TALLAHASSEE — A Treasure Coast lawmaker plans to again pursue more state oversight of private high-speed passenger rail service, as Florida analysts have outlined a number of steps lawmakers could take.

Sen. Debbie Mayfield, R-Rockledge, said an Oct. 31 report from the Legislature’s Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability backs concerns expressed by critics of the new Brightline service in South Florida that the state Department of Transportation wasn’t using its authority to regulate high-speed rail.

“The key issues they identified were the same issues addressed in the high-speed passenger rail bill that I introduced last year,” Sen. Mayfield said. “Specifically, that the Florida Department of Transportation has the authority to provide oversight of safety regulations for the railroads.”

Among the state analysts’ ideas are setting up an independent regulatory body to

Report: State has power to impose tougher high-rail safety

BY JIM TURNER
News Service of Florida

Brightline released a statement saying it was committed to safety.

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Go big or go home: Take a lesson from Alva

The Alva School now has chickens, rabbits, goats and a garden. There are plans to install a rain catchment system, add a calf and possibly pigs (all donations) and expand the garden next year, all of it cultivated and cared for by children. To help them keep it going, or to learn how they did it, call the school at 728-2494. Or visit www.alvaescchools.net.

Along with the big barn, Alva added chapters of Future Farmers of America and 4H, with two teachers certified by an FFA program to teach ag to elementary and middle school kids of every background.

This should be happening elsewhere, too — in Palm Beach County, for example, the state's sixth biggest school district: 282 schools, almost 190,000 students and a budget of more than $3.42 billion last year.

Or in smaller school districts like Collier (48,000 students), Charlotte (50,000) or Sarasota (about 45,000 students). But why?

That's obvious: to spray the weeds of ignorance with the powerful herbicide of knowledge.

With that in mind, Alva Principal Dale Houchin, who grew up on a farm in Ken- tucky, and Stacia Winfrey, then the Alva assistant principal (her husband is a citrus grower), raised cattle or had nurseries and tree farms if not for Gene Sibley. “One reason for doing this was, I wanted the teachers to see: You do have an impact on these kids,” he said. “You can and do change their lives forever. The truth is, I wouldn't have been a citrus grower, raised cattle or had nurseries and trees if not for Gene Sibley.”

Now, with a daughter of his own at Alva School, Mr. Sibley encourages students the way Mr. Sibley once encouraged him and his young classmates. “I hire a lot of young people who often have no experience with anything — how to hook a trailer to a truck, how to attach implements on equipment, how to grow a garden. They understand the challenge: Floridians, along with other Americans, face a significant and dangerous divorce from knowing — knowing both the sources of food and its quality, good or bad. The renowned food writer Michael Pollan ("The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals") offers an alternative.

"Imagine if we had a food system that actually produced wholesome food," Mr. Pollan wrote. "Imagine if that produced food in a way that restored the land. Imagine if we could eat every meal knowing these few simple things: What it is we're eating. Where it came from. How it found its way to our table. And what it really cost. If that was the reality, then every meal would have the potential to be a perfect meal."

Many children nowadays don't know those things. Neither do their parents.

“Many children nowadays don’t know where their food comes from,” Mr. Houchin said. "They don’t know how to plow a field, how to grow a garden. They have no experience with anything — how to attach a trailer to a truck, how to hook up to a rain catchment system, how to grow a garden.”

Mr. Sibley reached out all his life, and many children nowadays don't know those things. Neither do their parents. "Many children nowadays don't know where their food comes from," Mr. Houchin said. "They don’t know how to plow a field, how to grow a garden. They have no experience with anything — how to attach a trailer to a truck, how to hook up to a rain catchment system, how to grow a garden.”

Mr. Sibley encouraged students the way Mr. Sibley once encouraged him and his young classmates. “I hire a lot of young people who often have no experience with anything — how to hook a trailer to a truck, how to attach implements on equipment, how to grow something. They had nothing like this in school.”

For Principal Houchin, hands-on agribusiness experience can build character, respect and responsibility. It teaches practical science, and it will teach kids how to preserve and protect the environment. If they plan to live in Florida as adults, that’s the biggest issue on their plates.
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The dog-eat-dog world

Bob Franken

I’m always amazed that the Washington types consider me to be such jerks are completely different when I run into them at a dog park. They’re actually pleasant to be around. Our canine kids certainly are a good influence.

I find it interesting that President Donald Trump and his family don’t have any puppies, not even the ones that most politicians trot out for warm and fuzzy photo ops or campaign ads. But not Trump, maybe because he doesn’t do warm and fuzzy. Or perhaps it’s because he’s a major-league germaphobe and is worried about rabies. Come to think of it, though, given some of the personalities in his administration, that’s probably not...

There’s some question about whether Harry Truman actually said it or not, but it’s still worth noting: “If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.”

Donald Trump is no Harry Tru- man, to put it mildly. In publicly, he clearly doesn’t care about hav- ing friends in Washington, or for that matter, anywhere beyond the rallies where crowds howl their approval nonstop, no matter how he foams at the mouth.

He’s forming a lot lately, gnawing insis- tantly about how he can’t control the media packs no mat- ter how he tries to intimidate them. Even pulling a White House pass from that hot dog Jim Acosta did cause Acosta or anybody else to cover. And when he tried his alpha act in Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron, who previously had tried to be friendly, seemed determined to prove that he is not Trump’s “poodle.”

For those who don’t remember, that was the scowling label attached to British Prime Minister Tony Blair, because he was perceived to support anything Presi- dent Bill Clinton would do. Not this time around. In fact, Macron seemed to go out of his way to embarrass The Donald, partic- ularly when in front of several world leaders he challenged Trump’s embrace of the loaded term “nationalist.”

“Nationalism is a betrayal of patrio- tism,” said Macron through a translator. “By saying ‘your interests first, who cares about the others,’ we erase what a nation holds dearest, what gives it life, what makes it great and what is essential: its national values.”

That was the French president mark- ing his territory, if you get my drift.

So, another trip overseas, another embarrassment. But finally President Trump was safely ensconced in his home kennel. Back in the day, he used to be quite the horndog, at least according to his PR. But these days, instead of sniffling whatevers, he tweets: “The prob- lem is that Emmanuel suffers from a very low Approval Rating in France, 26%, and an unemployment rate of almost 10%. He was just trying to get out of another subject, so, there is no country more Nation- alist than France, very proud people and rightfully so!”

Take that, Macron! Now the president can start tak- ing a bite out of the high levels of his administration, dumping all those who have displeased him. We can expect more than two more years of this, as “Bull- dog” Trump (many think he looks like one) wavers between snarling and whim- pering as he hounds everyone who raises a leg against him.

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

Joe Biden is a paffe-prone 75-year-old Washington veteran — who is exactly what Democrats need.

The suburbs have turned against Republicans, but Donald Trump’s work- ing-class base is still with him in a geo- graphic and demographic stand-off that will — absent a game-changer — define the 2020 election.

The play for Democrats should be obvious: Make a serious appeal to Trump’s voters. Take back the Blue Wall states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Penn- sylvania. The 2020 results will hinge on presidential. In other words, go with Joe Biden or someone like him with a Midwestern or working-class sensibility (newly re-elected Sens. Sher- rod Brown of Ohio and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota come to mind). His gruff manner, Catholic faith, Irish ethnic background, union-friendly pol- itics and upbringing in Delaware via Pennsylvania make him as close as the contemporary national Democratic Party gets to a working-class match for the Great Lakes states that Trump stole from it in 2016.

From this juncture, those states again look crucial. If the rest of the electoral map stays the same, Democrats need to win all three of Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania to take back the White House. Even if they pick off 2016 red states Arizona and Georgia, they still need Michigan or Pennsylvania to get over 270.

Conversely, it’s hard to see where Trump goes and wins new territory to make up for the loss of Wisconsin, Michi- gan and Pennsylvania. Trump didn’t win those three states by much, by about 80,000 votes collectively. More than anything, he depended on running against a Democratic candidate who was unacceptable to working-class whites. Right now, it looks like he needs a repeat performance by the Democrats, and he may well get one.

The Democrats don’t usually do old and familiar, at least not when they win. The last three Democratic presidents, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, were fresh-faced newcomers on the national scene.

And then, there are the party’s new obsessions. Class has been trumped by race and gender, and as a white male Biden is 0-2. Inequality is now less of a motivator than intersectional, eco- nomic privilege less of a concern than white privilege. This was a stumbling block for the class-obsessed Bernie Sanders last time, and would surely hamper Biden and Sherrod Brown in today’s even more fevered context.

The Democrats are not set up to go with, in the derisive phrase, stale, pale and male. Perhaps they can find another Barack Obama-type candidate who lights up the base while having just enough draw for working-class whites. There also is more than one way to win back the Blue Wall. Higher black turnout could make that difference.

But there’s a good chance that Demo- crats will get consumed by the hot- house dynamic of their nominating process, and select someone who, like those defeated progressive darlings of the midterms — Beto O’Rourke, Stacey Abrams and Andrew Gillum — is better suited to going down in a blaze of glory rather than winning over an increment of Trump voters.

If so, Joe Biden will be one of the few people in American history who could have won two straight presidential elec- tions — in theory.

— Rich Lowry is editor of the Nation- al Review.
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Plans unveiled for The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club

A new luxury hotel and beachfront and golf-side condominiums represent the vision of The Athens Group, the luxury resort and hotel development company selected by the Watkins family to redevelop The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club.

The Athens Group, which released its initial plans and rendering for the redevelopment of the property, has teamed with the architectural firm Hart Howerton to create a plan that will carry on the Watkins family tradition of hospitality, a news release said.

The Watkins family, third-generation owners of the 125-acre beachfront resort in the heart of Naples, will continue operating the hotel and its 18-hole golf course through the 2020-2021 season, when ownership will transition to The Athens Group.

Following the 2021 ownership change, The Athens Group will redevelop the property, which will include:

- A new 220-room luxury hotel, replacing the 319-room hotel, with a Naples architectural aesthetic reflecting the city’s coastal heritage
- A renovated Sunset Beach Bar & Grill and HB’s on the Gulf
- Up to 195 beachfront and golf-side condominium residences
- A further upgrade of the 18-hole golf course
- Enhanced tennis, spa and fitness facilities
- Updated conference and event spaces
- An intimate Market Square, with activities for families, residents and neighbors
- The redevelopment of Gulf Shore Boulevard through the property into a landscaped corridor — the Gulf Shore Garden — with bike lanes on both sides.

“We recognize what a special place The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club is, and what it represents to the history and lifestyle of Naples,” said Kim Richards, CEO of The Athens Group. “Our team has worked diligently to create an exceptional plan that embraces the resort’s heritage, respects the traditions of the Watkins family, and establishes a world-class landmark reflecting the distinct coastal character of Naples.”

Mr. Richards said the proposed plan will continue to be refined from input received from neighbors and other stakeholders during a community outreach program.

“Looking at the proposed elements of the Athens plan, I believe the Naples community will join me with a big pat on the back to all involved,” said Henry B. Watkins III. “A new luxury hotel with residences should enhance neighborhood values, and continued improvement to the golf course will not only provide green space for Naples but also continue the family’s commitment and legacy.”

The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club: 851 Gulf Shore Blvd. N., Naples. For information, call 800-237-7600 or 239-261-2222 or visit NaplesBeachHotel.com.

The Athens Group: For information, visit www.athensdevco.com.

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The seventh annual “Ding” Darling-Theodore Cross High School Photography Contest invites high school students in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Glades and Hendry counties to compete for prizes that include a Canon digital SLR camera package, chartered class trips to the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island and copies of “Waterbirds: Portraits and Anecdotes from Birding Adventures” by contest namesake, the late Theodore Cross.

Deadline for entries is Jan. 15, 2019.

Digital image entries can be shot from any outdoor venue in the state of Florida. Entrants must also submit a 100-word description of the “moment” captured and how it reflects what nature and wildlife mean to the photographer.

Mr. Cross, who lived part-time on Sanibel Island and has family still living here, marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; paid a prominent role in President Obama’s election; and created Birders United, a birthing website that ranks legislators according to their record of support for bird protection.

Late in life, he decided to indulge his love for birds and photography and traveled the world collecting portraits and stories to chronicle his adventures. He shot often at the “Ding” Darling refuge, and a number of the images in his book reflect his love for the refuge.

“Waterbirds” was published in 2009, when Mr. Cross was 85; he died in February 2010.

Contest entry rules and prize information are posted at www.dingdarling-society.org/articles/photo-contests. For more information, call the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society at 472-1100, ext. 4. After the images have been submitted electronically, they will be printed out for judging. Winning images will be matted and displayed in the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center.

**Photo Contest Information**

**Contest Entry Rules and Prize Information**

**Deadline for Entries:** Jan. 15, 2019

**Digital Image Entries**

- Images can be shot from any outdoor venue in the state of Florida.
- Entrants must submit a 100-word description of the “moment” captured and how it reflects what nature and wildlife mean to the photographer.

**Contest Judges**

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- President Obama

**Winning Images**

- Featured in a book called “Black Capitalism,” among others;
- Played a prominent role in President Obama’s election;
- Created Birders United, a birthing website that ranks legislators according to their record of support for bird protection.

**Late Mr. Cross**

- Marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Played a prominent role in President Obama’s election;
- Created Birders United, a birding website that ranks legislators according to their record of support for bird protection.

**Bird Cross**

- Shot often at the “Ding” Darling refuge;
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**“Dead Butterfly”**

- The 2018 first-place photograph by Cape Coral High School student Hankyeol Yang.
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"We play with a big number, and sometimes we call more because we’re pretty certain we’re going to get a certain percentage of mail returned."

— Linda Doggett, the clerk of court in Lee County

**JURY**

From page 1

**In the know**

**Jury Duty fact sheet**

- In Lee County, 15,000 people are called each year out of a pool of eligible jurors hovering around 400,000.
- You are eligible to serve in Florida if you are 18 or older, a U.S. citizen, a current resident of the county and state which summoned you, and you are in possession of a valid Florida Drivers License or Florida Identification Card.
- You can be exempt from jury duty if you are over the age of 70 and wish to be permanently excused. You can also be exempt if you are a parent with full custody of your children, not working full time, if you are an expectant mother; or if you are a full-time law enforcement officer.
- You can also be excused if you have a medical problem and a doctor’s note supporting it. Or if you can prove you didn’t serve in the past year and there was a mistake.
- But guess what? Having to work, or not having a ride to court won’t cut it. You still need to show.
- Judges are very stingy on giving excusals, Ms. Doggett says. "But you can get postponed pretty easily, up to three times a year. It’s very reasonable."
- Most counties have a phone system in place where you dial a number to see if you’re required to show on a Monday or if your number will be called later in the week. Much of this information is also posted online.
- Once you’ve arrived at your designated day, you’ll have a bit of waiting to do.
- First, you wait in a long line outside the courthouse, and then you pass through metal detectors and are ushered into a room with a couple hundred jurors. Everyone signs a form and watches an instructional video. Then you wait.
- Monita Springs resident Jane Kreuter waited about three hours on the day she was called up in Lee County this year.
- Soon, groups of a few dozen jurors were called aside and taken into trials. The others kept waiting. At some point they were excused for an hour lunch break.
- If you’re called into a court room, you’ll have to wait as attorneys from both sides question the jurors about their backgrounds, their occupations, their thoughts on recreational drug use, the police, or maybe even religious affiliations. All of these questions are to find out whether you’ll be sympathetic to the plaintiff or the defendant.
- "The defendant’s attorney was watching everyone closely and taking notes," Ms. Kreuter remembers.
- Shannon McFee, a criminal justice attorney in Collier County, said jury selection is one of his favorite parts of the process because it’s the final piece needed before he can see how his case will take shape. Until then, he’s outlined his approach, his opening and closing statements, and his cross and direct examinations. But it’s not until he’s talking with potential jurors that he gets a true sense of how a trial might go.
- "I find it to be a very interesting part of the trial because, frankly, it’s the part of the trial that we can’t control," he said. "I know it can be tedious, but I enjoy it because I try to engage more than disengage with jurors."
- At some point, the sides will decide if they can agree to place you on the jury.
- If you don’t cut the muster, you’re sent home. You’re off the hook until your next summons.
- If you wait in that first big room full of America all day, never getting to a courtroom you also get to go home at the end of the day and consider your duty course.
- Once you’re on a jury, your time commitment ranges greatly. Your trial might last a day or three; it could last a week or two, or you could be one of the rare jurors deciding high-stakes murder trials that last months and months.
- Or, you could be like Ms. Kreuter, who was selected for a jury and promptly sent home after the defendant took a plea deal before the trial could begin.
- While some employers will pay you for your time away at jury duty, many will not. In those cases, the state of Florida will pay you $15 a day for your time. It’s not much, but that’s the state-wide rate. In some cases where jurors are sequestered for high-profile cases, you’ll also be fed and put up in a hotel. For the most part though, you’ll just get paid.
- "I was compensated by my employer, so it was not difficult for me," Ms. Kreuter remembers.
- Ms. Kreuter has been called up for jury duty three times in recent years. Each time, it was shortly after she had moved to a new state and gotten her drivers license. She believes this threw her into the pool as an eligible juror, making it more likely she would be called up. But each time she’s gotten her envelope in the mail, she’s been eager to help.
- "I’m actually quite curious," she says. "And I believe in the democratic process."

Jan Tuckwood, an editor at the Palm Beach Post in Palm Beach County, was called to serve in October. Like Ms. Kreuter, she was happy to fulfill her public duty.

"I just think it’s a tremendous civic lesson, and an honor to be called," she said. "You realize it is a privilege to live in America and to spend two or three days, or the length of a trial, to help a citizen get fairness or justice."

Of course, Mr. McFee agrees with that sentiment.

He also said that in this political climate, he is looking for jurors who will be open-minded and who are not going to blindly side with the prosecution or law enforcement, in his case.

"You can be pro law enforcement and still realize there are mistakes that need to be made," he said. "I really believe in the jury system. It’s a fantastic check on the system."
oversee railroad safety in Florida; updating rules on state-of-the-art railroad crossings and corridors; requiring a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement effort on trespassing enforcement; establishing “harsher” penalties for people caught trespassing on grade crossings; and conducting a review of statewide suicide prevention activities.

“FDOT lacks an analytical methodology for determining which crossings should be consolidated and where strategic investment should be made,” the report by the agency known as OP-PAGA said. “The methodology should have a component that would consider impacts on traffic congestion.”

For the past two legislative sessions, Sen. Mayfield and other Treasure Coast lawmakers have unsuccessfully pushed for support from outside their region to impose state rules about passenger trains, particularly Brightline, which is operated by All Aboard Florida.

The 159-page OPPAGA report was undertaken as governments and residents in northern Palm Beach County and across the Treasure Coast have been embroiled in a multi-pronged legal battle against Brightline’s planned West Palm Beach-to-Orlando expansion.

In expressing concerns for safety, officials and local media have highlighted deaths that have occurred over the past year along the Florida East Coast Railway tracks used by Brightline’s passenger trains.

Another lawmaker who has sponsored the legislation is Rep. MaryLynn Magar, a Tequesta Republican who was recently named as a top lieutenant to incoming House Speaker Jose Oliva, a Miami Lakes Republican who will lead the House during the 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions.

On Nov. 16, Brightline announced a new partnership that will lead to the service being rebranded Virgin Trains USA.

Asked earlier about the study, Brightline released a statement saying it was committed to safety.

“Safety is Brightline’s top priority, which is why we’ve worked closely with the FRA (Federal Railroad Administration), FDOT and all local jurisdictions along the railway corridor on designing, engineering, constructing and operating the system,” the Brightline statement said. “We remain committed to working with FRA and FDOT to increase funding for more education and awareness.”

The report came as All Aboard Florida, which operates the passenger service between Miami and West Palm Beach, was the only company to submit a proposal to the Florida Department of Transportation to develop passenger-rail service along Interstate 4 between Tampa and Orlando.

The company’s Orlando-to-Tampa proposal is going through the department’s procurement process, with the bid publicly available Nov. 28.

In June, Brightline acknowledged it was pursuing the Orlando-to-Tampa route after it was publicly outlined by Gov. Rick Scott, who in 2011 turned down $2.4 billion in federal funds for a Tampa-to-Orlando bullet train. Gov. Scott cited cost overruns in federal funds for the expansion to Orlando.

