf. For details, call 239-292-0846.

Community and model home tours are available seven days a week at Talis Park’s Garden House Information & Sales Center, 16980 Livingston Rd. (just north of Immokalee Rd.). For details, call 239-449-5900 or visit talispark.com.
Experience the allure of Seaglass, where every tower feature is carefully selected for total relaxation. Lay by the resort-style pool. Marvel at the enchanting Gulf views. Immerse yourself in the contemporary open floor plans finished with enticing architectural designs. Or let your cares wash away in the spa with its massage and steam rooms.

Splendor continues outside the tower in the world-class community of Bonita Bay. Indulge at one of the premier restaurants, toast to friends on the scenic patio overlooking the golf courses, or quietly escape to the private beach on Little Hickory Island. Seaglass is effortless coastal living.

MODEL TOURS BY APPOINTMENT
Move in 2018
All four Phase I models now reserved at Eleven Eleven Central

The Ronto Group announced all four Phase I furnished models available for purchase with a leaseback at Eleven Eleven Central have been reserved. The models will showcase Ronto’s Phase I Avalon, Belair, Collins, and Duval floor plans. Eleven Eleven Central is a new walkable, bikeable community to be built by Ronto on Central Avenue between 10th Street and Goodlette-Frank Road in downtown Naples. Phase I features five light-filled, two-bedroom, two-bedroom plus den, and three-bedroom open-concept floor plans ranging from 1,407 to 2,297 square feet of total living space, including covered outdoor balconies. Pre-construction pricing starts in the mid-$500’s. Introductory pricing has ended.

Base-priced at $885,000, the Atlantic plan features a total of 1,407 square feet of living space, including 1,265 square feet under air. The two-bedroom, two-full-bath residence includes a spacious island kitchen, dining area, and a great room that opens to a covered balcony measuring 142 square feet. Two walk-in closets are featured in the owner’s suite.

The two-bedroom, two-full-bath Avalon plan provides a total of 1,741 square feet of living space and 1,561 square feet under air. The Belair plan features a large great room that opens to a covered balcony, a comfortable dining area, and an island kitchen. The owner’s suite features two walk-in closets, a bath with his and her’s vanities, and a bedroom with a sitting area. The Collins plan is base-priced at $690,000. The plan also includes two bedrooms, two full-baths, and a den. Walk-in closets are featured in the owner’s suite. Two courtyard level Belair residences remain available and are priced at $835,000.

The two-bedroom plus den, two-and-a-half bath Collins floor plan includes a total of 1,947 total square feet of living space with 1,757 square feet under air. The spacious dining area opens to a covered balcony and includes a great room, dining area, and island kitchen. The owner’s suite features two walk-in closets, a bath with his and her’s vanities, and a bedroom with a sitting area. The Collins plan is base-priced at $565,000. Two level Collins residences are priced at $930,000.

Base-priced at $785,000, the three-bedroom, three-and-half bath Duval plan features a total of 2,297 square feet of living space with 2,045 square feet under air. Each of the guest bedrooms includes private baths and one of the guest bedrooms opens to the covered balcony. A gallery hallway and walk-in closets are included in the owner’s suite. The living area features a great room, dining area, and an island kitchen wrapped by perimeter cabinetry and counter surfaces. The great room and dining area open to the covered balcony. Two end unit, courtyard level Duval residences remain and are priced at $1,020,000.

Each Eleven Eleven Central floor plan includes an outdoor balcony with views of the amenity courtyard or the surrounding neighborhood. Below: Scheduled for completion in Phase I, Eleven Eleven Central’s approximately 60,000 square foot courtyard amenity deck will feature a massive 3,300 square feet resort style pool with a beach entry and two 90-foot lap lanes.

Eleven Eleven Central residents will enjoy immediate access to downtown Naples’ shopping, dining, and entertainment attractions, and to the eateries, galleries, interior design studios, and specialty shops in the burgeoning Design District. Naples’ world-renowned beach is just three-quarters of a mile from the community via the sidewalks and bike lanes on Central Avenue, or a short ride on the planned community beach shuttle. The community also provides ready access to Baker Park and the Gordon River Pedestrian Bridge and Boardwalk on the east side of Goodlette-Frank Road that connects downtown Naples to the Gordon River Greenway.

Eleven Eleven Central’s approximately 60,000 square feet courtyard amenity deck will feature a 3,500 square feet resort style pool with a beach entry and two 90-foot lap lanes, chaise lounges and poolside tables, two spas, outdoor showers, poolside cabanas, numerous grills, a cabana bar and grilling area with large screen televisions, multiple fire pits with large built-in seating areas, a hammock lawn, a life-sized outdoor chess set, a yoga stretching area, and two bocce ball courts. The outdoor amenities will be expanded during Phase II to include a 20,400-square-foot lushly landscaped Courtyard Park.

Eleven Eleven Central residents will enjoy a nearly 4,000-square-foot club room with a bar, billiards tables, card tables, large screen televisions, and a catering kitchen adjacent to an outdoor grill and fire pit. A fitness center also measuring nearly 4,000-square feet will include a stretching and functional movement area, state-of-the-art exercise equipment, massage rooms, and rest rooms. Six community guest suites will be provided for visiting friends and family members. Resident storage areas and bike storage areas will be included. Ronto has established two downtown Naples sales centers that represent Eleven Eleven Central and Naples Square. For additional information, visit 1111Central.com or NaplesSquare.com.
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  - **NOW $1,608,770**

**Hidden Harbor**
- **Tivoli III** - Single Family Home
  - **3/3** 2,062 sq.ft.
  - **WAS $584,545**
  - **NOW $509,545**

**NAPLES RESERVE**
- **Siesta II** - **SPARROW CAY** - Furnished Single Family Home
  - **3/3** 2,626 sq.ft.
  - **WAS $859,695**
  - **NOW $834,695**

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- **Chandler** - Single Family Home
  - **3/4.5** 3,136 sq.ft.
  - **WAS $1,166,810**
  - **NOW $1,141,810**

**Isles of Collier Preserve**
- **Marigold** - Single Family Home
  - **4/4.5** 3,591 sq.ft.
  - **WAS $1,320,375**
  - **NOW $1,270,375**

**Twineagles**
- **Glenmore** - Single Family Home
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- **Muirfield V** - Single Family Home
  - **4/4.5** 3,375 sq.ft.
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For directions and complete listings of all our models & communities please visit
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Broker participation welcomed. Oral representations cannot be relied upon. Correctly stating the representations of the developer. For correct representations reference should be made to the documents required by Section 718.503, Florida Statutes, to be furnished by a developer to a buyer or lessee. Not an offering where prohibited by state law. Prices subject to change without notice.
Kalea Bay offers sensational high-rise residences

Clubhouse a phenomenal amenity

It's been more than four months since the first residents of Kalea Bay, a gated, luxury residential high-rise community located on Vanderbilt Drive in North Naples, moved into their beautiful new homes in Tower 100, which recently sold out.

That milestone prompted the main sales focus to be transferred to the community’s Tower 200. Like its predecessor, the second tower is also 22-stories with 120 homes. Specifically, 20 floors of residences over two floors of parking.

“Sales in our second tower have also been spectacular,” stated Inga Lodge, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Kalea Bay. “In the past four months we’ve recorded over 50 sales in Tower 200 and surpassed the $100 million mark in sales volume.”

Six floor plans are available in Tower 2. Residences 1 and 6 are 3-bedroom plus den/3.5 bath plans with 3,704 total square feet. Residences 2 and 5, with 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, have 3,970 total square feet. Residences 3 and 4 are 4-bedroom/4.5-bath plans also with 3,999 total square feet.

“Residents will revel in Gulf views, open floor plans, a private elevator leading directly into their residence and wood floors throughout,” said Lodge.

The custom kitchens have Wolf and SubZero appliances, a natural gas range, luxury cabinetry, quartz countertops, a Butler’s pantry and oversized island, all standard features.

“Our floor plans have an open design we call ‘lifestyle designs’ that blends the kitchen seamlessly into the living and dining rooms, perfect for the way people live today,” said Lodge.

The master bedroom includes an oversized walk-in closet while the master bath has his and hers vanities, quartz countertops, luxury cabinetry, a soaking tub and separate glass-enclosed shower.

“Master suites, kitchens and main living areas in most units have direct views to the water and preserve. They are perfect vantage points to watch our spectacular sunsets,” Lodge said.

Additional residential features include floor-to-ceiling windows and doors that open to large lanais with transparent glass rails.

“We take our outdoor living as seriously as our indoor living with oversized lanais on every residence,” said Lodge. High-tech wiring and fully equipped laundry rooms round out the list of features, she noted.

Like the first tower, Tower 200 will have rooftop amenities including a pool and sun deck, open-air fitness and a sky lounge.

Residents also have a shuttle service that takes them to the beach. Prices in Tower 200 begin at $1.4 million.

The residents of the first tower, along with their family members and friends, are already enjoying the community’s main amenity area, which includes the clubhouse. It opened in early January and is the social and recreational centerpiece of the community.

“The 88,000-square-foot main amenity area is located on the north side of the large lake at the community’s entrance,” stated Lodge. “Not only is it a dramatic sight as residents and visitors drive into the community, but it’s now the envy of every community in the Naples area.”

The clubhouse itself features three individual pools, 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, a fitness center, a lakeside fire pit, an Internet cafe and a gifts and sundries shop.

“All three pools overlook the lake and provide a multitude of recreational options for everyone who lives and visits the onsite 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. Call (239) 793-0110 or visit KaleaBay.com.”

For more information regarding Kalea Bay, visit the online sales center. Above: Kalea Bay residences have very open floor plans. Right: The custom kitchens feature Wolf and SubZero appliances and an oversized island. Below Left: Kalea Bay’s second tower is 22 stories and features 120 luxury residences. Below Right: All master bedrooms offer views of the Gulf of Mexico. Bottom: The rooftop amenities include a pool, open-air fitness and a sky lounge.
Your family will love the amazing amenities and great Fort Myers location!

This vibrant community offers a fabulous collection of homes, including single- and multi-family designs offering from 1,375 to more than 3,200 square feet of air-conditioned living space.

Arborwood Preserve has a 25,500-square-foot Town Center designed to cater to a variety of resident interests.

• State-of-the-art Fitness studio
• Yoga studio for individual or group fitness classes
• Casual café
• Comfortable indoor theater
• Resort-style pool with dedicated lap lanes
• Covered outdoor dining and bar
• Spacious card and craft rooms
• Lighted tennis, pickleball and bocce ball courts
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REAL ESTATE NEWSMAKERS

The Collier Building Industry Association hosts its annual Real Estate Industry Panel “Building. Confidence.” from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 30, at the Hilton Naples. John Wiseman of CORE Construction will moderate a panel discussion with Rick Arma-lavage of Arma-lavage, Mike Esposito of Waterside Builders, Bob Carroll of Investment Properties Corp. and Brian Keller of Taylor Morrison. B-Squared Advertising is the event’s main sponsor; tablelot sponsorships are available and include two tickets to the event. Admission is $20 for CBIA, Sales & Marketing Council members, $30 for CBIA and NABOR members, $50 for others. Sign up at www.cbia.net or by emailing nancy@cbia.net.

Mary Gentile has been named president of Landry’s Commercial Property Management for the state of Florida. Ms. Gentile co-founded the agency’s management division in 2006. The division has increased its square feet under management by 67 percent since its inception and has a current portfolio of 2,000,000 square feet.

Doug Marcinski joined Neal Communities as vice president of sales and marketing in the company’s south region, which encompasses Lee and Collier counties. Mr. Marcinski’s 20-plus years of sales experience includes 15 years in sales and marketing management. Prior to joining Neal Communities he worked as the sales and marketing manager for several public and private homebuilders in Virginia and Maryland. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business from Frostburg State University in Maryland and an MBA from Loyola University Maryland.

Kathryn Simpson has joined Harwick Homes as an assistant project manager. Ms. Simpson has more than 25 years of experience in the construction industry. She began her career working in her father’s construction company before moving onto larger construction companies where she became a superintendent and general contractor for private homes. She previously owned and managed Ray’s Crepes with three storefronts and three farmers markets locations in Portland, Ore., and before that spent 20 years in the construction industry in Atlanta, working as a vice president of warranty and purchasing, chief financial officer and comptroller/office manager for several building companies. She holds a degree in accounting from Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga. She and her family relocated from Portland, Ore., to Naples.

Denise Jones has joined Harwick Homes as project manager, bringing 30 years of experience to the luxury homebuilding firm. At Harwick, Ms. Jones is responsible for overseeing both new construction of

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**Mary Gentile** has been named president of Landry’s Commercial Property Management for the state of Florida. Ms. Gentile co-founded the agency’s management division in 2006. The division has increased its square feet under management by 67 percent since its inception and has a current portfolio of 2,000,000 square feet.

**Doug Marcinski** joined Neal Communities as vice president of sales and marketing in the company’s south region, which encompasses Lee and Collier counties. Mr. Marcinski’s 20-plus years of sales experience includes 15 years in sales and marketing management. Prior to joining Neal Communities he worked as the sales and marketing manager for several public and private homebuilders in Virginia and Maryland. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business from Frostburg State University in Maryland and an MBA from Loyola University Maryland.

**Kathryn Simpson** has joined Harwick Homes as an assistant project manager. Ms. Simpson has more than 25 years of experience in the construction industry. She began her career working in her father’s construction company before moving onto larger construction companies where she became a superintendent and general contractor for private homes. She previously owned and managed Ray’s Crepes with three storefronts and three farmers markets locations in Portland, Ore., and before that spent 20 years in the construction industry in Atlanta, working as a vice president of warranty and purchasing, chief financial officer and comptroller/office manager for several building companies. She holds a degree in accounting from Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga. She and her family relocated from Portland, Ore., to Naples.

**Denise Jones** has joined Harwick Homes as project manager, bringing 30 years of experience to the luxury homebuilding firm. At Harwick, Ms. Jones is responsible for overseeing both new construction of
Open house event planned at Moorings Park Grande Lake

Moorings Park Grande Lake, the new Life Plan (CCRC) community being developed by Moorings Park and London Bay Homes, is inviting the public to a special event.

A public Open House is being held on Tuesday, May 8, at the Moorings Park Grande Lake Sales Gallery. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with light refreshments being served. Reservations are not required.

The Moorings Park Grande Lake Sales Gallery is located on Premier Drive, on the south side of Golden Gate Parkway, between Airport-Pulling and Livingston roads, inside the entrance to Naples Grande Golf Club.

“Moorings Park Grande Lake is going to be a spectacular community,” stated Daniel Lavender, CEO of Moorings Park Institute, Inc. “We hope the public will take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about London Bay Homes’ luxurious design and Moorings Park’s commitment to Simply the Best® qualities, services and amenities.”

Building upon the foundation that has made Moorings Park Park an October favorite at Grey Oaks the preferred choice for Life Plan communities in Southwest Florida, this third incredible neighborhood is planned for the next generation of residents.

Situated on 55 acres in the heart of Naples, Moorings Park Grande Lake will combine one-of-a-kind vistas of magnificent lakes and championship golf with luxury homes and exceptional healthcare.

Moorings Park Grande Lake is being created in partnership with esteemed luxury custom homebuilder and developer, London Bay Homes, long known for its award-winning architectural design and attention to detail.

“Future residents will be attracted to its natural beauty, classic design and total commitment to enabling them to live longer, healthier and happier lives,” said Lavender.

“For nearly three decades, the brand promise of ‘Private Label Living’ has reflected our commitment to building and developing the finest luxury homes in Southwest Florida,” said Mark Wilson, President of London Bay Homes. “It’s an honor for us to now extend our philosophy of choice in design to the area’s newest community.”

The community will consist of luxurious mid-rise residences, including spacious penthouses. Prices start at $1.4 million with 70 percent refundable entrance fees.

Moorings Park Grande Lake is a pet-friendly campus and has been designed to take advantage of the views of a 28-acre lake and the picturesque golf course beyond.

The physical environment presents an innovative and resort-style blueprint that provides for seamless physical and visual experiences. It also maximizes the beauty and appeal of waterfront living combined with high-end materials and services. Consistent with other Moorings Park campuses, Moorings Park Grande Lake will include common areas that promote social interaction, which will allow and encourage residents to choose from indoor and outdoor activities year-round.

A few of the planned outdoor activities or amenities include a yoga pavilion, walking paths, lakeside parklettes with boardwalks, gardens, fire pits and overlooks; and several bird-watching posts. The areas for social gatherings were designed so the family members and friends of our residents could join in the various activities, which could include events such as outdoor concerts.

The regional clubhouse, as planned, will feature casual and fine dining venues, a private dining room, long curved bar, art studio, wellness center, state-of-the-art fitness center, strength and cardio area, salon and spa, and a resort-style pool with poolside cabanas.

Also located in the clubhouse will be the Center for Healthy Living. The center is home to rehabilitation services, as well as the Care 360 concierge healthcare program, which was developed in partnership with NCH Healthcare System.

The Care 360 program offers a higher level of personalized primary care. Services are available to residents of Moorings Park with no additional fees, other than typical co-pays. The Care 360 concierge physicians are accessible by appointment, plus 24/7 access via phone, text or email.

Assisted Living and Memory Care services are available with no increase in monthly fees.

The Moorings Park Grande Lake Sales Gallery’s regular hours are Monday thru Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed Saturdays and Sundays. For additional information visit MooringsParkGL.org.
E xcitement is in the air! With only a limited number of homes still available, the opportunity to purchase a home at Mangrove Bay won’t last long. Remarkably designed with spacious and open floor plans, these homes inspire coastal luxury living at its finest.

All Mangrove Bay homes feature Old Florida inspired architecture exclusively designed by MHK Architecture & Planning, with private Gulf access boat slips included with purchase. An outstanding waterfront address close to Old Naples, Mangrove Bay provides a world-class lifestyle, combining estuary views and Gulf of Mexico access with all the nearby shopping and entertainment venues of 5th Avenue South. Built on Old Naples’ last remaining significant waterfront property for residential development, the homes at Mangrove Bay are designed for those with exceptional taste desiring an unequaled residence and lifestyle. Mangrove Bay will soon be breaking ground on The Amenities Center which will have a private on-site concierge to cater to every resident’s needs, comprehensive property management services, state-of-the-art wellness/fitness equipment and Yoga studio, a private boat ramp, as well as ground level storage area for resident’s kayaks, canoes, paddle boards and jet-skis. The Coquina II, at 3,232 square feet, is under construction at lot 13 and lot 25. These charming three bedrooms, 3.5 baths and a den on a single story. The Keewaydin I on lot 41 will feature exquisite Old Florida architecture at 3,272 square feet. The second story features a loft living area allowing for picturesque views. The largest and most versatile floor plan, the Useppa I will be located at lot 31. At 3,488 square feet (modified), the Useppa is offered in three different elevations. Additional floor plans include the single story Captiva floor plan featuring an attractive open concept design with soaring vaulted ceilings and expansive outdoor living space. It offers 2,586 of luxurious living space.

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Please join us for an Open House

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10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Moorings Park Grande Lake
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For information on this new community, call 239.919.1620
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LEAH SPENCER

Leah Spencer has joined the team of interior designers at the Naples showroom of Clive Daniel Home. After running her own hair salon in Pennsylvania for 25 years, Ms. Spencer moved to Florida, earned a Realtor’s license and became an accredited staging professional to help people both purchase and decorate their homes.

Jacki Strategos

Jacki Strategos, P.A. has joined the team of interior designers at the Naples showroom of Clive Daniel Home. After running her own showroom of Clive Daniel Home for five years, Ms. Spencer moved to Florida, earned a Realtor’s license and became an accredited staging professional to help people both purchase and decorate their homes.

Newsmakers From Page 33

Custom homes and multiple renovation projects on time and within scope. With a background in business skills and analysis, she is accountable for schedules, budgets and resources as well as monitoring teams to ensure goals and objectives are maintained. She previously worked as a purchasing manager for a luxury homebuilder and as a project manager, contractor and general manager for several local construction companies throughout Southwest Florida. A Michigan native and Naples resident since 1987, she holds a Florida contractor’s license and a Florida real estate broker’s license.

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NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY | WEEK OF MAY 3-9, 2018 | B39
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O M E G A
B O N I T A  B A Y
“It’s weird ... It’s not a real play. And then when you watch it, it’s magical. You have to fill in the blanks, participate.” — Daryl Lisa Fazio, playwright & PlayLab participant

Story time for grownups

Florida Rep’s annual PlayLab delivers a rare opportunity for writers, actors and audiences

BY NANCY STETSON
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

February 11 was a historic date for the Florida Repertory Theatre. That was the day the company staged the world premiere of Daryl Lisa Fazio’s play “Split in Three.”

Ms. Fazio’s “Split in Three” was showcased in Florida Rep’s inaugural PlayLab five years ago. Actors presented a reading of the work, which is pretty much just what it sounds like: Actors stand onstage and read the play expressively. There are no costumes, no props, no set, no music, no fancy lighting. Just the bare bones of a play.

Florida Rep staged a full-scale production of “Split in Three” — the play’s world premiere — the following season.

Ms. Fazio had had a couple of plays produced prior to that, but none of her works

Pipes galore: Three churches take part in organ crawl

Music aficionados know that local churches don’t mess around with the quality of their programs, so it shouldn’t be any surprise that Stay in May brings back its organ crawl featuring three of the area’s most impressive instruments on Thursday afternoon, May 10.

Led by renowned organist Michael Barone, the host of American Public Media’s “Pipedreams,” guests will get an inside look with private performances at the organs at First Presbyterian Church of Naples, Moorings Presbyterian Church and Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church. Here is an overview of each instrument.

First Presbyterian Church of Naples
Ruffatti-Fratelli Pipe Organ, installed in 2004

Kicking off the tour is the organ at First Presbyterian Church of Naples that features thousands of pipes, five keyboards and two organ cases in the back balcony. Add to that antiphonal division splits on the sides and you’ve got an instrument that will swell the sound to fill the sanctuary.

First Presbyterian Church of Naples boasts the largest organ in town, a Padua-built Fratelli-Ruffatti pipe organ that has 6,200 pipes.
space and hearts of those sitting in the pews.

“It does just about everything well,” said Brice Gerlach, the church’s director of music ministries and associate professor of organ performance at Ave Maria University. “It fills the space with a really, really nice, strong sound. I haven’t found any style it doesn’t play well.”

Mr. Gerlach has recruited two of his university students to perform works by Bach, Franck and Gigout with him so guests can marinate in the awesome sound the largest organ in town provides.

**Moorings Presbyterian Church**
Nichols & Simpson Organ Builders, installed in 2008

Next up is an organ that has 3,657 pipes with more to come as the church nears completion on the instrument later this year. This Nichols & Simpson organ boasts an American classic design that combines all the best features of the European models into one impressive instrument. The new addition being installed will include lower brass sounds like French horns, English horns and tubas while increasing the number of stops from 49 to 55 and the number of ranks from 63 to 72.

