Lee County. Cases of the flu more than doubled, but still a rising number of cases. Some hospitals across South Florida reported a sharp rise in flu cases in December, and others said there have been fewer, but still a rising number of cases. The worst spike reported came from Lee County. Cases of the flu more than tripled at Lee Health hospitals and clinics from about 90 during the week of Dec. 8 to 330 the week of the 23rd.

Lee Health physician Dr. Mary Beth Saunders was not surprised because it’s a time during the holiday season when people are more apt to mix and mingle. That spike subsided by the first week in January (as had cases statewide) but she advises to stay cautious as school gets in full swing again.

“[The flu] has been on track to where it had been last year locally,” she said. “But we got a very high peak in January last year so hopefully we’re not going to have that happen again. Right now it’s following the same trajectory as it did last year.”

Across Collier, Charlotte, Sarasota and Palm Beach counties, health care workers reported a normal rise in flu cases for again.
Pulling a Black

They thought they’d elected a Republi
can. But he didn’t act like a Republican —
not a Scott version, anyway.

None of that, however, is what gives me
the gut-anchored hope I haven’t felt for
eight years about saving this state from
rain.

The hope, instead, springs from a less-
visible development: For the first time, both
Republicans and Democrats, everyday citi-
zens, have gathered their voices and become
not just loud or worried, but focused, accu-
rate, determined and even effective.

I’ve never seen anything like it, here.
Water champions such as the Water-
keepers Alliance with branches on the
east and west coasts, the Sierra Club, the
Audubon Society, 1000 Friends of Florida,
the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, the
Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation
and others are the dawnings of increas-
ingly large numbers of voters — Floridians
who have learned to pay attention, to have
some trust in the rational approach to
problems many of these groups take, and
to support them.

In the coming week, for example, pub-
lic meetings on both coasts likely to
bring in scores if not hundreds of activ-
ists born from the destructive blue-green
and red-tide algae events of last year will
look at what the problem is — and then
they’ll show all the rest of us what we can
do about it.

I invite you to go to them. Any of them. I
will, too. I’ve listed an important one in the
accompanying box.

There are others.

Think of it as pulling a Black. Or as sup-
porting your Republican governor.

Or better, think of it simply as getting
into the fight — the flight to reduce the
blows we’re going to take in the coming
years.

Make no mistake: We can’t duck the
stinging shots that will now bloody us
both from climate change and from man-
spawned algae — pick your color and your
water, blue-green and fresh or red and salt.
They can kill water systems, economies
and even people, if we let them.

But we can reduce their impact, espe-
cially on our children, if we don’t stand
here flat-footed.

Let’s not.

I’m beginning to wonder if Gov. Ron
DeSantis is the Hugo Black of the Florida
capitol.

Justice Black, an Alabaman, Army vet-
eran, one-time senator and U.S. Supreme
Court Justice from 1937 to 1971, had been
a member of the Ku Klux Klan. But to the
horror of a number of his fellow ‘Bamans
and probably all of his former Klansmen,
he became one of the strongest advocates
for civil Rights on the Supreme Court.

That changed everything in the United
States from the 1950s and ’60s onward.

And now Gov. DeSantis, formerly as
concerned about the degrading environ-
ment in the country and the Sunshine State
as a U.S. congressman could be, has sud-
denly appeared to pull a Black.

The darling of so-called conservatives
who champion not just regressive social
agenda but their own businesses and
wealth over everything else, DeSantis
once did them proud; in five years as a
member of the Ku Klux Klan.

To the horror of a number of his fellow ‘Bamans
who champion not just regressive social
agenda but their own businesses and
wealth over everything else, DeSantis
once did them proud; in five years as a
member of the Ku Klux Klan.

But to the man. He laid out an ambitious plan to
help save the state’s profoundly threat-
ened water-world. He sounded like some
lefty do-gooder, some flower-waving, sage-
nesting, water worshipper.

Water was the issue — not “tax cuts,”
not “ deregulation,” not just “jobs.” But
water. (Good water, of course, creates
good business and good jobs.)

What’s next, gun control? Health care
for all? (Sure, they’d be good business, too.)

Some Grand Old Pimpemul should give
him a shot and a beer, calm this guy down.

Show him pictures of elephants. Remind
him who he is.

His first week must have surprised the
hell out of the big oil interests that want to
frack the Everglades and drill our coastal
waters, not to mention the wealthy owners
of sugar-cane fields and cow pastures sur-
rounding Lake Okeechobee — even though
his marching orders failed to include any
imperative that Big Sugar and Big Ag help
pay for the Big Mess they made over the
years, or do anything else they aren’t cur-
rently doing, to help.

He even fired the entire board of the
South Florida Water Management Dis-
trict, which mostly consisted of Rick Scott
appointees protecting Big Ag and Big Sugar.

Private gent’s clubs and men’s caves all
cover the Southeast from Washington,
D.C., to Clewiston, home of the U.S. Sugar
Corps., must have been stuffed like tur-
keys last week with angry bourbon-sipping
men washed into leather chairs, their jowls
drooping downward from their frowns to their collar bones, all incensed at
this little 40-year-old pipsqueak with Yale
and Harvard degrees named DeSantis.

They can kill water systems, economies
and even people, if we let them.

But we can reduce their impact, espe-
cially on our children, if we don’t stand
here flat-footed.

I invite you to go to them. Any of them. I
will, too. I’ve listed an important one in the
accompanying box.

There are others.

Think of it as pulling a Black. Or as sup-
porting your Republican governor.
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Millennial Socialism 101

Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez’s so-called Green New Deal makes the obligations of the original New Deal, but FDR’s handiwork is much too modest an antecedent.

The Green New Deal calls for a top-down revolution in the operation of American society so sweeping that it would be disturbing if it weren’t so wholly ridiculous. It shows all the thought of an Ivy League sophomore pulling an all-nighter to write a term paper for his Millennial Socialism 101 class.

It would build a new energy-efficient grid, itself a massive proposition.

It would upgrade every — not just a vision of investment “in local-winds and sunbeams. There are 136 million tech and efficiency. There are 136 million

Many, not even most, but every — residents of national wealth to take a flyer on “60 Minutes,” Ocasio-Cortez said it would “mitigate deeply on ‘60 Minutes,” Ocasio-Cortez said

It would eliminate emissions from the biggest emitter wouldn’t follow suit.

The case for the Green Energy Plan is based on the alleged climate crisis being so dire that it must overwhelm all cost- and-benefit analysis. Actually, we have already been making incremental progress in reducing emissions, thanks largely to natural gas, which the Green Energy Plan can’t abide. While global emissions have been increasing since 2005, U.S. emissions have been declining.

Even if we were to kneecap ourselves with the Green Energy Plan, the world’s biggest emitter wouldn’t follow suit.

Rich LOWRY

Richard Lowry is editor of the National Review.

OPINION

Truce with no truth

Wouldn’t it be astounding if we read the morning news one day and the headline was “Everything President Trump Said Yesterday Was Entirely True”? Put that one in the “not likely” category.

Donald Trump has made lying an art form (a crude art form, certainly), to the point where we can’t be sure that his name actually is Donald Trump. He’s that untrustworthy. According to The Washington Post’s “Fact Checker,” Trump (or whoever he is) averaged 15 falsehoods a DAY in 2018.

There should be a competition among political parties, obviously started by Burger King, for the single biggest whopper of the year. Or perhaps a monthly, weekly, daily, or even hourly contest. It doesn’t matter, because the winner would be the Trumpster. The prize would fit right into his diet: all the Whoppers he could eat.

In this era, where everything is true because social media says it is, and everything on mainstream media is “fake news,” we should recognize this national champion. Let us not forget he’d be competing with other liars, including politicians (pardon the redundancy), so he’d be running on a fast track. Even though it was slippery, he’d race far ahead of the “alternative fact” pack.

Not that it isn’t a crowded field: Mitt Romney has now become “Senator Moonwalk,” as a remarkable ability to walk backward away from positions he apparently believe that once you have lost touch with reality with one pronouncement, you might as well pile on as many canned planes.

Still, it is Donald Trump who’s the problem. Everyone knows he’s a crook, but he’s an Art of the Lie really

— Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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For nine years, on the last Monday in February, the nationally recognized Imagine Solutions Conference has brought a vaunted list of national experts in many fields to Southwest Florida for a unique conference experience. Again, this year, Imagine Solutions will bring giant intellects and future-shaping ideas from across the country — together with Naples’ thinkers and doers — to IMAGINE SOLUTIONS.

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- The deans of our country’s top three medical schools — Stanford, Harvard and Johns Hopkins — on stage together for the first time to discuss how the doctors of tomorrow will be trained to treat the patients of tomorrow with the skills, strategies and technologies of tomorrow
- The Undersecretaries of the Army and Navy, and the Superintendent of the Air Force Academy (Ret.) look to the future and our country’s national interests
- Futurist & Author of “Autonomy: The Quest to Build the Driverless Car — and how it will Reshape our World”
- A Senior RAND Corporation political scientist and co-author of “Truth Decay,” addressing the decline in civil discourse
- The CEO of the National Parks Foundation – America’s best idea
- Voices for the Arts – Carnegie Hall soloists: America’s top harmonica player, and a piano prodigy mentored by Leonard Bernstein who successfully persevered after a stroke
- The creator of Storybooth, a website enabling young people to share their personal experiences and challenges with their peers
- Adventure Scientists, an organization that leverages the skills of the outdoor adventure community to gather difficult-to-obtain data at any scale, in any environment
- Plus: an American cultural historian on Lincoln & Leadership; Movers & Shakespeares examining Shakespeare’s remarkable insights on leadership; Lawrence Lessig on Culture & Democracy; and, an education innovator

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"The best place to start is by obeying traffic laws ... People treat laws as suggestions. Stay out of the left lane unless you're passing. Come to a full stop. Signal. Drive the speed limit. These are simple things. I see a mom with two kids in the back seat, and she's on her device, that kind of thing. Every time you get in the driver's seat, you need to ask yourself two questions. Number one, is it necessary? And number two, is it worth the risk?"

— Jay Anderson, executive director of Lee County-based Stay Alive, Just Drive

CRASH

Facebook friend T.J. Thompson, who spends a lot of time on Southwest Flori da roads from Fort Myers in Lee County to Marco Island in Collier County.

A slew of comments followed his post questioning or criticizing old drivers, including one from a parent who wouldn't let a 16-year-old with a driver's license start driving for the first time until after "season," when the snowbirds are gone. Apparently, she forgot that other teenagers and 20-somethings drivers, also statistically shown to be capable of mistakes in driving judgment, will still be on the road come May.

The post came with a vivid Naples Daily News photo of a crash that killed a 16-year-old who drove his 2017 Lincoln Continental through a U-turn on U.S. 41 in North Naples, then into the path of a Collier County Sheriff's Office vehicle with sirens and lights flashing, traveling the opposite direction. Two others were injured.

The newspaper story included links to bottom to other events that read like an ongoing nightmare, one after another: "More: FWC officer critically injured in crash recovering; More: Troopers identify motorcyclist in fatal crash on I-75 on New Year's Day; More: Seven family members released from hospital after head-on Golden Gate Parkway crash."

As 2019 kicks off with the first traf fic deaths of the year already in the news, Florida Weekly asks why: Why do so many life-altering or life-ending tragedies take place on our roadways, and what can be done about it? Is it old people, young people, drunk or drugged people, distracted people? Is it poor in formation or the "dangerous by design" roadways cited by bicyclists and pedes trians that came equipped with no bi cycle or pedestrian lanes? Is it weather or simply poor training and bad driving habits?