Among the state analysts’ ideas:

■ Direct the Florida Department of Transportation to administer a committee that works with local governments, communities, and railroads on safety issues.

■ Consider new regulations for high-speed rail that include a review of the process to certify new passenger rail lines, minimum grade-crossing design standards, fencing requirements along railroad corridors and guidelines for sealed corridors.

■ Grant greater authority to railroad security officials to address trespassing along the tracks and establish harsher penalties for trespassing.

■ Consider using the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Health to determine whether statewide suicide-prevention activities could be used to greater effect.

■ Review funding for rail safety at the state and local levels.

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Compulsions explanation

Christopher Greyshock, 57, of West Milford, N.J., used the old device to con- pose a paranormal-themed sermon that warned against fortune-telling, Wicca and yoga. According to the Springfield News-Leader, Lindell told parishioners on Oct. 28 that yoga positions were “created with demonic intent to open you up to demon- ic power because Hinduism is demonic.” He went on: “To say the positions of yoga and in front of the passengers.” The Dal- las Morning News reported Wolfe also said she alerted the captain and other flight attendants about the behavior, but American took no action “to ensure my safety.” In response to the suit, originally filed in Tarrant County, the airline and Powers both said they are “not liable because (Wolfe) caused or contributed to cause the harm for which recovery of damages is sought.”

Compulsions

David Rush of Boise, Idaho, has found a unique way to score his 15 minutes of fame. On Nov. 13, at the public library in Oak Brook, Ill., Rush set his mind to becoming a Guinness record holder 40 Guinness records, succeeded on his third try, downing 241 kernels. “It’s a unique way to score his 15 minutes of fame. On Nov. 13, at the public library in Oak Brook, Ill., Rush set his mind to becoming a Guinness record holder, downs 241 kernels. “It’s a ridiculous talent to have,” Rush admitted to the Chicago Tribune. “I practiced anything,” he explained.

My generation

Hasbro has determined that the buy- ing hotels and houses aspect of Monop- oly doesn’t much appeal to millennials, who “can’t afford it anyway.” So just in time for Christmas, the company has released a new version of its clas- sic game, Monopoly for Millennials, in which players can only purchase houses and hotels for $200 instead of $300. The new version also includes an emoji and a vintage camera, gather experiences rather than prop-

Crime without punishment

The historic Chattaway restaurant in St. Petersburg, Fla., is a welcoming place, but it was the scene of a lot of unexpected late-night activity in early November, according to the Tampa Bay Times. Surveillance video of a Nov. 6 break-in captured an intruder who “spent over an hour just milking around going to room and room to eating and drinking,” said manager Amanda Kitto. In the process, he stole chicken wings and beer, along with computer equip- ment and cash tips. In the midst of their investigation, police were surprised to find yet another nocturnal visitor on tape from the night before. A man riding a bicycle cruised up to the restaurant

Latest religious messages

Pastor John Lindell of the James River Church in Ozark, Mo., took the opportu- nity presented by an intruder to com- pose a paranormal-themed sermon that warned against fortune-telling, Wicca and yoga. According to the Springfield News-Leader, Lindell told parishioners on Oct. 28 that yoga positions were “created with demonic intent to open you up to demon- ic power because Hinduism is demonic.” He went on: “To say the positions of yoga

Girl fight

A lawsuit filed in federal court in Dallas on Nov. 9 seeks up to $1 million in dam- ages and accuses American Airlines flight attendant Laura Powers, 56, of assault and battery on her co-worker Kathy Ida Wolfe during an in-flight brawl in June 2016. In her suit, Wolfe claims Powers “mali- ciously dug her fingernails into my arm, and used the door of a beverage cart on my arm,” and, also “grabbed my scarf, choking me and dragged me in the aisle

Compelling explanation

first responders were attending to the injured. Greyshock staggered toward them smoking of alcohol. A field sobriety test confirmed Greyshock was inebriated, and he was arrested. On the front seat of his car was a bottle of bourbon and mari- juana. Buddy, there’s always next year.

News of the weird

FLORIDA WEEKLY | WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 5, 2018

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY THE EDITORS AT ANDREWS MCMEELE
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

My generation

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my generation

Hasbro has determined that the buying hotels and houses aspect of Monopoly doesn’t much appeal to millennials, who “can’t afford it anyway.” So just in time for Christmas, the company has released a new version of its classic game, Monopoly for Millennials, in which players can only purchase houses and hotels for $200 instead of $300. The new version also includes an emoji and a vintage camera, gather experiences rather than property. On the box, Rich Uncle Pennybags holds a takeout coffee and wears ear buds and a “participation” medal that reads, “If you had fun, you won!” USA Today reported the game’s experiences include “Thrift Shop” and “Farmers Market,” along with dining at a vegan bistro and attending a music festival. But make sure you Uber home: There is still a “Go to Jail” space on the board.

Complications

David Rush of Boise, Idaho, has found a unique way to score his 15 minutes of fame. On Nov. 13, at the public library in Oak Brook, Ill., Rush set his mind to becoming a Guinness record holder, downs 241 kernels. “It’s a ridiculous talent to have,” Rush admitted to the Chicago Tribune. “I practiced anything,” he explained.
The water’s surface broke with a tug and a splash, rossing me from my dozing. I searched with my grandfather along the Orange River one Saturday morning.

There was another tug of my line and a bigger splash as a modest-size tarpon broke on the shallow bottom, breaking the line and taking with it one of my grandfather’s new lures.

“Damn!” old George cried. “It took the spoon.”

He attached another leader, with another spoon, to my line and we continued trolling the river, which was dup-plied with sunlight that crept through the dense canopy of trees whose tan-nins gave the water its orange hue. I don’t think he hooked anything else that morning before we pulled the boat and headed west across Fort Myers toward Port Comfort Marina, which stood along the road to Sanibel.

Our days generally began before dawn on the Orange River, just east of town. It cost nothing to use the boat ramp access from the PPL plant. You’d spend an hour or two in the morning.

“We’d count the trout and redfish along the Caloosahatchee River. redfish in the mouth of the Caloosa-hatchee, near Pine Island and Sanibel. It wasn’t long before the sun was blistering.

But we’d cast and reel for an after-noon, the slight wobble of the monofilament piercing the silence and breaking the sun’s reflection on the water until we got a hit.

If we were lucky, it was a fine, fat trout. Ladyfish, blowfish and the jacks that lurked about the waters were deemed "trash fish." Old George would toss them in a bucket, where they thrashed about until they turned glassy eyed and died, leaving the boat with the faint stench of fish, outboard motor fuel and cigarettes.

"No need for them to compete with the good fish for bait," he’d say as he took a drag of his Salem cigarette.

The so-called trash fish didn’t go to waste — pelicans were only too happy to follow the boat as we tossed the unwanted catch to them. They’d swoop down and scoop the discards up in their bills and fly off to dine.

We’d count the trout and redfish before pulling the boat in — old George sold his catch at a mar- ket on McGregor Boulevard.

Then we’d climb in the big green 1969 Oldsmobile Ninety Eight.

Old George fired up another Salem and started:

“The radio was blasting, and so was the air conditioning — it was set to freezing and it recirculated the aroma of fish and cigarettes. I wince at the memory and I pause.

Old George left us in 2000 — the sun and the cigarettes had contributed to macular degeneration, then lung cancer. It was not easy to say goodbye, even though he was happy to have made it to 87. But as I remember him, I try not to focus on that.

Rather, I see the joy in his face as the boat hit the water, and then I remember that he sometimes sang along with the radio while driving home, and I smile.

Looking back, there was no sweeter sound.

THE FIND:

A Fish bottle opener

Bought: The Lord’s Place’s Joshua Thrift Store, 7600 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach; 561-494-0125.

Paid: $2

The Skinny: This week’s find is an educational one for me. — I’d seen these articulated fish for years not knowing they were bottle openers.

Most date from the 1950s and ’60s and were made in Mexico or Italy. I was hooked when I saw this one, which shimmers, thanks to the scales of abalone that clad its brass body. It’s missing bits of the shining shell, but that doesn’t diminish its appeal on my bar.

Don’t miss:

The West Palm Beach Antiques Festival — The next show is set for Nov. 30-Dec. 2 at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach. Info: www.wpbaf.com.

SCOTT SIMMONS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

This abalone-clad bottle opener measures just under 8 inches long.
Stomping on patients’ rights

BY DAVE TRECKER

When you’re ill and need to be hospitalized, who makes the call? Who admit you to the hospital? Who arranges and oversees your treatment? Ah, you say, that’s easy. In most cases, it’s your primary-care physician, the doctor who quarterbacks your health care.

But what if your primary-care physician is relegated to the sidelines?

The system works, claims Dr. Weiss. It’s cheaper and the patients love it. In a Naples Daily News op-ed, he writes that a pilot program resulted in “markedly improved patient satisfaction, a 25 percent decrease in length of stay and a lower 30-day readmission rate.” And the primary-care doctor isn’t excluded: he is allowed to “collaborate” with the hospitalist.

Sounds great. Who could possibly object?

Almost everyone, it seems. Dr. Weiss’s policy has triggered a firestorm of opposition from physicians and patients across Collier County.

What is this “hospitalist” paradigm? Where has it been used? What are the pros and cons?

It’s not a new phenomenon. Dr. Weiss didn’t invent it. There are over 50,000 hospitalists now employed in the U.S., working in 80-plus percent of hospitals with more than 200 beds. Medical literature says their training allows them to “bridge gaps” in hospital operation, saving time and money. According to one assessment, they’re “a cheap bargain.”

Dr. Weiss writes, “Instead of having only one physician who visits for review your medical records, receiving recommendations. And the acute-care focus of hospitalists now employed in the U.S., didn’t invent it. There are over 50,000 hospitalists now employed in the U.S., working in 80-plus percent of hospitals with more than 200 beds. Medical literature says their training allows them to ‘bridge gaps’ in hospital operation, saving time and money. According to one assessment, they’re ‘a cheap bargain.’

Dr. Weiss says, “Nothing in this new care model prevents your primary physician from coming to the hospital, reviewing your medical records, receiving updates on your condition, recommending tests/procedures/specialists.”

What he can’t do is treat his patient. Sorry, Lindy Boulfard.

How has the medical community reacted to Dr. Weiss’s dictum? With almost unanimous opposition. The NCH medical staff opposed it. The board of the Collier County Medical Society opposed it. Cesar DeLeon, president of the CCMS, reported the opposition in an NDN op-ed on Nov. 6. Paul Jones, president of the NCH medical staff, followed suit with an op-ed on Nov. 9. Mr. Jones was forced to resign.

A respected community leader calls Jones’s dismissal “akin to Pearl Harbor.” He goes on to say, “One has to wonder if the NCH Board of Trustees really gives a damn!” Another local leader says the policy “will literally tear our community apart.”

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

GMC’s Terrain is smaller, lighter and better

The previous generation Terrain seemed like it wanted to be larger than it really was. A boxy design with extra flair in the wheel arches made for a compact that always wanted to play with the big dogs. This second generation goes in the opposite direction and adds a dose of self-esteem. The new 2019 Terrain is smaller, lighter and much more confident with its curves.

The front has an attractive line that starts at the headlights and dips until it forms the cradle for the grille. It creates an attractive and cohesive look. Similar ideas are found on the line that dips in-between the taillights, as well as the one that starts at the wheel wells and aches through the doors. It’s an evolution of the design language seen on its bigger brighter Acadia, and these artful touches are needed in the competitive compact crossover field.

Despite a few inches taken out of the wheelbase and overall length, it really isn’t missed on the inside. Rear legroom has not significantly changed. It’s still a place that’s comfortable for adults — a practical reason to choose a crossover over a sedan.

mylesKORNBLATT
mk@autominded.com

The narrower the target, the tougher it is to hit the mark. So, when the 2019 GMC Terrain Denali is trying to be a premium, sporty and distinct in the crossover market, it’s a lofty goal. That’s why its redesign so interesting.

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Behind the Wheel

GMC’s Terrain is smaller, lighter and better

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For the driver, the Terrain does a nice job of feeling airy and clutter-free. The transmission selector is now a push-but-
ton and pull-tab operation that is a little odd at first, but it does clear the way for extra room on the center console. The hints of brushed aluminum also an
upscale feeling that GMC is aiming for these days.

Keen eyes will notice that our test car has the most artful grille of the Terrain lineup — a telltale sign of the premium Denali trim. This top-of-the-
line designation also means the 2.0-liter turbo motor comes standard. The 252-horsepower engine is a terrific unit that's nearly 350 pounds lighter than its predecessor.

It's paired well with the new platform that's peppy and packs a mighty punch. That kind of pricing keeps it competitive with crossovers like the Jeep Cherokee and Mazda CX-5.

The excellent 2.0-liter turbo motor is optional on the mid-level SLE. It still comes with the cool LED lighting on the outside. The inside retains features like the touchscreen infotainment with Bluetooth, leather-wrapped steering wheel and keyless ignition. When add-
ing the top-level 2.0 turbo, it's a $31K vehicle ($32,740 for the AWD version). The secret to owner happiness is like-
ly at a more basic level. Step down from the Denali trim, slim down on some of the options, and the Terrain offers some nice value.

The Denali name is the top-tier at GMC. Our all-wheel drive Denali test car came in at $43,155, and that's pricy territory for the Terrain. The same money can buy premium vehicles like the Mercedes GLC crossover. They're both all-wheel drive, similarly sized with good rear legroom, and the 2.0-liter offers comparable performance. Howev-
er, the GMC is often eligible for deeper factory discounts, and the Mercedes will cost quite a bit more once brought up to our test vehicle's equipment level. Still, it can be an uphill battle when a Denali can be directly cross-shopped with the top luxury names.

There will be those who can’t live without a stylish grille and a ton of pre-
mium technology. That’s why the Denali exists, but there’s a lot of room at GMC to dial-in the right vehicle. Regardless of how deep you’re willing to reach into your pockets, the real way the Terrain stands out in its field. But total satisfaction which really makes the Terrain stand
utes to a nimble feeling on the road,
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Time is short for public comment on the future of Collier County, Southwest Florida and the Florida panther

BY AMBER CROOKS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now taking comments on a 50-year development plan proposed by major landowners in eastern Collier County. The plan,ironically called a Habitat Conservation Plan, would authorize 45,000 acres of intense mining and development — an area equivalent of two cities of Miami — in the endangered Florida panther’s last remaining core habitat area. It would facilitate development that would bring 300,000 additional residents into this rural region.

Even as USFWS acknowledges the significance of this proposal, the federal agency has refused to host a public hearing. Are they afraid they would again have a standing-room-only crowd of concerned citizens rejecting the HCP, as they did in 2016?

Are they trying to avoid having to answer questions about why their flawed analysis claims the HCP is somehow better for the environment? Or about why they decided not to consider a science-based alternative by the Panther Review Team?

Is it because some of the landowners might not get all of the new towns they want, even as they acknowledge impacts to panthers would be reduced?

The impacts are not only to protected species, but they also impact taxpayers. The landowners deny any responsibility for the building or mitigating for the 200 miles of new and expanded roadways their developments will necessitate. Therefore, these costs, estimated conservatively at $7.8 billion, will be the obligation of the state of Florida and Collier County — in other words, the taxpayers.

Furthermore, the HCP doesn’t address panther road kills from the added 1 million vehicle trips a day to these roads.

The next proposed new town, Rural Lands West, is included in the HCP. I had the opportunity to visit the development site. We toured for hours and only saw a fraction of the future town. It will be massive: 2 miles wide by 6 miles long and up to 10,000 homes. The Camp Keais Strand wetlands are throughout the footprint. No wonder this land has almost every Southwest Florida protected species documented here.

No wonder the best available science considers it essential habitat for the survival of the Florida panther.

Dr. Robert Frakes, author of the newest panther habitat study, has modeled the impacts of the proposed HCP on panther habitat, particularly corridors like the Camp Keais Strand. He found that the HCP will fragment and sever these connections.

The HCP will further imperil our wildlife, water and landscapes. How much more can our wildlife and our environment take?

The Conservancy has invested countless hours advocating for a more responsible development footprint and a more constrained HCP that would
have minimized the extensive negative impacts to endangered species — but all of our comments have fallen on deaf ears within the permitting agencies. If approved, our fate will be sealed. Once authorized, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to fix. The Eastern Collier HCP is a bad deal for the panther and 18 other species — as well as for the people of Southwest Florida. The Eastern Collier HCP permits must be denied. Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring said it best:

“We stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost’s familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road — the one ‘less traveled by’ — offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of our earth. The choice, after all, is ours to make.”

Please help make the best choice for Collier County and Southwest Florida. For suggested comments and how to weigh in before the Dec. 3 deadline for public comment, visit www.conservancy.org.

— Amber Crooks is the environmental policy manager for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

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Admission: $5  Raffle Tickets: $5 each or 5 for $20 while making a difference in the local community.

Join us for a night of fun, food, raffles, and fundraising to benefit the Youth Haven of Naples Benefit

Wednesday, December 5 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Youth Haven of Naples Benefit

Questions? Call: 239-206-8888

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About the park

Koreshan State Park offers a window into the lives of a unique and eccentric pioneer group that chose to make its home under towering oaks on the banks of the Estero River. In 1893, the Koreshans, a religious sect founded by Dr. Cyrus R. Teed, moved here and built a settlement based in a commitment to communal living and a belief that the universe existed on the inside of the Earth. Living celibate lives, the enterprising Koreshans established a farm, nursery and botanical gardens.

The park is home to 11 immaculately restored and nationally registered historic buildings erected by the Koreshans between the late 19th and early 20th century. A quiet and peaceful refuge between busy Fort Myers and Bonita Springs, the interpretative and natural resources of the park provide great opportunities to learn and unwind.

Hours are 8 a.m. to sunset, 365 days a year. The historic settlement is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 992-0311 or visit www.floridastateparks.org.

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Susan G. Komen South Florida expands its reach northward

Susan G. Komen South Florida, based in West Palm Beach, has significantly expanded its reach to become Susan G. Komen Florida. The new statewide organization will serve the entire state, except for Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

The new Komen Florida will focus its work on saving the lives of more than 2,700 Florida women who die from breast cancer every year.

“The expansion strengthens Komen’s ability to ensure all women and men in the state get the support they need and will ultimately help us save lives,” said Paula Schneider, CEO of Susan G. Komen. “We are excited to be able to renew our local support in the central and northern regions of the state, as well as reach new areas that previously did not have a local Komen affiliate.”

The new Komen will be based in West Palm Beach under the leadership of Kate Watt, who previously served as Komen South Florida’s executive director. Ms. Watt and Board Chair Jill Weiss have led a strong team to increase mission investments in breast health, grow the organization’s Race for the Cure® event and introduce an innovative community-based navigator program to reduce breast cancer among African American women who have a 40 percent higher mortality rate than white women. The team will now seek to grow those efforts across the state to reduce breast cancer deaths, advocate for increased support and respond to the state’s healthcare crisis for women.

According to the March 2018 Status of Women in Florida by County: Health & Wellbeing Report, Florida earns a grade of C- and a national ranking of 35th on the health & well-being composite index.

The new Susan G. Komen Florida affiliate will have a powerful influence in the state, with a past combined investment of $57 million in education, screening, treatment and research across the regions now under the Susan G. Komen Florida umbrella. These include Florida’s southwest (Naples), central (Orlando) north (Jacksonville), south (West Palm Beach) and the Florida Suncoast (Tampa) regions.

Komen Florida will continue to host its annual Race for the Cure in downtown West Palm Beach. Future walks in other regions will be announced in the spring.

As part of the launch, Komen Florida is currently issuing a statewide grant request for proposals available on KomenFlorida.org. Organizations that support breast health education and screenings are encouraged to apply.

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Healthy Living

Lung cancer’s main culprit — smoking

BY TALAL ELMASRY
of Health

This year, lung cancer is projected to take the lives of 155,000 Americans. While there may be a few causes and risk factors for this unsettling number — the highest among all forms of cancer in both men and women — nothing comes close to the threat posed by smoking.

In fact, according to the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer, or IASLC, 80 to 90 percent of the casualties this disease claims could be prevented if people avoided smoking cigarettes.

Even if you’ve been smoking, however, there are still benefits to stopping. Once you are 10 years clear of smoking, your risk of dying from lung cancer is about half that of a person who is still smoking.

Yet, some people have an extremely difficult time veering off the path that frequently leads to lung cancer. The first step is to admit that you have an addiction.