“We’re really excited that it’s going to be the complete instrument as it was designed by the builder,” said Tom Goetz, director of music. “Also a lot of people see the pipes and think that’s all there is and it’s really only one-twentieth or less of what the organ is, because there will be a whole room or rooms behind those pipes. The organ at Moorings is one really big room behind the façade and two smaller rooms called swell boxes the size of a small bedroom.”

Mr. Goetz has invited John Fenstermaker, the organ master at Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church, to perform works including Preludium in E minor by Nicolas Bruhns, Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber and selections by Bach.

**Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church**
Lively-Fulcher Pipe Organ Builders, installed in 2017

The proud owner of a brand new organ, Vanderbilt Presbyterian now has an instrument that can compete with its beautifully distinctive spire.

“Sound loves to go up there and stay,” said Jim Cochran, director of music. “This organ uses reflecting panels so the sound stays down with the people instead of up in heaven.”

In selecting the design for the new organ, Mr. Cochran added, it was important to create something flexible enough to play music from every period; the 39,000-pipe, three-rank instrument does the job.

“Lots of times you get a great, big French orchestral instrument that can’t play Bach or counterpoint very well,” he continued. “With this you can hear every voice. It’s a pretty amazing instrument. On top of that, it’s a great accompaniment to the congregation’s hymn singing. There’s a gigantic 16-foot rank with a very large bass stop that really gets under the congregation and lifts them up when I pull out the stop. It’s really fun to do and it will part your hair.”

Mr. Cochran and local orthopedic surgeon Wojciech Wojtasiewicz, who also has a doctorate in organ performance from The Juilliard School, will play a variety of pieces, including “Ave Maria,” “The Ascension Suite” by Olivier Messiaen, “Tuba Tune in D Major” by C.S. Lang and “Aria in C Major” by Craig Phillips.

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‘Rock, Paper, Scissors’ exhibit at Marco center evokes classic game

The Marco Island Center for the Arts presents a new exhibit through the prism of a classic schoolyard game. “Rock, Paper, Scissors” will be on display May 4-29, with an opening reception set for 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 8.

The show features the works of Lucrezia Bieler, whose art is cut from a single piece of paper; German-born sculptor Angelika Kade; and fiber artist Joanna Sunshine. It is presented in three sections, utilizing each material to create beauty and surprise.

Ms. Kade, represents the rock section. She started her artistic career in fashion design and then investigated various mediums. She sculpts mainly in alabaster (gypsum) and marble and bases her creations on figurative elements and mythological themes. She has exhibited in Europe and the United States.

Ms. Sunshine uses handmade papers, objects from nature and found material to weave together storytelling and abstract art into a surprising collage for the paper section. She has been juried in the Virginia Museum of Fine Art, the Savannah College of Art and Design and The Chrysler Museum.

The scissors section highlights the work of Tallahassee-based international artist Lucrezia Bieler, the former chief illustrator for the University of Zurich, Switzerland. Her time- and labor-intensive designs are cut out of a single sheet of paper. Her work has been displayed in the Smithsonian Craft Show and the Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show.

Admission to the opening reception May 8 is free for members of the Marco Island Center for the Arts; a $10 donation is suggested for others. The center is at 1010 Winterberry Drive.
ncluding the keynote address. (PlayLab tickets are $15 per show or $77 for an all-access pass, which includes keynote address.)

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For concert information, please contact the NOC at 239 947-2000, or visit the Naples Philharmonic website: www.naplesphilharmonic.org or buy them before the concert.

PLAYLAB

From page 1

A flood of entries

Ensemble member Jason Parrish, PlayLab's artistic director and interim artistic director for Florida Rep, has been involved in PlayLab since its start and is proud that the festival so far has resulted in 20 new play readings, two commissioned works for young audiences and five new world premieres at Florida Rep. And "Damas- cus," which was part of PlayLab in 2017, is now in its first staged production in central Florida. "PlayLab is a wonderful way for playwrights to have their work presented. The audience then has the opportunity to discuss," Ms. Burtram explains. "They can talk about the beauty of working on new plays in progress; we're able to talk through this."

A reading of Audrey Cefaly's "Alabaster." Mr. Parrish describes this two-person comedy as "a beautiful, mysterious romance ... based on a famous prison chain gang song that can be traced back to the Mississippi penitentiary. The playwright, a very intelli- gent young African-American ... listened to this song and then wrote a play for where it came from." The character Leroy, he adds, is "a convict who gets a second chance with his lost love, Berta."

"It's a beautiful play, with characters so vivid and heartbreaking." By Eric Henry

It's a romantic comedy that follows one couple in their late 30s who decide to have a child. "They want to have friends' lives have changed (with a baby) and they decide to do it. The play follows their journey all the way up until she has the baby." By Kathy Jacobson

"Hostage" by Michelle Kholos Bruzenac

"It's a fictional tale on the 1979 Iran hos- tage crisis ... 52 Americans were held hos- tage in Tehran for 444 days. The youngest was a 19-year-old Marine, and his mother would not take it. She was like a bulldog, and got permission to go to Tehran and see her son. The U.S. government takes the position that we won't negotiate. The woman says, 'I will work with them so I can free their child.' It's a fictional account of what might have happened in that room, and what happens when she comes back: She's a mother in her own home, looked at as a traitor. The mother is one of the most compelling women I've read in a long time. It is a dream role for an actress." By Matt Parrish

Mr. Parrish adds that with "Hostage," Ms. Brooks did a wonderful job of writing three-dimensional characters. "You understand them," he said, adding the mother finds common ground with her son's cap- tors. "This play looks at them: Where are they coming from? What drove them to this? What desperation? It brings multi-layered characters to the stage."

Although he's talking about "Hostage," Mr. Parrish could just as well be referring to all of the plays selected for PlayLab when he adds, "These are important stories to be told."
Aboard The Naples Princess

Treat your mom to a delicious double entree dinner on the water featuring carved beef tenderloin served with Bearnaise sauce and baked cod served with Caesar salad, dinner rolls, vegetable medley, white cheddar mashed potatoes and tuxedo bombe.

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BY LINDSEY NESMITH
lnesmith@floridaweekly.com

Is there anything more fun than Italians in love? Set in the sexy backdrop of the Mediterranean in the 1960s, Figaro and Susanna will connive and contrive to outwit a lecherous count when Opera Naples brings Mozart’s “Le Nozze di Figaro” to life at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 10, at Artis—Naples.

Under the musical direction of ON Artistic Director Ramon Tebar, ON singers and the Naples Philharmonic will take audiences on an effervescent romp through the incredibly fraught day of the couple’s wedding. Baritone Guido Loconsolo sings the role of Figaro; soprano Pureum Jo performs as Susanna.

Mozart wrote the comedic opera in 1786 as a continuation of “The Barber of Seville,” finding Figaro serving in the court of Count Almaviva after having assisted him in acquiring the hand of Rosina. Unfortunately, the count has devolved into a skirt-chasing, scheming lech who plans to assert his traditional right of bedding Susanna, his wife’s servant, on Susanna’s wedding night. She and Figaro must use all their wits and resources to divert such an outcome.

“All this crazy journey is a perfect excuse for a genius like Mozart to make this apparent lightness into a greater message,” Mr. Tebar said. “This is a critique to the society of his time. How could a noble take such advantage of a servant? It’s a very powerful political statement, and he does it with such geniality and wit.”

He added he chose the work for the closing production of the ON season because it rounds out the season’s earlier productions to provide a diversity of styles and composers. “Le Nozze di Figaro” represents the opposite side of the Italian opera tradition that ON highlighted with its opening production, Puccini’s “Madama Butterfly.”

“Since we only have two opportunities to perform with the Naples Philharmonic, at the opening of the season and the closing, I try to find titles that are representative of the most important styles and composers,” he said. And Mozart’s genius is that he can convey universal themes in a manner that is entertaining and appealing to broad audiences.

“There are so many messages that are disguised by a certain lightness in this comedy, but that’s what makes Mozart such a genius,” said Ramon Tebar, artistic director of Opera Naples and conductor for “Le Nozze di Figaro.” “Mozart, like Shakespeare, always speaks about universal subjects and real life.”

Like most of Mozart’s works, “Le Nozze di Figaro” conveys a wealth of emotions and plot contrivances to create an enjoyably complicated entertainment.

“In general, you’ll find everything in Mozart,” Mr. Tebar said. “You have tenderness, rage, sparkliness ... you can feel the brightness in the music, so everything is a melting pot of so many different characters, subjects, atmospheres and styles. That’s what makes Mozart’s operas great. His imagination and writiness encompass everything.”

The characters in “The Marriage of Figaro” in particular have a winning lightness despite the gravity of the plot, and playing Susanna has been a lifetime goal for soprano Pureum Jo. Having performed the role of supporting character Barbarina in the past (which also

SEE OPERA, C20
THEATER

June & Jason’s Survival Guide to Divorce – A staged reading by ETC. ... Readers Theatre of The Naples Players at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 6, at the Sugden Community Theatre. 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat – by The Naples Player’s KitArst at 7:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, May 7-8 and 14-15, at Sugden Community Theatre. 263-2990 or www.naplesplayers.org.


Four One-Ac Act Comedies – by The Marco Players through May 13 at The Marco Players Theatre. 1089 N. Collier Blvd., Naples 278-4422 or www.marpal.org.

A Raisin in the Sun – by Theatre Conspiracy May 3-11 at the Alliance for the Arts. Talkbacks are set for May 3 and May 13 following performances. 1009 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers. 937-2978 or www.art-inle.org/theatre.


Friday, May 4


Art Reception – United Arts Council of Collier County hosts an opening reception for an exhibition by wilderness photographer Marc Harris from 4-6 p.m. at The Norris Center. The show hangs through Wednesday, May 30. 755 Eighth Ave. S. 262-5542 or www.uaccollier.org.

Beatles Art – In honor of the 50th anniversary of the film “Yellow Submarine,” animator/director Ron Campbell brings a collection of his original cartoon art to HW Gallery today through Sunday, May 6. He will also create new Beatles pop art on the spot. 1305 Third St. S. 503-389-1807 or scott@rockartshow.com.


Mama – Actor and comedienne Vicki Lawrence brings her Mama character to the stage at 7:30 p.m. at Southwest Florida Event Center. $30-$70. 11515 Bonita Beach Road. 245-9940 or www.swflventcenter.com.

To Market, To Market – Stock up on fresh produce and locally made goodies at the Third Street South Farmers’ Market from 7:30-11:30 a.m. 434-6563 or www.thirdstreetsouth.com.

Both events feature free admission, popcorn, tacos and gifts from noon to 5 p.m. 27380 Old 41 Rd. 992-0291 or www.naplesfloridavantgardereader.com.

May The Force Be With You – Naples Regional Library invites “Star Wars” fans to dress as their favorite character and enjoy one of the films at 2 p.m. Free. 650 Central Ave. 263-7768 or www.collierlibrary.com.

Run for the Roses – Naples Junior Women’s Club hosts its ninth annual Derby Dash to celebrate the Kentucky Derby from 5-8 p.m. at Naples Botanical Garden. $75-$100, 643-7275 or www.naplesgarden.org.

Cinco de Moop – Hop on a Naples Pub Cycle for a fiesta-flavored pub crawl from 6-9 p.m. to benefit Humane Soci- ety Naples. The tour will hit Naples Beach Brewery and Whiskey Park, where guests will enjoy a complimentary liba- tion. A food truck, live music and the Humane Society’s Paws Around Town bus loaded with adoptable kittens will also be on hand. $65, includes a two-hour tour, a drink ticket at each venue, a raffle ticket and a swag bag. 4100 Enterprise Ave. 643-1455 or www.humanesociety.org.

A Breath of Fresh Air – The Naples Orchestra plays Bohemian Symphony No. 8 with Naples Philharmonic principal flautist Katrina Kerton at 7 p.m. tonight and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 6, at Temple Shalom. $25. 4630 Pine Ridge Road. info@naplesorchestraandchorus.org or www.naplesorchestraandchorus.org.

THURSDAY, May 3

Pups in the Garden – Put your favorite pooch in the car (don’t forget the leash) and head to Naples Botani- cal Garden for canine-friendly hours from 3:30 p.m. (also 9:45 a.m. Sunday and 8-11 a.m. Tuesday). Free for garden members and their dogs; regular admis- sion. $5. 331-7371 or www.botanic.org.

Opera Night – Tenor Livio Ferr- ant performs from 7-9 p.m. while guests enjoy a four-course dinner at Barbatella. $65. 1200 Third St. S. 263-1995 or www.barbatellanaples.com.

Jazzy – “The William Noll Jazz Ensemble” performs at the special guest, Glenn Basham at 6:30 p.m. at Bentley Village. $25. 810 Retreat Drive. 390-2788 or www.stayinmay.com.


SUNDAY, May 6

Fresh Produce – Take your grocery list to Naples Farmers Market at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the corner Pine Ridge and Livingston roads.

TREASURES IN THE SAND – Delnor- Wiggins Pass State Park hosts a lecture at 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 4 p.m. at Bayfront with bites from local restaurants, live entertainment, chef challenges and more. 337-7171 or www.tasteofthebeach.org.

Flute Recital – Koreshan State Park hosts a performance by middle and high school flautists from 1:30-3 p.m. at 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at www.koreshanstatepark.com.

Flashback Cinema – Silverspot hosts a movie marathon to celebrate the Kentucky Derby from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. $4.95-$16.50. 992-0300 or www.silverspot.net.

Foreign Film – FGCU’s Renaissance Academy screens “The Spirit of the Bee- hive” (Spain, 1973) at 2 p.m. at the univer- sity’s Naples campus. In 1940, a sensitive girl traumatized by watching “Frankenstein” drifts into her own fantasy world. $5 for members, $8 for others. 503-4784. 434-4737 or www.fgcu.edu.

Musical Moments – Center for the Performing Arts Bonita Springs hosts a performance of opera and musical theatre at 8 p.m. Center- selection at 7 p.m. 1150 North Collier Blvd. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU – Naples Regional Library invites “Star Wars” fans to dress as their favorite character and enjoy one of the films at 2 p.m. Free. 650 Central Ave. 263-7768 or www.collierlibrary.com.

Run for the Roses – Naples Junior Women’s Club hosts its ninth annual Derby Dash to celebrate the Kentucky Derby from 5-8 p.m. at Naples Botanical Garden. $75-$100, 643-7275 or www.naplesgarden.org.

Cinco de Moop – Hop on a Naples Pub Cycle for a fiesta-flavored pub crawl from 6-9 p.m. to benefit Humane Soci- ety Naples. The tour will hit Naples Beach Brewery and Whiskey Park, where guests will enjoy a complimentary liba- tion. A food truck, live music and the Humane Society’s Paws Around Town bus loaded with adoptable kittens will also be on hand. $65, includes a two-hour tour, a drink ticket at each venue, a raffle ticket and a swag bag. 4100 Enterprise Ave. 643-1455 or www.humanesociety.org.

A Breath of Fresh Air – The Naples Orchestra plays Bohemian Symphony No. 8 with Naples Philharmonic principal flautist Katrina Kerton at 7 p.m. tonight and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 6, at Temple Shalom. $25. 4630 Pine Ridge Road. info@ naplesorchestraandchorus.org or www.naplesorchestraandchorus.org.

Come one, Come all – Aris- Naples hosts a free community day with youth performances, activities for kids and access to all galleries starting at noon. 597-9900 or www.arisnaples.org.

The Breaker – Country music group Little Big Town with Kasey Musgraves and Midland performs at 7:30 p.m. at Germain Arena. 948-7825 or www.eger- mainarena.com.

Yes, And? – Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs troupe Improv Tonight! performs at 7:30 p.m. at 597-9900 or www.arisnaples.org.

Funky Guy – Comedian Adam Hunter takes the stage tonight and Sunday, May 6, at Off The Hook Comedy Club. 2500 Vanderbilt Beach Road. 389-6901 or www.soefthekookedcomedy.com.
TUESDAY 5.8

Roads Less Traveled – Naples Regional Library hosts a presentation on China’s rugged and remote Xinjiang province from 3-4:30 p.m. Free, 650 Central Ave. 263-7768 or www.collierlibrary.org.


Fire in your Soul – Renowned vocalist ensemble Seraphic Fide performs “Shakespeare: Music and The Bard” at 7 p.m. at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church. $30. 1225 Piper Blvd. 390-2788 or www.stayinmay.com.

WEDNESDAY 5.9

Marco Market – Stock up on fresh produce and more at the Marco Island Farmers Market from 7:30 a.m. to noon at Veteran's Community Park, 901 Park Ave.

Guided Walk – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary invites guests to explore the preserve’s pine flatwood with a ranger from 9-11 a.m. Expect rough terrain and off-trail hiking. $10-$25. 375 Sanctuary Road. 348-9151 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.

Art and Big Band – The Naples Big Band performs while artist Melinda Trick paints in Art Deco style at 7 p.m. at the Marco Island Historical Museum. $32, 180 S. Heathwood Drive. 390-2788 or www.stayinmay.com.

COMING UP


We’ve Got Pipes – Stay in May hosts an “organ crawl” where guests will check out the organs at several local churches with host Michael Barone starting at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 10, at First Presbyterian Church. $37. 250 Sixth St. S. 390-2788 or www.stayinmay.com. See story on page C1.


Tea for Two – Brambles Tea Room and Storytellers of the Round Table team up for an evening of stories about moms and a full tea from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, May 10, 350 Fifth Ave. S. 390-2788 or www.stayinmay.com.

Opera Night – Opera Naples presents “The Marriage of Figaro” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 10, at Artis—Naples. $25-$115. 597-1900 or www.artisnaples.org.

Funkadelic at 8 p.m. Thursday hits the stage with Parliament

WEDNESDAY 5.9

Meet Ron Campbell, director of The Beatles’ 1960s Saturday morning cartoon series and animator of the film “Yellow Submarine,” at HW Gallery this weekend. He’ll display and sell his works, including drawings from “Scooby Doo,” “The Jetsons” and “Rugrats” cartoons, from 4-8 p.m. Friday, noon to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. 1305 Third St. S.

Photographer Marc Harris gives guests an eyeful of his work from 4-6 p.m. Friday at The Norris Center. Pictured here is “Pine Island Light Show.”

Funk icon George Clinton hits the stage with Parliament Funkadelic at 8 p.m. Thursday at the Southwest Florida Event Center in Bonita Springs.

Throw back a couple of cold ones with Humane Society Naples during the Cinco de Meow pub crawl from Naples Beach Brewery to Whiskey Park from 6-9 p.m. Saturday. You might even find a forever friend to adopt from the HSN Paws Around Town bus.

WADDY THOMPSON / COURTESY PHOTO

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO
COLLECTOR’S CORNER

A find that opens memories of a special place in time

There are two ways you can tell when you’re in the Glades. During the winter, the air hangs thick with the smoke of sugarcane fires and the sickeningly sweet scent of the bagasse mulling at the mill. But in the summer, it begins with the lovebugs.

It used to be that as you drove out of LABELLE and neared U.S. 27, you’d hear the first “thwack.” Then another. And another. Until, finally, the whole front of your car was coated with the sticky residue of the amorous insects, whose final climax had met an untimely end on your grill or windshield.

Those things are the same. But for those of us who came of age in South Florida in the 1960s and ’70s, much has changed.

My great-grandparents, grandmother Dorothy and Aunt Cleo first came to Pahokee and Canal Point from southern Georgia in 1923. At the time, there were no roads to the Glades, so they would have taken the train to West Palm Beach, walked down Tamarind Avenue to the turning basin of the Spur Canal near where Royal palms line Bacom Point Road into Pahokee.

Howard Park and the Kravis Center now stand and been ferried along the Palm Beach Canal to another world at the northern tip of the Everglades.

The rest of the family came to visit. Cousin Douglas Thompson later said he visited and wrote home to his daddy that you could plow a straight line as far as the eye could see. The land was so flat there was no need for terracing.

The 40 years or so that followed were the heyday of the middle-class truck farmer, who worked his fields, but lived in town. That era ended about 40 years ago, as the last of the old-time farmers...
OPERA NAPLES

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THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO
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ARTIS-NAPLES’ HAYES HALL
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THE FIND:
A can opener from Pahokee

My friend Janice Lowder, who owns a thrift shop in West Palm Beach, knew I’d get a kick out of this can opener from Pahokee, the longtime home of my dad’s family and the town where I was born.

It’s funny how something as basic as this can opener can stir memories of a place and time.

Paul’s, a tire and automotive shop, stood near the old high school in Pahokee on the north side of the downtown core. The Elks, the KFC, and the A&P all were nearby.

The Sasser family owned it for many years; the owners’ son, J.P. Sasser, the former mayor of Pahokee, runs an auto body shop in Belle Glade.

As a collector piece, the piece is not worth much—a couple of dollars, maybe.

But it stirs memories of a time when my birthplace was a thriving little hub of commerce along the shore of Lake Okeechobee.

That’s priceless.

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That’s priceless.
Don’t forget about ‘Harry’s Senior Moment’

The Off Broadway Palm Theatre in Fort Myers presents the comedy improv show “Harry’s Senior Moment” for five performances Thursday through Sunday, May 3-6. The show and the improv troupe are dedicated to entertaining, inspiring and educating those with life challenges to live the best life possible under any circumstances.

Troupe founder Harry Lichtcsien is 84 years young and has been fighting stage four cancer since 2011. Along with traditional treatments, he has benefitted from comedy improv and also from palliative care, the medical specialty that addresses the pain, stress and other symptoms of a serious illness. The cast of “Harry’s Senior Moment” weaves palliative care into their ad-libbing throughout the show.

Tickets to “Harry’s Senior Moment” range from $25 to $45 and are available by calling the box office at 278-4422 or by going to www.broadwaypalm.com.

ETC reading paves the way for a world premiere this fall

The Naples Players’ ETC Readers Theatre presents a reading of “June & Jason’s Survival Guide to Divorce” at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 6, in the Tobylo Studio at the Sugden Community Theatre. The reading is the first step to producing the comedy by Laura Lorussos as a world premiere in October as part of TNP’s 65th anniversary season.

“Developing this show with Laura Lorussos and this amazing cast has been an opportunity of a lifetime,” says Jessica Walck, TNP associate artistic director and curator of ETC Readers Theatre. “I cannot wait to share this show with the world.”

The reading is the last one before the show goes into production. An audience talkback will follow the performance. Reminiscent of great sit-com humor, “June & Jason’s Survival Guide to Divorce” introduces an unforgettable collection of zany neighbors and friends who try to save June and Jason from a looming divorce. Ms. Walck directs the cast that includes Jamie Lynn Bucri (June), Cole Butcher (Jason), Patti Caroll (Josephine), Katie Cross (Lucy), Paul Polomsky (Doug), Christopher Rand (Sam) and Greg Sofranko (Richard).