The answer is yes. But most tragedies could be imagi nable, real, if each driver paused to ask themselves two questions. Number one, is it necessary? And number two, is it worth the risk?

The stats

State statistics from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles suggest many other reasons besides old or impaired drivers for Florida's ranking as one of the 20 most dangerous states for people on the road. Although seven of the 10 most dangerous states are in the South, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Florida escapes that ignominious list. But the state doesn't do well, coming in at No. 34 just ahead of Georgia.

The safest region in the country includes New England and New York, the DOT reports, noting that 7,133 people lost their lives on American roads in 2017.

In Florida as a whole last year, according to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, total crashes numbered 402,385, including 3,116 deaths and 254,310 injuries. Alcohol helped kill 374 people in 5,123 crashes and drugs did similarly bloody work, killing 338 people in 668 crashes.

Other sobering statistics show that 9,707 motorcycle crashes took place, leaving 515 people dead, with 609 pedestrians and 128 bicyclists were killed. Florida is the third most populous state, with 20 million residents, and millions of seasonal residents, and we have an abundance of pedestrians and bicyclists, so saying why is not a simple answer," says Lt. Greg Bueno, a spokesman for the Florida Highway Patrol's Public Affairs Division, based in Venice. "For example, we have a no-texting law in Florida. Do people abide? No."

Distraction

Distracted driving is one significant cause of a jump in statistics no one wants to see. If more than 13 million Floridians have driver's licenses and most of them also have smart phones, a new "Hands-Free" law sponsored both in the Florida state House (HB 45) and Senate (SB 76) to allow police officers to stop people they see texting — a much stronger law than the one on the books now — might go a long way toward helping solve that particular problem, experts say.

"According to the Florida Dept. of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, there were almost 50,000 crashes involving distracted driving in Florida in 2016, and these crashes accounted for more than 3,500 serious injuries and 233 deaths," wrote members of Bike-WalkLee, a coalition devoted to creating "complete streets" for pedestrians and bicyclists on the southwest coast, in a letter to legislators last week.

Most experts agree that the primary cause of the surge in traffic fatalities is distracted driving, increasingly caused by the use of smart phones and inter net apps. The National Safety Council reports that the risk of a crash is four times greater when a cell phone is in use. According to the national Safe Driving Report: 2016-2017 (issued by the insurance firm EverQuote Inc.), Florida ranked the second-worst state for distracted driving."

Walter Bost, associate professor of psychology and director of the Attention and Training Lab at Florida State University in Tallahassee, recently provided research data to help a private company manufacture much more effective warnings for exit ramps to keep
wrong-way drivers from entering roadways on them, traveling in the wrong direction. The number of deaths from collisions between wrong-way drivers and others on roads each year is relatively small, although the incidents are horrific.

Earlier this month, for example, a family of four returning on an interstate highway from a Florida vacation to their Michigan home was killed in an instant by a drunk driver in a pickup who entered the highway traveling in the wrong lanes, against traffic, at night. But Mr. Boot’s training and research in cognition — the way human beings think — suggest that our brains don’t do well with distractions of any kind.

“In terms of preventing wrong-way crashes,” he says, “don’t drink and drive. These people are often at a .2 blood alcohol level, or higher. We need to get people to stop drinking and driving. And to learn how to arrange alternative transportation.”

But even using hands-free devices to talk, chat, do business or be entertained while driving, is dangerous.

“The research seems clear that ‘hands-free’ may not make a difference. The real distraction is cognitive. Manipulating a phone while driving is dangerous. ‘Hands-free’ may not make a difference.

“Aggressive driving, cellphone use, road rage — there are studies that show they go along with wider roads.”

And difficult intersections. In Palm Beach County where county officials maintain 1200 intersections, some red light pauses are long enough to make career changes or raise children, says Mr. Roskowski. West Palm Beach associates his ConnecWPB colleague Brian Ruscher, a professional land planner, says all this indicates poor road design, especially when it comes to the interests of pedestrians and bicyclists.

“When people on foot or bicycles get into a car and are seriously injured or killed, it’s often roadway design. There are issues with cellphones and alcohol, but its primarily high-speed roads with no planning for pedestrians or bicyclists.”

“I’m not saying we won’t have roads that are high speed, but we have to have roads of a graduated process of getting to drive a car, making them understand how quickly one mistake can change everybody’s life — whether he wants to or not.

Where do we start to stop that? We start ourselves.

“It starts with parents holding their children accountable, making them have a graduated process of getting to drive a car, making them understand how quickly one mistake can change everybody’s life,” says Lt. Bueno, whose 24 years in the Florida Highway Patrol have given him plenty to think about for the rest of his life — whether they listen to or not.

“We have all kinds of ride services now to assist people — take advantage of them. If you do see someone impaired, call *FHP. We go to traffic crashes every day all day and all night long. I wish I could tell you the magic buttons to stop this — carelessness, distraction, aggressiveness, impairment. All these things are preventable if we take extra time.

“Can we do better? And they can kill you.”

T.J. Thompson, spends a lot of time on Southwest Florida roads from Fort Myers in Lee County to Marco Island in Collier County.
FLU

From page 1

the season, October through May, when most infections occur. It’s not possible to predict how the season will go, but most said they expect there to be further potential spikes through March.

“Flu activity has been increasing in South Florida over the past few weeks and is similar to levels observed at this time last flu season,” wrote Brad Dalton, spokesperson for the Florida Department of Health. “Peak flu season is difficult to predict, but South Florida has experienced peak activity in February and March in previous years.”

Health care experts uniformly echoed the advice that the flu vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and others, along with personal hygiene.

“It’s never too late to vaccinate,” says Rob Cosgrove, a Florida Department of Health epidemiologist in Sarasota.

“The best way to avoid the flu is to number one, take the vaccine,” said Dr. Alina Alonso, a physician and director of the Department of Health in Palm Beach County. “Number two is to wash your hands with soap and water and not touch your hands to your mouth and eyes. And then the third thing is to stay home if you’re sick because if you’re bringing this in to the workplace you’re going to contaminate everybody at work.”

If you think you may have the flu, she added, see a doctor immediately (though try to use a primary care doctor or a walk-in clinic and avoid a costly ER visit). “There are antivirals that can make this go away much quicker but you have to take those early on,” Dr. Alonso explained.

It takes about two weeks for immunity to kick in after getting your shot. And, if you get the shot and end up with the flu anyway, it will likely lessen the symptoms, cut short the time you’re sick, and lessen the likelihood of complications that can lead to worse conditions such as pneumonia and even death.

Children and the elderly are most at risk for complications along with pregnant women and people with certain medical conditions such as heart disease and diabetes.

Flu-related illnesses in the 2017-18 season led to 80,000 deaths in the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated, one of the worst years on record. Other years, flu-related deaths have ranged widely from 12,000 to 56,000.

Most flu cases this year have been the Flu A H3N2 variety, which is covered by the vaccine along with other common strains.

The flu virus can survive on a hard surface for up to 48 hours, said Lee Health’s Dr. Saunders, and on your hands for about five minutes. Droplets from a cough or sneeze can remain in the air, especially indoors such as in a closed office or classroom, for hours.

A quick update by county:

The DOH in Collier County reported a “mild” flu season so far. Physicians Regional Healthcare System in Collier County reported a “significant” increase of flu cases between Dec. 9 and 23, about the same dates that Lee Health reported, before declining slightly. NCH Healthcare System also reported increased vis-

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its for flu-like symptoms. The DOH in Charlotte County reported "moderate" flu activity this year so far though nothing out of the ordinary. Fawcett Memorial Hospital in Port Charlotte reported that in 2017 it diagnosed 31 cases of the flu between October and December (with 25 in December alone) and 19 during the same three months this year.

The DOH in Sarasota County has found normal to slow flu activity this year with one spike during December. It also reported that people with the flu tended to have milder symptoms compared to last year.

"I'm seeing less activity (this year)," said epidemiologist Rob Congrove, who tracks data from local hospitals, schools, and physicians' offices. “It’s more mild and (that) goes for the rest of the country and state as well.”

He attributes the milder symptoms people are experiencing this year to people getting their flu shot. The DOH in Palm Beach County reported mild flu activity so far this year. Physician and director Dr. Alina Alonso said the number of cases of pneumonia and deaths related to the flu are lower this year because more people got the vaccine.

Dr. Adam Leisy, medical director of the emergency room at West Boca Medical Center said he has seen a “swift uptick” in patients with the flu over the last two to three weeks but that their symptoms have been less severe than last year. “Last year I felt like we were seeing patients that looked sicker—like very sick—than the year before this,” he said.

"(The flu) has been on track to where it had been last year locally ... But we got a very high peak in January last year so hopefully we’re not going to have that happen again. Right now it’s following the same trajectory as it did last year."

— Dr. Mary Beth Saunders, Lee Health physician
Mustang GT is world-class American muscle

The American muscle car is now far more than just putting a big motor under the hood of a storied brand name. The 2019 Ford Mustang GT is the proof. This pony car retains a hint of retro style with the horse in the grille, three-piece taillights and fastback profile. But after a refresh last year, the current car wants to tell the world it's a much sharper instrument for the road.

Well-creased fenders, sharply angled headlights, well-defined bumper air inlets and long air ducts in the hood give it a very serious face. Moving further back, the doors look like they were fashioned from girders, and the rear fenders are so tall that they wrap around the back and merge with the rear overhang. It's well-defined sheet metal that has a tough muscle car look, but with enough sleekness for the modern age.

Inside, the arrangement hasn't changed much since the 2015 redesign. It's still cleanly laid out and retains some nice touches, including the toggle switches for sporting features like the adjustable ratio steering. The options list for the interior has grown longer. The most interesting of the addition is a 12-inch LCD digital instrument cluster. It makes the readouts customizable, including a sport setting where the tachometer dominates the center in a very racecar-like horizontal display.

A base Mustang GT coupe starts at $36,450. Upgrading to the Premium GT designation like our test car brings it to a $40,450 machine. We also had the appropriately-named Showstopper Red leather interior that looks like lava bubbling up within the black exterior. It's a premium look, and it doesn't come cheap. The red leather is only available once adding on another $2,200 option package that also includes a power driver's seat, blind spot monitoring, and the 12-inch LCD digital instrument cluster.

Ford seems to really enjoy maximizing the available features of the Mustang. Some of the more interesting ones include Recaro sport seats and a security package that locks the center console with the doors. The active valve performance exhaust is particularly handy for those who don't want to wake the neighborhood, but once on the open road, they know that a rumbling exhaust is better than any cup of coffee.

The motor produces a whopping 460 horsepower, which is not too far off the specialty Shelby GT500 power of a decade ago. Dual overhead camshafts and 32-valve heads develop the low-end power to be the first off the stoplight and enjoy plenty of in-town hijinks. When it's time for the open road, the big V8 always has muscle in reserve.

Controlling all the power is easier now with a new 10-speed automatic transmission that's actually shared with its cross-town rival Chevrolet Camaro. For those who really love to drive, a six-speed manual with rev matching comes standard. This action feels exceptionally close but has a telepathically on-center feel so that there's never any guessing where the next gear is. The six-speed is so good it will remind enthusiasts why they love driving.

There are even more driver-oriented options like magnetic ride dampening, Brembo disc brakes, upgraded Torsen rear differential and grippy Michelin Pilot Sport tires. It's all part of a total package that takes the idea of a classic Mustang and delivers a true modern sports car package. This is the only Ford car that will be saved from the crossover upheaval coming in the next few years. The company is showing that it will continue to love the Mustang name. But more than just preserving an icon, Ford has invested to make it a world-class sports car.
Local March to celebrate women’s progress in 2019

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The year 1992 was christened the “Year of the Woman,” but 2019 stands to be the year when women truly lead the way, with more women serving in Congress than ever before, with the nation’s first Latina governor and eight more women governors taking office, and with Michigan voters selecting a woman for every statewide office that was open.