The addictive power of nicotine, the substance in tobacco that creates this unhealthy gravitational pull toward smokers, can’t be underestimated. The feelings of pleasure, as well as the reduction of stress and anxiety, produced by nicotine can lead to a dependence that is strong enough to keep users smoking even if they know the negative effects and want to quit.

However, identifying that you are addicted must be done to overcome the habit. Here are a few clues:

■ Smoking more than one pack a day.
■ Smoking despite being sick or having a health issue.
■ Smoking within minutes of waking up.
■ Giving up social or recreational activities to smoke.

You can’t stop smoking despite serious attempts to do so.

Even many people who categorize themselves as social or casual smokers may wrongly believe that they’re dodging harmful effects by not smoking every day or only once a day. However, plenty of research has been done to debunk this train of thought over the last several years.

There are a few products that can help you kick the habit. The nicotine patch, nicotine gum, nicotine lozenge, nicotine inhaler and nicotine nasal spray. Meanwhile, there are two approved quit-smoking medications that are nicotine-free — Chantix and Zyban — and both are prescription only.

E-cigarettes have not been approved as a stop-smoking alternative. It’s also worth pointing out the strides that have been made because of increasing awareness of lung cancer.

The most recent data from the American Cancer Society finds that the lung cancer death rate has dropped by 45 percent since 1990 in men and by 19 percent since 2002 in women due to less smoking, and that downward trend has become steeper over the past decade.

At the UF Health Lung Cancer Program, 90 percent of new lung cancer referrals are seen within seven days. Why is that important? According to the Cancer Treatment Centers of America, the patient survival rate for non-small cell lung cancer (by far the most common type of lung cancer) drops significantly the longer it goes undetected.

Patients diagnosed after six months survive 67 percent of the time, but that rate falls to 46 percent after 12 months, then to 32 percent after 18 months.

Keeping friendships despite philosophical differences

Marcy had enjoyed playing bridge and socializing for many years with a group of women who had shared so many of each other’s joys and heartaches. However, as time passed, their political views had shifted and it became clear that Marcy had aligned herself more with one political party, while her friends had moved in the opposite direction. But Marcy still believed she had many values in common with the others.

Joyce had looked a bit sheepish, but Marcy later decided that perhaps she’d imagined the whole thing. Joyce had looked a bit vocative in its own right.

Once, when Marcy approached the group, Marcy thought she’d overheard a close friend, Joyce, whispering about her with the others. Joyce had looked a bit sheepish, but Marcy later decided that perhaps she’d imagined the whole thing.

One day at lunch, things came to a head. The group had been heatedly discussing a controversial news event. Wendy, who organized the bridge games, was strongly voicing her concerns. She looked at Marcy, with daggers, and said:

“I suppose you disagree with me?”

But before she could answer, Wendy became belligerent. “I knew you wouldn’t agree. I can’t believe how naïve and stupid you are! You know what, Marcy? I don’t think it will be comfortable for you to play with us anymore.”

The group was hushed, but not one person told Wendy she was wrong. Joyce looked the other way. Marcy was speechless.

Some people are so self-righteous in their views, they become outright hostile in their disdain for those who think differently.

It seems that, lately, for many, our political party affiliations may have become a huge measure of our affinity for other people — and how we evaluate their character and judgment. Although the incident above was factionalized, scenarios with similar sentiments and behaviors have been occurring all too frequently.

Unfortunately, political discourse today has become so polarized, that it seems, in many instances, that others are making a personal attack, or even more concerning, a value judgment about each other’s morality and principles. The level of vitriol and animosity has reached unprecedented heights.

While many of us have been raised to restrain ourselves from divisively chas-ising those who disagree with our views, it...
seems like we’re now living in a climate that condones rude, contentious attacks on those who think differently.

It’s a daily occurrence to see politicians, celebrities and newscasters — who we count on to show leadership — behaving shamelessly and speaking out in ways that make us cringe.

Parents worry that children will not learn to behave respectfully or kindly when so many adults are such embarrassing role models.

Most of us count on our friendships to be positive, affirming additions to our lives. There’s often a comfort and affinity when we affiliate with like-minded folks who share common beliefs and values.

But how do we navigate our differences in today’s polarized climate?

It’s important that we carefully consider the personalities and temperaments of those around us — and proceed with caution.

When we try to overly assert our position or change a person’s mind, we will likely be woefully disappointed.

How we respond and conduct ourselves in the face of upset speaks to our own character and sense of self-worth. It may be difficult not to react defensively and to restrain our negative reactions.

But, let’s not lose sight of what matters most to us. Ironically, many of us happen to agree on more issues and policies than our contentious rhetoric would have us believe.

Have we lost our ability to have a civilized discussion that doesn’t deteriorate to an ugly, name-calling shouting match? Can we become BETTER than the ugliness swirling around us, and treat each other with thoughtful care?

I certainly hope so.
PET TALES

Canine pneumonia

BY KIM CAMPELL THORNTON
Andrews McMeel Syndication

Dogs, like people, get respiratory infections, and most of the time recover without incident. Sometimes, however, those infections turn into pneumonia, which can be fatal. How can dog owners know if their pet’s runny nose and cough might put his life at risk?

How sick your dog will get from his version of a cold or flu depends on many factors. Puppies and senior dogs are at increased risk of developing pneumonia. So are the so-called brachycephalic breeds, those with flat faces like pugs or bulldogs. Other dogs may have underlying health conditions that put them at additional risk. Because contagious respiratory diseases are airborne, dogs who mingle with other dogs at dog parks and similar locations are also at increased risk of respiratory disease.

Another important risk factor is the cause of the pneumonia, which can include everything from a bacterial or viral infection, to a structural defect in the respiratory tract, to near-drowning or electrical shock.

Dr. Cynda Crawford of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine is the researcher who discovered the first known canine influenza virus (CIV). “There’s an increased risk for progression of the influenza virus to pneumonia,” she says. “The vast majority of dogs with this viral infection do not go on to develop pneumonia. What’s more, Crawford says, “The vast majority of pathogens that can cause respiratory infections in dogs are still unknown. Of the small number we’ve identified, only about half of those have a vaccine available.”

Respiratory infections in dogs can turn deadly if not treated in time. Not at all. First, be aware that despite your best efforts, your dog may pick up a respiratory infection, “Fortunately, for the vast majority of cases, these infections will be mild and short-lived, so there’s no need to panic by putting your dog in a bubble. But do protect your dog with vaccinations and avoid places where others to develop into pneumonia.

Vaccinations can reduce the severity of the symptoms and make dogs less contagious to other dogs, but it doesn’t completely prevent illness. What’s more, if your dog is otherwise healthy, is not a puppy or senior and has no additional risk factors, Crawford advises you to check with your veterinarian to see if there are canine influenza viruses circulating in your community. If so, you’ll probably want to seek medical care, as these infections are more likely than others to develop pneumonia.

If there is no CIV circulating and your dog is in good health, your veterinarian will probably advise you keep him home until the danger of transmitting the disease to other dogs has passed. However, Crawford says, “If the coughing, sneezing and nasal discharge persist for more than a couple of days, or if the dog stops eating or develops rapid breathing, contact your veterinarian right away.”

If you do head for the vet, be sure to ask about what you can do to protect other dogs in the hospital waiting area from being infected by your pet. Many veterinary clinics will ask owners whose dogs have respiratory symptoms to wait in the car or enter through a separate door. Be sure to ask how long your dog needs to be kept away from other dogs, as well as what signs to watch out for that can alert you to developing pneumonia.

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<th>Term</th>
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* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 11/26/2018. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to $250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

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Increasing its prices, holding costs make Pfizer stock a good buy

With the recent market turmoil, investors are understandably looking for a safe haven to shelter capital from the volatility. They would like to find investments that have growth opportunities yet will not experience massive price swings with the rest of the market. One stock that fits these criteria may be Pfizer Inc. This drug company continues to sit at multi-year highs even as the rest of the market is battered. And just last week the company announced something that was cheered by analysts and investors alike.

Pfizer was founded in 1849 in Brooklyn, N.Y., as a chemical company producing an anti-parasitic compound and citric acid. In later years, the company expanded into producing the new antibiotic penicillin and supplied this drug to the military during World War II. When the cost of penicillin dropped, Pfizer transformed itself into a pharmaceutical company. By 1980, the company was producing its first $1 billion in annual revenues and profits can quickly drop dramatically. This lack of pipeline and falling revenue is exactly the scenario that Pfizer faced in the early 2000s. As a result, the stock price fell from $45 per share in 2000 to $14 in 2009. However, since that time, Pfizer refocused its research and development efforts, increasing revenues and profits.

One of the primary causes of Pfizer’s monumental success is its string of blockbuster drugs. One example is Lipitor, which treats high cholesterol. Introduced in 1996, this drug became the best-selling drug of all time with sales of over $125 billion. However, successful drugs such as Lipitor can become a major problem for a drug company because the huge money-making products have a finite lifespan. Eventually, the exclusivity period of the compound runs out and generic drug companies are able to legally produce them, usually at a fraction of the cost. And unless the company pays a meaningful 3 percent dividend, so an investor can take advantage of price appreciation and income — now and hopefully well into the future.

— Eric Bretan, the co-owner of Rick’s Estate & Jewelry Buyers in Punta Gorda, was a senior derivatives marketer and investment banker for more than 35 years at several global banks.

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In an age of much change in the business world, more people are reinventing themselves. That could mean learning new skills to fit a new job, landing in a new industry or starting a new business.
Sometimes the change is forced upon someone (fired); other times they force it upon themselves (inspired). The person might even be comfortable in a job, but a new opportunity or goal motivates them to try something much different — to reinvent.
Nigel Parker, for example, left a long career as a high-level engineer and man-

“Sometimes you can’t wait for your future to find you; you find it ... That’s much of what reinventing is about. It’s a twist in the road on the long journey.”
— Nigel Parker, founder/CEO of RashEndZ Inc.

Protection you need, service you deserve.
Since 1916, Auto-Owners has partnered with independent agents to provide local service and trusted protection.
If you're planning or hoping to retire within, say, a decade, there are some actions you might want to take to ensure that your golden years are as shiny as possible.

You're worried that you're way behind in saving for retirement, know that you probably still have time to build it up. You want to start sock away as much as possible each year — and perhaps even work a few more years than you'd planned to. If you can save and invest $10,000 per year for 10 years and it grows at an annual average of 6 percent, you'll amass close to $410,000. It's not a king's ransom, but it will be helpful. After all, your investments are going to have to support you significantly or completely, during retirement.

If you're within 10 years of retirement, consider cutting back on stocks and adding some bonds to your portfolio. Stocks do tend to feature much higher returns than bonds, but they can be volatile, and you don't want a market crash just before you retire.

**Name That Company**

I trace my roots back to 1965, when I was founded as a mail-order veterinary supply company in San Diego. I debuted my first store in 1980, in Oregon, and expanded over the following years, acquiring related companies and opening 5,000 stores. I'm public for the first time in 1984, and launched my website in 2001. Today, a privately held company, I help Foster and Smith. I help brands include Pet-Rich Puerto Rico and Mexico, and my brands include Pet-Coach and Doctors Foster and Smith. I help you find homes for more than 400,000 animals each year. Why think you know the answer? We'll announce it in next week's edition.

**The Motley Fool Take**

Warren Buffett has built Berkshire Hathaway (NYSE: BRK-A) (NYSE: BRK-B) into a behemoth. It has a diversified set of more than 60 subsidiaries, including insurance, railroads, consumer goods, and media companies, along with the BNSF railroad, GEICO, Fruit of the Loom, Benjamin Moore and International Dairy Queen. It also holds a massive portfolio of stocks, including big stakes in companies such as American Express, Apple, Coca-Cola and Wells Fargo.

Even though Berkshire was recently valued at over half a trillion dollars, Buffett thinks it's cheap. The company bought approximately $1 billion worth of shares in August, and more buybacks could be coming. Buffett's aversion to overpaying for companies is one reason Berkshire has thrived. As he says, "Be fearful when other are greedy, and greedy when others are fearful." Buffett has cautioned investors that Berkshire's future returns won't be nearly as strong as the approximately 21 percent annualized return it's produced since he took the reins in 1964. And, at 88, Buffett won't be in charge forever. But as long as his successors stick to his conservative, value-based approach, Berkshire can continue to thrive. (The Motley Fool owns shares of and has recommended Berkshire Hathaway.)

**Wills for Heroes event to serve local veterans**

Special to Florida Weekly

NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY

Legal Aid Service of Collier County, in partnership with members of the Protect Our Military and Interstate Legal Aid and Service Providers who do not currently have these documents.

"Cohen & Grigsby is honored to participate this year, and in every Wills for Heroes event. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to offer legal assistance to hundreds of veterans and first responders," said Kelley Geraghty Price, a partner at Cohen & Grigsby.

Attendees wishing to receive services at the Wills for Heroes event must be Florida residents with a military or service ID. VA cards and Forms DD-214 are acceptable. All qualified applicants are welcome; however, it is recommended that anyone seeking services to register in advance by completing the registration form on the Legal Aid Service Providers website, http://www.collierlegalaid.org/2018-wills-for-heroes/. Preference will be given to qualified applicants who have registered in advance, as there are limited opportunities for these services. Tax planning and tax advice will not be provided during this special event.
REINVENT

From page 26

In transition: From military to student life

BY LETICIA PIZARRO PADILLA

It should come as no surprise that for many military personnel, the transition from military to civilian life can be difficult to maneuver. From rigid schedules, clearly defined skill sets and a camaraderie among fellow service members, to a lack of structure, uncertainty of one’s abilities and difficulty reconnecting with loved ones, the transition to civilian life can present a multitude of challenges.

When transitioning out of the military, service members often have two choices: returning to school or entering the workforce. Since challenges still exist in the transferring of skills from military to the workforce, school becomes a viable pathway.

Becoming a student lends itself to a similar “definitive” schedule to which military personnel are accustomed. Knowing when and what to do can help with course load and overall success. Also, allowing veteran students to maintain a level of control. However, just because a set schedule provides familiar comfort doesn’t mean all aspects of transitioning from military to student life are easy.

Understanding educational benefits, seeking help for mental health, housing, personal finances, and more, all while discovering that sense of belonging can all prove extremely difficult and overwhelming.

The good news is that universities can address these issues with on-campus resources and partnerships with external organizations and agencies specializing in assisting veterans in their transition to civilian life. Hodges University’s Dr. Peter Thomas, Veterans Services Center serves as a valuable resource for veteran students and their dependents, providing support and assistance to students in their educational pursuits.

One of the largest hurdles veteran students face when returning to school is understanding their available educational benefits. Individuals eligible to receive the Post-9/11 GI Bill may use the funds to pay for college tuition and fees. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, students attending a private institution like Hodges University may receive up to $22,805.34 per academic year. If the institution’s tuition and fees extend beyond the national maximum, students are at the 100 percent benefit level may receive funding through the Yellow Ribbon Program, which increases the tuition and fees benefit.

In addition, based on their eligibility—percentage—students may receive a monthly housing allowance, books and supplies stipend, and a one-time rural benefit. For veteran students who are not eligible for VA education benefits, Hodges offers a $100 tuition discount per credit hour, and for active duty military, a $250 tuition reduction per credit hour. There are also various scholarship opportunities available to veteran students.

Of course, the financial aspect of returning to school isn’t the only hurdle veteran students face. Add the “chaos” of civilian life and its responsibilities (i.e., mental health, career options, housing and medical needs) and students may find it difficult to successfully transition.

Veteran students work with the university’s Career Services Office and community agencies. These organizations help veterans with everything from job training, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, counseling, housing assistance and health screenings. Hodges’ VSC staff can provide the necessary tools and referrals for students to make well-informed decisions regarding their personal transition.

Lastly, while school might seem like the ideal place to meet others and establish relationships, it can be difficult for veteran students to relate to their peers. This is why centers like Hodges’ VSC are crucial to a veteran student’s transitional and educational success.

It is important to remember veteran students have experienced what others can only imagine. Whether a student needs to simply relax, speak to a VSC staff member or meet with fellow veterans, centers like the VSC can assist in their time of need, making the transition a much smoother experience.

— Leticia Pizarro Padilla is the manager of Veteran Services for the Dr. Peter Thomas Veterans Services Center at Hodges University.

Learn all you can. “Some people make the big mistake of thinking they don’t want to learn anymore,” Mr. Parker says. “Reinventing is about growing, and in some ways like you never have before.”

Organize your tasks. It can get overwhelming, so stay on top of things by prioritizing daily and weekly. “You need to create to-do lists and have great time management geared to the goals in mind all the time,” Mr. Parker says.

Experiment. “Much of pursuing a dream or new vision is trial-and-error, learning from mistakes,” Mr. Parker says. “Your mind has to be free to explore all the possibilities of your new endeavor.”

“Sometimes you can’t wait for your future to find you; you find it,” Mr. Parker says. “That’s much of what reinventing is about. It’s a twist in the road on the long journey.”

— Nigel Parker, founder and CEO of RashEndZ Inc. (www.RashEndZ.com), is a senior management and systems engineering professional with more than 25 years experience in aerospace, medical simulation and other high-tech industries. While working at Honeywell from 1990 to 2001, he worked on the space shuttle, military aircraft and commercial aircraft, among other projects. He is the inventor of REZair, a skin-aeration liner that can be inserted inside a diaper, incontinence garment or wound dressing, helping to keep the skin dry and speed healing.

Mr. Parker was inspired to help find a solution to a problem, suffered by many, that hit close to home.

His cousin, Colleen John, a neonatal ICU nurse, told him of the severe diaper rashes she was treating in premature babies, and how those can develop into pressure ulcers or bedsores. Also a major concern for nursing homes and hospitals, bedsores lead to the deaths of about 60,000 patients each year.

Ms. John started using oxygen at the babies’ beds to direct air on the rashes to mitigate the problem. Mr. Parker invented the technology to more efficiently deliver oxygen to the diaper and skin.

“It put me on a mission,” says Mr. Parker. “The chance to help others is a gift. We have to keep growing, and when you find a new passion, you reinvent.”

Mr. Parker gives five ways to help you reinvent yourself:

■ Put your vision on paper. Mr. Parker says it’s a matter of visualizing and verbalizing what you want. “Imagine what it will be like, outline it, energize yourself with happy details that counter the expected valleys you’ll encounter,” he says.

■ Find the right people. Networking is vital, Mr. Parker says, and easier with the internet and all forms of social media. “You can connect with people who encourage your change and make it for the better,” he says.

■ Change often means reinvention... When a seismic shift happens in our lives, like leaving a job, moving, losing someone close to us, we have to choose who we want to become or else feel like we never reached our potential.”

— Nigel Parker, founder/CEO of RashEndZ Inc.

Mr. Parker, inventor of REZair, a skin-aeration liner that can be inserted inside a diaper, incontinence garment or wound dressing, helping to keep the skin dry and speed healing, says Mr. Parker, founder/CEO of RashEndZ Inc. (www.RashEndZ.com) and inventor of REZair, a skin-aeration liner that can be inserted inside a diaper, incontinence garment or wound dressing, helping to keep the skin dry and speed healing.

Mr. Parker inventing that sense of belonging can all prove extremely difficult and overwhelming.

“Change often means reinvention,” says Mr. Parker, founder/CEO of RashEndZ Inc. (www.RashEndZ.com) and inventor of REZair, a skin-aeration liner that can be inserted inside a diaper, incontinence garment or wound dressing, helping to keep the skin dry and speed healing.

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— Nigel Parker, founder/CEO of RashEndZ Inc.
NETWORKING

WellFit Girls Inspired Speaker Series with Becca Pizzi at Venue Naples

1. Patrick Dearborn, Becca Pizzi and Nannette Staropoli
2. Scott Brown Jr., Christy Carpenter, Jill Wheeler, Becca Pizzi, Colby Hazewinkel, Josh Lepo and Christine Citrano
3. Stevie Curcio, Alexa Bustamante and Frances Bustamante
4. Vivian Metzler, Martha Meyers, Becca Pizzi, Meg Clymer and Carol Denton
5. Laura DalSanto, Lianne Martin, Jill Wheeler, Becca Pizzi, Colby Hazewinkel and Brooke Spencer

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 Robbie Spencer at rspencer@floridaweekly.com.
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**NETWORKING**

*Inspira Clubhouse Grand Opening*

1. Marge Jacobs and Susan Grogan
2. Cat Cardoza, Johann Vanderwest, Rosemary Vanderwest and Brett Trucksess
3. Kerry Grogan and Lisa Grogan
4. Denise Haynes and Judy Manley
5. Keith Gelder and Kelly Rayburn
6. Helena Matta and Sue McKinney
Congratulations to the Lee, Charlotte, and Collier County small business owners and entrepreneurs who have seized opportunities, managed resources and overcome adversity to serve as role models for other business people. We are inspired by their stories of determination, innovation and success.