Tickets for $10 are available at the box office or online. Call 263-7990 or go to www.naplesplayers.org. ETC is an ideal venue for new playwrights, budding directors and actors who prefer a lower-stress environment. For more information about getting involved, call Ms. Walck at 434-7340, ext. 101, or send an email to jwalck@naplesplayers.org.
KidZAct presents ‘Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat’

KidZAct of The Naples Players presents Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Weber's family musical 'Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' in four performances Monday and Tuesday evenings, May 7-8 and 14-15, at the Sugden Community Theatre. Directed and choreographed by Dawn Lebrecht-Fornara, the production is a reimagining of the Biblical story of Israel's favorite son, Joseph, his 11 brothers and the coat of many colors. Songs include “Go Go Go Joseph,” “Any Dream Will Do” and “Close Every Door.”

The well-known show "reaches an entirely new level" through Ms. Lebrecht-Fornara’s choreography and direction and lavish costuming by Mary Anne McKerrow, says TNP Executive Artistic Director Bryce Alexander.

Told entirely through song with the help of a main character Narrator, the musical follows Joseph after his brothers sell him into slavery. He ingratiates himself with Egyptian noble Potiphar, but ends up in jail after refusing the amorous advances of Potiphar's wife. While imprisoned, Joseph discovers his ability to interpret dreams and soon finds himself in front of the mighty but troubled, Elvis-inspired Pharaoh. Joseph's solution to Egypt's famine elevates him to Pharaoh's right-hand man and reunites him with his family.

Get in on the KidZAct
Registration is open now for TNP’s summer acting, dancing, singing and performance classes for ages 3 and up. The summer shows are "Junie B. Jones the Musical," "Aladdin Jr." and "Chicago Teen." Sign up at www.naplesplayers.org or call 415-7340, ext. 127, for more information.

Join the fun in Fort Myers

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Add a lobster tail for $15 more

■

KIDZACT

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Set Designer
• Michael Pasquini,
Lighting Designer

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 arts commentary

False teeth, false history and genuine laughs at Florida Rep

You don’t have to be a dentist or possess a tooth fetish to love “George Washington’s Teeth.” If ever a title lent itself to the title it makes you chuckle or smile, you should like this new work by Mark St. Germain that’s enjoying its world premiere at Florida Repertory Theatre.

This zany comedy revolves around a small town of New Bunion, somewhere in New England. Well, small is an understatement: The society has a grand total of three members: Hester (Carrie Lund), an upright and unhappy woman who can trace her ancestors back to the town’s beginnings; Ann Mather (Liz Abbott), a glamorous trophy wife who is both kind and smart; and Edie (Viki Boyle), the town’s wonderfully ditsy florist, who experiences episodes of narcolepsy whenever she becomes too excited or stressed.

The trio is experiencing a crisis: They’re going to be relegated to the basement of the town’s senior center unless they can come up with enough money to buy the building they currently occupy. But the historical society, with its odd, offbeat collection of questionable artifacts, needs to make itself relevant in order to do so.

Enter Jess (Jackie Rivera), an equally questionable 20-something who, with her half-purple, multicolored piercings and neck tattoo, seems an unlikely candidate for membership. But it’s Jess who tells the others about a set of George Washington’s teeth that were made in New Bunion.

The women see those false teeth as their salvation. If they can only get them and put them on exhibit, they can raise enough money to save their historical society, they believe.

But when they meet Louisa (Patricia Myers), who owns the teeth, things don’t go quite as planned.

The action takes place during the Fourth of July holiday, when New Bunion holds the grand re-enactment of the Battle of New Bunion. (It’s just a play to bring in tourists; the battle never actually took place during the American Revolution.)

“The Battle of New Bunion never happened, but if it did, ours is still bigger!” proclaims Big Jim (Jason Parrish), the unseen voice announcing events over a loudspeaker. He gives a running commentary of things happening off-stage, providing humorous comments just like the public address system did in “M*A*S*H.”

You might have seen “George Washington’s Teeth” when it was presented as a reading at last year’s PlayLab, the theater’s festival for new plays. Audience response was so positive, the venue chose to stage it as a full production this season.

Florida Rep has produced other plays by Mr. St. Germain. “Camping with Henry and Tom” and “Best of Enemies” both enjoyed highly successful runs, but this one differs in tone from those previous productions.

“George Washington’s Teeth” is a farce, of sorts. It has the madcap attitude of a farce, but not necessarily the multiple slamming doors. It does, however, have a fire pole, being set in the new Former Bunion Fire House. (Wasn’t it Anton Chekhov who famously said that if you put a fire pole in a play in the first act, it has to be used by the second?)

And — God bless Mr. St. Germain — it’s a play written for five women. Not only that, but four of the five are, shall we say, past ingénue age, and one character is African-American.

The playwright’s comedic finger-prints are all over this work. Even the names are stylishly historic-sounding. Hester, of course, recalling “The Scarlet Letter,” and Mather harkening back to Cotton Mather. The objects in the historical society are part history, part Ripley’s Believe It Or Not, including arrowheads (despite the fact no tribes wanted to settle there) and the largest pig hairball that was hacked up in 1885.

Ms. Lund, as the town’s former fifth-grade teacher and principal, has a perpetually sour disposition. She possesses a self-righteous pride about her lineage, like a Daughter of the American Revolution on steroids.

When Jess says the moose antler chair Hester’s forefather made reminds her of “Game of Thrones,” Hester sniffs: “I don’t waste my time on TV game shows!” With her priceless delivery, Ms. Lund can get a laugh out of even three-word sentences.

Ms. Boyle is endearing in her soft-spoken craziness, and her character is much hipper than she initially appears. Her loopy logic brings many of the evening’s laughs.

And it’s great to see Ms. Abbott on stage again after a long absence. As Ann Mather, she drips with sophistication and graciousness. With nary a false step or a false note, she’s entertaining to watch. Ms. Rivera, a newcomer to Florida Rep, brings a welcome energy to the play. When she first walked onto stage, it was as if she’d just delivered a shot in the arm to the play, whose beginning seemed a little shaky opening night. (Of course, the playwright has been tweaking the play, and the actors received new lines as late as 5 p.m. that evening. And the nearby Smoke on the Water Bar and Musical Theatre was also a distraction, with a live band just one block away from the theater. It was so close that live music was leaking into the play, whose own soundtrack is more drum and fife than drums and electric guitars.)

Ms. Floyd, another Florida Rep newcomer, brings a harsh dose of reality to this farce when she reveals New Bunion’s racist history and shines a light on its current inhabitants’ ignorance. Her character is a formidable woman who can hold her own with Hester, though her initial outfit seems not classy enough for her. (Costume designer Alice Neff maybe more redefines herself at the end of the play, though.)

This is a funny play, but still evolving. Jim Hunter’s set of a fire-house-turned-museum is cavernous and filled with flags, costumes, old photographs, an Edison phonograph and no end of strange objects. It is so large, that at times the actors seem lost within it. Sometimes I had the impression they were communicating with each other across a canyon.

And director Abigail Zealey Bess’s staging is a little patchy, and the actors going to various parts of the set without a specific reason. The dance sequence, too, could’ve been mined for more humor.

With “George Washington’s Teeth,” Ms. St. Germain pokes fun at small towns, strange historical societies, male mid-life crises and racism, all in a way that’s entertaining, illuminating and oddbally patriotic without beingingoistic.

Dentistry has never been so much fun.

‘George Washington’s Teeth’
>> When: Florida Repertory Theatre through May 13
>> Where: The Historic Arcade Theatre, Fort Myers
>> Cost: $45 and $55
>> Info: 332-4498 or www.floridatrep.org

In the Know

Joe Dafeldecker/ Courtesy Photos

Carrie Lund, Viki Boyle and Liz Abbott as the three members of the historical society in the town of New Bunion.

C12 | ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT | WEEK OF MAY 3-9, 2018 www.FloridaWeekly.com | NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY
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TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You know how to balance life’s practical aspects with the poetic. This gives you a special edge this week in both your professional endeavors and your personal life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Focus on keeping a balance between your home-related activities and your workplace responsibilities. Be mindful of both without obsessing over one or the other.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A change in plans is likely as you discover more facts about a possible commitment. Continue to ask questions and, if you’re not sure about the answers, demand proof.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Be careful not to let that Leonine pride keep you from seeking wise, experienced counsel before making an important decision. A family member once again seeks your help.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) That surge of Virgo energy drives you to take on more work assignments. Be careful you don’t overload or you might find yourself overdone: i.e., burned out.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your decision to be upfront with colleagues on a touchy matter causes some consternation at first. But in the end, your honesty wins their trust and admiration.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) As in the past, someone again wants to share a secret with you, knowing it will be safe. But do you really want to be this person’s confidante? Think about it.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) As one of nature’s straight shooters, you seek to correct misconceptions about a project. Do so, of course, but without giving away too much too soon.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Creative pursuits continue to be strong in the gifted Goat’s aspect. New friendships can come from sharing these experiences with like-minded art aficionados.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 19) Resolve lingering grumblings over your way of doing things by keeping your mind open to suggestions while continuing to show how your plans will work.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The perceptive Piscean might find that changing course in midstream isn’t as workable as it would seem. Explore this option before making a decision.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Taking advice isn’t always easy for self-assured Rams and Ewes who think they know what’s best. But it wouldn’t hurt to listen to what close colleagues have to say.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your willingness to share your love of life’s good things brings joy to many, including, of course, yourself.

PUZZLES

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**CONTRACT BRIDGE**

**Rationale of good declarer play**

*BY STEVE BECKER*

Here is a test of good technique in declarer play. Let’s say you’re in four hearts and West leads the queen of spades. You play low from dummy and ruff the spade continuation. How would you proceed?

The club loser is inescapable, so the problem is to avoid losing two diamond tricks, one of which must be lost in any case. Two factors are obvious. If the trumps are divided 2-2, you can make the contract by drawing them and playing the A-K and another diamond. The fourth diamond can then be ruffed in dummy if the missing diamonds are not divided 3-3.

Likewise, you will be in good shape if the diamonds are divided evenly, whether trumps are drawn early or not. So you need to proceed on the assumption that both suits will break badly and consider what, if anything, you can do about it.

Note that you cannot afford to test the trump situation by first drawing two rounds. If you did this and then played the A-K and another diamond, you could be defeated by a trump return, as in the actual deal.

The way to give yourself the best chance is to cash one high trump at trick three and then lead a low diamond. This gives you the maximum protection against bad breaks.

Assume the diamond is taken and a spade is returned. You ruff and cash a second round of trumps, hoping they are divided 2-2. But when West shows

**South dealer. East-West vulnerable.**

**NORTH**

• K 8 3
• 6 5 3
• 9 8 4
• A 9 6 2

**WEST**

• Q 9 5 2
• 7 5 2
• Q 10 7 4 3

**EAST**

• A 10 6 4
• 10 7 2
• Q 3 10 7

**SOUTH**

• 7
• A K Q J 8 4
• A K 6 3
• J 5

The bidding:

South: 1 Notrump

West: Pass

North: 1 NT

East: Pass

Opening lead — queen of spades. You next play the A-K of diamonds, still hoping for a 3-3 break in that suit.

The diamonds don’t split, but you get lucky when it turns out that East is the one with the greater length. This allows you to ruff a fourth diamond in dummy safely, and you wind up making the contract.

At no point were you sure you’d make four hearts, but at least you followed the line of play that offered the best chance of success.
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Rejuvenizing Peel $199
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FILM CAPSULES

I Feel Pretty ★★★½
(Amy Schumer, Michelle Williams, Tom Hopper) A woman with low self esteem (Schumer) bangs her head and now views herself as beautiful, though she looks the same to the rest of the world. It’s got a great message and will be a great for a group of girl friends to enjoy together, but it’s not consistently funny for the rest of us. Rated PG-13.

Truth or Dare ★★★
(Lucy Hale, Tyler Posey, Sophia Ali) College seniors enjoy spring break in Mexico, but return to school cursed to play Truth or Dare; if they don’t play, they die. It’s a fun idea to put real life-or-death stakes on a game so many of us have played, but the filmmakers don’t do quite enough with it to keep us entertained throughout. Rated PG-13.

Beirut ★★★
(Jon Hamm, Rosamund Pike, Dean Norris) A U.S. diplomat (Hamm) in early 90s Beirut must negotiate the release of an old friend who’s been taken hostage by terrorists. It’s laborious to the point that you stop caring whether the hostage, diplomat, or anyone else comes out alive. Rated R.

Ready Player One ★★★½
(Tye Sheridan, Olivia Cooke, Ben Mendelsohn) In 2045, people use avatars to search for an “Easter Egg” in a virtual reality world. The visuals and action are great in director Steven Spielberg’s latest, but it’s the retro pop culture references, along with the classic rock soundtrack, that make this an absolute blast. Rated PG-13.

Chappaquiddick ★★★★
(Jason Clarke, Kate Mara, Ed Helms) In July 1969, Senator Ted Kennedy (Clarke) drives his car off a small bridge, killing passenger Mary Jo Kopechne (Mara) and putting his political career in turmoil. What happened, how, and the cover up that followed makes for compelling drama that presents the information as objectively as possible. Based on a true story. Rated PG-13.

The Death of Stalin ★★★
(Steve Buscemi, Simon Russell Beale, Jeffrey Tambor) Following his death in March 1953, Josef Stalin’s underlings scheme for control of Russia in this highly effective farce. It’s silly, absurd and biting, and as darkly, morbidly funny as it aspires to be. Rated R.

Unsane ★★½
(Claire Foy, Joshua Leonard, Amy Irving) A woman (Foy) moves to a new town to avoid a stalker (Leonard), but soon finds him working in the mental hospital to which she’s involuntarily committed. It’s the first time director Steven Soderbergh has ventured into psychological thriller territory, and the results are creepy enough to call it a success. Rated R.

7 Days in Entebbe ★★★
(Rosamund Pike, Daniel Brühl, Eddie Marsan) Terrorists hijack an Air France flight to Tel Aviv in the hope of embarrassing the Israeli government in negotiations. Sadly, there’s little suspense and it’s almost always dull. Rated PG-13.

MOTHER’S DAY IS MAY 13TH

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Exfoliate your Full Body with our Micro Body Buff Polish Infused with Sweet Notes of Lavender.

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LATEST FILMS

Avengers: Infinity War"

Since “Iron Man” in 2008, the Marvel Cinematic Universe has been using cutting-edge visual effects to tell entertaining stories on a grand scale and has billions in box office gross to show for it. Nothing, however, can prepare you for what happens in “Avengers: Infinity War,” which is guaranteed to shock you.

No worries, this is a spoiler-free review. Just be prepared for anything, because stuff is about to go down. The premise has been teased and known for years: Thanos (Josh Brolin), the baddest villain in the galaxy, seeks to acquire all six Infinity Stones, which will give him absolute power in the universe. It’s up to the principals of the MCU to stop him: Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Captain America (Chris Evans), Thor (Chris Hemsworth), Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), the Guardians of the Galaxy, Spider-Man (Tom Holland), Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch), and more.

Numerous supporting characters from the MCU also appear, and it’s a credit to writers Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely, as well as director-brothers Joe and Anthony Russo (“Captain America: Civil War”), that the 149-minute film is balanced and never rushed, with all the characters feeling prominent and necessary. The disparate storylines connect in a logical, unified way, and the chemistry among the cast members, especially those who’ve never shared the screen before, is seemingly as if the actors have watched one another’s movies and are excited to finally work together.

Expectedly, the action, visual effects and spectacle of it all are impressive, but what should not be overlooked is its humor. Spider-Man has choice pop culture references, Peter Quill (Chris Pratt) offers some good laughs, and Downey’s Tony Stark is, well, his amusing self. Here’s why this is important: If the movie were all action, death and destruction, it would be joyless (you know, like DC’s “Batman v. Superman”). Adding the humor and interjecting some softer colors engages the audience with warmth, and makes you like and root for the characters. Without this it would be all gloom and despair, yielding a final product dourer than it should be. “Avengers: Infinity War” is not a great movie, but it is certainly good — a popcorn muncher that’s thoroughly enjoyable and not all at a letdown. Regarding the ending, remember this is part one of two, with the as yet untitled “Infinity War” sequel opening May 3, 2019. If you’re a fan of the MCU, odds are you’ll spend a good amount of time between now and then speculating what’s to come, and the fact that this “Infinity War” inspires that discussion is significant in itself. Per usual, for an idea of what’s next stay through the credits — there’s a scene at the end you will not want to miss.

**More about Avengers:**

• Will the Infinity Stones return? Will Thanos return?
• Who’s side will Black Widow be on (team Iron Man/Thanos)?

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Naples Winter Wine Festival poised to break records again

Preparations are well underway for the Naples Winter Wine Festival to follow the record-breaking 2018 edition with a stellar 2019 event.

Co-chairs for the Jan. 25-27 festival are Linda and Tom Koehn and Brian and Jeannelle Brady. All are also trustees of the Naples Children and Education Foundation and founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival. NCEF is the annual beneficiary of NWWF.

This year’s festival raised a record $15.1 million.

The theme for 2019 is “Joy to the World,” a testament to the uplifting, year-round impact of the event, according to the co-chairs.

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The Koehns have been involved with NCEF for more than five years. Mrs. Koehn served on NCEF’s grant committee from 2013-16, and Mr. Koehn joined the board of directors last year.

The festival was recently recognized for its contributions and named the top charity wine auction in the U.S. by Wine Spectator for the 12th time.

Mr. Brady has been on NCEF’s board of directors since 2014; Mrs. Brady served on the grant committee from 2013-17. Both are longtime philanthropists, culminating with the recently dedicated Brian and Jeannelle Brady Boys and Girls Club of Elkhart County in Indiana.

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NWWF has raised more than $176 million for NCEF since 2001.

Ticket packages for the 2019 festivities start at $12,500 per couple for a Double Magnum package and $30,000 for two couples for a Jeroboam package.

For a full list of packages and additional details, visit www.napleswinefestival.com.
required her to be able to cover all the soprano parts), Ms. Jo feels prepared to play her dream character despite the tight rehearsal schedule the ON production requires.

“It's been my dream role since I was an undergrad, so I'm really excited,” she said. “I get so many ideas to act and express when I listen to this opera.”

The role of Susanna is particularly demanding, but it also lends itself to so many shades of expression that Ms. Jo is sometimes left in awe.

“Every scene is breathtaking,” she said. “Even though it's a long opera with a lot of singing for this role, I never get bored because there are so many colors both dramatically and musically.

“The character is fun. She's bubbly and smart and busy in her mind all the time. I'm sorry to say that though Figaro is smart, I think Susanna is ahead of him because she's a woman.”

Tying everything together to create a visual spectacle that supports the music and the plot is stage director Jeffrey Buchman, who based his stage design on a 1961 Italian film, “La Notte,” by Michelangelo Antonioni. Like “The Marriage of Figaro,” the movie takes place in one night and deals with infidelity.

“There’s something so sexy about the film,” Mr. Buchman said. “There’s this wonderful flirty scene with Monica Vitti on this checkerboard floor, sliding her compact across it … We decided that’s a great time period for the clothing and the setting. The audience will be taken to this really cool 1960s Mediterranean vibe.”

One of his responsibilities in conceiving a visual perspective for the show was to create an atmosphere that enhanced the momentum of the plot.

“Once we get the ball rolling on the one day it happens, it never stops rolling,” he said. “So what I try to do is really create a world where that momentum can build and the bubbly comedy and charming wit can come out.”

But in the end, it’s all in the service of showcasing the music.

“What is important is the music and the way it’s performed and acted,” Mr. Tebar said. “I always emphasize this aspect, whether in period costumes or a more modern setting. The music prevails because as a musician, I’m here to serve to composer and be as loyal as possible to what he intended.”

“That is the main purpose of opera,” he added. “It’s not just to convey the plot; otherwise, we’d have theater.”

>> Who: Opera Naples with the Naples Philharmonic
>> When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 10
>> Where: Artis—Naples
>> Cost: $55-$110
>> Info: 597-1900 or www.operanaples.org
>> More: Opera Naples and Ristorante Ciao have partnered to offer a pre-performance, three-course meal for $60 per person. Call 263-3889 for reservations.
SOCIETY

Celebrity Martini Glass Auction for PAWS Assistance Dogs

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2. Linda Mesak and Frank Mesak
3. Christina Jordan and Keegan Gerhard
4. Joanie Lauch, Debbie White and Michelle McCarthy
5. Brenda Melton, Phil Melton and Marcia Smith
6. Patrick Dearborn, Lisa Dearborn and Frank Russoen
7. Nancy Smathers, Tony Orlando, Jack McCarthy and Kimberly Anderson
8. Georgia Stock and KC Stock
9. Scott O’Dell, Jennifer O’Dell, Ashlee Fox and Charles Weinrich

Florida Weekly welcomes submissions for the Society pages from charity galas and fundraising events, club meetings and other to-dos around town.

We need 300-dpi photographs of groups of two or more people, facing the camera and identified by first and last names. Questions? Email editor Cindy Pierce at cpierce@floridaweekly.com.

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3. Christina Jordan and Keegan Gerhard
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7. Nancy Smathers, Tony Orlando, Jack McCarthy and Kimberly Anderson
8. Georgia Stock and KC Stock
9. Scott O’Dell, Jennifer O’Dell, Ashlee Fox and Charles Weinrich
Naples Ship Modelers’ social gathering and model exhibition

1. Paula Kane and David Kane with HMS Victory
2. Pat Siedel, Fred Monschein holding his Chaparral River Road, and Sara Monschein
3. Peter Campione, Alan Gaber, Herb Stopper and Liz Stopper with Mr. Stopper’s Windhur
4. Larry Sperling and Sharon Sperling with The America
5. Sharon Campione, Dick Riecke holding his Chesapeake Bay Skipjack, and Peter Campione

Habitat for Humanity of Collier County volunteer appreciation luncheon

1. Bob Markus, Mike Keating, Bob Foster and Don Eden
2. Mike and Jean Weatherhead with Rev. Archimandrite Anastasios Constantine Biloquaras
3. Derek Perry, Carlos France and Tom Reddy
4. Elaine Order, Gary Lowe, Sandy Halverson, Gail Schermer, Suzanne Carrier and Sue Lipigat
5. Nick Kouloheras, Don Salyer and Gwen Salyer

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SOCIETY

Harmon-Meek Gallery showcases artwork by Community School of Naples students

1. Israel Anis
2. Gregory Faulkner
3. CSN’s Group of Seven
4. Juliana Badra
5. Malaya Bryant
6. Joy Welke
7. Fred Pezeshkan, Chris Barnett, Bill Barnett, Stephanie Pezeshkan and Karina Pezeshkan
8. Juliana Meek, Barbara Meek, Bill Meek and Kristine Meek
9. Karina Pezeshkan
10. David Watson and Bill Meek
11. Mia Messina
12. Adria Starkey, Sylviane DeRoguerbene and Stephanie Pezeshkan

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When you come right down to it, wine is a highly complex soup of juices and naturally-occurring chemicals created by fermentation, which is itself hysterically complicated. In fact, I’ve been told that chemists don’t fully understand exactly how fermentation works, even to this day.