Collier Freedom celebrates those gains and more with the first “Women Leading the Way” march and rally on Saturday, Jan. 19.

In 2017, Collier Freedom marched to advocate for a more inclusive society. In 2018, the organization organized again to protest policies enacted by the Trump administration.

The upcoming march will be a celebration of unity, equality and freedom and in honor of the courageous women and men who put their lives on hold to run and represent like-minded people in the November midterm election.

Speakers at the rally will include Naples Mayor Bill Barnett; philanthropist Myra Daniels; and 16-year-old Michaela O’Brien, organizer of the Naples March for Our Lives and founder of Students Demand Action in the aftermath of the Parkland school massacre. Music will be provided by the all-women band Women Don’t Conform, with guest appearance by country singer Sheena Brook (“The Voice”). DJ Kooshie (Patrick Sweeney) will spin tunes. Food trucks will be on hand.

Marchers should line up between 8-8:45 a.m. at Fourth Street South and Broad Avenue South. The march sets out at 9 a.m. and should reach Cambier Park for the 10 a.m. start of the rally.

“This is no time to rest,” says Karynn Cavero, a founding member of Collier Freedom.

“We need to stay engaged and active. There is more work to do before we see the country we all wish for. I am thrilled that we will have two leaders of our community — one who is 96 years old, and one who is 16 — an unbelievable 80-year span that shows the history and vitality of the movement to have women lead the way.”

For more information, including how to sign up to volunteer or how nonprofits and social justice groups can arrange a table at the rally, follow Collier Freedom/Women Leading the Way on Facebook.

Reserved Seats Available!

Local Marchers Wanted!

Attendees may register for reserved seats now at SienaLakesNaples.com.

For more information, please call 1-800-538-6714.

*Exclusions apply.*

Local March to celebrate women’s progress in 2019

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*Exclusions apply.*
While America experienced a “blue wave” in the November elections, Flori- da turned redder than ever, and nowhere more so than in Collier County. With one of the highest voter turnouts ever (73 percent), Collier voted two-to-one for former Governor Rick Scott (for Senate) and now-Gov. DeSantis in a state where razor-thin margins required a recount. Collier vot- ers may have put them over the top.

In a year in which Florida suffered two of the worst mass shootings in American history (Orlando and Parkland), where killer red tide and toxic coastal algal ru- ined tourism and killed marine life in a vast dead zone, Collier voters’ choice for governor was a vocal supporter of the NRA and a devotee of Trump who has rolled back environmental regulations and gutted the EPA.

They also elected to the U.S. Sen- ate an oligarch who, as governor, had set back environmental policy 40 years and had killed the all-bur-done-deal to acquire 187,000 acres of sugar land for a reservoir that, once built, might have solved the Okeechobee discharge crisis (it could have been completed by now). The 16,700-acre reservoir Scott finally agreed to is projected to take nine years to build.

Collier voters overwhelmingly helped award a U.S. Senate seat to the man who had slashed environmental regulations, budgets and enforcement, cut shoreline water monitoring, reduced the SWFM budgets and enforcement, cut shoreline monitoring, and “zero” environmental voting record. (It seems voters here preferred do-nothing-but-talk Republicans with no plans for solving our problems other than assurances that they would not challenge the status quo. This is because, I believe, it is in the Republican DNA to nearly always put privatized interests above the public good, to believe prop- erty rights are sacred.

Hence no gun control, no solutions to contaminated runoff killing our water- ways and coast, no effective plans to limit runaway sprawl, no health care for our poorest citizens, and no real interest in environmental protection. (To be fair, Rep. Rooney just took a stand against coal — countering Trump — and he's supportive of Everglades protection. But who isn’t?)

And for some reason local “fiscally conservative” Republican voters don’t mind that Rooney voted to add $8.5 trillion to the national debt by provid- ing tax breaks to corporations and the wealthy — like him.

In one of his demagogic rallies at
the German Arena just prior to the
election, President Trump denounced
local Democratic candidates in Col-
lier and Lee while endorsing DeSantis
“bigly.” This NYC billionaire preached
his angry anti-elite message to “forgot-
ten” Americans who say “he speaks our
language,” and it worked.

But Collier County isn’t rural or rust-
belt America. Much of it is affluent and
educated, and there is little unemploy-
ment among its large white, Latino and
black working class. There is poverty
here amid unimaginable prosperity, but
it’s largely unseen and these people
apparently don’t vote; Trump wasn’t
talking to them.

Perhaps it’s Collier’s strange alliance
of absentee voters who know noth-
ing of local issues, smug I’ve-got-mine
Republicans, working people resentful
of the educated, rich elite around them
(but who will always vote with them
like useful idiots), plus a large helping
of clueless Russian dupes and our share
of the 4 million Floridians who sim-
ply didn’t vote. Thus, you get Florida’s
reddest county, a virtual Republican
fortress that no Democrat can crack.

— Neville Williams is a former jour-
nalist, an author and a former solar
energy company CEO. He’s a 10-year full
time resident of Naples.

GUEST COMMENTARY

“ They’re the
REAL HEROES! ”

— Armando Llechu, CAO, Golisano Children’s Hospital

On Sept. 28, more than 30 community leaders
had their heads shaved by Golisano Children’s
Hospital patients, like Kadin, to raise awareness
and support for local children battling cancer.

We’re Creating a RAINBOW of Hope and Healing
for KIDS WITH CANCER

Help a child in need of lifesaving cancer care by donating to
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To sign up for a recurring gift of $25 per month,
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endavors to link learning with leadership. The goal is that members of the community walk away inspired by the accomplishments of others, more knowledgeable about a variety of important topics, and motivated to leverage or locally apply some of the “Big Ideas” presented.

Founder, organizer and CEO of Imagine Solutions Randy Antik doesn’t hesitate when asked what motivates him. “Why do I do this? I get up every morning knowing we’re making a difference. We attract more than 600 community leaders and learners — we underwrite scholarships to non-profit leaders — we’re bringing alive exceptional ‘teaching moments’ that we all relate to and treasure. It’s worth doing.”

This year’s theme — “The Power of Curiosity — Unleashed” — is a nod to the role that uncontainable curiosity plays in the minds of innovators and visionaries in bringing about change and responding to challenges we face in our community and world. Imagine Solutions is organized and presented by local community leaders, and funded by a locally backed, public non-profit foundation. The conference has kicked-started more than a dozen new concepts, including a “Presidents” speaker series at FGCU; “Great Institutions” speaker series at local public schools; and, the NEXT-GEN speaker series, a gathering of America’s most distinguished business leaders with keynote speakers who are world-renowned entrepreneurs and CEOs.

Over the past decade, the Imagine Solutions Conference has welcomed more than 450 thought leaders from around the world. Among those who attend are Fortune 500 CEOs, Southwest Florida business and community leaders and numerous college/university presidents.

Mr. Antik said of Imagine Solutions, “We are driven by a profound respect for learning, and continually look to share this passion throughout our communities.” Imagine Solutions invites everyone to join the conversation.

For more information, visit ImagineSolutionsConference.com or call 214-205-2274.

Imagine Solutions Conference

> When: Monday, Feb. 25, 8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.
> Where: Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples
> Seats are limited to 600
> Tickets: $650 | 85 percent tax deductible | catered lunch included
> Scholarships are available for leaders of non-profit organizations
> Website: http://www.imaginesolutionsconference.com/

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KRON TV reported on Jan. 7 that a Salinas, Calif., family’s Ring doorbell captured video of a man licking the doorbell for more than three hours. The homeowners were out of town during the encounter, which took place around 5 a.m., but their children were inside. Sylvia Dun- gan, who was alerted to the activity at her front door on her phone, said, “I thought, boy there’s a lot of traffic. ... Who the heck is that?” Salinas police identified the man as Roberto Daniel Arroyo, 33. Arroyo also relieved himself in the front yard and vis- ited a neighbor’s house. “You kind of laugh about it afterwards because technically he didn’t do anything,” Dungan said, although police later charged him with petty theft and prowling.

Social media fail

Game Warden Cannon Harrison, 24, is well known around his area in Oklahoma, so when he filled out a profile for the dating app Bumble, he didn’t include his profession. But when he “matched” with a woman nearby in December, he was sur- prised when she messaged him that she had just had biged “a bigo buck.” “I thought ... it was someone who was messing with me because they knew who I was,” Har- rison told The Washington Post. Deer season had ended, although hunting with a crossbow was still legal, so he decided to play along. He wrote back, “Hell yeah, get em with a bow!” When the unnamed huntress demurred, he asked her if she had been “spotlighting” — an illegal tech- nique that involves shining a light into the animal’s eyes to stun it before shooting it, and she replied, “Yeahhhhh.” Next she sent Harrison a photo of herself with her trophy, and Harrison went to work. He tracked her down on social media, and the following morning, game wardens appeared at her door. The woman paid a fine and will avoid jail time — and prob- ably a date with Warden Harrison.

Oh, Florida

Heather Carpenter, 42, was charged with damaging property and criminal mis- chief after her own daughter was involved in a particularly gross way her dissatisfac- tion with the principal of the school where Carpenter was substitute teaching. Phil- lipi Shores Elementary School Principal Allison Foster had been helping Carpenter with a professional issue, but Carpenter was unhappy with the way it was going, according to the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. So on Dec. 1, in a park where Foster was hosting a birthday party for her daugh- ter later in the day, Carpenter — whose own daughter was invited to the party — arrived with human feces, according to The San Diego Union-Tribune. The thief, identified as Roberto Daniel Arroyo, 33, Arroyo also relieved himself in the front yard and visited a neighbor’s house: “You kind of laugh about it afterwards because technically he didn’t do anything,” Dungan said, although police later charged him with petty theft and prowling.

Special delivery

Veterinarian Molly Kreuze of Springfield, Va., is planning to purchase an artificial Christmas tree next year after her natural one came with something extra: more than 100 praying mantises. Kreuze told WLA-TV the leggy insects emerged from an egg sac under the tree’s branches and were “crawling on the walls, crawling on the ceiling, crawling on the window.” Kreuze captured as many as she could and was hop- ing to find a new home for them, as it seems “people really like the bugs. The Pennsyl- vania Department of Agriculture advised that people who find the egg sacs on their Christmas trees should clip the branch and take it outside. Otherwise, without their regular source of food, the newly hatched insects will start to eat each other.

Smooth reaction

A female jogger on the Goldenrod Trail in Oakland, Calif., used pepper spray on a dog that attacked her on the morning of Jan. 3, angering the dog’s owner, Alma Cad- walter. According to KRON TV, police said Cadowalter retaliated by tackling and punching the jogger multiple times, and finally biting the victim on the forearm, causing significant wounds. Police posted a surveillance camera photograph of Cad- walter and asked for the public’s help in identifying her; she was arrested on Jan. 4.

Least-competent criminal

An unidentified 39-year-old wannabe carjacker hit a bump in the road on Jan. 7 when he approached the driver of a Chevrolet Volt in San Diego, reported The San Diego Union-Tribune. The thief demanded the driver’s keys and mobile phone around 6 a.m., according to San Diego police, and tried to drive off in the vehicle. But he couldn’t figure out how to operate the hybrid car, and in frustration he ran away, discarding the phone and keys. Police located the carjacker a short distance away and arrested him on suspi- cion of carjacking and robbery.
GUEST COMMENTARY

Immokalee on my mind

BY RABBI STEPHEN LEWIS FUCHS

Recently, I returned to Immokalee for the better part of three days thanks to a program sponsored by T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, under the able leadership of Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster. I learned so much.