Finalists
- Community Resource Network
- Myerside Resort & Cottages
- NGALA Wildlife Preserve
- Reliable Permitting and Business Solutions
- Zirilli’s Chilly Treats

2018 Winner
NGALA Wildlife Preserve is the winner of the 24th annual Blue Chip Community Business Award. Chosen by a panel of judges from 10 applicants, owner Donovan Smith has overcome personal and professional challenges to maintain and restore his beloved wildlife sanctuary following two natural disasters.

Located in Naples, NGALA Wildlife Preserve is an animal sanctuary built in the elegant safari style of a bygone era. Having always been passionate about nature and wildlife, Smith started the business years ago with only $200 in his pocket and transformed the preserve into the ultimate destination for executive galas, weddings, and other lavish events. Guests can enjoy the opportunity to encounter exotic wildlife while enjoying authentic entertainment and fine dining.

The challenges NGALA Wildlife Preserve faced came in the form of two natural disasters occurring within five months of each another. Last spring, as a 7,000-acre fire tore through the sanctuary and Smith ventured into the preserve to save NGALA’s white rhino, Walter. As a result, he suffered second-degree burns on 20 percent of his body, including internal burns on his lungs. Following several weeks of recovery, Donovan returned to the preserve only to face a second natural disaster, Hurricane Irma, which caused even more damage to the preserve. Smith and his team exhibited sheer determination and perseverance to overcome these extreme hardships and have worked tirelessly to restore the preserve to its original state.
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A remastered villa with deeded boat dock and easy access to Old Naples and Naples Bay Resort

1130 Clam Court – -n Villa Ensenada – Oyster Bay/Royal Harbor

This nicely updated, 2007 villa in Royal Harbor has 2,350 square feet under air and is just 1.4 miles from Old Naples. The first floor has an open kitchen, newer appliances, great room/dining area, morning room and half bath. The second floor has three bedrooms, all newly carpeted and freshly painted, and three baths. One guest suite has a morning kitchen.

The villa’s southern and western façades feature multiple balconies. The dipping pool and spa are surrounded by a sunny south-facing lanai and accessed by French doors from the first floor and stairs from the second floor. A western lanai, lushly landscaped and very private, provides additional dining and gathering space. Impact windows and doors throughout offer storm protection.

There is a two-bay garage. A private, deeded dock is ready for a vessel of up to 30 feet in length (no-bridge access to the Gulf of Mexico, six minutes from dock to bay).

Craig Jones, broker associate at Premier Sotheby’s International Realty, has the listing for $1,325,000. To arrange a showing, call 552-5522 or email craig.jones@sothebysrealty.com.
Completion Spring 2019. Top of the Line CBS Construction. 4+Den and 5 Full Baths. 3-Car Garage. 5,000SF Luxury Residence. Close to Everything in Olde Naples. $5,295,000

Currently the largest available western exposure site on a wide water Cove in Aqualane Shores. Preferred rectangular lot, 100 feet water frontage, plus up to 190 feet depth. - $4,950,000

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Expansive Coastal & Gulf Views: Direct Gulf Views All Rooms. 3/3 Re-Mastered & Renovated. Over 1,700SF Private Terraces. True Walkouts to beach - $3,995,000

Southern Exposure. Golf Course & Lake Views. Elegant 4+Den Residence. High Ceilings & Expansive Lanai. 3-Car Garage - $2,895,000


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Fantastic Design & Quiet Location. Furnished 3+Den / 3 Bath. Spacious + Private Elevator. 2-Car Garage - $629,000

Renovated 2/2.5 furnished townhouse. Walking distance to beach! Premier Coastal location-$379,000
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Consumers should expect home sales to flatten and home prices to continue to increase, though at a slower pace, according to a residential housing and economic forecast session at the National Association of Realtors conference.

As Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, presented his 2019 housing and economic forecast, he was joined onstage by Lisa Sturtevant, president of Lisa Sturtevant & Associates, who discussed the importance of affordable housing in the U.S.

Much of Mr. Yun’s presentation focused on recent declines in home sales, but in the context of long-term trends to illustrate the housing market’s actual performance.

“Ninety percent of markets are experiencing price gains while very few are experiencing consistent price declines,” said Mr. Yun. “2017 was best year for home sales in 10 years, and 2018 is only down 1.5 percent year to date. Statistically, it is a mild twinge in the data and a very mild adjustment compared to the long-term growth we’ve been experiencing over the past few years.”

As to the possibility that the U.S. is currently experiencing a small bubble, Mr. Yun was quick to shut down any speculation.

“The current market conditions are fundamentally different than what we were experiencing before the recession 10 years ago,” said Mr. Yun. “Most states are reporting stable or strong market conditions, housing starts are under producing instead of over producing and we are seeing historically low foreclosure levels, indicating that people are living within their means and not purchasing homes they cannot afford. This is a stronger, more stable market com-

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Stock Development hosts Open House Open Hearts event this weekend at its Southwest Florida models

Stock Development invites you to open your hearts by attending a company-wide open house event this weekend. The event will benefit the 2018 Toys n' Joys For Girls n' Boys Holiday Toy Drive, an initiative of the Collier Building Industry Association for more than ten years. The event brings holiday joy to thousands of girls and boys in Southwest Florida each year. Share an unwrapped gift as you visit dozens of beautiful model residences and move-in ready homes in Stock’s distinctive communities and neighborhoods. The event runs Saturday and Sunday, December 1st and 2nd from noon to 4:00 p.m. Toys may be dropped off at nine different communities where Stock Development builds. Stock maintains a broad portfolio of homes available for immediate occupancy. These include Marco Island, Olde Naples, Quail West, Lely Resort, Naples Reserve, The Isles at Collier Preserve, Fiddler’s Creek, Twin Eagles and Hidden Harbor. Visit www.stockdevelopment.com for location details.

Stock Custom Homes, the custom division of Stock Development, has opened three two-story row houses at 102 Sixth St. S. The row houses are located three blocks north of Fifth Avenue South. Each boasts more than 3,800 square feet of living. Inside, luxury meets relaxed comfort with three bedrooms, including a first-floor master suite, five-and-a-half baths, a living room, formal dining area, bonus room, loft and three-car garage. Coupled with outdoor spaces including a covered lanai, adjoining pool and spa, and guest cabana with a covered deck, the Residences on Sixth offer premier Naples living.

For information about the Residences on Sixth Row Houses, including 102 Sixth St. S. or to view floor plans and photos, visit StockCustomHomes.com.

Lely Resort is home to three spectacular championship golf courses and four clubhouses 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 $400s and a furnished model is open.

Within Tasori, the San Marco B is a second floor home with an elevator option. It has 2,519 square feet under air and a total of 3,722 square feet, including a screened and covered lanai and an attached two-car garage and a loggia. It offers three bedrooms and three baths in a great room design. The home is move-in ready and priced at $449,385.

Stock’s Wyndam model at Twin Eagles 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. The fully furnished Wyndam model is priced at $2,541,825.

On spectacular Marco Island, Stock Custom Homes has completed its furnished Pasadena model. The Pasadena is a three-bedroom, three and one-half bath great room style home with 2,616 square feet under air and a total of 3,531 square feet, including a spectacular outdoor living area and an attached two-car garage. The home features a large open kitchen with a breakfast nook overlooking the pool and lanai. There is a formal study and an expansive master suite and two additional full bedroom suites, one of which opens to the lanai. The Pasadena is priced at $1,695,000 and includes an interior design by Soco Interiors.

Hidden Harbor is close to sell-out as the winter sales season begins. This unique, South Fort Myers waterfront, boating community is among the last new construction neighborhoods in the area with Gulf access and only 12 homes remain.

Completed and ready for immediate occupancy is The Myrtle, a beautiful waterfront four-bedroom, three-bath home with 2,813 square feet under air and a total of 4,190 square feet. The great room floorplan includes large island style kitchen, a dining area overlooking the lanai, a study, a spacious outdoor living area with a pool and spa option (as well as an outdoor kitchen option) and a two-car garage. There is also a convenient pool bath. The home is priced at $899,170.

For full details of all of Stock Development’s offerings, visit the company website at www.stockdevelopment.com. Stock Development is headquartered at 2697 Professional Circle, Suite 101 in Naples.

Phase 2 Launched
Phase 1 now under construction

A Grande OPEN HOUSE

Moorings Park® is a nationally accredited, non-profit, Medicare-certified community and one of the only Life Plan communities with A or A+ ratings by Fitch and S&P. All dimensions are approximate. Actual gross square footage may vary. All images are conceptual renderings and developer reserves the right to make modifications, including amenities, without prior notice.

Naples Grande Membership* included for Phase 1 residents
*See your sales associate for Naples Grande Membership details.

Learn about this new collection of Life Plan (CCRC) residences by Moorings Park and London Bay Homes during our open house.

- Simply the Best® healthcare
- Assisted Living, Memory Care & Physicians Services included
- Luxurious lakefront residences
- Naples Grande membership included for Phase 1 residents
- Boardwalk & yoga pavilion
- Clubhouse with resort-style pool & spa

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10:00 am - 2:00 pm
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Refreshments will be served

Entrance Fees from $1.5 million and 70% refundable

For information on this new community, please call 239-919-1620
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Visit our Sales Gallery Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Now open Saturday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm & Sunday: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Moorings Park® is a nationally accredited, non-profit, Medicare-certified community and one of the only Life Plan communities with A or A+ ratings by Fitch and S&P. All dimensions are approximate. Actual gross square footage may vary. All images are conceptual renderings and developer reserves the right to make modifications, including amenities, without prior notice.

*See your sales associate for Naples Grande Membership details.
Mangrove Bay

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.

We are excited to announce new pricing on 4 nearly complete furnished models! Lot 13, located at 1314 1st Avenue South is priced at $2,805,000 and lot 25, located at 181 14th Street South is priced at $2,815,000. Both will have beautiful two-story, 3-bedroom Coquina II models. These cottage style homes are designed to maximize privacy and functionality in an exquisite floor plan.

Lot 41, located at 1452 2nd Avenue South will feature a furnished Keewaydin I priced at $3,706,000. This stunning 3,272 square foot model exemplifies Old Florida architecture brilliantly. The second story features a loft living area allowing for picturesque views as well as two guest bedrooms giving the first floor master an open concept living space with privacy and functionality.

A furnished Useppa I with 2nd floor flex room will soon be complete on lot 31, located at 1483 2nd Avenue South. This home is priced at $3,453,000 and is 3,513 square feet. With Old Florida inspired architecture by MHK Architecture & Planning, the home has a Gulf access private boat slip included with purchase.

The Amenities Center will have a private on-site concierge to cater to every resident’s needs which can include recommending and making arrangements for comprehensive property management services. The center will also include state-of-the-art wellness/fitness equipment and ground level storage area for resident's kayaks, paddle boards and jet-skis. Additionally, a multi-purpose room will be housed there which can be utilized for entertaining, fitness classes and much more. In addition, residents will enjoy easy access to the new 20+/- acre Baker Park and bridge accessing the 120+/- acre Gordon River Greenway Preserve with trails immediately adjacent to the community.

Soon to break ground is the Gulfshore Playhouse, a cultural icon in Naples which will be a wonderful complement to the Mangrove Bay community. Mangrove Bay offers a choice of one and two-story, Old Naples cottage-style luxury single-family homes complete with private pools and individual boat slips.

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.

Built by Lotus Construction, LLC, the exclusive General Contractor for Mangrove Bay, these waterfront homes are available and won’t last long. Come by our Sales Office to learn more about this exciting new construction waterfront community in the heart of Old Naples.

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Available Lot 13
The Coquina II - 3,232 sq. ft., Furnished - $2,805,000

Available Lot 25
The Coquina II - 3,232 sq. ft., Furnished - $2,815,000

Available Lot 31
The Useppa I - 3,513 sq. ft., Furnished - $3,453,000

Available Lot 41
The Keewaydin I - 3,272 sq. ft., Furnished - $3,706,000

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NAPLES RESERVE
From the mid $400s

This spectacular waterfront community is minutes from Downtown Naples and the beaches, with a fun, casual lifestyle centered around a 125-acre lake, and endless amenities including the new Island Club with tiki bar, café, and resort-style pools. CANOE LANDING features home designs from Stock’s Classic Series and PARROT CAY is an exquisite lakefront custom home neighborhood. Stock’s homes in Naples Reserve range from 2,445 to over 3,200 square feet under air.

FIDDLER’S CREEK
Marsh Cove
From the mid $500s

Stock has introduced CAPISTRANO, an exclusive enclave featuring a choice of five single- and two-story floor plans with breathtaking views of the championship Creek Course. Stock also has exquisite three- and four-bedroom plus study homes in MALAGA and LIVORNO. Stock’s homes in Marsh Cove range from 2,627 to 3,702 square feet under air. Fiddler’s Creek offers a casually opulent lifestyle with championship golf, Club & Spa, resort-style pools, tennis, marina, and restaurants.

THE ISLES OF COLLIER PRESERVE
From the mid $700s

Within this prestigious community just minutes from Downtown Naples, Stock’s newest offering is the COTTONWOOD COLLECTION, with eight luxury homeplans, while the MAGNOLIA COLLECTION features estate-sized single family homes on 90-foot lots. Stock’s homes in The Isles of Collier Preserve range from 2,517 to over 3,900 square feet under air. The luxury coastal lifestyle features The Isles Club, with a boathouse, dock and kayak launch. Coming soon is The Overlook Bar & Grill with waterfront views of the Cypress Waterway.
Kalea Bay’s second tower continues to rise
Residents love community’s amenities

By Inga Lodge, Vice President of Sales & Marketing

The construction of the second tower in Kalea Bay, the gated, luxury high-rise community located in North Naples, is now well underway. Currently, several construction crews are on site as work continues on the lower floors.

“Construction crews are now working on the fifth floor and are expected to start the sixth floor around mid-November,” stated Inga Lodge, Vice President of Sales & Marketing for Kalea Bay, which recently earned 20 Sand Dollar Awards, including one for its first tower’s rooftop amenities and another for the community’s incredible clubhouse. “At the current pace of construction, a new floor is being completed every seven to ten days.”

Like its predecessor, Tower 200 is also 22-stories with 120 residences. Specifically, it’s 20 floors of residences over two floors of parking. It will also have similar rooftop amenities as Tower 100, including a pool, open-air fitness center and a sky lounge.

“More than half of the residences in our second tower have already been sold,” added Lodge.

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 are 4-bedroom/4.5 bath plans with 3,791 total square feet. Residences 3 and 4 are 4-bedroom/4.5-bath plans with 3,919 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, 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.

Prices in Tower 200 begin at $1.4 million.

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Prices in Tower 200 begin at $1.4 million.

The residents of the first tower, along with their family members and friends, are enjoying the community’s Club amenity center. It’s been open for nearly a year and is the social and recreational centerpiece of the community.

“The 88,000-square-foot club amenity center 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.”

She added, “Purchasers in Tower 200 can start using the club and its amenities the day they sign their contracts, offering them an unprecedented opportunity to utilize this amazing $25 million world-class amenity center.”

The award-winning clubhouse itself features three individual pools, including a resort pool, adults-only pool and a children’s pool, plus an expansive pool deck, open-air bar, indoor/outdoor restaurant, bistro, fitness center, and lakeside fire pit.

“All three pools overlook the lake and provide a multitude of recreational options for those who live and visit here,” said Lodge.

Expansive sun decks and lounge chairs separate each of the three pools for the ultimate in privacy.

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

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

Adjacent to the clubhouse is the tennis pavilion with 4 Har-Tru tennis courts, as well as eight pickleball courts. Guest suites can be reserved by members to accommodate overnight guests and are located on property.

Residents also have a shuttle service that originates from the clubhouse, and takes them to the beach.

For more information regarding Kalea Bay, visit the onsite sales center. It is located on Vanderbilt Drive, two-tenths of a mile north of Wiggins Pass Road. Call (239) 793-0110 or visit KaleaBay.com.
Join us for a special Holiday Open House event this weekend. Tour our beautifully decorated models and move-in-ready homes in 9 locations. Experience our award-winning lifestyle, with ready-to-go amenities and the most extensive residential choices in Southwest Florida.

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- **WENTWORTH** 2/2.5 2,096 sq.ft. $423,700
- **SAN MARCO II** 3/3.5 2,919 sq.ft. $428,055 FURNISHED

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- **COCOPLUM** 4/4.5 3,641 sq.ft. FROM $929,990

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- **WYNDAM** 3/4.5 4,298 sq.ft. $2,541,825 FURNISHED

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- **REGENCY MANOR** 4/4.5 3,699 sq.ft. $1,703,860
- **WINDSOR III** 4/4.5 4,155 sq.ft. $2,269,925

**HIDDEN HARBOR**
- **SIESTA** 3/3 2,630 sq.ft. $627,350
- **MYRTLE** 4/3 2,813 sq.ft. $899,170

**NAPLES RESERVE**
- **BELFIELD** 3/3.5 2,812 sq.ft. $899,860
- **PLANTATION II** 4/3.5 3,244 sq.ft. $937,275 FURNISHED
- **VENICE** 3/2.5 2,643 sq.ft. $966,750 FURNISHED
- **MADISON** 4/4.5 2,947 sq.ft. $1,210,125 FURNISHED

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- **ULYSSA** 5/4 3,196 sq.ft. $1,451,290 FURNISHED

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Stock Development’s portfolio of luxury homes leaves homebuyers spoiled with residential choices in the area’s most sought after addresses. This weekend visitors can tour models in Open House Open Hearts events at Fiddler’s Creek, The Isles of Collier Preserve and Naples Reserve, as well as other Stock communities and models. See www.stockdevelopment.com for details.

“Beautifully furnished models, as move-in ready inventory homes are available for viewing,” said Claudine Léger-Wetzel, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Stock Development. “The Open House is Saturday and Sunday, December 1st and 2nd from noon to 4:00 p.m. Guests may also bring an unwrapped toy for CBIA’s Annual Toys n’ Toys Toy Drive.”

At Fiddler’s Creek, the 3,096-square-foot Ulyssa model includes a large great room, island kitchen, and dining area, a wet bar, four bedrooms, a fifth bedroom or bonus room, four full baths, a study, and a three-car garage. The living area opens to an outdoor living area that can include an outdoor kitchen, pool, and spa. Pierzazzi Interiors created the interior design for the furnished Ulyssa model.

Stock is also developing Capistrano, a spectacular enclave of 33 luxury homes offering five brand new floorplans, featuring a variety of spectacular golf course views. Most of the homes offer views across the beautiful fairways of the championship golf Creek Course. The floorplans also give homebuyers an amazing array of choices.

The uniquely designed single and two-story floor plans range from 2,627 to 3,702 square feet under air. They offer extraordi- nary flexibility with options that give the homes a range of three to six bedrooms. There are from three and one-half baths in the smallest home to four full baths and two half-baths in the largest plan.

All of the homes include large great rooms choose to have a screened and covered lanai, which features outdoor kitchen and pool bath options. Inside, homeowners may choose a formal dining room, a formal study or extra bedroom suites.

The two-story plans include a large loft with a wet bar option and a bath. In each, a bedroom may also be included. All homes include a three-car garage. Prices in Capistrano begin from the $800’s.

Stock Signature Homes’ has a spec- tacular Marigold underway in the Isles of Collier Preserve. Nestled amidst a pristine natural setting minutes from Downtown Naples, The Isles of Collier Preserve features a colorful community midway between Naples and Marco Island along the U.S. 41 Tamiami Trail/Collier Boulevard. Naples Reserve presents a relaxed, water themed lifestyle. Stock is building in the Parrot Cay, Sparrow Cay and Canoe Landing neighborhoods, offering homes from 2,300 to over 3,500 square feet.

Naples Reserve is a 688-acre gated community midway between Naples and Marco Island along the U.S. 41 Tamiami Trail/Collier Boulevard. Naples Reserve presents a relaxed, water themed lifestyle. Stock is building in the Parrot Cay, Sparrow Cay and Canoe Landing neighborhoods, offering homes from 2,300 to over 3,500 square feet.