But when we talk about red wine, the tannin topic is always right up front. It occurs everywhere in nature: tree bark, wood, leaves and the skins of fruit. In wine, it contributes a quality called astringency, which creates a dry, chalky feeling in the mouth and a kind of bitterness in the middle of your tongue.

If you want to discover what tannin really feels like (and it’s a feeling, not a flavor) put a used wet teabag in your mouth.

As WC Fields once remarked, “It feels like the Russian army marched through my mouth in stocking feet.” Depending on how “dry” a wine feels on your palate, you can determine whether it has a high or low level of tannin.

Now all this sounds awful, but tannin is a major structural component of red wine and is one of the ingredients that helps a good wine age and develop. The level of tannin in wine, whether strong or weak, depends on how the wine is made. If the juice sits on the skins for a long time, more tannin will be extract-ed, and the levels will be higher. So, will the overall complexity of the wine.

Tannins are also a natural antioxidant, so they can help preserve and protect the wine. This explains why wines like Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz can age for long periods. And as we all know, antioxidants have sensational health benefits, so go ahead and enjoy that second glass.

The word “tannin” is actually quite ancient. Plant extracts are used to cure and process leather, which is why it’s called “tanning.” They turn soft leather into something that’s hard and durable enough to make belts and shoes out of. It’s important to understand the role of tannins in the structure and enjoyment of wine. First, higher levels mean we can “lay down” the wine and age it, coming back for more enjoyment a few years later. Second, knowing which foods are high in tannin lets us put together some interesting and complementary combinations. For example, walnuts are extremely tannic, which is why you get that “Russian army” dry feeling in your mouth when you eat them. But pair a glass of big red wine with a dish like steak with gorgonzola walnut butter and get ready for some heavenly sensations.

So how do winemakers control tannins? Some grapes are naturally more tannic than others, making selection important. So is deciding when to har-

**VINO**

It’s tannin that helps a good wine age

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*Monday: Buy 2 entrées get a COMPLIMENTARY bottle of house wine

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vest. Then there's the judgment of how long to leave the juice on the skins, and the decision whether to de-stem the bunches before crushing them. Stems have high concentrations of tannins, too.

Some winemakers use a process called micro-oxygenation, which pumps air through the wine to “soften” tannins and create a more pleasant mouthfeel. The list goes on.

I've read lengthy essays about how tannins contribute to the structure and mouthfeel of wines. We talked a bit about astringency and bitterness above, and these are major characteristics which, in proper balance with alcohol, acidity, fruit sugars and other ingredients, turn grape juice into the beverage we all know and love.

Here are some new recommendations:

■ Besieged Red Blend Sonoma 2014 ($12) — The Ravenswood winery in Sonoma is a pioneer of Zinfandel, and this red blend shows it does other things well, too. A melange of Petite Sirah, Carignane, Zinfandel, Syrah, Alicante Bouschet, and Barbera, it's concentrated and purple-black in the glass. There are extracted flavors of sweet black mixed fruit, smoke and currant. WW 86-87.

■ Frank Family Chardonnay Carneros 2015 ($40) — A stunner. This wine contains all the right flavors and plenty of them. Oak, melon, butter, hay, vanilla and juicy tropical fruit are all perfectly balanced. A favorite, and well worth the price. WW 95.

Ask the Wine Whisperer

Q. What is carbonic maceration?

A. Rather than crushing the grapes and letting the juice ferment, this process loads the grapes into a large closed vat, allowing the weight of the grapes above to crush the ones below. Since fermentation releases carbon dioxide, most of the juice ferments inside the grape, producing fruity wine with very low tannins.

**CUISINE**

**KAREN’S THREE FOR 3** Places that take dessert seriously

1. **NORMAN LOVE CONFECTIONS**, 3747 Tamiami Trail N., Naples; 687-7215; normanloveconfections.com

   After a meal at neighboring USS Nemo or perhaps you are among those who believe life is uncertain and so dessert should come first, there is Norman Love’s Chocolate Salon. Whether you are in the mood for premium chocolates with nary a smidgen of preservatives but loads of natural flavor — I’m a big fan of the passion fruit truffle — a gorgeous and equally delicious pastry or freshly made gelato, it’s ready and waiting at this palace of sweet indulgence.

2. **RIDGWAY BAR & GRILL**, 1300 3rd St. S, Naples; 2622-5500; ridgwaybarandgrill.com

   For many restaurants, desserts are an afterthought and not much of one. Not only are they a serious course here, they are listed on the website and produced by chef/owner Tony Ridgway’s adjoining establishment Tony’s on Third, an accomplished wine shop and bakery. Consider the apple galette (order when you order your entrée), the chocolate almond torte or the justifiably famous Truffle original carrot cake, a signature dish for 46 years. Perhaps some Quady Essensia or Pacific Rim Vin de Glaciere Riesling to pair with that.

3. **THE GRILL ROOM**, The Ritz-Carlton, Naples, 280 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples; 598-6644; ritzcarlton.com

   The Ritz does so many things so well that it’s hard to single out any one aspect of the operation but being a dessert lover, I’d have to say that its cakes and confections have long been a high point of meals there. Consider any of a number of soufflés — chocolate, Grand Marnier or toffee, perhaps? — or a 12-layer chocolate cake or indulgent Pavlova with marzipan ice cream and poached pear. For those who prefer savory to sweet, the restaurant offers a cheese plate with four American artisanal varieties along with bread. (Make sure to get there before June 25, when the hotel will close for a couple of months for remodeling.)

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— Karen Feldman, cuisine@floridaweekly.com
Chops still draws diners by going over the top.

I decided to go with the 14-ounce dry-aged strip steak ($48) because it is such a lean cut that could truly benefit from the flavor-enhancing and texture-enhancing benefits of aging. It made a difference, for sure, in tenderness and taste but I’m just as happy with a fatty $10 ribeye seared in my cast-iron skillet. My half-dozen scoops of roasted asparagus ($5.50 extra) were beautifully charred and tender-crisp. If I’d known the steak would be topped with fried onion rings, I probably wouldn’t have bothered ordering the truffle fries ($8 extra for a smallish plate), which were thick planks of soft potato that tended to fall apart.

Save some of your steak for tomorrow’s lunch so you can indulge in the Melting Carrot Cake ($30), one of the best renditions I’ve ever tasted. Nine thin layers of warm, moist cake alternate with soft cream cheese icing. The vanilla bean ice cream melting on top may be gilding the lily, but who cares? The mini pineapple upside-down cake and the passion fruit syrup on the plate helped counterbalance the sweetness, while the flamed banana carrot coins resembled edible blossoms.

Over the top? Perhaps, that’s part of Chops’ surviving charm.
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Here’s to the people, places and things that make Southwest Florida the best
Welcome to the BEST special section

Welcome to our favorite project of the year, where we shine light on a lot of the BEST, of course, but also take on some of the wackiest, most wondrous, obscure and even ridiculous people and things that make Southwest Florida the BEST place to be.

While many “best of” publications are filled only with content that’s bought and paid for, that’s not our style at Florida Weekly. Yes, our advertisers — the folks who make this piece of Florida pulp and history possible — receive their share of shout-outs from us in these pages. It’s only fair. But the bulk of our BEST section has nothing to do with invoices or ballot box stuffing.

After no insignificant amount of non-scientifically sifting our archives and various other sources, this annual missive emerges, filled with things we praise and applaud, pontificate on and poke fun at. Here’s to the BEST of Southwest Florida 2018. We had fun with it, and we hope you do, too.

ON THE COVER
Leoma Lovegrove
florida artist/Florida/artist (noun) Florida artist, impressionist painter, wife, celebrity, local historian, patriotic, colorful, energetic, business savvy, kooky, vibrant, marketing genius, Midwest transplant, animal lover, fisherman, devoted friend and did we mention colorful? These are just some words one might use to describe the fun filled gal that is Matlacha artist extraordinaire Leoma Lovegrove.

BEST OF THE BEST PAGE 4
From the BEST line of hurricane defense that emerged in the face of Irma to the BEST one that got away.

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU PAGE 20
When it comes to leisure time, man cannot live on beaches and sunsets alone. We need live theater and music, shopping and movies, museums and galleries, places to take the kids and grandkids and other places to point our houseguests for exploring on their own when everyone needs a little space. Lucky for us, we have the BEST of them all.

ONLY IN PARADISE PAGE 34
Here are some of the notable faces and places that exemplify the BEST of what our fair city by the sea has to offer.

BON APPETIT PAGE 53
Going out to eat has become the great American pastime, but in these parts people seem to make it their job. Tuck into some of the BEST morsels we’ve been slavering over.

HOME SWEET HOME PAGE 66
Whether you already live here or look forward to settling in Southwest Florida someday down the road, lots of folks are at the ready to make sure it’s always the BEST home, sweet home.

AT YOUR SERVICE PAGE 74
For those with the time, the skills and the tools, DIY projects have their place. But when it comes to the serious business of life, we always recommend going with the BEST professional you can find.

LOOKING GOOD, FEELING GOOD PAGE 82
Let’s face it: Floridians feel better and look better than most folks anywhere else. After all, it was here that Ponce de Leon came in search of the fountain of youth. More than 500 years later, the Fountain of Youth still eludes us. Fortunately, that doesn’t mean we can’t be our BEST while we’re here.

GETTING AROUND PAGE 92
Depending on the time of year, getting around town on SWFL roads can take a while. There’s no better argument to justify driving the BEST, most fun car you can afford.

POLITICS AS USUAL PAGE 92
The only thing we can really count on as far as politics go in the Sunshine State is that “usual” means, well, just about anything goes. And we mean that in the BEST possible way.


BEST photographers: Bernadette La Piazza, Chelea McDonald, Cynthia Melt, Vanessa Rogers, Ivan Seligman and Louis Yenne.
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**BEST LINE OF HURRICANE DEFENSE**  
Rookery Bay mangroves

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve’s mangroves were the first and Best line of defense against Hurricane Irma, helping to slow storm surge, disperse wave energy and reduce shoreline erosion on beaches and riverbanks. The largest subtropical wetland ecosystem in North America and the largest mangrove ecosystem in the western hemisphere, the reserve’s 110,000 acres encompass roughly 40 percent of the Collier County coastline. That’s a big line of defense.

**BEST REASON TO CELEBRATE**  
We survived Hurricane Irma

‘nuf said — although this edition of Best includes numerous nods to the hurricane heroes who revealed themselves in the aftermath of the September storm that wreaked havoc from Everglades City to Arcadia and beyond. Look for them making landfall throughout the next 96 pages. Read on.

**BEST FORE(CAST)SHADOWING**  
200-year rainfall hits Naples

Last year’s rainy season started with a bang thanks to a rain event in June that delivered 19-inches over a three-day period — an amount that experts say exceeds a 200-year rain event. It could be argued that someone was trying to tell us something, because things just went downhill from there thanks to the aforementioned disaster. Ironically, we were facing water shortages earlier in the year. Here’s hoping we don’t get that lucky again for another 200 years. But just in case, we’re buying stock in DampRid.

**BEST REASON TO SKIP SPIN CLASS**  
Naples Pubcycle

While drinking and driving is a definite no-no, drinking and cycling seem to go together like wine and cheese or sweating and oldies. Naples Pubcycle is a 15-seater people-powered (yes, you pedal) bike that allows you to tour our fair city while seated at a bar as it moves (slowly) through traffic. It’s like experiencing a perfectly legal DUI while burning the calories you’re ingesting. It’s the very definition of “win-win.” So if you’ve debated taking a step class but might be more suited to a 12-step program, run don’t walk to Naples Pubcycle. www.naplepubcycle.com; 877-1988.

**BEST WAY TO BEAT BEACH PARKING WOES**  
The free Collier beach bus

Beach blanket? Check. Sunscreen? Check. Free ride to the beach? Check! Collier County offered a free beach bus for the second year this season, and ridership quadrupled over last year. Beachgoers can park anywhere along the route from Conner Park to Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, Vanderbilt Beach and Mercato and catch the bus at a bus stop or flag it down. Two busses decorated in beach scenes come by every 15 minutes. The shuttle ended April 30 but will pick up again next season.

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BEST THINKING OUTSIDE THE LINES
Drivers who park poorly

The questionable driving habits of snowbirds are the stuff of legend, but a lesser-celebrated quality of the species’ seasonal appearance can easily be observed in parking lots throughout the region. We like making a game of trying to spot a license plate from every state.

BEST PRAYERS ANSWERED
The Naples church swap

Living Waters Church needed a bigger space. C3 Church needed an updated facility to better serve its congregation. The prayers of both were answered when a chance meeting set them down a new path; C3 agreed to take over the less cumbersome but fully modernized Living Waters facility, while Living Waters assumed C3’s larger, sprawling campus and took on the task of repairing and updating the building after Hurricane Irma. Talk about right place, right time.

BEST NEW FUNDRAISER
Scene to be Seen

The inaugural “Scene to be Seen” Runway Art Show orchestrated by a committee of outrageously creative minds to benefit the Naples Art Association was, well, a scene to be seen. The November to-do at the sparkling new Volvo Cars of Naples showroom brought out all the beautiful people and a smashing array of wearable art, from must-have hats and handbags to gallery-worthy jewelry and gowns. Even the hors d’oeuvres were showstoppers. Mark your calendar for Friday, Nov. 2, to ensure you’re seen at the second annual “Scene to be Seen.” It’s not to be missed. Trust us. www.naplesart.org.

BEST AUCTION ACCESSORY
Readers at every bid sheet

At first we thought someone had just left them behind. But as we made our way around the silent auction tables at this year’s Choice Affair gala for Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, it became clear that beside every bid sheet was a pair of stylish readers, placed there very purposefully to assist those with less than 20/20 eyesight in making their bids. Leave it to PP to do something so visionary. Keep tabs on plans for next year’s Choice Affair at www.plannedparenthood.org.

BEST ENTRÉE TO EVERY SOIREE
Be a professional photographer

Want to rub shoulders with the town’s social and corporate elite night after night, luncheon after luncheon? Take a cue from some of the hardest working folks around and become a professional event photographer. We don’t know how our friends Vicki Baker, Peggy Farren, Tim Gibbons, Vandy Major and Charlie McDonald do it, but we sure appreciate the time and talent (not to mention the knack for taking first and last names) they put into the job. And then there are those non-professional shooters who somehow manage to corral people and take their pictures and names pretty much wherever they go and share them with us just because they can. We’re talking about Ted Epstein, Sue Huff, Bernadette La Pagliola, Renee Novelle Bob Raymond and Ivan Seligman. Here’s a big shoutout to them all. Florida Weekly’s Society and Networking pages wouldn’t be the same without them. We asked them for pictures of themselves, but…

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PRESENTS THIS YEAR’S BEST
Rent your ride

It’s no secret that Neapolitians love their fancy cars. On any given weekday the parking lot of Waterside Shops looks like a gift bag from the Sultan of Brunei: Bentleys, Roll-Royce, Maserati, Ferrari, etc., as far as the eye can see. But you can fit right in for a fraction of the price and for zero of the maintenance headaches. It’s called renting, and because Naples is Naples, you can rent a Rolls-Royce, Ferrari, Range Rover and even a Lamborghini, as if you were renting a Dodge Caliber from Hertz. In fact, Hertz offers high-end luxury rentals such as Porsches and Mercedes-Benzes. Enterprise from Hertz. In fact, Hertz offers high-end luxury rent-a-Lamborghini, as if you were renting a Dodge Caliber can rent a Rolls-Royce, Ferrari, Range Rover and even a Lamborghini, as if you were renting a Dodge Caliber from Hertz. In fact, Hertz offers high-end luxury rentals such as Porsches and Mercedes-Benzes. Enterprise from Hertz. 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LIVE LIFE...Beautifully.
BEST SICK BURN
“We should change the names of AR-15s to ‘Marco Rubio’ because they are so easy to buy.” — Sarah Chadwick

Shortly after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in February, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio put on an astonishing display of verbal gymnastics when pressed on CNN about whether he would continue to accept NRA cash for his campaigns. The conversation that night also revolved around AR-15s, a military assault-style weapon commonly used in shootings and which the NRA supports being widely available. Slam-dunking the zeitgeist and its indignant rage toward politicians waffling on gun laws while people die, one of the shooting’s survivors, high school student Sarah Chadwick tweeted in response: “We should change the names of AR-15s to ‘Marco Rubio’ because they are so easy to buy.” It raced across the internet with hundreds of thousands of responses in just a few days, was covered by news outlets all over the country and took its part in the historic #NeverAgain movement fueled by teenagers that has already caused U.S. and state lawmakers such as Gov. Rick Scott and companies like Dick’s Sporting Goods to start changing rules and policies on guns. Oooh snap!

BEST WAFFLE
Florida Senate

The Florida Senate voted for an assault rifle moratorium then reversed itself, all in the space of 15 minutes.

BEST WET KISS
PAWS Assistance Dogs

My name is Joy and I’m a PAWS Assistance Dogs cadet. I’m studying hard to become a skilled PAWS service dog and one day, I’m going to give a combat-wounded veteran or a child with a life-changing disability more independence by becoming their partner. I can’t wait! If you help support me or buy me a meal, I’ll give you the Best big wet kiss you’ve ever had. Find out more at www.pawssassistancedogs.org.

BEST MILESTONE
Humane Society Naples

There’s always a lot of love about Humane Society Naples, but this year’s story about a Labrador retriever mix named Nyla is one of our all-time favorites. On Feb. 3, Nyla became the 100,000th animal to be adopted from the HSN shelter. She was suitably celebrated as she left the shelter bound for her forever home with Daniel Campbell and his family in Naples.

BEST FRIEND TO CATS IN NEED
Naples Cat Alliance

The Naples Cat Alliance rescues homeless cats all the time and does countless Trap Neuter Release procedures every year. But when SPAY-LEE in Buckingham, east of Fort Myers, was flooded by Hurricane Irma and needed a place to board its cats for a while, the alliance stepped up and took them all. This is the type of cooperation that’s needed for not-for-profit organizations to survive. www.naplescatalliance.org.

BEST BRIDGE TO NOWHERE ... YET
The Blair Foundation Bridge

A new pedestrian bridge over the Gordon River offers a great view of the water and wildlife, and there’s more to come. The Blair Foundation Bridge opened in February as part of the Gordon River Greenway. It connects the portion of the Greenway near Naples Municipal Airport to the future Baker Park, which should be completed in a little more than a year. For now, the public can cross east to west on the bridge and turn right back to enjoy the Greenway around the airport or north to Golden Gate Parkway.
Have you thought about what you will do if, someday, your heart needs help? We’d like to suggest that you (and your heart) turn to us. Our dedicated cardiac care team works for you. We can help you prevent heart disease. And, if you ever need the tools, techniques and talent to meet a complex situation head on, our doctors are right here. Every day. For you.

Take our new heart risk assessment at HeartHealthPRHS.com to get heart health tips and information you can share with your physician. Or, we can introduce you to a member of this team.


**BEST CASE OF SHELL LOVE JOURNALISM**

The Shell Love Bug story

To The News-Press, for the tale of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau’s Shell Love Bug, which proved the hazards of a slow news day by occupying acres of newspaper space for a story that amounted to the chronicle of a public temper tantrum at a County Commission meeting. The VCB bought the Volkswagen Beetle, compensated the super-dooper Sanibel Stooper who glued thousands of shells to the used car and would have been quite satisfied to let the Stooper have it in a few months’ time. But it just wasn’t soon enough! So the Stooper and her troops came out and used the newspaper for a microphone to publicize the federal case (true) they made of the issue. We were shell-shocked.

**BEST PUBLIC MEDIA RADIO STATION**

WGCU-FM

WGCU-90.1 FM was named Florida Station of the Year by the Associated Press Broadcasters in recognition of excellence in overall news coverage and the newsroom’s service to the community through news and volunteerism. The WGCU news team (and many of their families) ate, slept and reported their way through Hurricane Irma for several days, providing critical information about the storm path as well as supplies, shelters and safety. And they even tolerated Morning Edition host John Davis’ little dog Finn, an accomplished chicken thief.

**BEST PUBLIC HIRE**

Mike Martin

The Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees gets kudos for hiring the university’s fourth president, Mike Martin, from a field of hundreds. In his first nine months, this exceptionally experienced leader has launched an ambitious enrollment management and student success initiative; persuaded the Florida Legislature to provide an additional $13.7 million in general revenue to bring the university’s per-student funding closer to that of other state institutions; reworked and got approval for the university’s five-year strategic plan, which had been in limbo; and marched in the MLK Day parade with members of the NAACP.

**BEST HUMAN RESCUE**

Airlift out of the Everglades

In a mission complicated by swamps, dense vegetation and lots of venomous water moccasins, officers with Collier County Sheriff’s Office Aviation Bureau successfully completed an overnight rescue of a lost hiker off Loop Road in Big Cypress National Preserve. With help from cell phone data and infrared sensors, rescuers located the 33-year-old man 4.5 miles from the nearest road or trail. But as night fell they had difficulty lowering men from a Vietnam-era Huey for the helicopter’s first hoist rescue for the department. Never fear, though. The team made contact with the hiker and told him to stay put overnight (those snakes, you know), and in the morning he was able to move to higher ground to be airlifted to safety. Bravo!
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The official portrait of Senate President Joe Negron was unveiled in March, with some observers asking: “What the heck is that in the background?” Senate spokeswoman Katie Betta explained, as reported by Peter Schorsch, political blogger and news aggregator. The books in the bottom left corner are “Little Women” by Louisa May Alcott and “The Cost of Discipleship” by Thomas M. Aquinas.

BEST WAY TO KEEP THEM GUESSING
Official portrait of Joe Negron

The official portrait of Senate President Joe Negron was unveiled in March, with some observers asking: “What the heck is that in the background?” Senate spokeswoman Katie Betta explained, as reported by Peter Schorsch, political blogger and news aggregator. The books in the bottom left corner are “Little Women” by Louisa May Alcott and “The Cost of Discipleship” by Thomas M. Aquinas.

BEST SIX-PACK
Naples billionaires

Call them the Neapolitan Six-Pack: That’s how many billionaires Forbes says call the seaside city home. They are: Shahid Khan, owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars; Reinhold Schmieding, owner of Arthrex; Richard Schulze, former CEO of Best Buy; Tom Golisano, founder of Paychex and former owner of the Buffalo Sabres hockey team; Catherine Lozick, a majority owner of valve-maker Swagelok; and William Stone, founder of SS&C Technologies. Their collective fortune doesn’t come close to the top spot occupied by Jeff Bezos and his more than $10 billion Amazon empire.