Immokalee is where 90 percent of all tomatoes eaten fresh in the eastern U.S. are grown. It is one of the state’s poorest cities but a scant half hour away from one of the richest, Naples. While many residents of Naples live lives of splendor, life for those in Immokalee is difficult, mired in poverty even after hours of backbreaking work in the fields.

They make their living in the vast tomato fields where not long ago, rampant sexual abuse, pitiful working conditions and equally pitiful, sub-poverty wages were the backdrop for their efforts. Complaints against these abuses met with summary dismissal.

The sorry history of farm work in Southwest Florida also includes episodes of forced labor in which workers found themselves locked up in window-less and bathroom-less trucks overnight or housed behind barbed-wire enclosures patrolled by armed guards to keep them from escaping. Field foreman often denied workers access to shade, water and bathroom breaks. There are several documented cases of workers being beaten.

But in the early 1990s, the workers began organizing, determined to change conditions in the fields and better their own lives. The organization they founded, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, started by trying to change conditions on the farms directly, attempting to get cooperation from the farm owners. But in 2004, they tried an innovative new strategy, holding the giant corporations at the top of the supply chain responsible for human rights abuses and low wages at the bottom.

The Fair Food Program demands that major food retailers pay a penny more per pound of tomatoes (paid directly to workers and aimed at increasing wages) and buy only from growers committed to stringent, legally binding human rights monitoring in the fields. One of the highlights of my three days in Immokalee was visiting the vast tomato fields of Sun Ripe Certified Brands, of Pacific Tomato Growers. There, in a lovely auditorium designed for worker educational sessions we met with the company’s human resources director, Jessica Castillo who told us: “When as a child, I saw my mother

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out into the fields and be subject to all of the abuses ... I never imagined that today I would be here paid by the company to provide mandatory education for workers on their basic rights. I am proud that workers seek out our company as a place to work and know that if they ever have a grievance it will be heard with sympathy and dealt with appropriately.

Unfortunately, Publix, the largest grocery chain in Southwest Florida, and Wendy's have so far refused to join the Fair Food Program. I am so inspired by the optimism of the members of the CIW. I love that when CIW’s Lupe Gonzalo addressed us, she did not refer to Wendy’s as an enemy but as “a future partner” in advancing justice in the fields.

To encourage this “future partner” to hasten the day it joins the alliance, I joined seven other clergy people and a group of CIW workers in a demonstration in front of a Wendy’s at a busy intersection in Naples. Thousands of cars drove by, and many honked their horns in support.

Why does this matter to me? Our Torah teaches there is no such thing as an innocent bystander in the face of injustice (DT 22:3), that we must pay our workers promptly and fairly (LV 19:13) and that we may not stand idly by while our neighbor suffers. (LV19:16)

Because I take these teachings very seriously, I encourage you to communicate with Wendy’s and Publix about the Fair Food Program. Ask to see the store manager and tell him or her that a penny per pound is a small price to pay for basic human dignity.

To learn more, call 1-877-378-4297 or 1-888-SYNOVUS (796-6887).
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National Mentoring Month is a good time to help an Immokalee Foundation student succeed

Imombokalee Foundation mentor Kathy Pryor and her mentee, Imombokalee High School sophomore Perla Moran, have a big job ahead of them — and it’s the best kind.

The pair meet weekly for lunch at Imombokalee High School and talk about academics and life. Ms. Moran has been considering her future and what career she will choose, and according to Ms. Pryor, Ms. Moran does so well in so many subjects that she’s having trouble narrowing them down to one career path.

That’s one of the goals the pair has, and — judging by the accomplishments Ms. Moran has made since being accepted into the foundation’s Take Stock in Children scholarship program in eighth grade and entering into a mentorship with Ms. Pryor earlier this year — they will be successful.

“She’s very bright and engaged with the process,” Ms. Pryor said. “She’s respectful of the program and everyone around her.”

Ms. Moran is so involved with community service and after-school activities that she and Ms. Pryor meet during the school day, instead of after school, as other mentor-mentees often do.

“She has worked at the migrant center tutoring students, and also with The Imombokalee Foundation’s Imombokalee Readers program,” Ms. Pryor said.

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Imombokalee Readers students Arianna Patino and Salvador Vaca.

said. Imombokalee Readers trains and pays high school students to serve as reading tutors. The older students report to Imombokalee elementary schools to work with certified teachers to bring young students who are lagging behind grade level up to speed.

Ms. Moran also is in the Key Club and recently applied to participate in a STEM summer program at FGCU. Pryor made some suggestions on the essays Ms. Moran had to write for the program; she also offers advice.
about other homework assignments. “But she is right on top of any assignments,” Ms. Pryor said. “She sets high standards for herself and generally meets them.”

Ms. Pryor has watched Ms. Moran grow from a somewhat shy child to a more confident young adult this year. In fact, Moran volunteered at the foundation’s Charity Classic Celebration in November, which required meeting, greeting and speaking to dozens of adults.

Ms. Pryor has noticed something else about the students she sees at Immokalee High School: “Walking through the school during breaks, students are very polite, holding doors and things.”

January is National Mentoring Month—a great time to become involved with these inspiring young people.

Relationships with caring adults are an important part of students' participation in The Immokalee Foundation programs. Students may be the first in their families to graduate from high school or attend college, and English may not be their first language or the first language of their parents. Many have not been outside of Immokalee.

Mentors provide these students a view of the larger world and the opportunities available to them. They offer professional and life experiences to share and usually become great friends in the process.

Ms. Pryor highly recommends mentoring and enjoys going to Immokalee from Naples once a week to meet with Ms. Moran. As the wife of Steve Pryor, a foundation board member, she is familiar with the nonprofit’s work, but those who are interested in mentoring need not be previously involved with The Immokalee Foundation.

Some mentors join from local companies; many mentors are retired. All that is required is a desire to help a young student on their journey and the time and ability to make a commitment to meet with that student at least once a week.

No matter what walk of life their mentors come from, the students are highly appreciative of their efforts.

“My mentor has encouraged me to further my education and to keep striving to accomplish my goals,” said Immokalee Foundation student Leessett Perez. “Most importantly, my mentor is one of my greatest friends.”

“Few in my life have helped me mature and prosper like Russell has—all in the hopes that I can materialize my dreams,” said student Angel Mateo of his mentor, Russell Cooper.

Successes like these have led to the highest enrollment in The Immokalee Foundation’s programs since its inception more than 25 years ago, which means more adults are needed to help these bright and engaged students.

The Immokalee Foundation provides a range of education programs that focus on building pathways to professional careers through support, mentoring and tutoring, and life skills development leading to economic independence. To learn more about The Immokalee Foundation, becoming a mentor, volunteering as a career panel speaker or host, making a donation, including the foundation in your estate plans, or for additional information, call 430-9122 or visit www.immokaleefoundation.org.
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1. do it now
2. regret it later

The number of women in the United States who are getting the recommended screenings for cervical cancer is “unacceptably low,” researchers say. In 2016, just over half of U.S. women aged 21 to 29 and less than two-thirds of those aged 30 to 65 were up-to-date with cervical cancer screenings, according to a report.

Those rates are well below the 81 percent self-reported rate in the 2015 U.S. National Health Interview Survey, said study author Dr. Kathy MacLaughlin, and her colleagues. Dr. MacLaughlin is a family medicine specialist at the Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, Minn.

“Routine screening every three years for average-risk women) ensures pre-cancerous changes are caught early and may be followed more closely or treated,” Dr. MacLaughlin explained in a Mayo Clinic news release.

The study also found significant racial differences in cervical cancer screening rates. “African-American women were 50 percent less likely to be up-to-date on cervical cancer screening than white women in 2016. Asian women were nearly 30 percent less likely than white women to be current on screening. These racial disparities are especially concerning,” Dr. MacLaughlin said.

For their study, the researchers analyzed data gathered from more than 47,000 women in Olmsted County, Minn., from 2005 to 2016. Dr. MacLaughlin said the findings show the need for new ways to increase cervical cancer screening rates, such as

Pap clinics with evening and Saturday hours, offering cervical cancer screenings at urgent care clinics, and at-home testing kits for HPV (human papillomavirus), the virus that causes most cervical cancers.

“We, as clinicians, must start thinking outside the box on how best to reach these women and ensure they are receiving these effective and potentially lifesaving screening tests,” she said.

The findings were published Jan. 7 in the Journal of Women’s Health.

About 13,240 new cases of invasive cervical cancer were diagnosed in the United States in 2018, according to the American Cancer Society. January is Cervical Health Awareness Month.

Periodontal

Periodontal disease may be a contributing factor to:
- Cardiovascular/Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Osteoporosis
- Respiratory Disease
- Low Birth Weight Babies
- Stroke
- Pneumonia
- Overall Health

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Periodontics and Implant Dentistry
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**REGRET**

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important. And, of course, it would be helpful to reflect on the true motives for our behavior. If our remorse teaches us and helps us avoid repeating mistakes, then something positive has come from our heartache.

Talking things through with the injured party in a heartfelt way and sincerely apologizing may clear the air. However, it is unreasonable to expect them to forgive us right away. We will need to give them the opportunity to process our apologies, at their own pace, and in their own way — and to also accept if they are unable, or unwilling, to forgive us.

We must remind ourselves that there are things that cannot be undone. A major challenge of being human is the resiliency of allowing ourselves to have regrets without being defeated by them. As Helen Keller noted: “Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.”

As we face the New Year, let’s commit to making positive changes, and focusing our efforts on things we are proud of. Ultimately, we must find a way to let go of any regretful anguish — and to accept the effects of any mistakes we believe we’ve made. In the New Year, let’s commit to making positive changes, and focusing our efforts on things we feel proud of.

Hopefully, in doing so, we will be gratified by a renewed sense of purpose, and relationships that feel more rewarding. — Linda Lipschutz, M.S., LCSW, is a psychotherapist serving individuals, couples and families. She can be reached in her Palm Beach Gardens office at 561-630-3825 online at www.palmbeachfamilytherapy.com.

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**No regrets in life. Just lessons learned.**

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No matter the means, to communicate one must listen

BY ELSA ROGERS
Special to Florida Weekly

In today’s world there are many different ways to communicate, whether it’s a handwritten letter, a phone call, a text, an email, and yes, by talking with one another. Yet with all of these communication options, there is still plenty of miscommunication, and that can damage relationships, both personal and professional. One of the reasons for miscommunication is the lack of listening, and also missing both verbal and visual cues. When people say they hear you, do they? Are they hearing in conversation. There are three types of listening. The first is informational listening, which is listening to learn. An obvious example of that would be a student listening to his or her professor. The second is critical listening, which is listening to analyze and evaluate. Common settings would include the classroom and business meetings. The third is empathetic listening, which is listening to understand emotion or feeling. Why is listening important? In the professional world, your ability to listen is key to good communication. That leads to the success of teams, groups and organizations. The ability to listen translates to all aspects of your life, from personal and professional relationships, to the classroom, social events and athletic competitions. The act of listening is being truly present; being involved. There are visual ways to show involvement. There are also verbal and nonverbal ways to show involvement. Making eye contact is another. With eye contact, you are listening to someone. Leaning forward towards the person shows you are listening to someone. Leaning back shows you are not listening. Some cultures, direct eye contact can be nonverbal communication includes body language. Sitting or standing with your arms folded often means being judgmental or close-minded. What clothes we wear is also a form of communication. For example, a young man interviewed to become an English instructor. He came to the interview wearing a nice knit shirt, neon green shorts and flip flops. What do you think his clothing communicated to the person interviewing him? Miscommunication is the result of not truly listening or giving our conflicting verbal and nonverbal cues. It’s going into a situation with a closed mind. It’s in all of our best interest to make the effort to listen and understand, not just to hear what someone is saying. How does that differ from hearing? When you hear, it’s primarily to interpret sound. For example, hearing the sound of bells, of cars driving by, music playing, laughter, and so forth. Hearing is the focus of listening to sounds. So, in a conversation, if you’re only hearing, your focus is not on what is being said. Take the time to listen. — Dr. Elsa Rogers is the dean of the School of Liberal Studies at Hodges University.