Located in Parrot Cay is the furnished Madison II, which includes 3,054 square feet under air and over 5,000 in total living area. These three and four bedroom designs include spacious interiors and spectacular outdoor living options. New furnished models are underway for the neighborhood. Among them is The Madison II, which includes 3,054 square feet under air and an 856-square-foot outdoor living area.

The great room, an expansive island kitchen, a dining area and two bedrooms open to an outdoor living area that includes a kitchen, pool and spa. An optional outdoor fireplace is also available.

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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) 392-7344. Stock Development is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FLStockDevelopment.
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TIBURON GOLF RESORT | $1,449,000

GOLF TO GULF

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GOF TO GULF
Phase II released at Moorings Park Grande Lake as Phase I construction begins

There's exciting news coming from Moorings Park Grande Lake, Naples' new Life Plan (CCRC) Community being developed by Montage Partnerships in partnership with London Bay Homes. On Monday, November 26, construction was set to begin on the first three buildings in Phase I. The three buildings consist of a total of 23 new additional residences.

Phase II consists of two residential mid-rise towers. Building F, with 12 residences, is located adjacent to the community’s clubhouse and overlooks a large lake with the golf course beyond. Building J, with 11 residences including one penthouse, is located to the west of the clubhouse and also offers views of the lake and golf course. One of the community's boardwalks, which extends out into the lake, is located just outside the building.

These community milestones will be marked by an open house and public tour of the homes during an upcoming public Open House. It is being held Friday, December 7, at the Moorings Park Grande Lake Sales Gallery. The event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with light refreshments being served. Reservations are not required.

The Moorings Park Grande Lake Sales Gallery is located on Premier 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 that offers exceptional healthcare services,” 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.”

Situated on 15 acres in the heart of Naples, Moorings Park Grande Lake will combine one-of-a-kind views of magnifi-

cient lakes and championship golf with luxurious homes and exceptional healthcare. Moorings Park Grande Lake is being created in partnership with esteemed luxury 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 Daniel 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 $1.5 million with 70 percent refundable entrance fees. Assisted Living, Memory Care and Physician Services are available to residents of Moorings Park Grande Lake with no additional fees, other than limited 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 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 Moorings Park Grande Lake Sales Gallery is located at 2420 Grand Bay Boulevard, Naples, FL 34105. The event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 7, with light refreshments being served. Reservations are not required.

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SEASONAL RENTAL WATERFRONT-PG
SAILBOAT ACCESS POOL HOME • $795,000
1435 Raven Court • PGI
2/2 + 2,861 SF, FT • TIP LOT

Custom built, first time on the market! Intersecting canals with a large dock. Beautiful tip lot pool home offers a double door entry, 2 bedrooms, 3 baths, plus office. Beautiful tile floors throughout. Open and airy, great for entertaining.

SAILBOAT ACCESS POOL HOME • $75,000
1466 Raven Court • PGI
3/2/3 • OVERRSIZED TIP DOCK

Waterfront offers 200 feet wide intersecting canal. 12 feet ceilings with a 14 feet tray ceiling in the living room. The home offers 10 feet sliders. This dream kitchen is upgraded with a large island, black granite, built in oven and cook top, new appliances. Homeowner had extra custom cabinets for additional storage. Huge master with separate vanities in master bath. This home has a split floor plan with guests bedrooms on opposite side of house from master.

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Talis Park, developed by Kitson & Partners in North Naples, continues to redefine Naples’ traditional country club experience. Anchored by its award-winning Vyne House clubhouse, long lakes, and the fairways of one of only two Norman/Dye-designed golf courses worldwide, Talis Park offers a deeply meaningful way of life which emphasizes exclusivity, family, and home.

“Talis Park is more about a whole lifestyle than just a place to live,” explains resident Laurie McArdle. “There’s always something to do. People are friendly, and the surroundings are beautiful. What’s not to like?”

Talis Park’s newest amenity, The Beach Runner, whisks members away to the pristine Vanderbilt Beach on the Gulf of Mexico. It is stationed at Talis Park’s award-winning Vyne House clubhouse, adjacent to the Great Lawn. The community’s center of life, Vyne House features various dining options, covered terraces, multi-purpose room, fitness studios, wine room, board room, and spa. A resort-style pool beckons with spacious pool deck and cabanas, plus a rotunda with two-sided fireplace overlooking the 18th green. The lower level hosts the golf pro shop and locker rooms. Vyne House received First Place and Best of Show honors in Golf Inc.’s 2016 Clubhouse of the Year competition.

Located on Talis Park Drive adjacent to the driving range, Casa Cortese offers a great, indoor/outdoor sports pub atmosphere with golf simulator, darts, billiards, shuffleboard, and televisions. At Talis Park’s south end, its Sports Complex offers six lighted Har-Tru tennis courts with pavilions, pro shop and clubhouse, four bocce courts, lap pool, and playground. An enchanting green space provides a social area reminiscent of the Great Lawn. Tree-lined streetscapes offer an ideal setting for outdoor exercise while nature trails provide an opportunity to experience nature on a closer level.

Talis Park’s Norman/Dye-designed golf course includes 133 acres of carefully manicured Sea Dwarf Paspalum turf at varying heights. The course provides a backdrop for Talis Park’s neighborhoods of showcase estates, single-family, resort-style coach homes, penthouse-style condominiums, and terrace homes from the high-$600’s into the millions. Furnished models are available for viewing seven days a week.

Prospective homebuyers may experience Talis Park by participating in its Gold Pass program. Gold Pass holders enjoy member status for two consecutive days, including one round of golf at the member-guest rate. For details, call (239) 292-0846.

For a personalized tour, visit the Garden House Information & Sales Center at 16980 Livingston Rd., call 239-449-5900 or visit talispark.com.

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REALTORS

From page 3

pared to the loosely regulated market leading up to the bust.”

Housing affordability was also discussed by both panelists. While the U.S. is experiencing historically normal levels of affordability, potential buyers may be staying out of the market because of perceived problems with affordability. “NAR research shows that a lower percentage of consumers think that now is a good time to buy while more are indicating that it is a good time to sell,” said Mr. Yun. “Problems could arise if the market is flooded with too many sellers and not enough buyers. Fortunately, that does not appear to be the case, as indicated by months’ supply of inventory at below five months.”

Ms. Sturtevant discussed the importance of homeownership on a social level — how homeowners tend to be in better physical and mental health and have greater opportunity for economic self-sufficiency. Additionally, communities with more homeowners tend to be more economically prosperous and better able to attract and retain workers.

“I am a researcher, not an advocate; but the results of my research have compelled me to see the importance of affordable, stable housing, and the positive economic impact to local communities,” said Ms. Sturtevant.

Looking to next year, Mr. Yun shared his forecast for home sales and median home prices. “The forecast for home sales will be very boring — meaning stable,” said Mr. Yun. “With a few months of data remaining in 2018, Mr. Yun estimates that existing-home sales will finish at a pace of 5.345 million — a decrease from 2017 (5.91 million). In 2018, sales are forecast to increase to 5.4 million, a 1 percent increase. The national median existing-home price is expected to rise to around $266,800 in 2019 (up 3.1 percent from 2018) and $274,000 in 2020.

HD home prices in 2018 this year and $266,800 in 2019 (up 3.1 percent from increase to 5.4 million, a 1 percent in-
crease. The national median existing-home price is expected to rise to around $266,800 in 2019 (up 3.1 percent from 2018) and $274,000 in 2020.

Commenting on the overall health of the U.S. economy, he noted that the economy is “good.” He noted low un-
employment, record high job openings, historically low jobless claims, job addi-
tions for eight straight years and wages beginning to increase. “This type of ac-
tivity in the economy should support the housing market, even as interest rates rise,” said Mr. Yun.

The National Association of Real-
tors is America’s largest trade associa-
tion, representing 1.3 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

have a housing shortage. If you look at population growth and job growth, it is clear that we are not producing enough houses. This is often a local issue, not a national one, so NAR has created a website where local associations and realtors can go for information on how to advocate for increased supply in their communities,” said Mr. Yun.

Home price appreciation will slow down — the days of easy price gains are coming to an end — but prices will con-

All indications are that we are coming to an end — but prices will con-

The national median existing-home price is expected to rise to around $266,800 in 2019 (up 3.1 percent from 2018) and $274,000 in 2020.
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Traditional and nontraditional theater gilds the holiday this season

STAGING CHRISTMAS

BY NANCY STETSON
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

Whether you like your tree natural and your carols traditional, or you go for pink metallic and prefer modern Christmas songs, there’s a Christmas show that’s sure to please your taste. This season, local theaters are offering both traditional and nontraditional shows as well as a non-traditional telling of a traditional tale.

Two are based on movies (“Irving Berlin’s White Christmas” and “Elf: The Musical”), three come from books (two from “A Christmas Carol” and one from “Junie B.’s Jingle Bells, Batman Smells”), and one began as a radio tale/essay (“The Santaland Diaries”). “A Christmas Carol: The

SEE STAGING, C4 ▶

Exploring the dark side of Christmas

BY LINDSEY NESMITH
lnesmith@floridaweekly.com

For most Americans, Christmas is a celebration that offers a happy break from the workplace world of cubicles and car lines, rushed dinner times and appointments. It’s an opportunity to obsess over the variety of garlands that will festoon a doorway or whether Beef Wellington would make a good holiday entrée. This is the light and festive side of Christmas, which is best portrayed by Charles Dickens’ benevolent moneylender Fezziwig in “A Christmas Carol.” All is fun, food and good cheer — the most familiar elements of our commercially driven holiday.

“Deadly Sugarplums: A Fright Before Christmas” comes to town this week.

SEE SUGARPLUMS, C18 ▶

“Ralph Breaks the Internet” pleases, teases.

SEE STAGING, C4 ▶

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Black Friday reflections

Years ago, one of my life-long friends shared his wise financial philosophy. “Do you want to know how to have twice as much money today as you had yesterday? Spend half as much.” So simple, yet as we’ve entered the season of consuming and consumerism, very perceptive.

After turkey and sweet potatoes, we wake early and scour stores and websites, wish lists in hand for consumption of a different sort. Stuffing is replaced with stuff. New stuff. Electronic stuff. More stuff. Fa la la la — lots and lots and lots.

Webster’s Dictionary defines the word consume in several ways: To do away with completely; destroy. That’s what we did to the food, and the leftovers and any cellophane-wraped desserts we could justify passing off as breakfast the next morning.

Webster’s second definition is: To spend wastefully. Now we’re in Black Friday and Cyber Monday territory. Rabid for deals, shoppers crowd stores and online retailers to get the latest upgrades to perfectly good, already state-of-the-art electronics. We see news stories of crazy crowds camping out and trampling through aisles to grab what they want. Hours after sharing all they were grateful for, shoppers fill any void in their gratitude for things the “wish they owned” list.

“I’m grateful for all my blessings, except that I think my TV’s too small.” This reminds me of going into the local Verizon store with a question about my flip phone, only to have the Millennial staff gather around to look at it. My clerk even said, “You guys! Come look at her phone! Lady, why do you still have this? You could have upgraded, like nine times!” I still have it, young man, because it didn’t break yet, thank you very much.

I appreciate nice things as much as the next person, but the taint of the season’s overconsumption turns my stomach both literally and figuratively. With the National Retail Federation estimating that the average shopper will spend over $1,000 this time of year it makes me pause. To have twice as much money as you have today, spend half as much. My sage friend’s philosophy would still leave me $500 to play with. That seems doable.

Webster’s final definition is, “To enjoy avidly.” I’ll stick with this one as we enter deeper into the holidays. Rather than worrying about overconsumption, both gastronomic and economic, I will choose to enjoy the season watching parades on my perfectly fine 15-year-old TV and calling family and friends on my flip phone.

— A recent transplant from the Baltimore/D.C. area, Melanie Pefinis works as a writer and TV producer in Southwest Florida. After spending her childhood as a performer, she went behind the scenes to create worthwhile media working in radio, film TV and print journalism.

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December 15
Elite Dance Center Performance, 6 p.m.
December 16
Dance Arts by Maria Performance, 3 p.m.
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Tale of Ebenezer Scrooge,” playing at Florida Repertory Theatre through Dec. 19, is both traditional and non-traditional. “It straddles the line,” says Associate Artistic Director Jason Parrish. “It’s like no other ‘Christmas Carol’ you’ve ever seen. It’s more ghost story than anything else, thrilling and exciting. It has live music and actors playing many parts, young people and professional actors. It’s a new thing for us, not Florida Rep traditional. It’s a whole new retelling of the story.”

It’s the Charles Dickens classic adapted by Mark Shanahan, and Florida Rep’s run is the world premiere of the show. Mr. Shanahan also wrote “The Bing Pong,” an adaptation of a farce by Georges Feydeau, which premiered at Florida Rep, and was a cast member on Broadway for “The 39 Steps.”

This “Christmas Carol” “has that sense of stagecraft to it,” says Mr. Parrish. “We’re telling it the only way we know how in the theatre to be creative.”

The music includes traditional Christmas carols and music composed specifically for the show. “It’s not a traditional musical in that they break into song,” says Mr. Parrish. “It’s music in the world of the play.”

Many of the actors play multiple roles. “It’s like ‘Around the World in 80 Days,’” along those lines, but the cast sings. It’s all very new and exciting and thrilling. It straddles all the lines: ghost story, play, musical. And it’s a bit traditional and non-traditional in the telling of it.”

A lot of the actors will have a narrator’s voice; it’s divided among the cast, he adds. “It’s funny, heartbreaking, scary. It’s traditional in the sense that it’s the story you know, but not traditional in the devices we’re employing to tell the story.”

The Laboratory Theater of Florida will present a mash-up of Christmas tales in “Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)” at The Laboratory Theater of Florida. “It’s a whole new retelling of the story.”

If you like your Christmas shows slightly bitter and cynical, check out “The Santaland Diaries” at the Venice Theatre (on its smaller stage) Nov. 30-Dec. 23. Based on David Sedaris’ 1992 essay and popular NPR broadcast, this is a one-man show about a struggling out-of-work writer who becomes an elf at Macy’s for the Christmas season, with Season Flas playing Crumpet. Definitely not for children. An elf also stars in Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre’s family-friendly holiday production, “Elf: The Musical,” based, of course, on the movie, “Elf.” Running on the main stage through Christmas, it tells the story of Buddy, an orphan who crawled into Santa’s bag and is then raised as an elf in the North Pole. When he realizes he’s a human, not an elf, he goes on a journey to discover his true identity. The show runs through Christmas.

And in its Off Broadway Palm Theatre, the venue presents “Winter Wonderettes,” also through Christmas. The quirky musical is a sequel to “The Marvelous Wonderettes,” featuring a quartet of bouffant-wearing, 60s girl group singers. The same women, a little older now, are the entertainment for the holiday party at Harper’s Hardware. While waiting for Santa to show up with the employees’ bonus check, the women sing retro Christmas songs, such as “Jingle Bells,” “Jingle Bell Rock,” “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town” and “(We Wanna See) Santa Do the Mambo.”

At Florida Gulf Coast University, students will be putting on “Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells,” based on Barbara Park’s popular children’s book of the same name. It runs from Nov. 30-Dec. 2 at the FGCU TheaterLab. And free performances will be given at the Market Plaza Stage at Gulf Coast Town Center Dec. 7-9. In this adaptation by Allison Gregory, Junie B., a first grader, is looking forward to Christmas, when she picks the name of her arch-nemesis, May, to be her Secret Santa. And if you’re looking for a spectacular celebration, “Langston Hughes’ Black Nativity,” performed by the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, can be seen at the Sara Sota Opera House Dec. 12-21. The troupe promotes a high-energy, inspirational show filled with gospel, blues, spirituals and the poetry of Langston Hughes.

While the Venice Theatre’s offering the irreverent “Santaland Diaries” on its smaller stage, it’ll present the very traditional “Christmas Carol” on its main stage, starring Brad Wages in the role of Scrooge. Now in its 19th year, this show is a beloved tradition at the Venice Theatre Dec. 14-20.

TheatreZone in Naples offers “Home for the Holidays,” Dec. 7-9. It’s described by the venue as “an original holiday spectacular featuring seasonal standards from different eras, sumptuous costumes and lots of dancing.”

And if traditional is more your style, don’t miss the Naples Players’ “Irving Berlin’s White Christmas” at the Sugden Community Theatre. Based on the classic 1954 movie starring Rosemary Clooney, Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye, this lush musical includes the songs “Sisters,” “How Deep is the Ocean,” “Blue Skies” and “I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas.”

The show, which runs through Dec. 23, is directed and choreographed by Dawn Lebrecht Fornara and music directed by Charles Fornara, the husband and wife team responsible for so many of the Players’ musicals that have been hits.

When it comes to Christmas shows, one may not fit for all, but there’s surely a show to please everyone, from children to adults, believers to cynics.
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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

THURSDAY 11.29

Compare & Contrast – The atr Zone's Mark Danni hosts a presenta tion on to discuss the history of the 1977 and 1978 releases of The Smiths and February productions of "Aida," the first by Verdi by Opera Naples and the second by Elton John and Time Rice by the theatre troupe, at 4 p.m. at Wang Opera Center. 2408 Linwood Ave. $25. 263-9055 or www.operanaples.org.

Holiday Stroll – Naples Design District hosts its third annual Holiday Stroll, where guests can shop the area's stores, receive a passport stamp to Naplesdesigndistrict.com.

The American Game – Society for American Baseball Research hosts a panel discussion titled "My Life in the Big Leagues" with Dom Carmen (Phillies), Chris Resop (Marlins) and Carmen Call Gallo (Indians) from 5-7 p.m. at Naples Regional Library, 650 Central Ave. melp0340@aol.com.

Snappedback – Country group Old Don of Mose & the Magic Flute at Eds Michael Ray and High Valley at 7:30 p.m. at Hertz Arena. $83-$86. 948-7825 or www.Hertzarena.com.

FRIDAY 11.30

All Aboard – Volunteer docents from the Naples Train Museum are on hand at the Naples Depot Museum from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at Saturday to help visitors of all ages enjoy the outdoor and indoor trains. Corner of 10th St. S. and Fifth Ave. S. www.deltauniversity.edu.

Classic Film – FGCU's Renaissance Academy screens "North by Northwest" (1959) at 2 p.m. at the university's Naples campus. A hapless advertising executive is mistaken for a government agent by a group of foreign spies and is pursued across the country to make friends for others. 1005 Fifth Ave. S. 434-4737 or www.fgcu.edu.

Messiah Concert – The Naples Philharmonic Orchestra & Chorus perform Handel’s "Messiah" at 7 p.m. at Artis–Naples. 597-9090 or www.artis-naples.org.

SUNDAY 12.1

To Market, To Market – Stop at a fresh produce and locally made goodies at the Third Street South farmers market from 7:30:00 AM to 1:00 PM or www.thirdstreetsouth.com.

Farmers Market – Ave Maria Towne Center hosts a farmers market with local produce and handmade goods from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday through April. www.avemaria.com.

Met Live – Silverpots hosts a live viewing of the Metropolitan Opera’s production of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" at 9 p.m. at FGCU Theatre. 2408 Linwood Ave. $90. 948-3766 or www.silverpots.net.

Love Is The Answer – Singer/songwriter John Ford Coley performs at 8 p.m. at Center for the Performing Arts Bonita Springs. $35-$45. 1050 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8899 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

Contemporary Comedy – Stage 2 Improv presents a feature-length comedy night of comedy on at Sugden Community Theater. 262-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.

In the swamp – Spiritual guide Bethany Gonzalez hosts an out door meditation session at 9:30 a.m. at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary’s natural amphitheater. $20. 349-4915 or www.corkscrewsanctuary.com.

SUNDAY 12.2

So Bazaar – Korschach State Historic Site hosts a holiday bazaar with over 100 vendors, photos with Santa, kids' activities and more from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free with park admission. 3800 Corkscrew Road. 992-0311 or www.floridastateparks.org.

Fresh Produce – Take your grocery list to the Naples Farmers Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the corner Pine Ridge and Livingston roads.

Art Show – Left Bank Art Show showcases juried art in a variety of mediums from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Marco Island Center for the Arts, 100 Waterway Drive. 290-7927.