BEST WILD GOOSE CHASE
Tom Golisano vs. Finger Lakes municipality

Earlier this year, billionaire philanthropist Tom Golisano put his money where the ... goose poop was? The New York Daily News reported in February that Mr. Golisano was at odds with a local municipality in New York that claimed it wasn’t their problem that hundreds of non-migrating Canadian geese decided to use his lakeside vacation property as a chill spot. So he politely disagreed by holding out on his $90,000 annual school tax bill.

BEST MOST EXPENSIVE HOME SALE
$177 million in Port Royal

That would be the beachfront Port Royal estate that sold for $177 million. The 9,500-square-foot house was built speculatively, meaning there was no buyer when the builder broke ground. Six months and a few lavish parties later, a mysterious buyer purchased the Port Royal estate property on a quiet side street behind a home that’s now $177 million.

BEST PLACE FOR AN ALL-NIGHTER
Starbucks at RSW

Need to pull an all-nighter for school or work? Have to stay up to binge-watch that new series everyone at your social club is talking about? You and your online match can’t find an open spot on your calendars for a coffee date? Head over to Southwest Florida International Airport, where you’ll find a 24-hour Starbucks. You’ll also have a quiet space to type up your paper or proposal or carry on a conversation without people listening in (those first dates can be awkward).

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BEST DESIGNING WOMAN
Maria Pia Malbera

Heads always turn when a woman steps out in a dress designed by Maria Pia Malbera, but she made jaws drop with her creation Melista DeHaven donned for the red-carpet opening night of the Fort Myers Film Festival. Ms. Malbera used special effects of the most impressive kind, using strips of real film to shape and accent the gown. Can she get an Oscar for that?

BEST PLACE TO NETWORK WITHOUT GETTING HIT ON
Business After 5 with the Naples Chamber

For networking at its finest, the Business After 5 events hosted by the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce offer the Best place to meet other business owners and professionals in a casual and relaxed setting. There’s no need to worry about the small talk, because everyone is there for the same reason: to meet people to do business with or to network. The location changes every month, but the purpose stays the same. From elegant champagne settings to outside barbeques, it’s always something new, fun and fresh. www.napleschamber.org/events.

BEST ONE THAT GOT AWAY
An endangered right whale

Fishing captain Robert Holzinger spotted one of the world’s most endangered species off the Naples coast in January. Talk about being in the “right” place at the “right” time; the whale was a North Atlantic right whale, only the fifth to have been reported in the Gulf of Mexico since 1963, according to a report in the Naples Daily News. Capt. Holzinger spotted it about 3 miles off Gordon Pass. He even had the presence of mind to pull out his phone and get some video. Right on!

BEST THIRD TIME’S A CHARM
Making it to Forbes’ 30 Under 30

Even though it took being considered three times, it’s still pretty incredible that Naples native Elizabeth Galbut landed on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list. The 28-year-old Community School of Naples graduate and native Neapolitan heads a thriving venture capitalist firm in New York called SoGal Ventures that empowers young entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams. All the companies they’ve invested in have at least one female co-founder.
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BEST BAR YOU MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT LATELY

It’s probably been a while since you’ve been there, but chances are you still love Harold’s Place, the tiki-hut inspired pub tucked away behind the Gulfcoast Inn off U.S. 41 North. Come for the vibe, stay for the karaoke. Grab a drink, eat some apps and cool off in the pool. It’s not just for the guests.

BEST BEACHSIDE NIGHTCAP

La Playa

You can’t dine on the beach in a ton of spots along our span of the coast, but one place you can is La Playa. The hotel restaurant is open to the public with seating in the sand. Go for a drink at night when they have the fire pits blazing and some decadent appetizers at the ready. www.laplayaresort.com.

BEST NEW BOOK

"Adorables and Deplorables"

Thank Hurricane Irma for this one, too, because without her damages temporarily taking Up Art & Design Contemporary out of commission, preeminent Naples artist John Carroll Long wouldn’t have had the opportunity to create his new book of humorous illustrations. Through more than 50 cartoon characters in “Adorables and Deplorables,” Long takes a deeply funny look at our culture’s current attitudes and dilemmas to make viewers giggle, think and appreciate this weird world we inhabit.

BEST BOOK FESTIVAL

Collier County Jewish Book Festival

Oy! Eighteen authors, five venues and 11 events from November through April. Almost 3,000 ticketholders heard and met character actor Stephen Tobolowsky, Broadway star Alexandra Silber, songwriter Steve Dorff (being inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame this June), five-time Emmy Award winner Alan Zweibel, Susan Silver (one of TV’s first female comedy writers) and 13 other fiction, non-fiction and memoir writers who traveled to Naples from across the country to entertain, educate and inspire as part of the third annual Collier County Jewish Book Festival. Bookworms can find out (and save) the dates for the fourth annual festival at www.jewishnaples.org, home of the Jewish Federation of Collier County.
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BEST BIG BABY
Randall Kenneth Jones

Always a champion of over-the-top campiness, Naples stage favorite Randall Kenneth Jones took his heaving bosoms and spackled-on makeup north to Laboratory Theater of Florida in Fort Myers to star as Baby Jane Hudson in “Whatever Happened to Baby Jane: A Parody of the Horror” opposite Rob Green as younger sister Blanche. The intrepid actors dragged the 1962 classic to larger-than-life in a whole new way.

BEST SAVE THE DATE
“Hamilton” — in 2020

It’s the musical you’ve been waiting for. And you still have to wait, but the national tour of “Hamilton” is booked for Artis—Naples in 2020. Election year, no less. The Broadway sensation even has a local connection: One of its original investors is none other than Naples philanthropist Patty Baker. The Best way to guarantee tickets: Subscribe now to the Artis—Naples 2018-19 season and then renew for 2019-20. You’ll be guaranteed tickets for the premiere Naples engagement of the most sought-after show in town before they’re made available to the general public.

BEST EVENT DESTINATION IN THE HEART OF NAPLES
Naples Princess

Impress your guests when you invite them aboard the 105-foot, three-level luxury yacht, the Naples Princess. Catch some rays on the sundeck or relax inside the climate-controlled comfort of the interior salons. Inside or outside, the Naples Princess provides the absolute Best views of the Naples waterfront. Not only is it the perfect setting for your celebration, but the staff can also develop and create your ideal menu. In addition to private parties, the Princess hosts sightseeing cruises into Naples Bay and the Gulf of Mexico setting sail daily from Port of Naples Marina near downtown. 239-649-2275; www.naplesprincesscruises.com.

BEST SALSA COMBINATION
Salsa at Salsa

Down a delish Cuban dinner and then get down on the dance floor by salsa-ing with professional dancers and dance instructors Johnny and Lisa PerMer at — where else? — Salsa Cuban Restaurant & Lounge. The pair takes to the dance floor from 7:30-10:30 p.m. every other Tuesday. They also rumba, cha-cha, swing and do the hustle. You know you want to join them.

BEST PLACE FOR FIREWORKS
A parking garage

Driving in season is tough. Driving to the beach for a fireworks show is like that on steroids. So how about skipping the sand entirely come July Fourth and/or New Year’s Eve? Neapolitan insiders recommend finding a parking garage. The one at the Collier County Courthouse is usually open and has some pretty pristine views once you make it all the way to the tippy top.

BEST HIGH NOTE WITHOUT THE HIGH TICKET PRICE
Gulfshore Opera

A Gulfshore Opera show promises the highest quality theater experience — without breaking the bank. Since its inception, Gulfshore Opera has collaborated with area venues to put on enriching performances from Marco Island to Port Charlotte. The company supports local youth in music through its Harmony Choir programs. Founded in 2014 by opera theater veteran Stefanie Pearce, its goal is to serve the community and to make the opera accessible to the general public through affordable ticket prices and a wide range of repertoire suitable for diverse audiences. Don’t miss “Don Pasquale,” “La Traviata” and much more in season five. 239-529-3925; www.GulfshoreOpera.org.
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BEST WAY TO CURE THE BLUES
Bonita Blues Festival

For 12 years now, the Bonita Blues Festival has been bringing first-class blues acts to the region from around the country and from around the world. The two-day event has raised almost $300,000 for Bonita-based charities in the process. A winning combination.

BEST WAY TO MAKE A SPLASH WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK
Sun-N-Fun Lagoon

You can kill an entire afternoon at Sun-N-Fun Lagoon for just one. Alexander Hamilton if your ID shows you’re a Collier County resident. Lock your things up in one of the lockers up front then snag some pool chairs. Once the lazy river exhausts you, grab some snacks and then go back to the river for more. The park is sprawling, busy but not overcrowded and always extremely clean. Head there next time you need to cool off. www.napleswaterpark.com.

BEST SUN-FUN OFF THE BEACH
Mercato

Turn every Sunday into Funday at Mercato. Start your journey with brunch at one of Mercato’s many eateries, such as The Wine Loft, Bravo or The Pub. Then it’s off to the shops... Make sure to stop in to Antica Sartoria, Saratoga Sundress and Tommy Bahama. These destinations have dresses and resort wear that make the transition from the beach to the bar easy. Finish your day at Silverspot Cinema, where you can sink into an oversized leather chair with a cocktail to watch a flick and try to forget that tomorrow is Monday. 239-254-1080; www.mercatoshops.com.

BEST WAY TO HEAR VOICES
Seraphic Fire

We’re crazy about Seraphic Fire, the Miami-based, Grammy-nominated a cappella group that graces the acoustically ideal Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church with out-of-this-world performances several times a year. Trust us: If you can attend just one concert, make it the Dec. 13 “Seraphic Fire Christmas” to put you in the holiday spirit in a way nothing else can. After that, we’re sure you will also want a seat in the sanctuary for these 2019 concerts: “I Have a Dream” on Jan. 15; “Vivaldi and the Pieta,” Feb. 14; “Korean Choral Treasures,” March 14; “Latin American Baroque,” April 14; and “Peace in Music,” May 7. Check it out at www.seraphicfire.org. You’d be crazy not to hear these voices.

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BEST CAMP FOR KIDS
Naples Zoo

Education is at the heart of Naples Zoo’s mission and Camp WILD is an important part of the Zoo’s growing education programs. At sessions every spring, summer and winter, campers ages 5-12 enjoy an unforgettable experience, encountering animals up-close with glimpses behind the scenes, participating in fun games and activities, creating arts and crafts and making new friends. Camp WILD’s dynamic themes immerse kids in nature while teaching them to be stewards for our planet. Sign your young explorer up today for the wildest camp in town. www.napleszoo.org/campwild.

BEST THEATER FOR THE COMMUNITY
The Naples Players

The Naples Players celebrates 65 years as one of the most highly rated theatres of its kind in the nation with the most exciting season lineup in the company’s history. In keeping with its mission to provide a superior theater experience, TNP offers year-round dazzling musicals complete with a full orchestra, heartfelt comedies, thoughtful dramas and world premieres. The perfect night out in Naples includes a great show at the Sugden Community Theatre in the heart of Fifth Avenue South’s shopping and dining. Coming up in the 65th anniversary season: “Chicago The Musical,” “Irving Berlin’s White Christmas” and “Guys and Dolls.” 239-263-7990; www.naplesplayers.org.

BEST BUZZ
Naples Beach Brewery

We all love beer, and if we’re under 40, we all love craft beer. And the Best local craft beer for alcohol content and taste is on tap at Naples Beach Brewery. The Line Dropper packs a punch at 9 percent alcohol by volume and leaves you feeling heady and ready for a second. Mango and ginger make for an easy-to-drink cold one with a clever name and an affordable price point. Not to be outdone, its brother brew, the Key Lime Dropper, is similarly strong with a citrus taste.

BEST BROADWAY IN NAPLES
TheatreZone

TheatreZone was founded 14 years ago by Mark and Karen Danni, veterans of Broadway, Off Broadway and national tours. The pair bring their firsthand knowledge of Broadway shows to the musicals they produce at the 250-seat G&L Theatre on the Community School of Naples campus. TheatreZone is an Equity theatre featuring professional actors and musicians from across the country. An intimate setting, high-caliber performances, beautiful costumes and memorable music are why TheatreZone shows play to sold-out audiences every time. That’s music to their ears. 239-424-9500; www.theatrezone-florida.com.

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Pool Bar is the BEST 19th hole around. Quail Village also hosts monthly wine tastings, community events, women's and men's leagues/contests and regular golf clinics. Call Nancy for an invitation to become a member for a day. 239-998-2815; www.quail-villagegolfclub.org.

**BEST PLACE TO EXPERIENCE SWFL WATER**
Naples Nantucket Yacht Charters

Those who travel to Southwest Florida to escape the cold winters up north and those who have chosen to call this place their year-round home all share the common passion for our greatest attraction: the picturesque gulf waters. Aboard a fleet of yachts from 31 feet to 165 feet long, Capt. Bill Charbonneau and his highly trained and attentive staff share their passion for boating in a truly luxurious fashion. 239-331-6868; www.naplesnantucketcharters.com.

**BEST BET IF YOU CAN’T MAKE IT TO BROADWAY**
Broadway Palm


**BEST PLACE TO GET POPPIN’**
Paragon Pavilion

Burnt popcorn is the worst. And the dry kind at the bottom of the bag is nearly as bad. The Best movie theater popcorn lets you control the amount of butter and cholesterol. Try a massive bag of popped gold at Paragon Pavilion. They fill it up but you get to drizzle the butter on yourself. Plus they have lots of little flavorings to sprinkle on top before you catch your flick. Another thing we love about Paragon: the regular sensory-friendly (lights up, sound down) screenings of family films so everyone can enjoy the show — and the popcorn. www.paragontheaters.com.

**BEST WAY TO MAKE A SPLASH**
Port-O-Call Marina and Port-O-Call Rentals

Naples Bay is one of Naples’ greatest attractions, and Port of Naples Marina has all the options for enjoying the water to its fullest. For experienced or novice water-sports enthusiasts, here’s where to find rental boats, charter fishing and public and private cruises. Adjacent to Tin City and in the same building as Naples Princess, this one-stop shop has everything under the sun for your next day out on the water. Best of all, these options give customers the experience of being up close and personal with Naples Bay and the wildlife that resides within. 239-734-6499; www.portofnaplesmarina.com.

**BEST DIE-HARD FANS**
Bonita Blues devotees

Organizers of the Bonita Blues Fest aren’t kidding when they say the show goes on, rain or shine. This year it rained. A lot. But that didn’t stop a bunch of blues aficionados who stayed at Riverside Park for the music. We think Hurricane Ruth, a powerhouse belter who drew the wet crowd to its feet, might have had something to do with the inclement weather, but we can’t prove anything.
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BEST PLACE FOR GLAMOR AND GOOD TIMES
Third Street South

Everything that calls people to Southwest Florida is nestled among Third Street South's historic courtyards and plazas. To take a leisurely stroll past charming beach cottages and the Naples Pier is to rediscover why you live in Naples. Poke your head into eclectic and delightful shops. Dine in one of the many bistros, pubs and fine restaurants surrounded by antique European fountains and cascading flowers. Relax in a gallery filled with fine art and sculptures. There's a carefree vibe in this quaint stretch of Old Naples. And when the sun dips behind the Gulf, this is where you go to see and be seen. 239-261-8936; www.thirdstreetsouth.com.

BEST SWFL SAFARI
The Babcock Ranch Eco-tour

The 90-minute bumpy jaunt on an old school bus through the 7,300 acres of the working ranch portion of Babcockville is a delightful Southwest Florida safari. Skinny-legged turkeys sprint across the dirt road in front of the bus, which your guide stops now and then to feed a greedy cow or two from a jug of corn, and then steps out to bring back a baby alligator for a cameo appearance — on a passenger's shoulder. Lovers of flora will enjoy the lesson on local plants, too. In places around the property are distinct signs of times past, including old farm and timber equipment and in one area, telegraph lines that once went over land to the coast and then underwater all the way to Cuba. A barbecue restaurant beckons at tour's end. You'll have to wait until November, however, as the tours are on hiatus during rainy season. www.babcockranchecotours.com.

BEST WAY TO THE CLASSICS
Classic Chamber Concerts

Naples' Classic Chamber Concerts series have delighted the senses and filled every seat at Sugden Community Theatre for more than 25 years, bringing world-class trios, quartets, octets and small orchestras to the stage. Whether it's Bach, Beethoven, Bizet, Brahms, Chopin, Debussy, Franck, Handel, Haydn or Szell, the depth of the musical tapestry you can savor is richly fulfilling. At the conclusion of this season, Maestro William Noll passed the baton to Michael Finn, who is also artistic director of the Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach. Now's the time to subscribe to the 2018-19 season. Find out more at www.classicschamberconcerts.org.

BEST SECOND ACTS
Recreation Tappers and the Paradise Coastmen

After putting in their time as adults with obligations, the young-at-heart members of two local performing groups have injected a little fun into their golden years by entertaining us with art forms that are both serious undertakings and lighthearted at the same time. The Recreation Tappers of SWFL and the Paradise Coastmen keep everyone smiling when they step into their tap shoes or gather close for a rousing round of barbershop harmony. Their performances will put a spring in your step and a song in your heart. www.recreationtappers.com, www.paradisecoastmen.org.

BEST THEATER TO RECLINE, WINE AND DINE
Paragon Theaters

Paragon Theaters is the Best place to recline and unwind, whether you are watching the latest blockbuster, the MET Opera Live in HD or the next big award-winner. You can enjoy a flatbread, salad, wrap and more from The Lot Bar & Lounge during, before or after your movie. A wide range of wines and beers is also available. Paragon Theaters is also the perfect place to hold your next fundraiser, private screening or birthday party (you can even game on the big screen). Group tickets are perfect for gift-giving to friends, family, clients
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BEST WAY TO HEAR THE FAT LADY SING
Opera Naples and Gulfshore Opera

How many towns of 22,000 people are gifted with not one, but two professional caliber opera companies? Opera Naples has celebrated well over a dozen seasons in Naples. Based at The David and Cecilce Wang Opera Center and with Maestro Ramón Tebar as its artistic director, ON has varied education/outreach young artist programs.

Gulfshore Opera has celebrated its fourth season with Naples soprano Steffanie Pearce as artistic director bringing full-scale operatic productions and smaller performances from Marco Island and Naples to Fort Myers and Punta Gorda. In addition, the GSO Harmony Choir brings choral singing, vocal instruction and stage experience to diverse children and teens throughout Southwest Florida. Bravo! www.operanaples.org, www.gulfshoreopera.org.

BEST CULTURAL HUB
Florida SouthWestern State College

Looking for excitement? Florida SouthWestern State College’s cultural hub has it with concerts, Broadway shows, athletic competition, tournaments, community events and more thanks to the college’s Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Suncoast Credit Union Arena and Rauschenberg Gallery at FSW. All within steps of each other on the Fort Myers campus. www.fswarena.com, www.fswbsux.com, www.bbbmannpah.com and www.rauschenberggallery.com.

BEST PLACE TO FIND YOUR ADVENTURE
Adventures in Paradise

You name the adventure in paradise and Adventures in Paradise can help make it happen, from shell ing, lunch and sunset cruises to fishing adventures and even trolley outings for weddings and other celebrations. As a fixture on Sanibel Island for more than 30 years, Adventures in Paradise has made adventures and memories for countless people. 239-472-8443; www.adventuresinparadiseinc.com.

BEST PLACE TO EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF COLLIER COUNTY
Collier County Museums

Collier County Museums has five locations where you can explore Southwest Florida history: the main museum near the Collier County Government Complex, at the Naples Depot and in Everglades City, Immokalee and Marco Island. Since 1978, Collier County Museums has been committed to preservation and education, giving a glimpse of the rich and diverse history of Collier County and Southwest Florida through educational exhibits and programs and free admission at all locations. Each museum has a different historical focus to provide an enlightened look into Collier County’s distant and not-so-distant past. 239-252-8476 or www.CollierMuseums.com.

Only in paradise

Naples and its surrounds certainly have their share of colorful places as well as characters, achievers, do-gooders, movers and shakers to keep our staff supplied with stories all year round. Here are some of the notable faces and places that exemplify the BEST of what our fair city by the sea has to offer.
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BEST USE OF BRAWN AND BRAINS
CCSO Chief Jim Bloom

Feeling safe is important to everyone, and with Chief Jim Bloom of the Collier County Sheriff’s Office on watch, we can sleep tight. Chief Bloom’s big muscles match his big heart; whether he’s helping the community get through a disaster or supporting our local nonprofits, you’ll always find him with a smile and a willingness to help.

BEST USE OF GLITTER AND BLING
Amanda Jaron

When you see glitter, it’s a safe bet that Amanda Jaron is in the house. The owner of A. JARON Fine Jewelry in the arts district on Bayshore Drive has been designing jewelry since she was a child. She’s also the founder of The GLITTER Foundation, a nonprofit that brings art education and art therapy to Southwest Florida children. And she wears bling like no one else. “Glitter is my favorite color,” she allows.

BEST TITLED SEMINAR
“Living to 100”

As life expectancies continue to increase thanks to breakthroughs in medicine and technology, it’s more important than ever before to make sure you name your seminars in such a way that people will get excited. Or confused. Or maybe a bit of both. Shell Point Retirement Community hit the mark with one dubbed “Living to 100: Is There an App for That?” Our guess is nah.

BEST GROSS PRESS RELEASE
The deer-eating python

Ewwwww! That’s what we said when we downloaded the images accompanying the Conservancy of Southwest Florida’s press release about an Everglades-residing Burmese python that bit off more than its own body weight. The 38-pound, 13-foot-long invasive reptilian was found in the process of digesting a 35-pound young white-tailed deer. Conservancy biologists studied the incident and shared the findings for publication in the Herpetological Review. It is believed to be the largest predator-to-prey ratio documented with the Burmese python. Ever. Fascinating. But we could have done without the pictures.

BEST MEANINGLESS VOTE
Medical marijuana dispensaries

A majority of Collier County commissioners voted to allow medical marijuana dispensaries to be treated like pharmacies, meaning they could open anywhere a pharmacy could as long as it’s not within 500 feet of a school. Too bad a supermajority — at least four votes — is needed for the measure to pass. The 3-2 vote will mean nothing unless one of the two dissenters changes her mind when the code change is brought back for formal adoption this summer. In the meantime, dispensaries are banned in Collier County until June 30.

BEST WAY TO LEARN TO SAIL
Colgate Offshore Sailing School

Steve and Doris Colgate’s Offshore Sailing School owns and operates schools at vacation destinations in Florida on Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach and St. Petersburg as well as on Tortola and Scrub Island in the British Virgin Islands. Over the past 53 years, the company has taught more than 140,000 people of all ages to sail. Options include sailing lessons, certification courses for Learn-to-Sail, performance sailing and bareboat charter cruising, group team building and leadership programs. Learn aboard the Colgate 26 and 40- to 50-foot cruising yachts and catamarans. The courses are packaged with premier resort accommodations. 888-385-6857; www.OffshoreSailing.com.