— Robert McCloskey

“I know you think you understand what you thought I said, but I’m not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant.”

— Stephen R. Covey


HODGES UNIVERSITY

“Take the time to listen.”

— Dr. Elsa Rogers is the dean of the School of Liberal Studies at Hodges University.

“Take the time to listen.”

— Dr. Elsa Rogers is the dean of the School of Liberal Studies at Hodges University.
Volunteer couple will join thousands for walk to benefit Chapin food bank

Susan Rhoads and John Rhoads were just college kids when they went to see a Harry Chapin concert near Buffalo, N.Y., on one of their first dates. Call it a date with destiny. Chapin, a singer-songwriter, made an impact. “We got to meet Harry after the concert,” John remembered. “He signed a T-shirt for my wife. And he was so involved with world hunger that it just sort of planted a seed.” The Rhoadeses thought that maybe when they retired and had the time, they could take up the mission of fighting hunger.

Decades later, Sue, a registered dietitian, and John, a dentist, retired to Fort Myers. “We saw the Harry Chapin Food Bank here, and it kind of came together,” John said. The couple began volunteering in September 2017, just after Hurricane Irma hit the area. And they plan to be there at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, for the 11th annual WINK Feeds Families Hunger Walk. The event, at the Miromar Outlets in Estero, is the food bank’s biggest fundraiser of the year.

Chapin was famous for songs like “Taxi” and “Cats in the Cradle.” He was also famous for his anti-hunger advocacy, and raised $319,000. The food bank wants to top that total this year.

“My wife and I are pretty proud to have this great Harry Chapin Food Bank right in our neighborhood,” John said. “It’s not too late to sign up for the WINK Feeds Families Hunger Walk, either online at www winkhungernwalk.com, or in person when registration opens at 8:30 a.m. at the event. The two-mile walk is noncompetitive, family and pet-friendly. The event supports emergency food programs that feed children, families, seniors and others in need through the food bank’s network of more than 100 partner agencies in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Glades and Hendry counties. These agencies operate food pantries, soup kitchens and other feeding programs that serve 28,000 Southwest Floridians each week. Participants can register as an individual, or walk with a team. The 2018 walk had more than 1,000 registered walkers and raised $395,000. The food bank wants to top that total this year.

“If it’s so wonderful to see people of all walks of life — seniors, parents, kids — come together to raise money to help their neighbors,” said Richard Leiter, food bank president and CEO. “There is so much positive energy and joy in the crowd. We appreciate their support immensely and look forward to the event every year.”

The walk’s presenting sponsor is once again Bill Smith Appliances & Electron- ics, with a host of other supporting sponsors. The walk chairwoman for the second year in a row is Kayla Richmond, attorney for Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A.

All funds will stay in the Southwest Florida area. Since the first walk in 2009, $26.6 million has been raised. That equates to 10.4 million meals to feed those who often don’t know where their next meal is coming from.

Susan Rhoads and John Rhoads, volunteers for the food bank, and the signed T-shirt from the concert that sparked their interest.

The Rhoadeses still have the original autographed shirt from that Harry Chapin concert in 1978. “We love telling that story to everyone, because most of the people we have never met Harry or know what his music meant,” John said.

“He was such an inspiration,” Sue added. Now she and John enjoy carrying on Chapin’s legacy and working with all the food bank volunteers. “They are just wonderful. They are like family to us,” she said. The Rhoadeses do everything from sorting and packing food in the food bank’s Fort Myers Distribution Center, to going out to mobile pantries to distribute food, to volunteering at last year’s Hunger Walk. This year, they plan to simply walk the Walk.

They volunteer because of the cause, Sue said. It’s gratifying to see the people they help, particularly at mobile pantry sites, she said. “And they’re so thankful. It’s so wonderful that in the community we live in, we have this great Harry Chapin Food Bank right in our neighborhood.”

Sue said. It’s gratifying to see the people they help, particularly at mobile pantry sites, she said. “And they’re so thankful. It’s so wonderful that in the community we live in, we have this great Harry Chapin Food Bank right in our neighbor- hood.”

In January 2019, $2.6 million has been raised. That equates to 10.4 million meals to feed those who often don’t know where their next meal is coming from. The walk’s presenting sponsor is once again Bill Smith Appliances & Electronics, with a host of other supporting spon- sors. The walk chairwoman for the second year in a row is Kayla Richmond, attorney for Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A.

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MONEY & INVESTING

Avoid legacy airline stocks until they can match competition

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Last week, my wife made the comment that it had been a long time since she had seen her sister in Chicago and that our kids missed playing with their cousin. On a whim, we went on Google Flights just to see the cost of a flight to the Windy City. To our surprise, and amazement, we found a round trip ticket around Martin Luther King weekend out of Fort Myers for $75 per ticket. I remember thinking to myself as I purchased the four tickets that there is no way airlines can be making money with these fares. And I guess my intuition was right as the very next day American Airlines was the latest carrier to announce poor revenues with declining earnings. Its stock dropped.

American Airlines was founded in 1930 via the merger of 82 different air carriers. At that time, most airlines made a large portion of profits delivering mail, but American was the first to run a profitable route with just passenger traffic. It was also the first to open an airport lounge for its most valuable passengers, an Admirals club in LaGuardia Airport in New York. It has grown over the subsequent years both through internal expansion and the acquisition of various other airlines such as TWA in 2001 and US Airways in 2013. Today American flies over 50 million passengers annually and has over 950 planes in its fleet.

2018 was not a banner year for American Airlines. Its stock price started the year at around $50 a share and ended the year at around $30 per share. This was surprising from a macro environment perspective as the overall economy was strong, business profits were high — which should have resulted in more high margin business travel — and fuel prices were relatively low. However, the main problem is that revenue per seat is not growing despite this favorable environment.

The reason for this lack of revenue growth is mostly attributed to two factors. First is overcapacity by the three remaining “legacy” carriers — American, Delta and United. These airlines have been upgrading their fleets to newer, larger aircraft to save fuel and operating costs. However, this also means that there is a greater supply of seats across the industry, making it harder to raise ticket prices. And last year United announced that it wanted to increase capacity by 4 percent to 6 percent per year even further through 2020.

The second reason that airlines are having difficulties raising fares is the increased competition from ultra-low-cost airlines like Spirit, Frontier and Allegiant. These airlines offer no-frills fares at rock bottom prices. These airlines have been expanding rapidly while keeping their costs low.
YES, IT’S IMPORTANT TO CRAFT A STRONG, ACCURATE RESUME, BUT LIKE IT OR NOT, MOST JOBS ARE SECURED OR LOST IN THE INTERVIEW STAGE.

Don’t let your job search ride on a piece of paper, advises Peter Studner, the author of “Super Job Search IV: The Complete Manual for Job Seekers & Career Changers.” “That’s why you should put more effort into preparing for interviews than you do into any other part of your job search campaign.”

While there are no perfect answers, Mr. Studner says some thought and discussion about potentially tricky interview subjects can help you avoid disaster.

Here are 15 of the 79 interview questions he reviews in his book:

■ What salary are you looking for? Whenever possible, don’t provide a specific answer to this question until the negotiations phase, after a position has been offered, Mr. Studner advises. To defer the discussion, try returning the focus back to the interviewer: “It’s
QUESTIONS

From page 27

hard to discuss salary without knowing more about the job or responsibilities.”
Or, if you are discussing a specific job: “What is your range? Then relate your experience to the salary range without knowing more. I think my experience would put me near the high end of your range, don’t you?”
- What were you making in your last job? If at all possible, do not volunteer information about your past salary. A diplomatic way to put the salary question aside is to reply, “I was well compensated in my previous company but really don’t wish to prejudice myself by being too high or low. Can we delay this until we’ve looked at all the aspects of your current position?”
- Have you ever been fired? If the answer is yes, have a good explanation worked out and tested with friends. For instance: “We had a change in general managers, and although I had been doing a great job as you can see from my accomplishments, I was let go for one of his former associates.” Or: “The company decided to close down its California operation and offered me a job in Chicago. We would like to stay in this area so that’s why I’m looking around.”
- What did you think of your last supervisor? Whatever your true feelings might be, stay positive. This is not the time or place to list your boss’ shortcomings or frustrating behaviors. Mr. Studner suggests responses like: “She was the kind of person I could learn from.” Or: “We were able to communicate well and things got done quickly.”
- What is your greatest strength? Before interviewing, reflect on your personal strengths and make a list of them (e.g., natural number sense, able to multitask, good with people, able to teach others). Then tie each of them to a professional accomplishment. During the interview, conclude your response by asking the interviewer if this is the kind of quality that would help his or her company; Mr. Studner suggests.
- What is your greatest weakness? As with your strengths, prepare a list of weaknesses beforehand. This time, tie each weakness back to what could also be considered a strength. For example: “I like to get things done. Sometimes I get impatient, but I’m getting a handle on it.”
- What do you not like to do? This is a loaded question. A positive reply might be: “I’m the kind of person who does whatever is necessary to get the job done. When I do run into something disagreeable, I try to do it first and get it behind me. I have no particular dislikes.”
- How would your boss, coworkers and subordinates describe you?

Be ready to give some examples of the kind of team player you are. If you are not into office politics and have harbored good relationships at work, mention it. And remember that the interviewer may ask your references the same question, Mr. Studner notes. He strongly suggests meeting with your references before the interview stage in order to talk through your career goals and how the reference can best support them.

- Why do you want to work for our company? Your reply could be based on the company’s reputation for products, management, international scope, technology, or as a nice place to work and grow. “The most important thing is to avoid generic answers,” Mr. Studner says. “Know their products, policies and potential for you.”
- What has been your biggest failure? Discuss this question with friends, mentors and possibly your references before the interview. If at all possible, think of something you were later able to correct. Then the story isn’t just about a failure, but also about a learning experience.
- How do you feel about the progress you made in your last position? Rather than discuss your feelings, per se, stress your accomplishments, Mr. Studner says. “Such a response will communicate great information about your value as an employee while still conveying positive feelings about your progress.”
- Did you have any frustrations in your past job? Frustrations are a normal part of any job, and interviewers know this — so don’t claim you didn’t have any. “Relate some of the bottlenecks you experienced, but more important, indicate what you did to overcome them,” Mr. Studner suggests.
- How long do you think it would be before you could make a contribution to our company? Don’t be in a hurry when providing an answer to this question. There normally is a period of transition before a new hire learns the ropes. You might say, “If the transition goes according to plan, I would guess relatively soon. What would you expect?”
- Don’t you feel that you are overqualified for the position? Ouch! If you have a lot of experience and the company is thinking of hiring a younger person, you might get this kind of query. A good answer is: “I imagine my experience would make me more valuable sooner.”
- How do you take criticism? Most people have problems taking criticism. If the criticism is part of a formal evaluation program where you can learn and improve, that is fine. “I would welcome the opportunity to learn how to do my job better. Do you have a formal program for employee evaluation?”

About the author
Mr. Studner is a master career counselor and former chief executive and board member of companies in the United States, France and Great Britain. He has helped thousands of people with their career transitions and also trains other career professionals.