Cruisin' – Miromar Outlets hosts a car show featuring antique, exotic and custom autos from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 948-3766 or www.miomaroutlets.com.

Free Concert – Naples Concert Band performs from 2-4 p.m. at Cambier Park. 51-582-4031 or www.naplesconcertband.org.

Flashback Cinema – Silverspot at Mercato screens "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947) at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. $12-$16, 948-3030 or www.silverspot.net.

DuWop in the Garden – Paradise Coastmen perform from 2-4 p.m. at Naples Botanical Garden. 643-4377 or www.naplesgarden.org.

Sing-Along – Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs hosts Voices of Naples as it performs Part I of Handel’s "Messiah" with the audience from 3-5 p.m. 2501050 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8899 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

MONDAY 12.3

Yoga on the Beach – Friends of Lovers Key hosts a morning yoga ses sion at 9:30 a.m. each Monday through May at the state park's gazebo. $10 plus park entry fee. 754-563-8784 or www.friendsofloverskey.org.

All Lit Up – The Jewish Federation of Collier County hosts a Hanukkah celebration with candle lighting, live music, children’s activities and more at 5:45 p.m. at Mercato. 254-0880 or www.mercatoshops.com.

Films for Film Lovers – Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs screens "The Square" (Sweden, 2017) at 7 p.m. A prestigious museum’s curator finds himself in crisis as he attempts to set up a controversial exhibit. $10. 1050 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8899 or www.artcenter bonita.org.

TUESDAY 12.4

Armchair Travel – Naples Regional Library hosts a presentation exploring North Atlantic cruising from Copenha gen to New York from 3-4:30 p.m. 605 Central Ave. 252-9213 or www.fgcu.edu.

Guitarlista – Guitarista Amber Crowley performs popular favorites from 5-7 p.m. at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. 818-11 a.m. $10-$25. 348-9153 or www. cork-screwswamp.org.

Home for the Holidays – Voices of Naples performs holiday selections at 7 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Free, but donations appreciated.
**WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO**

**WEDNESDAY 12.5**

**Atomic Theorizing** - FGCU’s Renaissance Academy hosts a seminar about atomic spies and secrets from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. $45 for members, $55 for others. Lunch included. 1010 Fifth Ave. S. 438-4737 or www.fgcu.edu.

**Lunch & Learn** - Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs hosts a presentation on the scandalous affair between Frederic Chopin and George Sand from noon to 1:30 p.m. $38, includes catered lunch. 1050 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or www.cenbonita.org.

**Om in the Park** - The Gypsy Sea Witch hosts a crystal bowl meditation from 7:30 p.m. at Koreshan State Historic Site. 3800 Corkscrew Road. Registration required. 754-444-9779 or www.thegypsysewitch.com.

**O Tannenbaum** - Mercato hosts a Christmas tree lighting with live music and dance performances at 5 p.m. 254-643-4737 or www.mercatoshops.com.

**Long, Strange Trip To Health** - Soul Quest Ayahuasca Church of Mother Earth hosts a special screening of “From Soul Quest Ayahuasca Church of Mother Earth” (a documentary about the use of psychedelic drugs to treat PTSD in combat veterans and a Q&A with the church’s founder from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at B&D Towne Center 6. $12. 3855 Tamiami Blvd.

**B&B Towne Center** - Film “Deadly As Philia and Adante Carter Pictured here are Julia Johanos playing matchmaker, through Dec. 30, at The Norris Center. $30-$65. 1010 Fifth Ave. S. 434-4737 or www.fgcu.edu.

**Art Tours** - Naples Art District, located in the industrial park behind Airport-Pulling and Pine Ridge Roads, hosts studio and gallery tours from 5-8 p.m. where artists will showcase their latest work and perform demonstrations at studios displaying the organization’s magenta and white flags. 289-5070 or www.naplesartdistrict.org.

**All Is Bright** - The Naples Carolers perform holiday selections at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at Wang Opera Center. $10-$50. 2408 Linwood Ave. 775-2800 or www.wangcenter.org.

**Light It Up Again** - Fifth Avenue South hosts a tree lighting celebration with local performers from 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7. 692-8436 or www.fifthavenuesouth.com.

**Art Show** - Members of Naples Artcrafters host an arts and crafts show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at Cameron Park. www.naplesartcrafters.com.

**COMING UP**

**Taste of Opera** - Gulfshore Opera hosts a dinner with performances of holiday selections at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, at The Strand. $150. 5840 Strand Blvd.

**Scary Christmas!** - Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs presents “Deadly As Hero, Pseudolus’ lovelorn as Philia and Adante Carter Pictured here are Julia Johanos playing matchmaker, through Dec. 30, at The Norris Center. $30-$65. 1010 Fifth Ave. S. 434-4737 or www.fgcu.edu.

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**Light it Up** - Naples Botanical Gardens hosts its annual Night Lights in the Garden holiday display from 6-9 p.m. on select dates from Dec. 7-Jan. 3. $30-$25. 529-3925 or www.gulfshoreopera.com.

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WHAT TO DO

Arts & Crafts – Art-in-the-Glades hosts arts and crafts show from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at McLeod Park in Everglades City. 665-2905 or mrreplko@earthlink.net.


Christmas Sing-Along – Naples Historical Society hosts a holiday sing-along with piano accompaniment at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11 at Palm Cottage. 157 12th Ave. S. 261-8164 or www.napleshistoricalsociety.org.

Victrola – Naples Historical Society hosts a short presentation about the important role the Victrola played in holiday celebrations at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, at Artis—Naples. 597-1900 or www.artinaples.com.

All That Jazz – Saxophonist Vincent Herring and the Naples Philharmonic Jazz Orchestra perform at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, at Artis—Naples. 597-1900 or www.artinaples.com.


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Beach Concert – Friends of Lovers Key hosts a beach barbecue and sunset performance by local singer/songwriters at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13. Free with park entry fee. www.friendsofloverskey.org.

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O, Tannenbaum – Naples Historical Society hosts a short presentation about the history and traditions surrounding the Christmas tree at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, at Palm Cottage. 157 12th Ave. S. 261-8164 or www.napleshistoricalsociety.org.

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WHERE TO GO


**All The Best Ones** – Emmy and Golden Globe winner Jane Lynch (“Glee”) performs a concert titled “A Swinging Little Christmas” with Kate Flannery (“The Office”) and Tim Davis (“Glee”) at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, at Southwest Florida Event Center: $41-$65. 11355 Bonita Beach road. 245-9910 or www.sfweventcenter.com.

**Tasty Holidays** – Historian Lila Zuck leads a short presentation about favorite holiday recipes at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, at Palm Cottage. 137 12th Ave. S. 261-8164 or www.napleshistoricalsociety.org.

**All About That Bass** – Fifth Avenue South’s its annual Tuba Christmas with local tuba, euphonium, sousaphone and baritone players performing holiday selections on Sugden Plaza from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14. 692-8436 or www.fifthavenuesouth.com.

**For the Birds** – Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center hosts a classroom session and birding excursion to Tigertail Beach from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 15. $40. 300 Tower Road. 530-5940 or www.rookerybay.org.

**Lunch & Learn** – Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center provides lunch and a presentation on the pioneers who settled on the preserve from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18. 515 Tower Road. 53-5940 or www.rookerybay.org.

**Victrola** – Naples Historical Society hosts a short presentation about the important role the Victrola played in holiday celebrations at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18, at Palm Cottage. 137 12th Ave. S. 261-8164 or www.napleshistoricalsociety.org.

**God of Wonder, God of Light** – Voices of Naples performs Handel’s Messiah at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18, at St. Leo Catholic Church in Bonita Springs. Free, but donations appreciated. 28290 Beaumont Road. www.voicesofnaples.org.

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— Email calendar listings and high-resolution photos to Lindsey Nesmith at lnesmith@floridaweekly.com. Please send Word or text documents and jpgs with time, date, location, cost and contact information. No pdfs or photos of flyers. Deadline for calendar submissions is noon Monday. No phone calls, please.
In "Comedy Tonight," the opening number of "A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum," the company promise "Something familiar/Something peculiar!"

This is a perfect description of Gulfshore Playhouse’s gender-flipping production, in which some of the male actors play women and vice versa.

This 1962 classic musical was written in a time when sexism reigned. Well, even more blatantly than it does today.

And this fresh approach helps ease some of that:

So when three women (dressed as male characters) and a man playing a flirty, high-strung man sing and dance about "Everybody Ought to Have a Maid," the audience does what women have been doing for eons: they laugh. And these strutting men all puffed up with their over-grown sense of self-importance.

It’s just a given that in 200 BC Rome, women could be only wives, maids or courtesans. Women are seen only by what they clean houses or sex.

The song lyrics and melody by Stephen Sondheim is just so damn catchy, though. It’s a fun and rambunctious romp that provides plenty of laughs.

That’s not to say that this version of "Forum" is dry or preachy, a lecture to be endured. Not at all.

"Forum" is dry and preachy, a lecture to be expected.

And Mr. Wascavage, as Hysterium, noticeably boasts twice that number or more. He's onstage very little, but it's Hero's parents who almost steal the show, when the actors requested funds for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. According to the Broadway Cares website, "it helps men, women and children across the country and across the street receive lifesaving medications, health care, nutritious meals, counseling and emergency financial assistance."

But this was the first time in all my decades of attending theater that a venue piggybacked the fundraising and announced half the donations would go to one of its own programs, the Gulfshore Playhouse Education program.

In the know

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"

Who: Gulfshore Playhouse

Where: The Norris Center, Naples

Cost: $20-$73 ($35 tickets available two weeks before opening)

Info: 866-811-4111 or www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org

“A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” is so zany, so fun, I hope to see it again.

The only sour note occurred at the end of the show, when the actors requested funds for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. This is an annual request at Equity shows. According to the Broadway Cares website, “it helps men, women and children across the country and across the street receive lifesaving medications, health care, nutritious meals, counseling and emergency financial assistance.”

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I suspect those who want 100 percent of their donation to go to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. This is an annual request at Equity shows. According to the Broadway Cares website, “it helps men, women and children across the country and across the street receive lifesaving medications, health care, nutritious meals, counseling and emergency financial assistance.”

But it’s Hero’s parents who almost steal the show. Mr. Simon plays his mother, Domina. Though he’s more than twice her age. With her raspy voice and great sense of comedic delivery, Ms. Ragan is perfect for the role.

And Ms. Ragusa is perfect as Senex, the dirty old man Mr. Simon sings about. He of course thinks Philia is in love with him, though he’s more than twice her age. With her raspy voice and great sense of comedic delivery, Ms. Ragan is perfect for the role.

Mr. Katz, the director, and Gulfshore Playhouse, have given us a “Forum” for the 21st century, a fresh, new take on the classic musical. Mr. Sondheim’s clever lyrics only add to the enjoyment and also provide laughs. Though the original Broadway show was nominated for eight Tony Awards (and won six), Ms. Sonheim was not nominated for Best Original Score — a definite oversight.

 Choreographer Adam Cates provides a mash-up of varying dance styles, including a soft-shoe number, that never fail to entertain.
NOW – DEC 25
Fall in love with Buddy the Elf! Based on the popular film, this charming and whimsical musical comedy will spread holiday cheer for all to hear!

NOW – DEC 25
Groove into the holiday season with this 1960s style revue featuring Christmas favorites you know and love!

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(Packages available for groups from 2 to 149)

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NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY | NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 5, 2018 | C11
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) An unsettling mood at the start of the week soon lifts and gives way to a more positive attitude as you find fun and friendship beginning to dominate your aspect.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A delay in firming up holiday plans could work to your advantage. Use this time to scout out possibilities that might be more in line with what those close to you would prefer.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Some people might question some of the new friends you’ve welcomed into your life. But your ability to see beyond the obvious helps you recognize how special they are.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Financial matters can be especially tricky this week. It’s best to follow a conservative investment path for now, and wait for a more fortuitous time to take a bolder approach.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your Arian penchant for impatience shows, as you consider passing a problem-prone project on to someone else. Stay with it and work out those snarls yourself.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Even patient Bovines can be frustrated when carefully made plans go awry. But crank up that “stick-to-it-ivity” you do so well, and you’ll soon find that your schedule is back in sync.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your aspect favors using more resourceful means in dealing with a workplace situation. Some discreet checking around could help shed light on the root cause of the problem.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You show an unusually strong streak of stubbornness in rejecting suggestions from friends and/or family members early in the week. But you become more receptive by the week’s end.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat might find a gentler approach more effective when dealing with those who resist needed change. Remember, the word “persuasion” starts with the sound “puh.”

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A disappointing experience with someone you felt you could trust can be painful. But there just might be more to this situation than you’re aware of. Press for an explanation.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Changing your views about something you believe in isn’t easy. But you might reconsider as the facts come in. Keep your mind open, even if you’re uneasy about what you might learn.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might have to do some serious shifting of gears to get your project back on track. But cheer up. Your hard work starts to produce some positive results by the week’s end.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your warmth, your humor and your genuine concern for others make you someone people love to keep close to their lives.
CONTRACT BRIDGE

A stayman flaw

BY STEVE BECKER

Nowadays, virtually all players use the Stayman Convention to explore for a possible 4-4 major-suit fit after partner has opened the bidding with one or two notrump. Thus, North’s two-club bid in today’s hand was designed to find out whether South had four spades. When South indicated that he did not have four cards in either major by bidding two diamonds, North carried on to three notrump.

While Stayman works well in the great majority of hands, it is not an absolute blessing. It sometimes helps the opponents, as it did in this deal where West found the winning defense.

West led a diamond, and East took the ace and continued with the queen. It was here that West made the excellent play of over-taking the queen with the king and continuing with the nine to force out declarer’s ten.

As a result, South went down one, losing four diamond tricks and the ace of clubs. Thanks to the Stayman inquiry, West knew that South could not collect more than eight tricks (four spades, the ten of diamonds and at most three hearts) before he would have to lead a club. It was therefore completely safe to overtake the diamond queen and thereby assure defeat of the contract.

West’s defense, which gave declarer a diamond trick he could not have made on his own, was in part attributable to what West had learned from the bidding. Thanks to the Stayman inquiry, West knew that South could not collect more
FLORIDA WRITERS

A Florida farm’s fall festival becomes a setting for murder


This is No. 15 in the Bad Hair Day Mysteries that have won Nancy J. Cohen many fans — and many imitators — over the years. The author continues to maintain her status as the queen of the cozy mystery, a genre she not only exemplifies in her own fiction but also defines and gives advice about in the expanded second edition of her guidebook “Writing the Cozy Mystery” (Orange Grove Press, 2018). These are the essentials: The sleuth must be both female and an amateur, and readers must encounter her as she fits her crime solving into a larger, multifaceted life within a well-defined community.

Marla Vail, who runs a hair salon in the South Florida town of Palm Haven, is all excited about participating in a fall harvest festival sponsored by Kinsdale Farms at the western edge of Broward County. Local businesses bring attention to themselves by sponsoring competitions that attract entrants who sign up months in advance. The general public just loves the goings-on, the food and the high spirits. Marla has entered the baking competition, hoping her coconut fudge pie will take the prize.

Ms. Cohen introduces a very large cast of characters who are involved in the festival in some way. One, Francine Dodger, runs a magazine, another is a chef and another is a food critic. The festival is a time for people to reconnect and to network. It’s also a time for fun.

Francine has set up a Find Franny contest for the festival, a kind of scavenger hunt that involves collecting cards, getting each stamped by answering a question correctly and being the first to report to Franny with all of them stamped.

The only problem: When Franny is found, she is dead: murdered. Marla’s husband, Detective Dalton Vail, will lead the murder investigation. Yes, you guessed it. Marla will be very busy doing her share of the investigation in her own way.

For Dalton, it’s just another case, one of many that will occupy him every day and often for long hours.

For Marla, it’s a task (more like an addiction) squeezed in along with run-
ning her business, mothering Dalton’s 18-year-old daughter Brianna, running the household, networking all over town, dealing with her parents, etc., etc. Meanwhile, she is concerned about her clock running out before having a child by Dalton.

Once the investigation begins, the situation becomes complicated by the fact that another woman participating in the festival, Alyce, is found murdered. Oddly, Franny had been found wearing Alyce’s jacket. Had the murderer mistaken Franny for Alyce? Are there other connections between the victims? Or are troubles plaguing Kinsdale Farm?

The excitement of the novel heats up as the Vails perform their formal interrogations and less formal fact gathering. Marla and Dalton have contrasting, but complementary, styles and temperaments. As they hunt down motives and means, they play against each other quite well.

However, Dalton is always worrying about Marla taking too many chances and getting herself in danger. The dance of his protectiveness and her independent streak is part of the reader’s enjoyment. They even find a way of giving Brianna some safe work to do that could be instrumental in the sleuthing enterprise.

The dialogue is sharp, the eye for detail is masterful, and the narrative pacing is just right. Plenty of suspicious-seeming characters raise the tension. Even if you’re not yet a “Cozy” fan, you’ll have a blast. All this and recipes, too.

About the author
Nancy J. Cohen’s imaginative romances have made the IMRA bestseller list, been selected by Suspense Magazine as best cozy mystery, won a Readers’ Favorite Gold Medal and earned third place in the Arizona Literary Awards. Equally popular with fans, they have won the HOLT Medallion and Best Book in Romantic SciFi/Fantasy at The Romance Reviews.

A featured speaker at libraries, conferences and community events, Ms. Cohen is listed in “Contemporary Authors, Poets & Writers” as well as in “Who’s Who in U.S. Writers, Editors & Poets.” When not busy writing, she enjoys fine dining, cruising, visiting Disney World and shopping.


— Phil Jason, Ph.D., United States Naval Academy professor emeritus of English, is a poet, critic and freelance writer with 20 books to his credit, including several studies of war literature and a creative writing text.
The Ballad Of Buster Scruggs ★★★
(Liam Neeson, Tim Blake Nelson, James Franco) The latest from the Coen Bros. ("Fargo") features six vignettes set in the Old West; some are lighthearted, some are deadly serious, none are all that good. It's a mishmash of violence, Old West clichés and striking boldness that never melds together into a tangible whole. Rated R.

The Grinch ★★★
(Voices of Benedict Cumberbatch, Rashida Jones, Angela Lansbury) The grumpy green Grinch is back in another telling of the classic Christmas tale, this time from Illumination Entertainment, which made "The Lorax." It's a colorful reimagining to be sure, but it plays tedious and uninspired. Rated PG.

Bohemian Rhapsody ★★★
(Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton, Ben Hardy) The story of Queen, leading up to the Live Aid concert in 1985, is lushly chronicled in this rockin' but uneven biopic. Any scene involving music is electric and captivating; any scene involving personal drama is ho-hum by the book. The music was enough for me. Rated PG-13.

What They Had ★★★
(Hilary Swank, Michael Shannon, Blythe Danner) Siblings Bridget (Swank) and Nick (Shannon) deal with their father's (Robert Forster) reluctance to get help for their Alzheimer's-afflicted mother (Danner). It has flaws, but it also has humor and warmth, and isn't nearly as depressing as it may look. Rated R.

The Happy Prince ★★
(Rupert Everett, Emily Watson, Colin Firth) The troubled final years of author Oscar Wilde (Everett) are chronicled in this passion project for Everett, who also directs. There's a bit too much going on with the timeline, and the dialog is too poetic for its own good, but Wilde fans may find it appealing. Rated R.

The Oath ★½
(Ike Barinholtz, Tiffany Haddish, John Cho) A family's divided political leanings lead to disaster after the president asks all Americans to sign a loyalty oath. Nice idea for a movie, but it doesn't work. As a satire, it misses the mark and isn't funny. As a dark comedy, it goes completely off the rails in the third act. Rated R.

First Man ★★★
(Ryan Gosling, Claire Foy, Corey Stoll) Neil Armstrong's (Gosling) journey to the moon, beginning with his start at NASA in the early 1960s, is chronicled in director Damien Chazelle's ("La La Land") latest. It's a fascinating story and a good movie, but Armstrong is such a joyless bore that he's sometimes hard to root for. Rated PG-13.