Best of the Best: May 3-9, 2018

Collier Museum at Government Center
3331 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL

Naples Depot Museum
1051 5th Avenue South, Naples, FL

Marco Island Historical Museum
180 South Heathwood Drive, Marco Island, FL

Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch
1215 Roberts Avenue West, Immokalee, FL

Museum of the Everglades
105 West Broadway, Everglades City, FL

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**BEST BEACH BUDDY**
beachBub

Don’t be that girl chasing her umbrella down the beach. Spare yourself and your next-towel neighbors by investing in the beachBub, a weighted pyramid base that uses sand from the beach to keep your umbrella in place. It’s easier to use than those cork-screw bases and it can withstand upwards of 40-mph winds, should you decide to stare down the next hurricane. The Best part? It was invented right here in Naples. www.beachbub.com.

**BEST BEACH READ**
“A House without Meatballs”

Comedian and Neapolitan Vinny Romano tries to make sense of his upbringing and the implications of our DNA in the self-published autobiography he calls “A House Without Meatballs.” Adopted at birth, this Chicago native didn't understand why he was always craving Italian food. He finds the answer to that and much more using DNA in this touching and witty read. Find it on Amazon and at our local Barnes & Noble.

**BEST ESCAPE CLOSE TO HOME**
Barefoot Beach County Preserve

Run away for the day to one of Collier County’s hidden treasures. Not only is Barefoot Beach County Preserve considered one of the most pristine beaches and preserves in the area, parking seems to always be available (a Collier County parking pass gets you in free; non-residents pay a small fee). Discover it at the end of Barefoot Beach Road off of Bonita Beach Road. You’ll drive through a residential community of million dollar homes on your way to the 342 acres of natural beauty.

**BEST COLLECTION OF ISLAND VACATION PROPERTIES**
Marco Escapes

A leader for the finest vacation rental properties on Marco Island and Naples, Marco Escapes delivers unparalleled professionalism, unmatched work ethic and superior guest support. Browse the portfolio and choose from modern, family-friendly homes to epic waterfront mansions, all of which meet exacting standards of comfort, cleanliness, beauty and location. From family vacations to a romantic rendezvous for two, this is where memories are made. 239-217-6300; www.MarcoEscapes.com.

**BEST HURRICANE TIP**
CCSO

Buy bottled water, lay in the non-perishables, fill up the gas tank. We’ve heard them all, but how about following the Collier County Sheriff’s Office on Facebook? It was the go-to source for information during Hurricane Irma. Penned by Chief Stephanie Spell, the social media daily wrap-up posts delivered the perfect blend of pertinent information and much-needed wit during a stressful time for all.

**BEST WAY TO MAKE A DAY AT THE BEACH EVEN BETTER**

Real-time parking availability

Another reason to get on your phone in the car! Collier County has enlisted the help of T-2 Parking Solutions, which plans to provide an automatic counting system tallying open spaces at the Vanderbilt Beach garage and nearby Delnor-Wiggins State Park. The goal is to get the system running at every beach spot in the county. And to let those local officials off the hook for keeping the “Full” sign lit up even when people have packed up their beach chairs and gone home.
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**BEST ELFIN FRIENDS**
Sue Huff and Karole Davis

Traditions among Best friends are usually Best enjoyed among, well, those particular friends. But BFFs Sue Huff and Karole-with-a-K Davis spread cheer far and wide when they carry on their favorite holiday tradition. Year after year, the two pick a starry night before Christmas to don their holiday PJs (and a few accessories) and settle into Sue’s red Miata convertible for a long winter’s drive around town to enjoy the decorations. When they come upon a dark house, they simply amp up their smiles. The world needs more friends like that.

**BEST SOCIAL MEDIA PICK-ME-UP**
Humane Society Naples

Scrolling Facebook these days can be a bit of a downer. Need some good news? Try following Humane Society Naples on Facebook and Instagram. You’ll get your daily dose of the cute and furry plus some awesome stories about pets and people that have found their together forever homes. On the market for a pet yourself? It’s easy to vet the candidates with a swipe of your thumb.

**BEST SWFL FACEBOOK PAGE**
Meredith Masony’s “That’s Inappropriate”

A big fan of SNL-style sketch comedy, Meredith Masony has been posting funny and honest blogs and videos about her life as a mom and wife on her site, “That’s Inappropriate,” since 2014. On her Facebook page she had about 3,000 followers until last May, when her video rant “What Moms Really Want on Mother’s Day” went viral. About a week later, it had been viewed across multiple platforms millions of times. And now she has about 1.4 million Facebook followers. The Punta Gorda mom used to be a middle and high school teacher, but producing comedy for the page, often making fun of her life as a wife and mother of three while sponsoring products she likes, such as Hero Clean detergent or Bulletproof coffee, became a full-time job. So, what did she want for Mother’s Day? “To be left the hell alone,” says Ms. Masony, 37. “Don’t ask me for anything. Don’t ask me to wipe anybody’s butt.” LOL. Her page is at facebook.com/thatsinappropriateblog.

**BEST MILLIONS WELL SPENT**
Naples City Dock

The Naples City Dock is back and better than ever. Nearly a year later and $7 million spent, the dock’s revamped bathrooms and showers, laundry area, gazebo and bait-and-tackle shack are being enjoyed by sea-going Neapolitans and visitors in record numbers. More than a dozen captains had to relocate during construction; early reviews say it was worth the wait. Even better news: The entire $7 million should be recouped through dock rent and fuel revenue. The city fronted a loan to be paid back over 20 years.

**BEST MAN GONE WILD**
Jason Lauritsen

An Iowa boy who put up a lot of hay in his youth, Jason Lauritsen arrived as an intern at Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary early in the 1990s. He fell in love with the complex ecology, biology, botany and the wetlands, working his tail off killing melaleuca in the beating sun and mosquito-thick air, and wondering how it all worked. He found out — and now he runs the place. As executive director at Corkscrew, he’s working to save the sanctuary, a 13,000-acre window into the entire southern half of the Florida peninsula, from south of Orlando to south of Everglades City — hundreds of millions of acres of once-upon-a-time Everglades, most of it ruined to natural recovery. And he might be just the guy to do it, because he thinks people are good-willed in general and will help if they can. “I think you can reach just about anybody, if you don’t stop talking to them,” he says. “We’re all human beings.” We sure are. Is this guy crazy? Best crazy.
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The Aftermath of Irma

Hurricane Irma shoved a 9-foot wall of seawater across the entire Everglades City area, including through homes and businesses. When the mini-tsunami receded, it left behind a thick layer of pure bay-bottom muck. The slick, dark gray-green sludge-like slime smelled of fish and sewer — and it took shovels, pressure washers, rakes, hoes, hoses and no small amount of elbow grease to get it gone. Slowly the goo was cleaned and once again the area’s sweet saltwater smell fills the air. People visit spas and pay big money for mud bath treatments. Try selling that in lower Southwest Collier County.

Best Holiday Excess
Victoria Park

We suspect that one of the requirements for buying or renting in Victoria Park is an unapologetic enthusiasm for Clark Griswold-esque Christmas decorations. For decades, the residents of this otherwise low-key community in North Naples have outdone everyone in town — even in the Sunshine State, perhaps — with their holiday light displays and indefatigable inflatable figures that draw a steady stream of cars night after night. We can’t thank them enough for giving the rest of us an easy holiday activity that leaves kids and grown-ups alike gawking in wonder (even if it’s just at the volume of traffic).

Best Holiday Decorations Hack
The Double-Dipping Fisherman

We don’t even remember who told us about this, but we know we won’t forget it if there ever comes a time when we buy another boat: Some clever fisherman, somewhere, pulls out all the stops to decorate his Grady White every year for the holiday boat parade — after which he parks the trailerd vessel in his front yard and lights it up every night through New Year’s Eve. Smart man (even though he does own a boat).

Best Place to Breathe Fresh Air
Ten Thousand Islands Marsh Trail

Need to catch a break from the traffic and exhaust fumes that are the hallmark of Tamiami Trail? Take the road east like you’re bailing for Miami but be sure to stop off before you get there and take in the 2.4-mile Ten Thousand Islands Marsh Trail. It’s paved for hiking but also perfect for a quick sunset selfie at the tower at the head of the trail. Breathe deep. And bring binoculars for bird watching.

Best Boat Launch Without the Wait
Naples / Marco Island KOA

Rarely busy and truly unique, the boat ramp at the Naples / Marco Island KOA off Barefoot Williams Road launches right out into Henderson Creek, which can take you to Keewaydin and beyond to Marco. There’s a $5 fee or a $50 annual pass. Watch for bugs, but that’s everywhere, right? www.koa.com/campgrounds/naples.
Our gorgeous new resort community has luxurious condos from the $500’s and so many amazing amenities you won’t want to leave. But if you do, just walk downtown!
**BEST EXAMPLE OF WHY ARITHMETIC MATTERS**

*“10 Items Or Fewer”*

This is the fast lane, so we’ll be brief. A six-pack of Bud is a single item. Fifteen jars of Gerber Baby Food are NOT a single item.

Please keep this in mind the next time you hit your Publix.

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**BEST RECOVERY FROM A WILDFIRE BY MAN AND BEAST**

_Ngala Wildlife Preserve_

When a fire tore through Ngala Wildlife Preserve in Naples, CEO Donovan Smith risked his life, suffering burns over 18 percent of his body, to protect Walter the rhino from the blaze. Smith had several skin grafts and is still undergoing treatment for damage to his lungs. Walter and the preserve/event space survived the blaze and went on to weather the blow dealt by Hurricane Irma. Nonetheless, the venue is up and running again, as is Mr. Smith.

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**BEST GOAT YOGA ALTERNATIVE**

_Everglades Wonder Gardens_

Let them have their goat yoga. In Bonita Springs, it is all about flamingo yoga at the Everglades Wonder Gardens. Seasonally, a yoga instructor conducts alfresco classes within eyeshot of the park’s flamingos while a chill assortment of guinea hens, peahens and peacocks saunter saunter by.

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**BEST STORMY LOVE AFFAIR**

_Denise Praz and Joseph Mazur_

Call it love in a stormy climate. After Hurricane Irma forced Vi at Bentley Village residents Denise Praz and Joseph Mazur to evacuate to Orlando more than 400 other residents, the two fell in love over the course of the month it took for the retirement community to make repairs. Closer quarters brought closer contact, and the couple celebrated their wedding on Dec. 15 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Courtesy of Orlando’s Hilton Bonnet Creek, they spent their honeymoon weekend back where it all began.

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**BEST SEXIST MEDIA MEME**

_Florida Man_

Every time some misguided or over-served Shame of the Sunshine State gets arrested, the “Florida Man” headline appears. Hey, we’ve got women here, too! Let’s give some credit to those unhinged gals who dance naked in public places or get tattoos in private places and then show them off in public places — and prove men and women really are equal. Thank you. That is all.

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**BEST PLACE FOR TASTIN’ GATOR**

_Joanie’s Blue Crab Cafe_

Stop in for a bite at this time warp from the 1950s that’s almost in “the middle of nowhere.” You’ll be made to feel at home with true Southern hospitality: a smile and warm welcome from Lisa. This is the spot for a taste of properly cooked alligator, local grouper, seasonal soft shell crab sandwich or Everglades-fresh stone crab claws. Adventuresome? Go for the Swamp Combo: frog legs with gator nuggets, crab cake, Indian fry bread with Joanie’s famous salsa and a side of slaw. And to make things even more fun, your fellow diners might very well be as unique as the funky setting. Call ahead for weekday hours during the off season; Joanie’s is usually open on weekends.
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One generally awful side effect of a hurricane landfall is uprooted trees. When Irma blew ashore on Marco, the island was no exception. Many huge trees were blown over, their roots ripped up and exposed like giant Medusa heads. Surprisingly, those root balls held treasures from the area’s ancient past. Calusa shell tools and shards of pottery were snatched from their earthen resting places and lifted skyward, exposing them for gathering like ancient Easter eggs. Archaeology teams frantically worked to catalog and preserve the sudden cache of artifacts, an unexpected gift left behind in Irma litter.

BEST TEAM SPIRIT
FGCU women’s basketball team

The Florida Gulf Coast University women’s basketball team turned in another stellar year, with 31 wins and five losses, capturing the Atlantic Sun Conference championship and making it to the NCAA Tournament for the fifth time in seven years. After beating big teams such as DePaul, Illinois and South Dakota State in the regular season, the 12-seeded team stunned 5-seed Missouri before being beaten by Stanford in March Madness play. In the process, the women broke the NCAA season record for 3-point baskets, with 431, besting Sacramento State’s 424 in the 2014-15 season. And a bonus: The team was voted 25th Best in the nation by the USA Today Coaches Poll. Wings up!

BEST AARP RETIREMENT MOMENT
The Carlisle Olympics

Ranging in age from 80 to 100-plus, residents of The Carlisle Naples signed up in droves for the retirement community’s 14th annual Summer Olympic Challenge. Patterned after the actual Games, the event featured such sports as golf chipping, Scrabble, Bingo, bocce, shuffleboard, cribbage, and more. Older participants included Frank Kogut, age 102, and Grace Dufault and Evelyn Ushl, both 101. Competitors were grouped into three teams in the battle for supremacy. When the Games were over, former Olympian Steven Colgate (1968 U.S. Olympic in sailing) made the award presentations. It just goes to show you’re only as old as you feel.

BEST PLACE TO HIT THE TICKET QUOTA
U.S. 41 at 91st Avenue

CCSO traffic deputies need only put it in “Park” at the intersection of 91st Avenue and U.S. 41, where the prominent “No U-Turn” sign is treated like a piece of road kill by drivers day in and day out. Maybe the sign should be replaced with a flashing neon one. Or with a dancing person twirling it around on the sidewalk at the light.
Your priority is running your business, our Priority is giving you the tools and knowledge to succeed.

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BEST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY IN THE HISTORY OF RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES
Minto’s Margaritaville

If ever there was an opportunity to type the sentence “Get off my lawn — unless you’re looking for my lost shaker of salt,” this is it. Minto Communities joined forces with Margaritaville Holdings (of Jimmy Buffett fame) to create a Margaritaville retirement community on a private island overlooking Anna Maria Sound near Bradenton (sister communities are in Daytona Beach and Hilton Head). Dubbed One Particular Harbour, the newest 220-acre development will have a new marina and 132 luxury residences priced from the high $400,000s where people will nibblin’ on sponge cake and watchin’ the sun bake. And if anyone blows out a flip-flop, a retail center will carry shakers of salt and restaurants with booze in the blender. Trust us, you’ll know the reason you stayed there all season. … OK, maybe it’s Best you forget you read this. If you move there, you’ll hear stuff like that every single day.

BEST FELINE RESCUE
The Key Marco Cat

The Marco Island Historical Society has launched a fundraising campaign to bring home the Key Marco Cat, a pre-Columbian Native American artifact discovered on Marco Island in 1896 by Smithsonian anthropologist Frank Hamilton Cushing. Having raised half of the $350,000 needed to acquire the loan from The Smithsonian Institution, the society is preparing to reunite and display the cat with other local artifacts for the first time in 100 years.

BEST USE OF TIME – NOT
Florida Legislature

In its two-month session, the Florida Legislature managed to pass critically important bills that included: putting the Sunshine State on permanent Daylight Saving Time (assuming the U.S. Congress grants permission) so we don’t have to reset our clocks twice a year; requiring all public schools to post an “In God We Trust” sign in a “conspicuous” place; doubling the amount payday lenders can loan out and increasing the amount of time consumers have to pay it — and that high interest charged on the loan — back. Failed bills included: one that would have made texting while driving a primary, rather than secondary, offense; one that would have banned fracking; and one that would have required high school students to take a half-credit course in financial literacy.

BEST TOAST TO THE WINE INDUSTRY
Jim and Laura Dixon

Naples residents Jim and Laura Dixon love wine. They have a 14,000-bottle personal collection and own and operate the Naples Wine Collection and The Cave Bistro & Wine Bar. They are also trustees of the Naples Winter Wine Festival. And now they are benefactors of Florida Gulf Coast University’s School of Resort and Hospitality Management, having pledged $250,000 to construct a 700-bottle wine tower in Sugden Hall. The tower will store rare and unusual wines that students will swirl and sip as they learn how to taste, sell and buy wine. The Dixons are helping the school raise funds to add a private tasting room and Riedel glass display case, too, in an effort to raise wine consciousness at the school and prepare students to become hospitality professionals when they graduate. Cheers!
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BEST TUXES
Penguin wear

The Best tuxes this party season could be found on both males and females: the natural black and white feathers of the four African penguins who temporarily made Naples Zoo their home for an exhibit called “Penguins in Paradise.” The traveling exhibit called attention to the endangered species and was the first sighting of penguins on record in Southwest Florida. They’ve moved on to cooler climates, but now there’s a new reason for a trip to Naples Zoo: A pair of critically endangered mountain bongos, the largest of the world’s forest antelope, has been introduced in the Oasis exhibit that recently re-opened after completion of post-Hurricane Irma repairs. www.napleszoo.com.

BEST NEWS WE HEARD ALL YEAR
The Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club

When word spread that the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club was changing ownership, rumors of an overhaul went wild. Turns out The Athens Group, the hotel’s future owners, will work to preserve what the Watkins family has built over generations. Redevelopment plans are still in the works, but the recently redesigned golf course, hotel and golf club with beach bar won’t be going away. There were visions of homes and high-rises taking over the fairways and greens, but the Watkins found a willing partner in The Athens Group to preserve the legacy of the property that has stood since the late 1800s.

BEST EXAMPLE OF HOW NOT TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY
Gulfshore Business magazine

The magazine did a cover story about winners of the 2018 Face Awards: local companies/organizations/people that promote diversity. Out of the half-dozen company leaders, did the magazine pick the any of the winners who were Latino or female for its cover photo? Nope. Instead, a couple of white guys made the March 2018 cover under the headline “Profiles in Diversity:” Sure, they used pink and blue lighting, but we weren’t fooled one bit. They were still white guys.

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Some have experienced: 12 Apostles Hotel, Cape Town; Leeu House, Franchhoek; Hotel de L’Europe, Amsterdam; Hotel Arts, Barcelona; Splendid Royal Hotel, Rome; The Goring Hotel, London; Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong; Sacher Hotel, Salzburg; Hotel La Bastide de Gordes, Gordes; Four Season Hotel George V, Paris.

Community Involvement

Wilma Boyd and Preferred Travel believe in supporting the community that supports them. Since 2007, Preferred Travel has hosted an annual, by invitation only travel event for clients with proceeds that benefit a selected charity. Each year a new charity is selected. The February 2018 Travel Show raised $37,000 for The Founders Fund. To date, over $197,000 has been raised and donated from the travel shows alone. We continue to work with local charities like SWFL Children’s Charities, Friends of Foster Children, the Guadalupe Center, Shelter for Abused Women & Children, and many more.

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FLORIDA WEEKLY
WEEK OF MAY 3-9, 2018 | THE BEST | 53

BEST PLACE TO PUT YOU ON THE WATER
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Bon appétit

Going out to eat has become the great American pastime, but Neapolitan residents and visitors alike seem to make it their job, packing dining rooms and sometimes lining streets to get a taste of the haute cuisine dished out by kitchens all around town. Even home cooks can produce gourmet meals, thanks to the abundance of specialty markets and cooking classes catering to foodies. We've lined up the Best and most interesting tidbits we're slavering over from around town.

BEST-TASTING BIT OF NEWS
Kudos from Southern Living

It’s something we’ve known for years: Naples is a foodie paradise. But the secret is getting out. In the April issue, readers of Southern Living magazine recognized Naples as the fourth-Best food town in the South. (Oxford, Miss., came in No. 1, most likely due to voting irregularities from undocumented subscribers.) And with local chefs gaining traction on the national stage (such as Chef Vincenzo Betulia of The French and Osteria Tulia, and Chef Asif Syed of 21 Spices), we fully expect to breach Southern Living's No. 3 next year. By the way, three other Florida cities made the top 10: Winter Park (6), Key West (7) and St. Augustine (9).

BEST WAY TO PACK IT IN
Meals of Hope

Meals of Hope brings communities together to end hunger. The Naples nonprofit has developed five meals made with ingredients fortified with vitamins, minerals and protein that can be packed during fun, large-scale community gatherings. So far, it’s packed millions — yes, millions, of meals. It coordinates a backpack program at schools, ensuring that no child goes hungry over the weekends. And it operates fixed and mobile food pantries where packed meals are distributed to those in need in Collier and southern Lee counties. The goal is simple: to feed people. Where there's hope ... www.mealsofhope.org.

BEST RESTAURANT ON THE WATER
T-Michaels Steak and Seafood

With its curved wall of windows overlooking Venetian Bay, every seat in the house is a great one at T-Michaels, where guests enjoy the laid-back elegance and the USDA Prime steaks, whole Maine lobster and fresh, local seafood specials. Regulars cozy up to the bar they call their “Cheers” and enjoy craft cocktails or wine from an ever-evolving list. Stop by with your friends and loved ones to unwind at day’s end. Order up some of the Best food in Florida. Sit back and enjoy the view at sunset, when resident dolphins tend to make their appearance, and find out why they call this paradise. 261-0622; www.t-michaels.com.
BEST REPLACEMENTS FOR PEANUTS AND CRACKER JACK
SWFL ballpark fare

Spring Training never fails to bring new and unusual dining options to stadiums throughout Southwest Florida. At times it seems the ballparks are a testing site for major league ball clubs’ zaniest culinary creations. Among the options this year at Hammond Stadium: cheese curds, a Midwest staple and usually quite delightful; and “beer shakes” combining brewskis and liquid ice cream in flavors including root beer and Key lime. And the fare got downright fancy at JetBlue Park, where fans could chow down on lobster rolls and bruschetta pizza. Can’t we just buy some peanuts and Cracker Jack?

BEST FOOD FOR THE DOG
The Bevy

The Bevy off Third Street downtown offers a three-course menu for your pooch to the tune of $29. Your canine dining companion can choose from among chicken, beef and salmon for the entrée. And of course, the bowl of ice water is bottomless. Enjoy a fine meal yourself alongside man’s best friend on the patio, and be prepared to say goodbye to off-brand kibble forever once Fido gets a load of this. www.naplesbevy.com.

BEST THING SINCE SLICED BREAD
La Colmar Bakery & Bistro

Break bread (without having to slice it) with friends and family any day of the week at La Colmar. The beautiful bakery/bistro on Tamiami Trail North just north of Central Avenue is always filled with mouth-watering aromas of fresh baked breads, pastries and desserts. Everything is made fresh daily, and the flour is even imported from France. Ooh, la la! www.lacolmar.com.