Even though you likely will not be asked all of the specific question he poses in his book, he says, knowing how you want to answer them will ensure that you’re prepared to discuss a wide variety of topics that might come up.
**My Dumbest Investment**

**Boom and Bust**

One of my smartest investments was in America Online's stock. I bought 500 shares at $100 each in 1998, and within less than a year, it had soared. I thought things would only get better, and watched in amazement as the stock fell. I then did what you're not supposed to do — I panicked and sold. Still, I reaped a big profit in just 6 months. If I'd been patient, I'd have netted much more. (Isn't hindsight wonderful?) The episode taught me that you need to get your teeth and hold through volatility. It also taught me that you can't time the market.

— J.S., Australia

**The Fool Responds:** America Online made many people a lot of money during the dot-com boom, but not all great businesses stay great.

America Online was the U.S.'s biggest internet provider in 1999, valued at $225 billion, but that was before the internet bubble burst. It ended up joining with Time Warner in what would later be seen as one of the biggest merger failures ever. In 2015, AOL was acquired by Verizon Communications for about $4.4 billion.

It's smart to hang on to stocks that you believe in during volatile periods — but you need to know why a stock is falling, and sell if it ever becomes wildly overvalued. Many stocks plunged during the dot-com crash simply because they had been bid up too high in a speculative frenzy.

**Last week's trivia answer**

I trace my roots back to the 1876 open-end science lab in New Jersey. I was incorporated a bit later, in 1892, and encompassed the assets of several companies. Over the years, I have been in businesses as diverse as aircraft engines, finance, medical equipment, transportation, appliances, water treatment, plastics, media and entertainment. Based in Boston now, I recently sported a market value topping $60 billion. It's smart to hang on to stocks you believe in during volatile periods — but you need to know why a stock is falling, and sell if it ever becomes wildly overvalued. Many stocks plunged during the dot-com crash simply because they had been bid up too high in a speculative frenzy.

— G.D., Charleston, South Carolina

**Want more information about stocks? Send us an email at foolnews@fool.com.**

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**AIRLINE**

**From page 26**

and have enjoyed tremendous success. In fact, the best performing airline stock in 2018 was an ultra-low-cost carrier. Spirit Airlines.

While to the growth of these airlines, they have challenged the legacy airlines on many routes and have driven ticket prices down to these destinations.

Given this lack of ability to raise ticket prices, it would be surprising that American Airlines revenue and stock price are both slumping. However, the airlines are trying hard to be creative in an effort to increase revenues in this competitive environment. For example, some legacy airlines are rolling out new economy seat fares at low prices that are more comparable to ultra-low-cost fares where the passenger must pay for everything from seat assign-ments to carry-on bags to snacks.

The airlines hope these tickets will fill seats while bringing in revenues from these ancillary fees.

Finally, investors are always leery of investing in airlines heading into a potential reces-sion. Historically, airlines have followed a similar pattern corresponding with an economic cycle. During an expan-sion, the airlines are profitable with enough capacity to fill demand by purchasing new planes, limiting income growth. Then in the resulting economic downturn, the airlines will slash fares in an attempt to fill planes resulting in massive losses. Often even this can't save them.

Chapter 11 bankruptcy, wiping out share-holders. Then the cycle will start again. This has happened so many times that Warren Buffet in 2007 said this about airline stocks:

> “I’d rather be in any business that grows rapidly, requires significant capital to engender the growth, and then earns little on that capital. Think airlines. Here a durable competitive advantage has proven elusive ever since the days of the Wright Brothers. Indeed, if a8ntitraded stock had been present at Kitty Hawk, he would have done his successors a huge favor by shoot-ing Oreville down.”

What I am not is that bearish on airline stocks, I would be very hesitant to pur chase American Airlines or any legacy airline stock until they can prove they can compete with ultra-low-cost carriers and raise ticket prices.
NETWORKING

Conservancy of Southwest Florida honors Magic Under the Mangroves chairs with 2019 Eagle Award

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.

1. Diane McGinty, Robin Hamilton and Scot Hamilton
2. Ron McGinty and Arnold Lerner
3. Maureen Lerner, Sue Dalton, William Boyajian, Nancy White and Carol Dinardo
4. Nancy Sesty and Edie Andrew
5. Henry Dinardo, Van Williams and Rob Moher
6. Maureen Lerner, Carol Dinardo, William Boyajian, Nancy White and Sue Dalton
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NETWORKING

Kickoff party for 2019 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest

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3. Mackenzie Denson and Heidi Tauman
4. Mark Loren and Monica Dibella
5. Mara Wiles, Elaine Hawkins, Vicki Pitts and Cheryl Copham
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7. Art Cherry, Bev Cherry, Cyndy Stout and Jimmy Stout
9. Scott Patterson and Mary Patterson
10. Richard Pitbladdo, Tim Youngquist and Fred Hawkins

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House Hunting
6117 Victory Drive,
Ave Maria

This well-appointed home in the gated, 55-plus community of Del Webb-Naples in Ave Maria boasts rich hardwood floors and stellar views of the 18th hole. The 4½-bedroom, four-bath, 3,600-square-foot Pinnacle estate home model has a 4-foot garage extension, gourmet kitchen, upgraded baths, crown molding, plantation shutters, 8-foot doors, an upstairs loft/office and bedroom/bath, Fire Fighter emergency detection and call system, electric lanai shutters and whole-house impact glass. The property also comes with an assigned golf membership (golf will be for members only once the community is completed).

Del Webb-Naples has an on-site lifestyle director and resort-style amenities within its 12,000-square-foot Oasis Club including an 8,000-square-foot pool with beach entry, the Rusty Putter bar and grill, a golf pro shop, outdoor amphitheater, lighted pickleball, bocce ball and tennis courts, game nights, happy hours, dancing classes and more.

Krysta Sylvester of Engel & Voelkers Olde Naples has the listing for $655,000. For more information, call 272-8422, email krysta.sylvester@evusa.com or visit www.swflisyourplayground.com.
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PELICAN MARSH

Fantastic Design & Quiet Location. Furnished 3+Den / 3 Bath. Spacious design with tons of natural light, high ceilings, quiet cul-de-sac, large 2 car garage - $627,000
Grand-prize winner puts HGTV 2018 Dream Home on the market

The Gig Harbor, Wash., home that was the grand prize in HGTV’s 2018 Dream Home contest is for sale. There were more than 123 million entries and yes, there was a lucky winner. But because many times it’s impossible for a winner to pick up and move to a different part of the country, the fabulous house, with all of its designer contents, has been put on the market at $1.9 million.

In one of the most scenic spots in the country, HGTV’s senior property hunter found a circa 1974 home on a cliff above the water’s edge with a spectacular view of Henderson Bay and its colorful sunsets. In addition to a sound house, there was a concrete bulkhead that would make a great waterside lounge area and steps going down to the water for water recreation.

Steeped in modern rusticity from its textured-stone car park to its dark-brown siding and dramatically pitched steel roof, the house blends naturally into its earthy, woody surroundings. At 3,591 square feet, it takes full advantage of the water views through a wraparound two-story vaulted glass wall. With four bedrooms and three baths, there is plenty of space for family.

SEE DREAM HOME, B31 ➤

333 GULF SHORE BLVD SOUTH - $8,500,000

1003 Moraya Bay - $6,975,000

2075 Crayton Road - $3,895,000

1807 Snook Drive - $2,885,000

Dante DiSabato
Broker Associate
Kalea Bay’s second tower continues to rise
Residents love community’s amenities

Tourists can’t get enough of Kalea Bay, the gated, luxury high-rise community located in North Naples, is well on its way.

“Construction crews are now working on the 18th floor of the 22-story building,” 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. “The topping off of the tower is scheduled to occur this summer.

Like its predecessor, Tower 200 is 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 70 of the 120 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 over-sized 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 oversize 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.

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, affording them an unprecedented opportunity to utilize this amazing $25 million world-class amenity center.”

The award-winning clubhouse itself features three indoor 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. ■
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The Lutgert Companies’ newest model home, Le Jardin, is now open for touring in Residences at Mercato. Visit the open house this Sunday from 1 – 4 P.M. to preview the brand-new Le Jardin and Le Rivage designer models and discover an exciting urban lifestyle with the privacy of a single-family home.

Le Jardin features three bedrooms plus a cabana and four-and-a-half baths; there are master suites on both levels. The cabana in the 3,782-square-foot residence is crafted so that it is accessible from the home’s interior. Additional appointments include a second-floor loft and spacious outdoor living area with summer kitchen, pool and spa. Interiors were designed by Wilfredo Emanuel of Clive Daniel Home. The residence boasts an updated Ralph Lauren motif with blue and white accents plus a touch of black to add a sophisticated look to the coastal fresh feel. White wall and black ebony wood accents complement the rich Hamptons style, along with window treatments in fresh linen and blue prints. Le Jardin is priced at $2,290,000.

The five-bedroom, five-and-a-half-bath Le Rivage model is designed with sophisticated finishes of oak, marble and glass throughout its 3,558 square feet of living space. Transitioning from the easy flow of the home’s interior, an inviting outdoor space features a pool with a cascading waterfall fountain and spa. Interior design was created by Charlie Hansen of Clive Daniel Home. Le Rivage received the Collier Building Industry Association 2017 Award for Overall Excellence in Construction and Design. Priced at $2,128,130, the residence includes a Clive Daniel Home furnishings package at no additional cost.

Sitting in an exclusive enclave with easy pedestrian access to the restaurants, shops and amenities of Mercato, the sought-after community of 45 coastal contemporary residences is just minutes from Naples’ award-winning beaches. The 11-acre neighborhood is accentuated by custom open-air living spaces designed to emphasize year-round outdoor leisure. Winding paver roads, lush landscaping and coastal inspired facades showcase urban living at its finest.

This season, the private enclave welcomes new neighbors as the luxury amenities of Mercato continue to evolve. Saratoga Sundress, Southern Tide and Cariloha have all recently opened, while foodies are flocking to the new Hampton Social, a Chicago-based restaurant by the Parker Restaurant Group. Exercise enthusiasts are delighting in the recent debut of Cycle Bar, an indoor premium cycling studio; the new eateries, Rocco’s Tacos and Toojay’s Deli, are scheduled to open soon.

With the very best shopping, dining and entertainment right outside your door, Residences at Mercato is also just 1.7 miles from the beach. Exclusively marketed and sold by Premier Sotheby’s International Realty, models are open daily. Only four homesites are available for your selection and personalization.
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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.
Stock Development’s portfolio of luxury homes leaves homebuyers spoiled with residential choices in the area most sought after South Naples addresses. Fiddler’s Creek, The Isles of Collier Preserve and Naples Reserve feature beautiful new homes and world-class amenities just minutes from Old Naples and the white sugar sand beaches of the Gulf of Mexico.

“Stock has opened the winter season with exciting new releases” said Claudine Léger-Wetzel, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Stock Development. “Beautifully furnished models and move-in ready inventory homes are available for viewing.”

At Fiddler’s Creek, the 3,996-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. Pirzraz 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. Three new furnished models are scheduled to open in early February.

The uniquely designed single and two-story floor plans range from 2,627 to 3,702 square feet under air. They offer extraordinary 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 that open to 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 suite.

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 $500s.

The Isles of Collier Preserve is nestled amidst a pristine natural setting minutes from Downtown Naples, The Isles of Collier Preserve features a colorful town Naples, The Isles of Collier Preserve opens to an outdoor living area that can include a fireplace and hiking trails.

Stock Signature Homes has expanded its offerings at The Isles of Collier Preserve with the release of The Sycamore Collection, joining The Cottonwood Collection and The Mahogany Collection. Homes are base priced from the $500s.