A Star Is Born ★★★
(Bradley Cooper, Lady Gaga, Sam Elliott) Burned out famous musician Jackson (Cooper) discovers a supreme talent in Ally (Gaga), who later becomes his wife. Gaga's singing is expectedly impressive, and the love story has real emotional stakes. It's a good movie, and has multiple options that could contend for the Best Song Oscar. Rated R.
**LATEST FILMS**

### ‘Ralph Breaks the Internet’

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

**Is it worth $10? Yes**

“Ralph Breaks the Internet” is full of bold imagination, bright colors and wondrous messages. It’s a movie that approaches its subject matter with inquisitive reverence, daring to ask about the internet, “what would that actually look like?” and then answering the question(s) in wonderfully inventive ways. This is “Inside Out”-level animated excellence here, and it’s a marvelous visceral pleasure. It’s not a perfect movie — it needs more laughs, and runs tediously long at 112 minutes — but oh, is it a treat for the eyes.

Ralph (John C. Reilly), a heretofore best known as a wrecker of arcade games, is still the same big, loveable doof he was in “Wreck-It Ralph” (2012). He and friend Vanellope (Sarah Silverman) hang out all night inside the power strip that gives life to the games in Lit-wak’s Arcade. All is well in their world until something new is plugged in: A Wi-Fi router. With Vanellope’s game broken and Lit-wak wanting to throw it away rather than fix it, Ralph and Vanellope venture inside the internet to find the replacement part on eBay.

Speaking of eBay, it’s not the only website mentioned by name here, bringing familiarity to kids and the question of “How much did they make from product placement?” to discerning adults. Regardless, it’s part of the fun, as are playful moments with viral videos and the dangers of online comments.

Once inside the internet, various complications abound. Ralph and Vanellope don’t understand how bidding on eBay works, so they need money. They encounter KnowsMore (Alan Tudyk), a search bar who keeps interrupting them, Shank (Gal Gadot), a bad girl who loves to drive and feels straight out of a “Fast and Furious” movie, and Yess (Tariq I. Henson), the woman who decides what’s popular online (hint: it’s always changing).

Isn’t it great what animation can do? Sure, live action movies can make anything come alive with visual effects, but the folks at Disney Animation (“Frozen,” “Zootopia”) have outdone themselves in terms of color palette and pure imagination. See it, and try to enjoy it here in terms of color palette and pure pleasure. It’s not a perfect movie tediously long at 112 minutes — but Ralph and Vanellope’s game broken and Lit-wak wanting to throw it away rather than fix it, Ralph and Vanellope venture inside the internet to find the replacement part on eBay.

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Thematicaly, directors Phil Johnston and Rich Moore’s film is rich and meaningful. The friendship between Vanellope and Ralph takes center stage, and within that comes what it means to be a true friend — great stuff for kids to learn. Deeper than that, though, is a man (Ralph) not wanting to let his young female friend (Vanellope) pursue what she feels will make her happy. This is a message to fathers and daughters, and also perhaps to society as a whole to listen to women, especially girls, and encourage them to chase their version of happiness. The Disney princesses, who are delightfully self-aware in one of the film’s best sequences, further emphasize this point.

For more information visit [punchbreaks.com](http://punchbreaks.com)
It wasn’t so long ago, however, that revelers indulged in the season’s dark side on Christmas Eve. The dark and the cold, the grey tree limbs and barren expanses of snow put people in mind of death, sins and the judgment that would befall each man upon his own demise. That late stage in life — like the last season of the year — is the winter of each man’s discontent when life has lost its savor and vibrancy. The night before Christmas was an excellent opportunity to indulge the spooky side of Christmas when loved ones were husband full of goose and ready for some fireside entertainment before the next day’s festivities. With Fezziwig’s miserly, spectral counterpart Jacob Marley in mind, Cen- ters for the Arts Bonita Springs presents “Deadly Sugarplums: A Fright Before Christmas,” an interactive production that reimagines the English tradition of creepy out our loved ones with ghost stories

Mr. Blocker’s research into the custom revealed that ghosts would be deprived of their Christmas pudding until they told a ghost story. The festivities would end with a game called Murder, whereupon everyone departed into the dark and the cold to find their own beds. “Without all the light pollution we have today, it was dark and people tended to get hurt really bad,” he said. “I could never figure out how Murder worked, but this is going to be a little more innocent scares to jump start the day, Dec. 10. Tickets are $25, with a 10 percent discount for members. Call 495-8989 or visit www.artcenterbonita.org.”

In the tradition of a round of Murder, the play culminates with a creepy little game of Mr. Blocker and Ms. Wimer’s creation called Sneeze that has its origins in A.M. Burrage story of the same name. “Sneeze” is a corruption of “it’s me,” to add weird little twist to a killing game. Guests can expect some ghostly appearances, some puppetry and a few surprises that will keep them on their toes through the length of the show, she continued. But don’t expect things to be downright horrifying, she continued, it’s still Christmas and the scares are meant to be PG. Stout-hearted kids should be fine and have fun, as long as they aren’t the kind to obsess over spooks in their beds all night. "I’m hoping to expose a new audience to some cool, unique theater," she said. "I have a unique vision and my art always has a sense of humor to it, even if it’s really scary. My main agenda is to entertain. I can forgive anything but being boring, so my main goal is not to bore people. I want my audience to have fun."
Broadway’s “Wicked” and “Annie” pianist, Garrett Taylor, will join The Naples Play-
ers from Dec. 19 as a special guest artist conductor to lead the orchestra of Irving Berlin’s “White Christmas.”

The show will run through Dec. 23, but Mr. Taylor has been tapped to help as the Naples Players musical director helps with a local school production. Mr. Taylor has performed with symphonies in the U.S. and Europe, and was the former conductor at The Cape Cod Playhouse in the U.S. and Europe, concerts at Naples Florida Weekly, and was on the Broadway National Tour of Irving Berlin’s “White Christmas,” “Grease,” “Disney’s Beauty & The Beast” and “Sweet Charity!” CBS/TV appointed Mr. Taylor as the conductor for “A New York Christmas to Remember.” Mr. Taylor was the former conductor at The Cape Playhouse, The John W Engeman Theatre at Northport, Theatre of the Stars and music director at Flat Rock Playhouse. A musical graduate from Millikan University, Mr. Taylor has also worked at NYU, Manhattan School of Music, Marymount, Queen College and AMDA.

“Naples Players’ resident musical director Charles Fornara has handed over the reins of Irving Berlin’s ‘White Christmas’ for the week so that he can also support the students at Community School of Naples as they perform ‘Fame,’ and TheatreZone’s production of ‘Home for the Holidays,’” said Bryce Alexander, The Naples Players’ executive artistic director. “We are so proud that Charlie is working to support other arts organizations and students in our community. The arts community is a singular family, and such cooperation between the theatres is important. It’s one of the reasons we love Charlie.”

“Community theater is where I had my start. It is also where I met the most wonderful people, developed my skills, and discovered my passion for theater. Growing up, I would have been lost without the wonderful arts programs in which I was lucky enough to be involved. The arts foster creativity, unity, and a sense of community and teamwork that is so important in our world today,” said Mr. Taylor.

“Having Garrett conduct in Charlie’s short absence is not only an incredible opportunity for our performers, but a great representation of The Naples Players’ growing reputation with artists from around the country. We constantly strive to provide the highest caliber experience, and this is just another example of that commitment to our local community,” said Mr. Alexander. Irving Berlin’s “White Christmas” performs at The Naples Players Sugden Community Theatre in Blackburn Hall through Dec. 23. A limited number of tickets are still available. Visit www.NaplesPlayers.org or contact the box office 263-7990 to inquire. ■

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5. PJ Heifer, Henley Shotwell and Kyle Giampaoli
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Questions? Email editor Robbie Spencer at rspencer@floridaweekly.com.

Nancy White, Robin Hamilton and Scott Hamilton

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NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY
NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 5, 2018 | C21
SOCIETY

63rd annual Farm City BBQ hosted by Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee

1. Stephanie Kissinger and Waste Management’s Cycler the Robot
2. Farm City BBQ lunch Celebrity Servers
3. Cyndee Woolley and Brian Gaugum
4. A bounty of Floridagrown corn.
5. Beth Hatch, Amy Cooper and Chelsea Arbon
7. Sheriff Kevin Rambosk welcomes Ron Balcomb
8. Sarah Hardwig, a Naples High Sophomore
9. Grillmaster Bart Zino
10. Patricia Mills and Michelle Mambuca
11. Theo Ezel and Michael Wynn
12. Rob Stoneburner and Larry Ray

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Early Dining Menu
2-Courses $29.95

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Highlights from Naples International Film Festival

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Looking for something to liven up your holiday boozing repertoire? Crave Culinaire was kind enough to pass on this festive — and potent — cocktail recipe that is sure to impress guests, or at least make cookie baking even more fun. This cranberry-walnut martini comes courtesy of the Food Network, but many thanks to one of our favorite culinary adventurers for tipping us off to this nutty-tart wonder.

**Cranberry-Walnut Martini**

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 2 1/2 ounces vodka, preferably Ketel One
- 2 ounces walnut liqueur, preferably Nocello
- 3 fresh cranberries
- 1 sprig rosemary
- 1 walnut, toasted

**DIRECTIONS:**
Combine the vodka and walnut liqueur in a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake well and strain into a chilled martini glass. Thread the cranberries onto the rosemary sprig and place in the glass. Garnish with the walnut.

The Dock at Crayton Cove hosts its annual Dickens Fest holiday celebration, a 35-year tradition, with Victorian-styled servers, themed menu items like Bah-Humbug Bisque and Jacob Marley’s Dickens of a Turducken, and a screening of “A Christmas Carol” in the background from 4:30–9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15.

**Take Note:**
The winter installment of Sizzle SWFL Restaurant Week offers prix-fixe two-course lunch menus and three-course dinner menus from dozens of Naples restaurants from Nov. 29–Dec. 12. Also participating are several Lee county spots. Lunches are $16-$21 and dinners are $26-$36. To see menus and for instruction on how to participate, visit www.sizzleswfl.com.

Tony’s Off Third hosts its annual Merry Chapmagnes and Sparklers Tasting from 5:30–7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6. Over 20 sips of a variety of bubblers will be available, as well as a $10 coupon for any featured bottle with the purchase of $20 or more.
of a ticket. $25, registration required. 1800 Third St. South. 262-7999 or www.tonysoffbird.com.

The Wine Merchant hosts a tasting of vintages from Francois-Louis Vuitton’s collaboration with the Medoc-based Maison Bouey, Collection Personnelle, at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at Venue Naples. Guests will enjoy Mr. Vuitton’s company and his favorite selections from the collection with hors-d’oeuvres. $99, reservations required. 13240 Tamiami Trail N. 292-1529 or www.venuenaples.com.

Francois L. Vuitton and PG Fine Wines host an exclusive six-course pairing dinner featuring wines from Mr. Vuitton’s Collection Personnelle, a curated assortment of Bordeaux wines he assembled in a collaboration with Maison Bouey of the Medoc region of France, at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, at Sails Restaurant. $225. 360-2000 or guestservice@sailsrestaurant.com.

As The Local celebrates its fifth anniversary, owner and chef Jeff Mitchell will honor each of his local suppliers on his fall menu, which is now available. Featured dishes include vegan zucchini pasta (Woron Farms), pickled peach salad (Inyod Farms), Florida lobster salad (Blue Star Seafood), park belly pastrami (Ona Farms), and macaroni and cheese (Inyod Farms). $255-3276 or www.thelocalnaples.com. 13240 Tamiami Trail N. 292-1529 or www.venuenaples.com.

Hilton Naples announced it will host its first annual Sweets with Santa, where children 10 and under can enjoy treats and fun activities with Santa Claus from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2. $50 for children, $75 for adults. Proceeds will benefit United Way of Collier County. www.hiltonnaples.eventbrite.com.

Want to work on your skills in the kitchen? Here are some cooking classes that are now available:

- Secretos 101: Wednesday, Dec. 5 ($75).
- Instant Pot Holiday Recipes: Thursday, Nov. 29 ($75).
- French Croissants 101: Wednesday, Dec. 5 ($69).
- Winter Recipes: Monday, Dec. 3 ($75).
- Sweet and Savory Crepes: Monday, Dec. 3 ($75).
- Winter Holiday Macarons: Sunday, Dec. 2 ($75).
- Date Night in the French Quarter: Tuesday, Dec. 4 ($75).
- Cooking at Home: Saturday, Dec. 1 ($85).
- Secrets of Indian Cooking: Thursday, Nov. 29 ($75).
- Instant Pot Tamales: Friday, Dec. 3 ($85).
- Instant Pot Holiday– French Cooking at Home: Thursday, Nov. 29 ($75).
- Cooking with Cast Iron: Saturday, Dec. 1 ($75).
- Chinese New Year: Tuesday, Dec. 4 ($75).
- Cooking with Cat Iron: Monday, Dec. 3 ($69).
- Date Night Romantic Fall Dinner: Saturday, Dec. 1 ($75).
- Cooking at Home: Saturday, Dec. 1 ($69).
- Cooking with Cat Iron: Saturday, Dec. 1 ($75).
- Date Night Romantic Fall Dinner: Saturday, Dec. 1 ($75).
- Winter Holiday Macarons: Sunday, Dec. 2 ($75).
- Homemade Pasta Workshop: Sunday, Dec. 2 ($75).
- Date Night in the French Quarter: Sunday, Dec. 2 ($75).
- Cooking with Cast Iron: Tuesday, Dec. 4 ($75).
- Sweet and Savory Crepes: Tuesday, Dec. 4 ($69).
- Specials: Monday, Dec. 3 ($75).
- Chef’s Table: Thursday, Nov. 29 ($75).
- American Steakhouse: Thursday, Nov. 29 ($75).
- Thai Favorites at Home: Monday, Dec. 3 ($75).
- Cooking at Home: Saturday, Dec. 1 ($75).
- French Cooking at Home: Thursday, Nov. 29 ($69).
- New American Steakhouse: Thursday, Nov. 29 ($85).
- Instant Pot Tamales: Friday, Nov. 30 ($69).
- How to Bake the Ultimate Chocolate Cookie: Friday, Nov. 30 ($69).
- Date Night Paris Bistro: Friday, Dec. 30 ($85).
- Cooking with Cat Iron: Saturday, Dec. 1 ($75).
- Secrets of Indian Cooking: Saturday, Dec. 1 ($75).
- French Cooking at Home: Saturday, Dec. 1 ($75).
- Winter Holiday Macarons: Sunday, Dec. 2 ($75).
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—Ivan Seligman
Cuisine Review

Take a deep dive into delights of the sea at Naples Coastal Kitchen

Talk about a sea change! What was once a cozy little cafe serving classic cuisine from Romania and Italy has been transformed into a sprawling restaurant where fish—much of it local—is reigns supreme.

The former Daniela’s, just south of Wiggins Pass, became Naples Coastal Kitchen last December, with well-known local chef Hector Hidalgo heading up the kitchen. Formerly at Randy’s Fishmarket and Fish Crazy, he now conjures up fish-focused dishes here.

The dining room has been renovated and redecorated. The walls are cool gray and the bar still dominates one wall with a TV broadcasting—what else on a Saturday evening?—college football. A large wine rack fills the rear wall. The rest of the space is filled with square tables and chairs. While they were a bit more substantial than those outside, they seem somewhat undersized for parties of four.

We were seated outside—without being asked which we preferred even though we had made a reservation—and were led to a table that backed up to a servers’ station. The outdoor tables are 30 inches square (yes, there’s an app for that) and were fine for parties of two, but four-tops looked pretty tight. A couple of such groups could be heard requesting larger tables, but alas, there weren’t any. I’d recommend that you be pretty friendly—especially if it’s a group you share a table here.

Our pleasant and efficient server, Jodi, arrived in record time, sensed that we were a bit out of sorts and quickly ordered up quick-quenched adult beverages. One Bombay Sapphire gin martini and a well-chilled Sapphire gin martini and a well-chilled

Enjoying appetizer called Coastal Kitchen Tater Tots — jumbo tater tots stuffed with bacon, Wisconsin cheddar and chives with sour cream are all on offer.

Seafood devotees will find lots of Southern fare, such as seafood gumbo, grouper and Gulf shrimp. But cold water lobster tails, Atlantic salmon and scallops are well represented, too.

The meal began well, with an order of Prince Edward Island mussels ($14.95) lightly simmered then set into a bowl filled with a sauce of white wine, garlic and butter with a hint of basil. The mussels were good-sized and firm, and the sauce was a fine complement. The French bread that accompanied the dish was fine for sopping up the sauce, but a spoon worked just as well.

A cup of seafood gumbo ($5.95, or $7.95 for a bowl) was generous, the Cajun seasoning and Andouille sausage enlivening the bits of seafood, okra, and celery. It was zesty without being too hot and was a creditable rendition of this classic dish.

Fillet mignon and cold water lobster tail comprise the surf and turf platter at Naples Coastal Kitchen.

The Captain’s Platter contains grouper, scallops and shrimp plus your choice of two sides.

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Seafood devotees will find lots of Southern fare, such as seafood gumbo, grouper and Gulf shrimp. But cold water lobster tails, Atlantic salmon and scallops are well represented, too.

The meal began well, with an order of Prince Edward Island mussels ($14.95) lightly simmered then set into a bowl filled with a sauce of white wine, garlic and butter with a hint of basil. The mussels were good-sized and firm, and the sauce was a fine complement. The French bread that accompanied the dish was fine for sopping up the sauce, but a spoon worked just as well.

A cup of seafood gumbo ($5.95, or $7.95 for a bowl) was generous, the Cajun seasoning and Andouille sausage enlivening the bits of seafood, okra, and celery. It was zesty without being too hot and was a creditable rendition of this classic dish.
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Even the people on your list who already have everything enjoy opening a present or two at the holidays. The tough part for you is finding something that will make them say “Wow!” because they’ve never seen anything like it before. These things might do the trick.

Glamping simply can’t get more glamorous. Send your avid adventurer off with this special edition, 27-foot Tommy Bahama Airstream in tow. Lightweight and luxurious, yet tough and durable, it’ll go along everywhere from sea to shining sea for around $127,000.

Whether she’s water, earth, wind or fire, she’ll thrill to the results of an ultimate photo shoot with Mila Bridger behind the camera. Southwest Florida’s beaches and the four elements inspire these otherworldly portraits that bring the subject’s inner element to life in a spectacular way. $500 includes two or three prints (but not the fabulously transformative dress-wrap). Contact Ms. Bridger at www.milabridger.com to arrange a session for the out-of-this-world woman on your list.

The grillmaster or mistress in your life will have a blast taking outdoor cooking to a whole new level with the Tahiti from Paradise Grills in Naples and Bonita Springs. Accessories such as a tiki hut, TV/entertainment package, refrigeration, wine/liquor shelving, a trash drawer, remote-controlled lighting and numerous commercial stainless steel options mean you can personalize it with everything to make the perfect backyard paradise. About $14,000 as pictured.

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For Someone Who Has Everything

Santa has his sack full of toys, but if you have someone nice on your list who needs something a bit more versatile, we suggest this Italian-made cowhide bucket bag by Marni available at Marissa Collections in Naples for $2,250. It’s the perfect place to keep the keys to the sleigh.

YETI proudly presents its first cooler on wheels — the perfect match for your next sunny beach day or pier fishing experience. Like all things YETI, it’s practically indestructible and has everything the person who has everything could ever desire in a cooler: Neverflat wheels, a handle designed to protect your heels and all the rugged, well-insulated design features YETI is known for. In white, Ice Blue or Desert Tan, it’s $399 at West Marine. Cool. Or should we say, cooler.

Sure, he probably has an alligator belt and pair of shoes for every outfit, but we bet he doesn’t have a larger-than-life photograph of a gator in the great Southwest Florida wild. For $10,000, Naples photographer extraordinaire Dennis Goodman will turn his original, which he took in the Everglades, into an art-quality print that’s 4 feet tall and 12 feet wide. The person on your list who has everything will no doubt have the perfect place to hang it.

Quality without compromise is the hallmark of Carl F. Bucherer’s ScubaTec watch for men. For the man in your life who dives into style with sophistication and confidence, you can wrap up this beauty from Bigham Jewelers in Naples, where we found it for $9,600.

People who have just about everything often have also been just about everywhere. Surely the 496 pages of “The Bucket List: 1,000 Adventures Big and Small” will give them some ideas for where they must go/what they must do next. The book suggests experiences as exotic as driving through clouds in Sri Lanka and watching the sunrise at Petra alongside some as simple as naming a star after someone you love and learning to play an instrument after all these years. Pick up a copy at your favorite bookstore for about $35 or find it on Amazon.