BEST TASTE OF SOUTHERN ITALY
Ristorante Limoncello

Looking for an intimate dining experience with friends or family? Ristorante Limoncello is the place. The combination of exquisite décor, friendly staff, live entertainment — and let’s not forget the authentic Sicilian cuisine — keeps patrons coming back. The minute you walk through the doors you feel as though you’ve arrived to the sights and sounds of the largest Mediterranean island. Full liquor bar and a great wine list. 239-260-7478; www.limoncellonaples.com.

BEST MOBILE APP THAT’S A SNAP
Jason’s Deli

Ever have one of those days when you are craving that one thing you can only get at one place? When you must cave to the crave, the Jason’s Deli app is the easiest way to schedule a quick pick-up or a big delivery (because there are those nights when you panic that you forgot tomorrow’s lunch meeting for 50 people). Launching the Jason’s Deli app for lunch delivery saves the day. Ordering is really a snap 24/7 on the Jason’s Deli app. You’ll get deli dollars, too. 239-590-9994; www.jasonsdeli.com.

BEST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK
Fuzzy’s Taco Tuesday

When you’re craving a little Tex-Mex in your life, head over to Fuzzy’s Taco Shop for Taco Tuesday. This casual family restaurant in Tarpon Bay Plaza at Immokalee Road and I-75 serves up a big bang for your buck, from a variety of tasty tacos to big mugs of beer. Five bucks will buy you a couple of tacos and a beer on any given Tuesday. Check it out at www.fuzzystascoshop.com.
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Stevie Tomato’s Sports Page Naples has that perfect combination for sports fans. The motto sums up its approach: “Come for the food, stay for the sports and fun.” It’s been a winning recipe for success since 1997! You name it and they have it: ribs, wings, burgers, pizza and more. And televisions. Lots of televisions. Big ones. And did we mention the big, tasty burgers? 239-352-4233; www.StevieTomato’sSportsPageNaples.com

BEST COFFEE FOR A CAUSE

Kunjani

When you want your delicious coffee and breakfast sandwich purchase to make a difference, head to Kunjani on Seagate Drive. Led by a mother-and-daughter team from Zimbabwe, the cozy restaurant with couches and conversation nooks also features an art store that sells jewelry and other items created by disadvantaged African artists, primarily women. The Kunjani owners’ goal is to shed light and make a positive impact on the humanitarian crisis in their homeland, Zambia and South Africa. www.kunjaninaples.com.

BEST WATERFRONT DINING EXPERIENCE

M Waterfront Grill

Locals and visitors alike know that one of the Best ways to celebrate with friends and family is by dining in a relaxed and engaging atmosphere surrounded by views of beautiful Venetian Bay. The menu at M Waterfront includes innovative takes on continental cuisine with an emphasis on fresh seafood, steaks, handmade pasta, organics and tapas plates. A local favorite and destination restaurant, it places the utmost importance on flawless service. Add to that an award-winning wine list of allocated vintages, and the result is one of Naples’ Best dining experiences. 239-263-4421; www.mwaterfrontgrille.com.

BEST SPOT WHERE EVERYBODY Knows YOUR NAME

Naples Coastal Kitchen

Naples Coastal Kitchen is your cheerfully upscale yet casual spot for delicious treats like Key West-style conch fritters, seafood gumbo, half-pound $10 burgers and Chef Hector Hidalgo’s famous grilled mahi tacos. Really hungry? Tuck into the Shrimp ‘n’ Shore Dinner, the Captain’s Platter or the corn-fed 14-ounce New York strip steak. And save room for a signature smoothies like the watermelon mojito or Ghirardelli Chocolate Cherry Surprise. Dine al fresco, or indoors at a table or at the full bar. And don’t be surprised when hostess Emily or your server remembers you by name on your next visit. www.coastalkitchennaples.com.

BEST CHECKOUT EXPERIENCE

Lucky’s Market

The folks at Lucky’s Market on the East Trail are the masters of small talk. But not the annoying or creepy kind. “How many quips can I make about frozen edamame with a stranger?” Without fail, you have a pleasant conversation, however brief, with your clerk while he bags your fresh produce, affordable seafood or prepared lunches.

If you haven’t made it to the current location, you’re in luck: A second Naples Lucky’s is coming soon on Immokalee Road in North Naples.
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**BEST OOEY-GOOEY COOK-OFF**
The Mac 'n' Cheese Challenge

Sometimes, we like to pose a mental challenge for ourselves: Cheese or dessert? Thinking too deeply about it can inspire a culinary existential crisis, but Make-A-Wish Southern Florida spared us the choice with its Mac 'n' Cheese Challenge in March. Guests were offered the chance to sample several versions of the esteemed comfort dish from local restaurants and vote on their favorites. That posed its own challenge, but luckily an afternoon spent in the company of cheese is never wasted.

**BEST VEGAN MEAL**
Juicelation tacos

Maybe they wouldn’t fool the average meat lover, but the vegan tacos at Juicelation in North Naples are the perfect compliment to the dandelion juice you just downed in the name of health. Made with walnut “meat” and cashew cream, they’re surprisingly flavorful, always fresh and filling (though you’ll want to order a few). Need the fresh squeezed stuff more often? You can order Juicelation juices for pickup and delivery, too. www.juicelation.com.

**BEST TRIPLE PLAY**
Sea Salt, Barbatella and Dorona

First there was Sea Salt, a beautiful restaurant featuring fresh, imaginative fare with an emphasis on seafood, sea salts, house-made gelato and pastries plus extraordinary service. Nest, Barbatella opened a few doors down, with first-rate pizza, gelato, and house-made pastas. Now chef/owner Fabrizio Aielli and his wife, Ingrid, have opened Dorona, a modern Italian steakhouse, with a laid-back ambience, craft cocktails, an array of steaks as well as sandwiches and other dishes designed for a relaxed night out.

**BEST LOCAL CRAFT BEER**
FLA IPA

While new to the craft beer market here in Southwest Florida, FLA IPA has quickly and quietly become a local favorite found exclusively at Phelan Family Restaurants that include Pinchers, Deep Lagoon Seafood and Texas Tony’s Rib & Brewhouse. Made in the traditional style of an IPA with a welcoming hoppy flavor profile, it’s a true local beer that is truly Florida flavored. www.PhelanBrands.com

**BEST SLOW SMOKEED BBQ**
Texas Tony’s Rib & Brewhouse

Texas and its barbecue are on the other side of the Gulf of Mexico. But one doesn’t have to fly over the gulf or drive around it to find Texas barbecue. Texas Tony’s is right here in Naples at 4501 Tamiami Trail. Tuck into a Texas jalapeno cheddar sausage sandwich or try a Redneck Taco. When you have a Texas-sized appetite, order up a half pound of chopped pork or beef brisket. 239-732-8392; www.TexasTonys.com.

**BEST WAY TO SATISFY YOUR SWEET TOOTH**
Olde Naples Chocolate

This hidden gem on Fifth Avenue North in the Naples Design District is where the service is as impeccable as the chocolates that come in fun shapes like flamingos, alligators, palm trees, starfish and more. Looking for a tasteful gift for a friend? Olde Naples Chocolate is the place to shop. But be warned: It’ll be impossible to leave without treating yourself as well (try the top selling dark chocolate salted discs). 239-262-8975; www.oldenapleschocolate.com.

**BEST STUNNING NEW SPACE**
Sails Restaurant

At the corner of Fifth Avenue South and Third Street South, Sails Restaurant has launched a winning combination of beauty and Ritz-caliber excellence. A sail-shaped granite bar, French oak floors, imported French linens and an eye-popping assortment of fresh fish (New Zealand alfonsino, Greek daurade, Dover sole) on ice from which to select your dinner entrée are just a few of its many charms. Dine at the bar near the piano player, in the dining room with the open kitchen or al fresco on the sprawling patio.
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BEST LOCAL SEAFOOD & KEY LIME PIE

Deep Lagoon

The Florida experience comes alive at Deep Lagoon, from the fish market with the freshest catches to the Key lime pie to finish things off. The restaurant menu offers black grouper, mahi mahi, shrimp cocktail, lobster tail and more. The Naples’ location is in what used to be Randy’s Fishmarket on Tamiami Trail. 239-631-6266; www.DeepLagoon.com.

BEST WAY TO GO GOURMET

Wynn’s Market

Parents are often superheroes as they juggle jobs, soccer practice, piano lessons and doctor appointments and then finish the day preparing a healthful, satisfying family meal. Sometimes they just need a break. And when that time comes, Wynn’s Market is ready, with a variety of wines, baked goods and deli foods as well as fresh, time-saving, easy-to-make (or already prepared) things for dinner. Dash in for ready-made meals or have fun finding all the right ingredients for your special dish. Wynn’s takes the chore out of grocery shopping and helps you make every meal gourmet. 239-261-7157; www.wynnsonline.com.

BEST CHEFS’ TABLES

Mercy Chefs and Operation BBQ

Mercy Chefs and Operation BBQ, two out-of-state relief groups, headed straight to Southwest Florida following Hurricane Irma and began cooking and delivering thousands upon thousands of hot meals for those without power or food from Everglades City to Arcadia. Not only did out-of-state chefs volunteer their time to help, so did dozens of locals like Richard Howze (Table & Tap) and Brian Roland (Crave Culinaire) and celebrity chef Derrick Fox (who now lives in L.A., but flew back to lend a hand). These groups worked tirelessly through the relentless heat without pay to help the hard-hit region.

BEST HEALTHY CHOICE

Edible Arrangements

Flowers wither and die. Fruit and chocolate nourish and satisfy. Whether you’re sending heartfelt congratulations, appreciation or condolences, the creatively cut, chocolate-dipped and decorated baskets from Edible Arrangements deliver your message in a way nothing else can. Baskets include fresh strawberries, grapes, cantaloupe, honeydew and banana slices hand-dipped in various chocolate selections. Stop in and create your own fresh fruit smoothie or grab a Froyo, an on-the-go fruit salad, a fruit parfait or a few pieces of chocolate-dipped fruit. Fort Myers, 239-437-8480; Naples, 239-643-7070; www.EdibleArrangements.com.

BEST PLACE FOR A STEAKOUT

Shula’s Steak House

At Shula’s, it’s about more than great steaks in great surroundings for an important lunch or dinner. It’s about prime customer service and an award-winning wine list. It’s also about being a prime place for fundraising events and parties that draw business leaders and philanthropists from throughout the community. Just like the coach for whom it’s named, Shula’s at the Hilton Naples is legendary. And it’s now Blue Zone Certified. 239-430-4999; www.shulasnaples.com.
Pura Vida’s new location on 5th Ave. South, with its full complement of med spa services, provided by licensed and experienced professionals, is the go-to spa to look and feel your absolute best.

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BEST FRIEND OF FOOD AND FOODIES
Kristina San Filippo

After several years of teaching cooking classes in Naples and other parts of Southwest Florida, chef Kristina San Filippo has found her niche with her Purple Spoon Culinary Hub in Bonita Springs. She teaches classes, runs farm tours, holds wine dinners and a Wednesday farmers market where the farmers and producers themselves sell you fresh produce, honey, coffee and such. After Hurricane Irma, she sensed a need for people to come together, so she started a community dinner on the first Monday of each month. Anyone can drop in, dine on whatever she has cooked that day from local ingredients and pay what they wish, after which proceeds go to various animal-based charities. It’s an event that leaves a good taste in everyone’s mouth. www.purplespoonfl.com.

BEST PLACE TO CHILL IN EVERGLADES CITY
Camellia Street Grill

What? You’ve not yet been to Camellia Street Grill? You’ll be taking a selfie or two with the colorful setting as a background. Grab a seat inside or on the lovely waterfront deck and make new friends as you watch the sun go down. Local bands supply live music. Have generous portions of shrimp and grits, the scallop dinner, grilled seafood or barbecue chased with a beer or a Key lime milkshake. Whatever you order, a side of crisp sweet potato fries is a must. It’s a tradition that has fied this ideal, with hometown servers and the flair of neon and bright metal trim. You can’t go wrong with dishes like a to-your-ribs specials, hot open-face meatloaf sandwich, blue plate specials and mile-high chocolate chip pancakes, but that only scratches the surface of a menu as big and generous as the portions. Order up a malted for you and your sweetheart and go back to those happy days. www.MelsDiners.com.

BEST FLORIDA SEAFOOD AND FLORIDA-STYLE DINING
Pinchers Naples & Bonita Springs

Pinchers is all about the Florida dining experience and has been since 1997. That’s certainly the case at its Naples and Bonita Springs locations. Bonita Springs, by the way, is where the first Pinchers opened. Find Pinchers in Bonita just off U.S. 41 on Bonita Crossing Boulevard and in Naples at Tin City overlooking Naples Bay. Both locations offer the same fine dining that has propelled Pinchers to enormous success. Naples, 239-434-6616; Bonita Springs, 239-948-1313; www.PinchersUSA.com.

BEST PLACE FOR GOOD TIMES AND GREAT FOOD
Meli’s Diner

Diners are a treasured American tradition that has never gone out of style. Mel’s exemplifies this ideal, with home cooked, stick-to-your-ribs specials, hometown servers and the flair of neon and bright metal trim. You can’t go wrong with dishes like a hot open-face meatloaf sandwich, blue plate specials and mile-high chocolate chip pancakes, but that only scratches the surface of a menu as big and generous as the portions. Order up a malted for you and your sweetheart and go back to those happy days. www.MelsDiners.com.

BEST GIFT FOR MOM
Le Macaron French Pastries

OK so you forgot. Sure you had 365 days to plan for this, the day celebrating all mothers, but things came up, and now Mother’s Day is coming up (yes, it’s Sunday, May 6). Not to worry. One of the easiest and most (seemingly) thoughtful gifts is found at Mercato. There you can buy a box of macaroons, beautiful little meringue desserts that are mostly about the presentation and packaging. Pick some up at Le Macaron French Pastries in all colors of the rainbow and watch Mom’s eyes light up. www.lemacaron-us.com/naples.
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Home, sweet home

Whether you already live in Southwest Florida or look forward to settling here someday down the road, there are lots of people at the ready to make sure it’s always the Best home, sweet home — from those who can help you find, finance, build or furnish your abode to someone to watch over it when you have to tear yourself away for whatever reason.

BEST ACCESS TO THE IDEAL NAPLES LIFESTYLE

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The real estate market in Naples is crowded, so you need a broker who stays ahead of the curve. As one of Florida’s youngest members of Who’s Who in Luxury Real Estate, a global collection of the finest luxury real estate brokers in the world, Dante DiSabato of William Raveis Real Estate is a leader in the industry. A concierge broker in the truest sense, he studies the market diligently and knows his clients’ needs inside and out. With more than $200 million in sales, he’s uniquely positioned to educate his clients on market conditions while searching for the Best properties to fulfill their vision of the perfect home. Best of all, he makes himself available before, during and after the sale. That’s why his customers come back time and time again. 239-537-5351; dante.disabato@raveis.com

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BEST NEW COMMUNITY WITH OLD FLORIDA LIFESTYLE

Isles of Collier Preserve

Nestled along the scenic Cypress waterway, The Isles of Collier Preserve is on the south shore of Naples Bay, 4 short miles from downtown Naples and the beaches. Here you’ll find a waterfront lifestyle that others can only dream of. With luxury villas, coach and single-family homes priced from the mid $300,000s to more than $1.5 million, The Isles is a world apart. More than 1,300 acres of the community’s 2,400 acres are dedicated to natural habitat and nature preserves connected by a network of recreational trails, nature observation sta-

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Stock Development

When homebuyers see or hear the words “Stock” in a community, they know quality is a given. Stock’s communities include: Lely Resort and Quail West in Naples and Hidden Harbor in South Fort Myers. Plus, Stock Development is a Preferred Builder in TwinEagles, Esplanade Golf & Country Club of Naples, Park Shore, Moorings, Isles of Collier, Naples Reserve, Fiddler’s Creek and The Estuary in Naples, as well as Renaissance in Fort Myers. Stock is also a featured builder at Babcock Ranch and at Lake-wood Ranch. The company’s newest offering is a collection of luxury apartment homes with Inspira in south Naples. 877-409-6440; www.stockdevelopment.com.

BEST PLACE TO OUT-SMART THE STORM
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87-plus major storms, 180 outstanding employees, 80,000 satisfied customers and more than 1 million feet of storm screens installed. These are just some of the things that make Storm Smart the go-to company for Southwest Florida’s storm-protection needs. For more than 20 years, Storm Smart has been a leading area business and a pillar of the community, sponsoring events and supporting organizations and initiatives making a lasting impact here at home. With business stronger than ever, Storm Smart will soon expand northward into a new showroom/warehouse in North Port. 403-9092; www.StormSmart.com.

BEST PLACE TO START FROM THE FLOORS ON UP
Hadinger Flooring of Naples

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CAN have your cake and eat it too. Simplify your life. Put your car in the garage and walk to dinner (no Uber necessary), or step out to the courtyard deck and do some steaks on the grill to enjoy them with friends by the fire pit. Afterward, how about a friendly game of giant chess? This is living the life in downtown Naples. 239-302-6848; IIIICentral.com.

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Karyn and Rowan Samuel specialize in “west of 41” properties and in luxury golf and gated communities throughout Naples. They pride themselves on their out-standing customer service, market knowledge and professional backgrounds. Karyn is trained as a corporate lawyer, and Rowan is a former advertising executive/digital marketing expert and co-founder of the Naples International Film Festival. You get the Best of both worlds with these experienced John R. Wood agents. Why have one dedicated professional when you can have two? Let The Samuel Team help you to find your slice of paradise. 239-298-3555; www.lovingnaples.com.

**BEST DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS WATERFRONT LIVING**

Prima Luce

Perhaps it’s fitting that Prima Luce, which means “first light” in Italian, is at 2631 First St. in Fort Myers. The twin 22-story towers rising just east of downtown on 2 acres of prime real estate will offer vistas of the Caloosahatchee River as it flows toward the Gulf of Mexico. Each of the 220 units will provide a view of the river. That’s not all. Prima Luce is within walking distance of downtown’s dining and cultural attractions. It’s another distinctive property from the Macfarlane Group, which has also graced the downtown skyline with Beau Rivage, St. Tropez and The Riviera. Residents will have a pool, fitness center, two piers jutting into the river, a six-story covered parking garage and, of course, the views. 239-214-7535; www.PrimaLuceLife.com.

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Take a tour — if you can get tickets

The Naples Garden Club and the Naples Woman’s Club both know a good thing when they see it. That’s why the garden club’s annual Home & Garden Tour has happened for 63 years in a row and shows no sign of foreclosure (although everyone on the all-volunteer team that makes it happen most surely wishes for a few days every February after the two-day event). Each year the tour goes inside four or five of the loveliest homes in Naples’ loveliest neighborhoods (think Port Royal, Aqualane Shores and Old Naples). A few years ago, the ladies of the woman’s club cooked up their own tour, one that takes guests into some of the finest home kitchens in town. The trick to both tours, however, is scoring tickets, as both tend to sell out within hours of going public. Keep your eye on www.naplesgardenclub.org for news about the 64th annual Home & Garden Tour in February 2019 and on www.gfwnapleswomansclub.org for the scoop on the seventh annual Kitchen Tour in January 2019.

BEST REASON TO VISIT A HUNTER DOUGLAS CENTURION GALLERY
At Home Blinds and Decor

Since 2002, owners Kim and Jeff Van Buren and their highly trained staff have focused on exceptional customer service and products that create the perfect atmosphere. They are intimately familiar with Hunter Douglas and will find the right product for your needs, style and budget. A Centurion Gallery is the only place to find the full range of Hunter Douglas blinds, shades and shutters. There’s also a large selection of wallpaper, area rugs and fabric for draperies and more. Special promotions exclusive to Centurion Galleries are also offered. Schedule a design consultation and discover why At Home proudly holds the Hunter Douglas Centurion Gallery distinction. Fort Myers, 239-415-7312; Naples, 239-631-2528; www.athomeblinds.com.

BEST HOME REMODELING COMPANY CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN SWFL
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Can you recall a time when an experience with a business made you smile and say, “Wow”? Celebrating their 30th anniversary and more than 25 years satisfied customers, Cornerstone Builders of Southwest Florida continues to wow homeowners with old world craftsmanship, attention to detail, unwavering dedication and commitment to excellence. From kitchen and bath remodeling to complete home renovations, they can turn your vision for your home into reality. There’s no deposit required, and everything they manufacture comes with a lifetime material warranty for as long as you own your home. Their 275-plus dedicated employees are with you every step of the way, from in-home consultation through completion of your project. Find out ore at the Cornerstone showrooms in Fort Myers, Naples or Marco Island. 239-332-3020; www.CornerstoneBuildersSWFL.com.

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BEST WAY TO HAVE A HAPPY HOME LIFE
Hire a professional organizer

Even in the most perfect of dream houses, stuff piles up. You’ll have to deal with it eventually, whether it’s time to downsize or you just want to be able to get your car in the garage again. Marla Ottenstein doesn’t care if you call it Swedish death cleaning or the less-ominous sound- ing life-changing magic of tidying up; she just wants to help you do it so you can enjoy a happy home life. With compassion and confidentiality, she makes short order of every kind of clutter and leaves you with a system and a mindset to ensure it never comes back. Read her monthly column in the Naples Daily News, or sign up for one of the regular classes she teaches through the FGCU Renaissance Academy. And call on her when you could use a helping hand with your home life. www.professionalorganizerflorida.com.

BEST ROCK STAR REAL ESTATE TEAM
RE/MAX Realty Group, Michael Frye

Michael Frye, a commercial investment specialist who owns the RE/MAX Realty Group, is a rock star in the real estate world. He has skills in consulting, development, leasing, sales, tenant representation and more and has owned the RE/MAX Realty Group since 1985. Whether your needs are residential or commercial, he and his agents can rock your world. Rock on. 239-790-3350; www.MichaelFrye.com.

At your service
For those with the attention span, the time and the tools, do-it-yourself projects certainly have their place. We’re talking about the kinds of things you see on Pinterest and at free weekend workshops at The Home Depot. When it comes to the serious business of life, though, we always go the Best professional route. DIY is no way to go when things like finances, legal matters, insurance and planning that well-deserved vacation are concerned.

BEST PLACE TO HELP YOU TRAVEL BETTER
MAD Travel/Travel Leaders

The right travel plan is as unique as each individual’s tastes and passions. Whatever your dream destination and experience, MAD Travel President Lee McCarthy is dedicated to getting you there. He and his wife, Lisa, have been focused on sending Southwest Florida clients wherever they choose since 1994, and they enjoy scouting new destinations themselves. Favorite trips have included a safari in Kenya and Tanzania, cruising through Alaska, exploring Italy and the Mediterranean and cycling throughout New Mexico. When planning a cruise or destination wedding, adventure or business trip, historical excursion or family vacation, let MAD Travel be your link to the world. 239-263-4422; www.madtravel.com.
Best Camp for Kids

Education is at the heart of Naples Zoo’s mission and Camp WILD is an important part of the Zoo’s growing education programs. Camp WILD is offered 3 times a year – Spring, Summer and Winter. Campers enjoy an unforgettable experience with up-close animal encounters with glimpses behind the scenes, participating in fun games and activities, creating arts and crafts, and making new friends.