The Sycamore Collection features six homes three and four bedroom floor plans ranging from 2,445 to 3,097 square feet under air. The single and two-story designs include innovative lofts, spectacular outdoor living areas and up to four and one-half baths. All offer side-loaded three-car garages.

The spectacular Cottonwood Collection features eight luxury home plans, ranging in size from 2,500 to over 3,400 square feet under air and over 4,000 square feet under air plus covered lanai. The collection includes innovations like an open living area that includes a fireplace and outdoor living options.

The Mahogany Collection offers a choice of eight luxury home plans, ranging in size from 2,500 to over 3,400 square feet under air and over 4,000 square feet with the addition of a total of four and one-half baths. The master suite features walk-in closets, a soaking tub and a large walk-in shower.

There are four bedrooms (or three bedrooms plus an optional bonus room), a study and four and one-half baths. The Madison model and The Belfield, which is available for immediate occupancy and has 2,812 square feet of living area, featuring a great room, optional wet bar, island kitchen and breakfast nook that open to a large outdoor living area that includes a fireplace and outdoor kitchen. It also includes three bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths, a study, a formal dining room, and a three-car garage. It is priced at just $875,000.

To see all that Stock has to offer, please visit the Stock Development website at www.stockdevelopment.com. Email at info@stockdevelopment.com or call (239) 592-7344. Stock Development is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FLStockDevelopment.  

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Scott Kish of KTS Homes unique to homebuilding industry

Some custom homebuilding companies hire an outside architect to design a home and then, once the plans are approved, start construction. At KTS Homes, it all stays in house – one very experienced professional – the owner.

Scott Kish II is the principal of KTS Homes, which is based in Naples. Kish has nearly 20-year experience designing and building single-family homes. In fact, the Michigan native actually grew up in the construction business and learned the trade from a very early age.

“My family constructed homes in Michigan, so I’m a second-generation builder from the start. I love the business from the moment the site is prepared to the moment the new owner is handed the keys.”

Kish enjoyed the homebuilding business so much he decided to become an architect. Now Kish’s unique ability to bridge the gap between architectural-design and quality building is unmatched in Southwest Florida, while prestigious roles he held in other industries maximize his skill-set in management and development.

“As an architect and a builder, I prefer to work with the homeowner right from the start – beginning with the design process,” said Kish. “This is where my architect background is so beneficial. Combine that with a solid understanding and years of experience in the homebuilding industry and homeowners can successfully complete their dream home at just one location. That’s the KTS Homes’ advantage. It’s a real time saver.”

In addition to Kish, KTS Homes has a hand-picked team of homebuilding professionals who assist owners from start to finish. “Designing a home is a deeply personal process, one we take very seriously. We know that every detail matters and that building a home from the ground up is a significant investment,” said Kish. “I will be there and my team will be there every step of the way – until we hand the keys over – as well as after.”

KTS Homes is currently working with a number of owners whose homes are in various stages of design and construction. However, KTS does have a number of furnished and unfurnished homes available for touring and immediate purchase.

“The first is the award-winning Newport located in the Parrot Cay neighborhood within the resort-style community of Naples Reserve. The Newport, a California-coastal contemporary home, is a three-bedroom plus study/two full-bath/two half-bath plan with 3,030 square feet under air and 5,285 total square feet, including an expansive outdoor living area and a side-entry, three-car garage. It is priced at $1,500,000 with furnishings. KTS Homes also has the Newport II available in Naples Reserve. It is designer-ready, meaning prospective buyers may choose certain design finish options, making it a true custom home.

The Newport II, which sits on a south-facing homesite with views of the community, is a three-bedroom plus study/two full-bath/two half-bath home with 3,079 square feet under air and 5,285 total square feet, including an expansive outdoor living area and a side-entry, three-car garage. It is priced at $1,500,000 with furnishings. KTS Homes is currently working on a third home in Parrot Cay later this month. For those looking for an upscale, gated community with large lots, there is Naples Club Estates, located off Collier Boulevard, just south of the renowned Naples National Golf Club.

Naples Club Estates encompasses 155 acres, but has just 28 custom homes. KTS Homes is one of the exclusive builders in this popular community. It has already completed one home, started a second in late summer, and has a third homesite prepped and ready to go. A number of other exceptional homesites are still available.

“If an owner is looking for privacy, yet wants to be within minutes of downtown Naples, the beaches, great shopping and dining venues, Naples Club Estates is the ideal community,” stated Kish.

As an architect and a builder, Kish is especially thrilled to help clients that already have their own homesite but are searching for the ideal company to design and then build a home on their lot.

“As an architect, I can take the size and shape of the homesite and design the perfect home,” stated Kish. “But, just as important is listening to the client. Understanding their needs. Then fulfilling their dreams. It’s one of the most satisfying parts of my job.”

Kish added, if an owner has already worked with an architect and is now looking for the perfect builder to construct the home, he is more than happy to showcase how KTS Homes would be the ideal partner.

“We may not be the biggest homebuilding company in Southwest Florida, but I believe we are the most meticulous,” said Kish. “We’re detailed oriented. We’re budget oriented. We’re industry savvy. We’re material knowledgeable. And perhaps most, we truly care about our clients and fulfilling their dreams. That’s why I love this business – and have since my days growing up and working in the family business in Michigan.”

Three words sum up the story of KTS Homes. Imagine. Design. Build. If you can imagine it, they can design it, and they can build it. It’s everything an owner needs and it’s all under one roof.

For more information visit KTShomes.com or call 239-465-0671.

Above: The kitchen in the Newport model has direct access to the outdoor living area. Right: KTS Homes’ Newport model is located in the resort-style community of Naples Reserve. Below: The Newport’s dining room overlooks the pool with water and fire features. Bottom Left: KTS Homes designs its homes to optimize the concept of indoor/outdoor living.
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Award-winning Divco Custom Homes specializes in luxury residences

The master bedroom, located in the back of the home, measures more than 25 by 13 feet, has access to the outdoor living area, and features two oversized walk-in closets.

The master bath, which faces the front of the home, has his and hers vanities, a private water closet, an oversized shower, and a free-standing soaking tub.

The Baywood model is located at 301 West Street in Pine Ridge. It is open Saturday to Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more details contact Jennifer Loftstrand at 239-300-353.

In addition to the Baywood, Divco Custom Homes also has a number of other models, including a model on Marco Island and a model in Miromar Lakes, with a second model opening soon.

Current and past models have been inspirational sparks to many clients who are looking for a company to design and build their custom dream home. They chose Divco Custom Homes because of the quality of their work, their craftsmanship, their no-hassle process and their professionalism. And in the end, they were very happy with their decision.

“Having built multiple homes with Divco, we have been a happy customer for over 15 years. We have appreciated the positive, sustainable relationship we have experienced with all Divco representatives, plus a great product every time! Any prospective client needs to know that, with Divco, there is always someone available for reassurance and direction regarding any inquiry at any time during the journey. Thank you, Divco, for a job well done,” wrote one couple.

“Our entire experience with Divco, from the kick-off meeting to final turnover, has truly exceeded our expectations. The process and systems to manage the construction of our home were flawless. No details were missed, no surprises occurred,” wrote another couple. “We look forward to many more years of enjoyment in our new home with family and friends. Thank you to the Divco team for not just building a house, but for creating a home.”

From completed furnished models to designing and building custom homes, Divco does it all. The company also works with homeowners looking to remodel their current residence.

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<td>1201 GALLEON DR, NAPLES</td>
<td>• Low Fees, Great Amenities, Fitness, Pool/Spa</td>
<td>$1,495,000</td>
<td>MLS 217020067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BONITA BAY - SEAGLASS</strong></td>
<td>4971 BONITA BAY BLVD, #403, BONITA</td>
<td>• Panoramic Gulf &amp; Bay Views</td>
<td>$269,900</td>
<td>MLS 218063657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BONITA BAY - OAK KNOLL</strong></td>
<td>27180 OAK KNOLL DR, BONITA</td>
<td>• Custom 4 BR, 5.5 BA + Den, 3 Car Garage</td>
<td>$1,295,000</td>
<td>MLS 217053800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ISLES OF COLLIER PRESERVE</strong></td>
<td>5726 CLARENDON DR, NAPLES</td>
<td>• Lakefront, CopperNickel Floor Plan</td>
<td>$799,000</td>
<td>Call for Details!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OLD NAPLES - MODENA</strong></td>
<td>380 10TH ST S, #204, NAPLES</td>
<td>• Beautiful 2 BR, 3 BA + Den, 3 Car Garage</td>
<td>$495,000</td>
<td>MLS 218027697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BONITA BAY - ESPERIA SOUTH</strong></td>
<td>4951 BONITA BAY BLVD, #804, BONITA</td>
<td>• Open Floor Plan w/3 BR, 100 S.F.</td>
<td>$343,000</td>
<td>MLS 218062505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHADOW WOOD AT THE BROOKS</strong></td>
<td>22211 KENWOOD ISLE DR, ESTERO</td>
<td>• Modern 1st Floor Master Suite</td>
<td>$629,900</td>
<td>MLS 218084563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VINEYARDS</strong></td>
<td>268 MONTEREY DR, NAPLES</td>
<td>• Beautiful 3 BR, 2 BA + Den, Townhouse</td>
<td>$335,000</td>
<td>MLS 218076889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GLEN EAGLE</strong></td>
<td>5575 LAGO VILLAGGIO WAY, NAPLES</td>
<td>• Beautiful 2 BR, 2 BA + Den, Paver Deck</td>
<td>$218,900</td>
<td>MLS 218073315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAWTHORNE - COBBLESTONE</strong></td>
<td>10256 COBBLE HILL RD, BONITA</td>
<td>• Immaculately Kept</td>
<td>$219,000</td>
<td>MLS 218072759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAWTHORNE - COBBLESTONE</strong></td>
<td>2515 TALON CT, #402, NAPLES</td>
<td>• Pristine, Well Located</td>
<td>$278,500</td>
<td>MLS 218081193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPANISH WELLS</strong></td>
<td>8990 PALMAS GRANDES BLVD, #102, BONITA</td>
<td>• 3rd Floor, 2 BR, 2 BA, 1 Car Garage Condo</td>
<td>$379,900</td>
<td>MLS 218057618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AVENUE</strong></td>
<td>27020 LAKE HARBOR CT, BONITA</td>
<td>• Beautiful Water View</td>
<td>$243,500</td>
<td>MLS 218037965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COCONUT POINT - THE RESIDENCES</strong></td>
<td>8990 PALMAS GRANDES BLVD, #102, BONITA</td>
<td>• Remodeled Kitchen, High End Appliances, 1st Floor</td>
<td>$335,000</td>
<td>MLS 218062671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BONITA FAIRWAYS</strong></td>
<td>26216 BONITA FAIRWAYS CT, BONITA</td>
<td>• Low Fees, Great Amenities, Fitness, Pool/Spa</td>
<td>$294,900</td>
<td>MLS 218017846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OLDE NAPLES</strong></td>
<td>150 13TH AVE, S, NAPLES</td>
<td>• One Block to Beach &amp; 3rd Street Shopping</td>
<td>$4,375,000</td>
<td>MLS 217053800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OLD NAPLES - MODENA</strong></td>
<td>3010 1ST ST S, 404, NAPLES</td>
<td>• Beautiful 3 BR, 3 BA + Den, 3 Car Garage</td>
<td>$869,900</td>
<td>MLS 218096998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BONITA BAY - ESPERIA SOUTH</strong></td>
<td>4951 BONITA BAY BLVD, #804, BONITA</td>
<td>• Open Floor Plan w/3 BR, 100 S.F.</td>
<td>$335,000</td>
<td>MLS 218076889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAWTHORNE - COBBLESTONE</strong></td>
<td>27167 OAKWOOD LAKE DR, BONITA</td>
<td>• Lake &amp; Preserve &amp; Screen, Paver Deck</td>
<td>$624,900</td>
<td>MLS 218084563</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BONITA BAY</strong></td>
<td>5101 BONITA BAY BLVD, BONITA</td>
<td>• Beautiful Water View</td>
<td>$243,500</td>
<td>MLS 218037965</td>
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<td>$243,500</td>
<td>MLS 218037965</td>
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*Royal Shell Real Estate. 239.29*
S


tock Luxury Apartment Living - a division of Stock Develop-
ment and one of Southwest Florida’s most respected devel-
opers is celebrating the Grand Opening of Inspira with an Open House.