For the person on your list who really, really, really has everything, it would be worth the trip to Naples Motorsports to drop $3,595,000 for this 2015 Ferrari LaFerrari Coupe. With 963 horsepower from its combined V-12 engine and electric motor, it has everything to go from 0-186 mph in 15 seconds. Perfect for that person who has places to go and only has 15 seconds to get there.

Sure “Blue Christmas” was a hit for the King, but unless you’re the late Elvis Presley, you need to make it a sapphire Christmas if you want to overpower those decorations of red. With a 10.26-carat oval sapphire and 1.44 carats of tapered baguette diamonds, it puts tinsel to shame. Bigham Jewelers in Naples has it for $190,000.

If a Ferrari is too fancy for your guy who’s got it all, consider parking a 2019 Ford F-150 Limited in the driveway on Christmas morning and putting the keys in his stocking. The perfect combination of grunt and gorgeous, it delivers 450 horsepower, 510 pound-feet of torque and enough leather and technology to make him blush. He’ll think it’s the best gift ever — right up until you suggest taking it antiquing. Starting at $67,135.

For Someone Who Has Everything

For the person on your list who really, really, really has everything, it would be worth the trip to Naples Motorsports to drop $3,595,000 for this 2015 Ferrari LaFerrari Coupe. With 963 horsepower from its combined V-12 engine and electric motor, it has everything to go from 0-186 mph in 15 seconds. Perfect for that person who has places to go and only has 15 seconds to get there.
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For the Host and Hostess

It's the season for taking tokens of appreciation to those who are so kind as to invite you to their holiday get-togethers. Host and hostess gifts like these say you're the kind of guest who puts a lot of thought into saying "Thank you for having me."

How about something sweet for the sweetest of hosts? Locally made honey is always a hit, and Shannon Farms harvests the finest from hives from Marco Island to Sarasota. Check out flavors like orange blossom, wildflower, sea grape and more. Find them at www.shannonfarmshoney.com.

Wine coasters are a useful gift for anyone who wants to protect the table from drips. Your host or hostess will be happy to add sparkle to any meal long after the holiday party season is over with this one from the Bijou line by MacKenzie Childs. Beautifully embellished with jewel-tone glass bends, it's $38. Matching napkins rings for $12 each are also available at Zazou in Naples and Bonita Springs.

Whether your host is a lifelong Cracker or a seasonal snowbird, he'll surely relate to New York Times bestselling author Craig Pittman's "Oh, Florida! How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country." Perfect for poolside reading, it's chockfull of wild and weird things to know and love about the Sunshine State. We found our copy for $18 at Copperfish Books in Punta Gorda.

How about something sweet for the sweetest of hosts? Locally made honey is always a hit, and Shannon Farms harvests the finest from hives from Marco Island to Sarasota. Check out flavors like orange blossom, wildflower, sea grape and more. Find them at www.shannonfarmshoney.com.

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This winning combination really defies categorization because it’s guaranteed to please everybody who’s lucky enough to be on your list (except youngsters under-21, of course). With one stop at Whole Foods, you can score a bottle of Veuve Clicquot (we think the brut rose gouache is especially festive) and a box of sweets from Norman Love Confections. Both come beautifully packaged, too. Finding a parking spot at Mercato will be the hardest part.

A vintage Italian liquor decanter and shot glass set crafted from hand-blown glass in a vibrant shade of aqua blue will surely be your sophisticated hostess’ go-to bar accessory for future soirees. This one is $178 at Anthropologie, online and in Naples’ Waterside Shops.

Serving utensils that will come in handy on the buffet table will always be appreciated by a busy host. This pair of contemporary acrylic salad servers is at Republic of Décor in Naples. For a one-of-a-kind gift, check out area antique stores for lovely old silver or silver plate pie servers, pickle forks, casserole spoons or ice tongs.

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For the Host and Hostess

Insure your hostess that her guests will always get the right message by giving her an assortment of cocktail napkins appropriate for whatever the occasion, from book club to pool party to elegant affair. If the invitation arrives far enough in advance, you can even special order something with a monogram or the name of your hostess’ house or beach cottage. We found some of these online and some at several of our favorite shops around town.

Entertaining can’t be your favorite hostess’ only pastime. Think about other things she loves to do and find an ornament that speaks to that for her holiday tree. It will remind her of you every year from now on — and could very well seal the deal for future invitations in your mailbox. These sparkly ones are at Nordstrom, where this year’s offerings of ornaments including something from everyone on your list, from the shopaholic to the world traveler to the incurable optimist.

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For Her

Whether it’s your mom or sister, your BFF or your Secret Santa co-worker, you won’t go wrong giving any of these things to the women on your list.

She makes your life beautiful, right? Then she deserves a fragrance that says the same. Choose from among several gift sets of Lancôme’s La Vie Est Belle products available just for the holiday season. This one, with a purse spray, shower gel and body lotion, is $95 at Dillard’s.

She’ll sparkle and shine at this season’s soirees when she carries a pretty clutch from the Eileen Fisher boutique in Naples. They come in several sizes. This one, a crackle-coated leather wristlet for $118, is just right for her keys, phone, credit card and lipstick.

The wise woman in your life who loves the beach will love this way of declaring her perfect attitude about how to enjoy it. This and a fun assortment of other “words of wisdom” placards about living the good life are at Bed, Bath & Beyond for $24.99 to $34.99.
Limited Time Sale!

Enjoy a tropical drink from the bar or bite to eat from the galley as your adventure begins. Sit back and relax within one of the air conditioned cabins or take in the sun and soft ocean breezes from the sun decks. You’ll arrive in comfort and luxury within walking distance of all there is to see and do on this idyllic palm lined island surrounded by crystal blue waters.

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For Her

For the woman on your list who's of the age where sweet dreams are not an every-night thing, a spritz of Sleep Tight pillow mist and a dab of essential oil on the right spot couldn't hurt. Choose lavender, chamomile or bergamot — or, for $9.99 each at World Market, knock her out with duos in all three scents. She's one of the wisest women you know and the matriarch of the family. Give her the Alex and Ani grandmother charm bangle as a symbol of the important role she plays in your life. Best of all, you can add Alex and Ani charms on special occasions important role she plays in your life. Best of all, you can add Alex and Ani charms on special occasions important role she plays in your life. Best of all, you can add Alex and Ani charms on special occasions important role she plays in your life. Best of all, you can add Alex and Ani charms on special occasions important role she plays in your life. Best of all, you can add Alex and Ani charms on special occasions important role she plays in your life. Best of all, you can add Alex and Ani charms on special occasions.

Any real housewife of Naples will really like having a personalized notepad as a place to jot down her thoughts. And if she lives in a really good neighborhood, find the right one for all of your friends at the Paper Merchant, where each hefty pad is $31. If she frets over her lack of a green thumb, affix a big red ribbon to a faux fiddle leaf fig tree and watch her smile. It comes in a weighted stand she can simply drop into the basket or pot of her choosing (or you can plant yourself even more firmly in her good graces by adding a container to your presentation). The 6-foot variety is $179 at World Market.

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For Her

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If he’s the kind of guy who sadly can’t get away with flip-flops every day, at least make wearing socks fun for him by giving him a wardrobe of Happy Socks packed with color in argyle, polka dot, faded diamond and stripe designs. Knitted from combed cotton, they’re as comfy as they are stylish. Find the box of four pairs for $42 — along with at many more styles and patterns for both men and women who wear socks for whatever reason — at www.happysocks.com.

Discover the gateway to Southwest Florida at Fishermen’s Village Resort and Marina. It’s a combination of destination resort for visitors and hometown hangout for locals for whom it can fill a day, define an evening or pack the itinerary of an extended stay. It’s the top choice for fishing and recreation, culture and entertainment, shopping and dining.

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Bulls and bears and Wall Street have been associated with each other since the late 19th century. When he ties this one on, it should bode well for his investment aspirations. Woven in textured mahogany silk, it’s $47 at www.beautiesltd.com. The Vermont company can also take any traditional necktie and turn it into a bow tie.

For the hipster guy who thinks he knows how to handle facial hair better than anyone, a festive mug from Pier 1 will serve as a gentle reminder that others have come before him. It’ll hold 15 ounces of the coffee made from beans he roasted and ground himself. It’s $5.99.

A great catch that’ll cover any fisherman’s filleting, bait-cutting and boning needs on the water, this set has four Cuda knives and a knife sharpener in a ballistic nylon zippered case. The knives are of German 4116 titanium bonded stainless steel for increased corrosion resistance and excellent edge retention. The sharpener has coarse and fine sides to sharpen and hone the edges to a razor-sharp finish. It’s $59.99 at West Marine.

For Him

For the hipster guy who thinks he knows how to handle facial hair better than anyone, a festive mug from Pier 1 will serve as a gentle reminder that others have come before him. It’ll hold 15 ounces of the coffee made from beans he roasted and ground himself. It’s $5.99.

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For Him

Convenient for the beach, concerts or road trips into the wild, the 12-quart Bongo cooler is strong enough to use as a seat. It's collapsible, too, for easy storage in between adventures. Online only from Pier 1, it's $29.95.

If his game is as good as he says it is, then he probably deserves an Ecart Pro Plus with all the bells and whistles for getting him from tee to green in fine style. Completely customizable and assembled right here in Naples, the fully loaded ones start at around $6,999.

Locally made, sustainable, and soothing, shaving products from Naples Soap Company are for the man who cares about his skin AND his community. Made without chemicals or aluminum, Naples Soap Company natural deodorant and shave cream come in a variety of scents. The shaving brush has a natural wood handle, of course. Prices range from $5 to $18.

Help him keep his pricey suede or cotton canvas sneakers squeaky clean with the $30 Men’s Society Sneaker Cleaning Kit from www.anthropologie.com. It contains two bottles of cleaning fluid and a suede and canvas cleaning brush. Sorry, does not whisk odors away.

If his game is as good as he says it is, then he probably deserves an Ecart Pro Plus with all the bells and whistles for getting him from tee to green in fine style. Completely customizable and assembled right here in Naples, the fully loaded ones start at around $6,999.
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PHOTOS WITH SANTA (& MRS. CLAUS)!
Through Sunday, December 23 • In Suite 182
Children share their holiday wish list with Santa and receive a free 4x6 photo! Mrs. Claus joins her jolly ol’ hubby every Saturday and Sunday. Visit MiromarOutlets.com for more information.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE DECORATING
Saturday, December 8
12 to 2 p.m. near WINK PLAYLAND
Kids create a special holiday treat they can eat at WARO-FM 94.5’s cookie decorating station.

ENDLESS TRAILS HOLIDAY MINI HORSES
Saturday, December 8 • 12 to 2 p.m.
They’re oh-so cute and they’ve got candy (canes)! Look for these tiny equines throughout the mall.

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS
Monday, December 10, to Friday, December 21
Find the Nutcracker soldier. Prizes are awarded daily during this holiday-themed social media contest. Find out more on Miromar Outlets’ Facebook page.

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FunWall, Food and Amazing Things Party Packages available. Find out more at MiromarOutlets.com/play or call (239) 948-3766.

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Naples Flatbread Kitchen & Bar
Luna Rossa Italian Grill
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Just for Kids

Prove to the youngsters on your list that there’s more to life than electronics by putting some of these things under the tree. We predict squeals of delight — and no begging for new batteries before the day is done.

This That & Everything

Loads of fun for ages 12 and older, This, That and Everything is the name-dropping party game that challenges players to describe people, places or things for their teammates. It could be anything from astronauts to signs of the zodiac or animals of the desert. A random list of six items makes winning a challenge — so be ready to shout out this, that and everything in between to earn the most points. Find it for around $26 at toy stores, book stores, Target and Walmart.

Cozy Coupe from Little Tikes

Everyone’s favorite classic kids toy is back and better than ever with the Cozy Coupe from Little Tikes. The iconic plastic car will quickly become your little one’s favorite with the working doors and horn, clicking ignition switch, gas cap that can be opened and closed, cup holders and spinning front wheels. The removable floor board lets them take care of moving themselves along, while the built-in grip handle on the roof lets you wheel them around once they’re all tuckered out. We found it at Target for $49.99.

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Over in France, the good fairies at Corolle call on a wealth of imagination to create some of the world’s most beautiful baby dolls, clothing and accessories. The magic of each doll’s sweet face and delicate vanilla scent makes little arms want to cuddle them forever. The Paper Merchant in Naples has a wide selection to suit children of all ages.

Even the most stubborn little one will jump for joy at bath time when they know drying off involves a hooded towel by Yikes Twins. They can pretend to be a clean-as-a-whistle shark, frog, alligator, bunny or dinosaur as they get ready for bed. Each design is $40 at Naples Soap Company.

The littlest divas on your shopping list will find these pink, shimmery press-on nails simply divine. The $5.99 package of Gel Candy Nails at Target includes 20 stick-on nails that remove easily with warm water (despite the name, they are not edible).

Start your future Seminole or Gator off on the right fashion track with school swag from the University of Florida or Florida State University. Find onesies and other styles for kids of all ages at www.bkstr.com/floridastore/.

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Empower the teen reader in your life with a copy of “Brave New Girl” by New York Times bestselling author Louisa Luna (“Big Little Lies”). It’s the captivating story of 14-year-old Doreen and her triumph over being marginalized and misunderstood at home and school. We checked it out at The Paper Merchant for $16.99.

The budding athlete in your life will be inspired to go the extra mile every time she opens her Lululemon gear bag and sees the message “Game on, girl” inside the zipper opening. We scored it for $78 at the Lululemon boutique at Waterside Shops.

There’s not a kid in town who doesn’t love splashing in puddles. Tell yours to have at it in a pair of colorful rainboots from Rural King in Bonita Springs. For just $14.98, they come in all kinds of fun designs, from polka dots and sharks to camo and cows (in adult sizes, too, for $24.98).

We’ve watched kids be mesmerized for hours carefully peeling and placing mosaic sticker pieces on the template to make masterpieces worthy of any refrigerator. They come in hundreds of themes, from Disney characters and superheroes to the ones you see here, and can be found on Amazon and at stores everywhere like Michael’s, Hobby Lobby, Target, Barnes & Noble, Walmart, even drugstores and more.

A 7-foot-tall unicorn sprinkler in the yard will leave no doubt about the existence of the magical creatures. Just inflate it, hook it up to the hose and wait for the fun as water sprays from, of course, the horn. Target has it for $49.99.

If she wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up, she probably wants her favorite doll to be one today. Sized for any 18-inch doll, the veterinary clinic exam room and waiting room have everything you’d expect to find when it’s time for your pet’s checkup (dolls and pets not included). The exam room and a similar waiting room package are $99 each at Target, where you can also buy 18-inch dolls and their furry friends.
If you’ve ever wondered what happened to the art of smocking, you’ll be happy to know it’s alive and well at The Paper Merchant in the loveliest of children’s clothing for special occasions. In sizes from 6 months to 6 years, the classic styles are priced from $57-$67.

When it’s time for baby teeth to start coming out, a tooth fair shark might mitigate some of the stress for the brave little guy on your list. He can slip his tooth in the soft jaws and look forward to sweet dreams. You just have to remember to do your part after he falls asleep. We reeled this one in at Zazou in Naples and Bonita Springs.

For the kid on your list who’s outgrown the Cozy Coupe, an old-fashioned pogo stick will probably make him jump for joy. The NSG Flight is $39.99 at Target.
Stocking Stuffers

They’ve been hung by the chimney with care, and now it’s up to you to fill them. Don’t cop out at the last minute with a piece of fruit and a pack of gum or, heaven forbid, a lump of coal. Instead, have fun crossing “Stocking Stuffers” off your list by going on the hunt for little treasures like these to do the job.

Even holiday curmudgeons will smile over bath time memories when they find a can of the original Crazy Foam in their stocking. A body wash, shampoo and conditioner all in one, it’s better than ever nearly half a century after its debut in 1965. We found it for $5.99 at Bed, Bath & Beyond.

London-based ceramicist Kinska designs, shapes and paints each sweet, minimal expression by hand for her collection of charming characters that are just a few inches tall. For $26 at Anthropologie, they’re the perfect size for a stocking — and for a tiny succulent, a handful of makeup brushes or …

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Stocking Stuffers

A pair of tiny pliers and an assortment of connector rings will prepare her for dealing with any jewelry mishap on the spot. There’s also an array of earring backs, all for $6 at Charming Charlie at Mercato in North Naples.

The folks at Coco in Scotland know how to spike their sweets, adding organic juniper, lime and lemon essential oils to fine dark chocolate for a candy bar worth toasting. Stock up for $4.99 each at World Market.

He’ll think it’s holding a gift card, so imagine the surprise when he discovers a multifunctional tool that fits easily into any credit card slot or money clip and keeps a can opener, knife blade, screwdriver, ruler, bottle opener, position wrench, butterfly wrench, saw blade, two-position wrench and direction ancillary indication tool (a makeshift compass, essentially) close at hand. We found it at Anthropologie in Waterside Shops.

Meant for little girls but certainly not only for them, a package of five Hair Chalk Pens will let anyone bring out their wild streak. Best of all, the metallic colors can easily be washed away before work the next morning. Go crazy for $9.99 at Bed, Bath & Beyond.

OK. We know. Gift cards always make sense when it comes to “just one more thing” to top off a Christmas stocking. We won’t fault you for stocking up, so to speak, at Publix or Walgreens. We just hope you make the effort to find a host of festive holders to tuck the cards into. It’s the jolly right thing to do. This one came from www.papersource.com, but you can always find fun ones as you make your way through the checkout queues at stores like T.J.Maxx, Marshall’s and Home Goods.

Perfect for a college student or anyone who counts on pizza a couple of nights a week, zip-closure, slice-shaped storage bags will come in handy whenever there are leftovers. Add a gift card to Domino’s and be a real hero. A package of 12 by-the-slice storage bags is $3.99 at DeRomo’s in Bonita Springs.

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Guaranteed to be treasured forever, these books filled with ready-made letters provide the recipient a sense of legacy by prompting letters to the most important people in his or her life. There’s even a “Letters to My Future Self.” We found them for $14.95 on Amazon.

If a trip is part of the family’s holiday plans, be sure to pack a pocket-size doodle book into the kids’ stockings. Just add a pencil and know the youngsters will be occupied for at least a little while should you run into traffic tie-ups or flight delays. World Market has them for $9.99.
Stocking Stuffers

**Stocking Stuffers**

Stuff a pair of special socks in everyone’s stocking. FitKicks are ideal for travel, hiking and low-impact exercise. They’re also perfect on the boat, on the beach and for growing around the house. Available in sizes for children (called FitKids), women and men, prices range from about $18 to $23. We got a kick out of them at www.fitkicks.com.

The crazy cat lady (or guy) — not to mention the feline(s) — in your house will delight in Pet Qwerks Incredibubbles. Cats love to chase and bite at bubbles, and these are the best because they last longer and taste better than regular soap bubbles. They’re more fun than catnip for $4.99 at World Market.

She’ll know she’s been good when she finds this tucked in her stocking. For the first time, and for a limited time only, Gabrielle Chanel’s favorite color meets the now-and-forever No. 5 scent. The ephemeral red bottle is destined to become a collectible. $160 for a 3.4-ounce spray at Nordstrom.

Send them back to the good old days with a box of nostalgic candy by Nancy Adams. Filled with favorites from the Fifties to the Nineties, the sweets are guaranteed to cause flashbacks of the best kind. Fill your basket for $9.99 each at DeRomo’s market in the Promenade at Bonita Bay.

Give the gift of entertainment by tucking some tickets into holiday stockings. From touring shows at Artis—Naples and the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall to professional and community theater productions and music acts of all kinds, the season brings countless acts to the area. Check venue lineups online and pick what fits best for the person whose stocking you’re topping off.

Even someone who’s never been near a farm will find a copy of the Old Farmer’s Almanac for 2019 chock-full of interesting facts. Published continuously since 1792, the annual reference book keeps readers up to speed on everything from weather predictions and phases of the moon to planting charts and the best days of the year for doing myriad things (mow grass to slow growth, get a haircut to promote growth, start a diet, etc.). We found ours for $6.99 at Rural King in Bonita Springs.

At last! Here’s how to send a no-so-subtle message to someone who’s full of hot air — but in the nicest way. Just roll up the World’s Largest Whoopee Cushion and slide it into his stocking. Then sit back and wait for the laughs. You might want one for everyone in the house. Find them for $9.99 each at World Market.

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