Naples Zoo’s camps offer dynamic themes that immerse children in nature while teaching them to be stewards for our planet. Camp WILD is offered for children ages 5 to 12. For more info, visit napleszoo.org/campwild.
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BB&T-Oswald Trippe & Company is one of the nation’s largest insurance and financial services companies. When you explain your priorities and values, goals and dreams, you have their undivided attention. The stability, experience and global resources of a major insurance and financial services company are never a tradeoff for dedicated, local client service. What impact does the new Florida workers’ compensation rate increase have on your business? Are you a small business owner wondering if you have to buy health insurance for your employees? How could corporate-owned life insurance benefit your business? Whether you are seeking personal or business insurance, corporate risk management, life insurance or employee benefits, BB&T-Oswald Trippe and Company can deliver the Best solutions for you. 239-433-4535; www.insurance.bbt.com.

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“How hard can it be to watch a house?” Diane Pisani has been hearing comments like these ever since launching her home watch training company. Celebrating her 10th year, she has trained and strategized with hundreds of people, helping them develop their own home watch businesses. Recognized as a leading authority for the profession, she’s co-founder of the International Home Watch Alliance, whose members are tested to earn the designation of IHWA Certified Home Watch Reporter, a first and major step toward professional accreditation and recognition in a profession that currently has no regulation. 239-707-4296; www.YourHWP.com.

BEST BANK WHERE EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR NAME
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When was the last time you were greeted as you walked into your bank? Do you know your banker’s name? Midwest One Bank takes pride in providing the highest level of customer service. The staff understands the importance of relationships and goes the extra mile to help customers find the right solutions for their banking needs. Midwest One Bank is where banking is built around relationships. 239-430-2500; www.midwestonebank.com.

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Lake Michigan Credit Union of Florida’s four full-service retail and mortgage offices in Bonita Springs, Naples and Fort Myers provide a full range of personal banking products and services, from high interest-bearing checking accounts to mortgages, and the very latest in online and mobile banking technologies. LMCU is Michigan’s largest credit union and continues to grow in the Sunshine State. Founded in 1933, LMCU has more than 400,000 members and ATM access that includes the 55,000 worldwide locations of the AllPoint ATM network. Bauer Financial Group awarded LMCU five stars for financial safety and soundness, while Weiss Ratings gives LMCU an A+ for excellent financial strength. www.LMCU.org.

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Bruno Air Conditioning was founded in 2012 with just three employees and has since evolved way beyond an HVAC business. Now known as Bruno Total Home Performance, the new brand keeps founder Louis Bruno’s well-known name and encompasses the full-service offerings the company provides. This includes HVAC, electrical, plumbing, select general contracting, roofing and storm protection services — all under one roof. Mr. Bruno and his team are dedicated to providing the Best products and services in the industry, as well as a one-of-a-kind customer experience. 239-791-5808; www.brunototal.com.

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Dr. Bradley Engle, a board-certified specialist, is taking dentistry to a new level. Engle Dentistry, established in 2000, serves Southwest Florida with three locations from Naples to Marco Island. Later this month, staff at two brand-new facilities will start caring for patients in downtown Naples and Marco. The 9,200-square-foot Naples location will provide 13 regular operatories, two surgical suites, a gourmet kitchen, a terrace, a movie theater with more than 18 seats and the latest proven dental equipment. The new offices incorporate a well-thought-out design that maximizes the overall patient experience. Highly trained doctors and friendly staff will show you their commitment to patient-centered, comprehensive care that includes dental implants, including All-on-4, IV and/or oral sedation, crowns, fillings, root canals, gum-related therapies and regular cleanings. 239-213-1500; www.engledentistry.com.

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WEDNESDAY
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Tucked in Pavilion Plaza, Millstead Boutique is a staple in high-end Naples fashion, with tasteful clothing and accessories for women and children. Coming from fashion backgrounds, owners Kristy Malloy and Pam Mirner opened the store in the fall of 2017, bringing us the chic looks that you can find in-store and online. Looking for a gift for a special occasion? You’ll find unique clothes and charming gifts. The apparel ranges from casual to elegant attire for you or your little one. 239-254-0800; www.shopmillstead.com.

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- Robert Cacioppo
Producing Artistic Director
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The Sky Family YMCA, a nonprofit organization since 1967, embraces values such as caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. The programs build a healthy mind, body and spirit. There are eight Southwest Florida locations from Venice to the north, where the first center opened more than 50 years ago, to Bonita Springs in the south. Charlotte County and North Port are the most recent additions in 2017. www.swflymca.org.

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Mother knows Best. And has for a very long time. Mother Earth Natural Foods has provided Southwest Floridians with fresh produce, first-rate natural foods, health and nutrition supplements and more for 40-plus years. It opened its first store in 1975 and now has six Lee County locations, from Estero to Fort Myers to North Fort Myers to Cape Coral, all providing the same healthy products as the original store from long ago. Each store has its own phone number. Consult the website for the phone number of the one closest to you. www.MotherEarthNatFds.com.

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“Fantastic experience. I have some experience but I learned so much. Joelle is the best instructor I have ever encountered. She taught our family of 8 with different learning styles and different abilities and experiences. We had a GREAT EXPERIENCE!”

— Catherine Barr, Katy, Texas

*Two Colgate 26 were used in teaching this family.*
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Dr. Joseph Magnant, board certified vascular surgeon and owner of Vein Specialists, differentiates his 12-year-old practice as the only practice in SWFL 100 percent dedicated to treating vein disease. His 35 staff members across two locations offer professional and compassionate care. He chose to name his practice Vein Specialists as he envisioned his practice to be a collection of providers focused on and dedicated to the care of patients with venous insufficiency. Patrick Nero, MD, FACS, RVP, joined the Naples-Bonita office in 2016. Nurse practitioners Sharon Spoede and Jili Tanner work side by side with the doctors at offices in Fort Myers and Naples/Bonita Springs. 239-694-8346; www.WeKnowVeins.com.

BEST WAY TO HEAR IT FIRST
 Miracle-Ear

Huh? Pardon me? What did you say? Missing conversations or misunderstanding what was said makes life less meaningful for you and frustrating for your family and friends. Hearing loss is a common problem that affects people at different ages, but the experienced staff at Miracle-Ear has the latest technology to help fix the problem. Part of the reason why it is America’s most recognized brand of hearing aids is the strong commitment to customer satisfaction. Take a free hearing test, have the experts assess your problem and find the best match for your needs. Hearing aids no longer have to be big and bulky. There is a wide range of models to choose from at Miracle-Ear’s 13 Southwest Florida locations. 239-249-3440; www.MiracleEar.com.

BEST WAY TO ENHANCE YOUR LOOK
Amazing Lash

Amazing Lash has an amazing story. It has 182 locations in 27 states, including 59 in Florida. The Florida Amazing Lash lineup includes one in North Naples. The Amazing Lash story focuses on creating beauty that endures, and owners Jessica and Edward Le make sure that happens. Their success has been recognized by Entrepreneur Magazine, which ranked it No. 5 on its Top New Franchise List in 2017. 239-325-5274; www.AmazingLashStudio.com.

BEST DEFENSE AGAINST B.O.
Fantabulous deodorant

If you’re still relying on aluminum to avoid pit stains, you’re doing it wrong. Fantabulous deodorant is a brand developed by a Naples couple a few years back. Amy was battling cancer when she and her husband teamed up to create a powerful product that would outlast the competitors. She succeeded in creating a deodorant that lasts all day and has awesome scents like Girl Power (eucalyptus-lemongrass) and Captain Dangerous (sandalwood). Amy died in 2017, but her husband Tom has carried on the line. Totally worth the few extra dollars. www.fantabulous-deodorant.com.
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Pelican Isle Yacht Club

Pelican Isle Yacht Club has completed a $4.8 million dollar renovation and is located in North Naples. The newly redesigned 20,000 square foot clubhouse features a nautical design throughout with an upgraded dining room, expanded indoor & outdoor casual dining areas, a state-of-the-art-kitchen, enhanced water views from the clubhouse, more meeting & banquet spaces, new outdoor dining, and additional activity features including two bocce courts and fire pits. PVC’s second floor is the location of their fitness center and locker rooms with spa services available. Outdoor amenities also include: resort pool, kayaks, paddleboards, in-ground spa, and two tennis & pickleball courts!

Pelican Isle Yacht Club was awarded #1 Yacht Club in the USA by Platinum Clubs of America and Club Leaders Forum. The club is conveniently situated in an exclusive Southwest Florida location just five minutes from the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico at Wiggins Pass on the Cocohatchee River. PVC is truly unique - it is Naples’ only private island club and has 190 boat slips in the marina. Members enjoy a luxurious, inviting environment with remarkable amenities for relaxation, entertainment, socialization and fun. They can dine, play, party, work out, learn, ride the hourly beach shuttle out to the beaches, and even dock their vessel at this very active private yacht club.

Newly reopened in January 2018, this club has Equity Social and Equity Yacht Membership categories with boat slips also available for lease and transfer. A limited number of applications for membership are still being accepted. For more information, please contact Kathie Pedti, their Membership Sales & Marketing Director, at kathie@psyc.net or by calling (239) 566-1606 ext. 102. Preview tours available by appointment.

Best Place to Stay
Young at Heart

Physicians Regional

Have you thought about what you’d do if someday, your heart needs help? Both Naples Physicians Regional locations have received full Chest Pain Center Accreditation from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care. Whether you need emergency treatment due to a heart attack or have a chronic condition that requires continued care, Physicians Regional Healthcare System’s team can provide complete heart care services for patients throughout Collier County. Start your free heart health assessment at www.physiciansregional.com.

Getting Around

Depending on the time of year, getting around town on SWFL roads can take a while. There’s no better argument to justify driving the best, most fun car you can afford.

Best New Auto Showroom

Germain Honda

The new home of Germain Honda is on I-75 at Pine Ridge and Livingston roads, right in the heart of Naples and with easy access from I-75 for loyal customers. With almost 50,000 square feet and 25-foot-high ceilings and full-height glass walls, the ultra-modern facility showcases more than 300 new and certified pre-owned Honda vehicles. The service area has more than 25 service bays for quick and efficient service. LED lighting throughout the building and the lot minimizes energy use. All this and more adds up to the Best New Auto Showroom and the No. 1 Honda dealer in Southwest Florida. 239-301-3157; www.germainhonda.com.

Best Bound for Greatness

Tamiami Genesis

You don’t know luxury until you’ve driven a new Genesis. Whatever you think you know about luxury automobiles will change with one drive at Tamiami Genesis. As of this writing, the Genesis brand boasts only two distinct models: the G80 and the G90. Both exceed today’s standards of luxury with the G90 surpassing the G80 in size, power and luxury craftsmanship. And coming soon, the all-new G70 will deliver the perfect blend of luxury and sport energy. Attention to detail is the defining characteristic of new Genesis vehicles and Tamiami Genesis. Check it out on Airport-Pulling Road in Naples. 239-325-1999; www.TamiamiGenesis.com.

Politics as Usual

The only thing we can really count on as far as politics go in the Sunshine State is that “usual” means, well, just about anything goes — and it’s often most Unusual.

Best Voldemort Imitation

Gov. Rick Scott

For some reason, the creators of the cinematic personification of evil in the unofficial 2018 Harry Potter prequel film, “Voldemort: Origins of the Heir,” used a noseless likeness of Florida Gov. Rick Scott to put their character on the silver screen. Our governor has a very prominent nose, unlike Voldemort, but has done many things that would endorse such a casting choice, such as: taken steps to destroy Florida’s environment by deregulating developers, frackers and the like; restricted the voting rights of many; killed Medicaid expansion in the state and gave away billions in money Florida taxpayers already forked over to the federal government that would have helped as many as 800,000 uninsured people get health care. A lot of so-ons. But let’s let bygones be bygones. Now Gov. Scott is running for the U.S. Senate — and, oh yeah, he remains one of President Trump’s closest allies in American public life. Even with the nose, he’s starting to look a lot more sinister. Just like Voldemort.

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Joseph G. Magnant MD, FACS, RPVI    Patrick A. Nero MD, FACS, RPVI
BEST GUN BUNNY WHO SHOULD HAVE SHUT UP
Rep. Matt Caldwell, R-79

Now campaigning around the state to become Commissioner of Agriculture in the November election, Rep. Matt Caldwell — with a top rating by the National Rifle Association — is strongly in favor of adding more guns to schools: “I believe that these … shootings happen because (schools) are soft targets—they happen because we designate them gun-free zones,” he told a national television news show a week after the Feb. 14 murders at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. He also said a proposed bill to ban the kind of weapon used that day “wasn’t just a ban on high capacity magazines, that was a ban on all guns.” No other weapons were mentioned.

BEST “TELL IT LIKE IT IS” FLORIDA
Heather Sher, M.D.

A radiologist in Fort Lauderdale with an undergraduate degree in history and science from Harvard and an M.D. from the University of Miami School of Medicine, Dr. Heather Sher saw victims from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School massacre. She also contributes to The Atlantic magazine, where shortly after the shootings she explained in an essay why mortality rates of people hit by high-velocity bullets fired from weapons equipped with high-capacity magazines are so much higher than those hit by other bullets: Essentially, the bullets cause dramatic peripheral tissue damage tunneling through a body at that speed. So even if they don’t hit major organs or bones, they destroy them. And many victims are hit multiple times.

In Parkland, where 17 people died, 17 more experienced nonfatal wounds, many requiring multiple surgeries to save their lives. So, when former Pennsylvania senator and Republican presidential hopeful Rick Santorum, on national television in late March, advised students from Parkland and elsewhere to quit marching and do something useful like learn CPR so they could save somebody next time a mass shooting took place, Dr. Sher called his comments “gobsmackingly uninformed,” and tweeted: “CPR is not effective with catastrophic bleeding. Speechless! Learn CPR! Everyone should for cardiopulmonary arrest. But for gunshot wounds, a) attend stop-the-bleeding course by trauma surgeons or b) pass #gunreform (helpful hint: option b is better option).”

BEST HYPOCRITE
Rep. Francis Rooney

Last May, Congressman Rooney replied to a request from Lydia Black, executive director of the Lee County Alliance for the Arts, who was asking the congressman to support the National Endowment for the Arts. Rep. Rooney said he wouldn’t support funding the NEA, citing the staggering national debt approaching $20 trillion, threatening the stability of our economy and jeopardizing the future of younger generations...” Of course, a few months later, Rep. Rooney voted to add at least $1.5 trillion to the debt by giving huge tax breaks to his corporate overlords. This “Borrow and Spend” Republican, like the commander-in-chief he so ardently defends, knows the cost of everything but the value of nothing.

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BEST VINDICATION FOR A SHAMED MAYOR

Marni Sawicki

The Florida Commission on Ethics found no probable cause regarding four complaints about former Cape Coral Mayor Marni Sawicki filed by former Councilman Richard Leon, the result of a bandwagon campaign to discredit her over gifts she received from Smart Companies’ Brian Rist, with whom she was romantically involved and worked with as a private contractor. In addition, Sawicki has spoken out publicly about the hazards of abusive relationships, the result of her being assaulted by another city figure with whom she was later involved — bravely putting a high-profile face to the problem. Although Sawicki’s story may be a cautionary tale about mixing business and plea- sure, one can’t help but wonder how much her gender had to do with efforts by former colleagues to make matters worse for her and the city that elected her.

BEST REPUBLICAN MYSTERY POLITICIAN

Rep. Heather Fitzenhagen, R-78

The Republican darling of small business owners, movie lovers, the occasional artist, a few journalists, even some environmentalists and probably many upstanding Republicans, Rep. Heather Fitzenhagen supported President Donald Trump, took her daughter to the inauguration, probably many upstanding Republicans, Rep. Heather Fitzenhagen supported President Donald Trump, took her daughter to the inauguration of President Donald Trump and voted for President Donald Trump in 2016. Since that time, however, we’ve heard little or nothing about the president from Rep. Fitzenhagen. But she’s championing robust Everglades and water-restoration plans usually associated with Democrats and environmentalists. Where is Rep. Fitzenhagen going with this? And will she support Gov. Rick Scott’s bid for the U.S. Senate? Would she vote for Donald Trump again in 2020? The answers to those questions remain mysteries as the 2018 elections draw near.

HURRICANE SEASON SPECIAL SECTION

IRMA: ONE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 7, 2018

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Dr. Shah moved to Fort Myers in 2001 after completing his fellowship in Boston, MA and has been providing services to patients of Southwest Florida since that time. He founded Advanced Radiology Imaging Associates, LLC (ARIA), which began providing services in Fort Myers in December 2005, specializing in Musculoskeletal radiology and MRI.

Dr. Shah serves as Medical Director of two multimodality diagnostic imaging centers, one located across from Gulf Coast Hospital and one in Cape Coral on Del Prado just south of Veteran’s Pkwy. Utilizing the latest technology, Dr. Shah oversees the performance of high quality diagnostic imaging. Dr. Shah and his colleagues provide accurate interpretations based on specialized fellowship training and professional experience.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Property Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FORT MYERS</td>
<td>Stunning Canal Home: Breath-taking views of the bay! Watch sea life &amp; shrimp boats!</td>
<td>$1,545,000</td>
<td>1-866-657-2300</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPE CORAL</td>
<td>Gulf Access: Large spacious gulf access home in private gated community</td>
<td>$1,385,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPE CORAL</td>
<td>Former Model Home: Located in The Preserve Cape Harbour's most exclusive enclave</td>
<td>$1,298,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPE CORAL</td>
<td>Elegant Gulf Access Home in Desirable SW Cape Coral: Over 3000 sqft with gulf access</td>
<td>$799,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>FORT MYERS BEACH</td>
<td>Location, Location, Location: This beautiful income producing triplex ready for your</td>
<td>$749,000</td>
<td>1-866-657-2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPE CORAL</td>
<td>Spectacular 3/2 Direct Gulf Access Pool, Lift, Turn Key Home: Enjoy the Florida style</td>
<td>$634,900</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORT MYERS BEACH</td>
<td>Eagle Ridge Beauty 4 Bed/3 Bath/3 Car Garage Pool Home: Custom built 3000 sqft courtyard</td>
<td>$479,000</td>
<td>1-866-657-2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LABELLE</td>
<td>Heaven In The Country: A beautifully maintained 14.5 acre estate in beautiful Labelle</td>
<td>$439,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPE CORAL</td>
<td>Gulf Access Pool Home: Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath pool home in SW Cape Coral</td>
<td>$379,900</td>
<td>1-866-657-2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAPLES</td>
<td>Gulf Access Pool Home: 3/2 Gulf access pool home that is perfect for all your boating</td>
<td>$375,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPE CORAL</td>
<td>Forest Lakes Home: 3/3 in golf community</td>
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$187,500
800FM026169.

Stunning View Close to Downtown Fort Myers
Stunning view and great location. This spacious 2 bed/2 bath condo is located in North Fort Myers and minutes from downtown.
1-866-657-2300
$187,000
800CM071355.

Golf Course Community
3 bed/2 1/2 bath in Colonnade at the Forum Community
Proven to sell 3 bed + den, 2 1/2 bath townhouse in Colonnade at the Forum gated community.
Grande, lanai.
1-866-657-2300
$182,000
800FM040117.

Waterfront Condo
3/2 deep waterfront sailboat access! No bridges!
1-866-657-2300
$205,000
800CC027120.

Waterfront
Waterfront Bayside Home with direct Gulf Access boating. 2 bedrooms, 2 bath in an active 55+ community!
1-866-657-2300
$199,900
800CM018217.

Pool Home
3/2 pool home in NE Cape Coral
1-866-657-2300
$196,000
800CM021058.

Charming 3/2/1 Home in the Heart of Port Charlotte
This is a great family home, just minutes from shopping and 30 minutes to the beach.
1-866-657-2300
$209,000
800CM040117.

Golf Course Community
Well maintained 3/2 pool home on a fresh water canal in grilling community of Rotonda West!
1-866-657-2300
$179,900
800CH250389.

Great Location, plenty of storage and a garage!
Completely updated 2/2 w/oversized 2 car garage for under $250,000
1-866-657-2300
$235,000
800FM022307.

2 Bedroom 2 Bath Wrap Around Awesome Water Views
Like living on an island. Don’t miss this Estero Country Club property. Million dollar views.
1-866-657-2300
$215,000
800FM026169.

3 Bed/3 Bath Home with High-end Amenities
Recently remodeled, this stunning home is loaded with high-end amenities including original restored hardwood flooring.
1-866-657-2300
$214,900
800CM001177.

Charming 3/2/1 Home in the Heart of Port Charlotte
This is a great family home, just minutes from shopping and 30 minutes to the beach.
1-866-657-2300
$209,000
800CM040117.

Waterfront Condo
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1-866-657-2300
$205,000
800CC027120.

This home features 4 bedrooms 3 bathrooms and a garage conversion at an incredible price in North Port.
1-866-657-2300
$188,000
800CH240319.

2 Bedroom 2 Bath Wrap Around Awesome Water Views
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1-866-657-2300
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800FM026169.

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Call 866-657-2300

A Name You Can Trust to Sell Your Home

Barbara M. Watt

Barbara M. Watt founded Century 21 Sunbelt Realty in 1984

WWW.C21SUNBELT.COM

Location, Location, Location
Townhouse in Cypress Landing located in the heart of everything! 2 bedrooms 2.5 bath gold community!
$124,900
800CH251199.

Location with a View
This beautiful and well maintained condo is priced for an immediate sale.
$126,900
800LE075917.

Florida Style
2/1 Florida style Mackle Brothers gem. Home was built tough for Florida weather.
$129,000
800CH251153.

Weekend Getaway in Moore Haven
Manufactured home on .55 acre. Corner lot, extra buildings, screened in spa/lanai, motorhome barn and plant nursery shed.
$125,900
800LE075981.

New Roof CBS House for Sale
Opportunity to move into a CBS home with a new roof. Kitchen has new cabinets and countertops, central water.
$129,000
800LE022015.

Lovely Condo
2 Bedroom + Den 2 Bath Condo in a 55 + community with low HOA fees
$124,900
800CH252735.

Great Rental Property
2/1 Duplex centrally located and easy to rent. Maintained and updated well by the owner. Bricks pavers.
$134,900
800CH215453.

Great Location, Plenty of Storage and a Garage
1 bedroom 1 bath condo with lake view. Custom counter tops in master bath and kitchen. Low HOA fees.
$128,000
800CH214094.

Pristine Townhouse with Lake and Preserve Views
Offers 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and 1 car garage in Gated Community! Lots of amenities!
$157,900
800NA016734.

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ULER ACREs

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Stop and see this well maintained move-in ready 2 bedroom 2 bathroom 2 car garage home.
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800CH400126.

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