Inspira is a high-end, multi-family neighborhood that revolutionizes luxury apartment living with a dazzling array of opulent residences and resort-style ame-

ties, which offers management services by Greystar. All major construction in the community is complete.

On Saturday and Sunday, January 19th & 20th, Inspira will be hosting an Open House showcasing the Grand Opening at its Clubhouse. From 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day the public is invited to tour the clubhouse, other amenities and Inspira’s furnished models.

“Visitors have the chance to view for themselves an unparalleled luxury apartment lifestyle,” said Keith Gelder, President of Stock Luxury Apartment Living, “Every detail of the clubhouse amenities has been carefully considered for maximum appeal and our residences are the definition of modern luxury.”

According to Gelder, early bird pric-
ing, which begins at $1,477 per month, ends soon. Inspira is already 40 percent pre-leased with a current occupancy of over 36 percent. Inspira’s comprehensive package of amenities includes a two-story, 9,872 square foot clubhouse with a 6,000 square foot resort-style pool and spa, a 2,032 square foot fitness center, as well as a dedicated yoga and pilates room.

Many of the residences are located in buildings that surround the club, creating an inviting central courtyard. A culinary kitchen offers cooking demon-

strations and tastings, while a club room closes off from the rest of the residence. A dedicated yoga and pilates room and a living area complete with a professional interior design.

Numerous large, flat screen TVs will broadcast sporting events in high-defi-
nition to sports fans. Athletically-minded residents will love the Pickleball Courts and Bocce ball courts. Pet lovers will enjoy hours at the Dog Park.

The 304-unit gated community is con-

veniently located at 7425 Inspira Circle at the corner of Rattlesnake Hammock Road and Grand Lely Drive with conven-
ung access to US Route 41 and Interstate 75. For more information, visit the newly launched website at www.Inspi-

raNaples.com or call (239) 298-5680.

Inspira offers a superb location adjac-

tent to Lely Resort. This oasis consists of one, two and three bedroom apart-
ments in buildings that fit perfectly with the extraordinary architectural design standards set by Lely Resort.

Just outside Inspira is all the best that Naples has to offer. Minutes away are the Gulf of Mexico’s sugar sand beaches, world-class restaurants, entertainment venues and an abundance of retail shopping opportunities.

Inspira apartments range in size from 784 to 1,348 square feet of living space. These luxury residences feature many of the upgraded interiors that Stock has perfected in its area communities.

Among these are oversized kitchens with islands, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, shaker-style cabin-

etry and wood style plank flooring. Each home also includes a washer and dryer plus a beverage center.

“These spacious floor plans feature expansive nine-foot ceilings, large walk-in closets, patios or balconies,” said Gelder. “There is high-speed internet access and many of the units offer lake views.”

The B2 model is a two-bedroom/two-

bath design with 1,112 square feet of living area. There is an island-style kitchen with bar seating, as well as a dining area. The spacious, open plan features a living room beyond the kitchen with a door leading to the balcony. The master suite has a large walk-in closet. There is a washer and dryer bay that closes off from the rest of the home.

The B1 model is a one-bedroom/one-

bath home with 800 square feet of living area. There is an island-style kitchen with bar seating, as well as a dining area. The spacious, open plan features a living room beyond the kitchen with a door leading to the balcony. The master suite has a large walk-in closet. There is a washer and dryer bay that closes off from the rest of the home.

With Inspira, Stock Luxury Apartment Living builds on the success of Spectra Apartments in South Fort Myers, a 324-

unit luxury community, which was com-

pleted and fully leased in 2017. The company has a third community in Sarasota.

Visit www.InspiraNaples.com or call (239) 298-5680.

Inspira apartments celebrates its grand opening this weekend: leasing is underway

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**ADVERTORIAL**

**Mangrove Bay**

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.

We are pleased to announce that the Coquina I on lot 7 is furnished and ready for move in! Located at 1315 1st Avenue South, this furnished residence is 2,664 square feet and available for immediate occupancy. Superior construction and luxury appointments feature throughout this three bedroom, three and one half bath residence including an upstairs loft living space. The price for this stunning home is $2,373,000.

Additionally, the Keewaydin I located on lot 41 will have its Certificate of Occupancy and be fully furnished in the next 2 weeks! Located at 1452 2nd Avenue South, this residence will be priced at $3,720,000. 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.

2 new furnished Coquina II models are also fast approaching completion! Lot D, located at 1314 1st Avenue South is priced at $2,805,000 and lot 25, located at 181 14th Street South is priced at $2,830,000. 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.

With Old Florida inspired architecture by MHK Architecture & Planning, all homes have Gulf access private boat slips included with purchase. Lots 6, 12, and 16 are slated for completion in early 2019. Additionally, construction is now completed on the seawall and boat ramp. Mangrove Bay is ideally placed to explore the exciting Naples Design District. A collection of home and interior design stores and studios along with antique and resale shops, this area is located along 5th Street North between 5th Avenue North and 2nd Avenue South in Old Naples.

Another wonderful addition to the area and right on the doorstep of Mangrove Bay is the soon to break ground Gulfshore Playhouse, a cultural icon in Naples which will be a wonderful complement to the Mangrove Bay community.

The lifestyle in Mangrove Bay affords homeowners access to all the Naples has to offer including the wonderful downtown offerings of 5th Avenue, nearby Baker Park (completion in 2019), the new Greenway Bridge, City of Naples Dog Park and of course Naples beautiful sandy beaches.

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.

**OLD NAPLES WATERFRONT LIVING**

**FEATURED MODEL**

**COQUINA I**

We are pleased to announce that the Coquina I on lot 7 is available for immediate occupancy! Located at 1315 1st Avenue South, this furnished residence has 2,664 square feet. Superior construction and luxury appointments feature throughout this three bedroom, three and one half bath residence with purchase. The price for this stunning home is $2,373,000.

**FURNISHED MODELS ON THE WAY!**

*Under Construction and Slated for Completion Soon*

**LOT 14**

Waterfront views of Naples Bay

**THE KEEWAYDIN I** - $3,720,000

3,272 sq. ft., Furnished

**LOT 15**

Waterfront views of Naples Bay

**THE USEPPA I** - $3,453,000

3,513 sq. ft., Furnished

**LOT 13**

Waterfront views of Naples Bay

**THE COQUINA II** - $2,805,000

3,232 sq. ft., Furnished

**LOT 41**

Waterfront views of Naples Bay

**Mangrove Bay**

239.261.2200 | www.mangrovebaynaples.com

201 Goodlette Road South | Naples, Florida 34102

Sales Center Hours of Operation:
Monday through Friday 10:00am-4:00pm
Saturday 11:00am-4:00pm, Sunday 12:00pm - 4:00pm
or by appointment.

www.gcipnaples.com

Exclusively Represented by:
Lotus Construction

Lotus Construction is the exclusive General Contractor for Mangrove Bay.
GRAND OPENING
Saturday and Sunday, January 19th & 20th, 11:00a.m - 4:00p.m

7425 Inspira Circle | Naples, FL 34113
(at the intersection of Grand Lely Dr.and Rattlesnake Hammock Rd.) | Naples, FL 34113
239.347.9910 | inspiranaples.com

Luxury apartment living has arrived at Lely Resort.
Introducing Inspira, where everyday living is every way better.
Featuring resort-style amenities, stunningly designed social spaces and beautifully imagined 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments all radiating around a vibrant, 10,000-square-foot clubhouse.

NOW LEASING!

Come tour Inspira’s luxury lifestyle and furnished models this weekend!
It's that aha moment, a warm you-belong-here welcome when the dream has finally become a reality. After all the hours put in at the office or taking the kids to soccer practice, you've more than earned a few hours to sit back, relax and enjoy the things you love best – and in the home of your dreams.

Building a new home is often filled with lots of decisions – color selections, fabric and finishing choices, floor plan layouts, and more. But at the end of the day, when all the choices have been made, the result is a place called home that is beyond your greatest expectations.

That's the sentiment many home-owners describe when working with London Bay Homes. For nearly three decades, London Bay Homes has been creating inspiring and award-winning custom luxury homes in Southwest Florida. From complete customization to select personalization, London Bay's design-led approach to luxury custom homebuilding is supported by an in-house team of award-winning designers focused on creating your perfect floor plan, interior design and resort pool and outdoor spaces. The team has also mastered the art of partnering with local and national architects to help guide a client's vision from conception to completion.

Some say it has redefined the area's luxury lifestyle while customers rave about an enjoyable homebuilding process and the company's attention to detail. "The little things like drawer pulls matter just as much as the custom design of a home that captures an owner's lifestyle and personality," said Mark Wilson, president and CEO of London Bay Homes. "Some people shy away from building a home from the ground up because they've had a bad experience. While there are a number of decisions involved when building a custom home, our brand promise of 'Private Label Living' matches clients with construction managers, interior designers and other professionals to expertly guide them every step of the way. As a result, their home is a personal expression of who they are."

Its signature "Private Label Living" brand promise ensures quality, attention to detail, an enjoyable building process and homes that are a unique expression of their residents' tastes – the highest echelon of building standards London Bay homebuyer Dr. Robert Kiltz compared to the best in the automotive industry. "London Bay is, to me, the brand, and they build an awesome product," he said. "Porsche, Ferrari, you name it; it's the list of the brands and you know they stand by their product."

London Bay Homes, call 866-920-1754 or visit LondonBay.com. Above: The custom 4395 Gordon Drive features an open great room plan that showcases views of Cutlass Cove and the beautiful greens of mangroves on Keewaydin Island. Left: The Watlington floorplan is part of London Bay's prestigious Naples Collection, and can be built on a preferred homesite of your selection. Below: Now open for viewing in Old Naples, The Chelston demonstrates London Bay's design-led approach to custom luxury homebuilding.
Invigorate your life. Without ever leaving home.
Whether enjoying a drink poolside or meeting friends for dinner at the club, this is the perfect place to celebrate each and every day of a quintessential life. Kalea Bay offers coastal living. Pure and simple. Where thoughtful designs blend seamlessly into a carefree resort lifestyle and sun-drenched days give way to glorious gulf sunsets.

Forever views that are forever yours. Tower 200 from $1.4 million.
It's great to be back at Mediterra!

I hope everyone had a great holiday season! It's going to be a wonderful Winter Season at Mediterra. It feels so good to be back. When I returned a couple of weeks ago and drove through the entry gate, all I could do was grin and let out a long, happy sigh. I was reminded again of how absolutely special this place is - its gorgeous landscaping, broad streetscapes, splendid neighborhoods, the expanded covered outdoor terrace and outdoor lounge areas at the clubhouse (more on that next week), and, of course, the small touches of fine residents and staff.

In all my travels, I've never known another place like it. I just feel so at home at Mediterra.

There's so much I want to share with you. I want to start by telling you about a fabulous event that was held last weekend and really speaks to the generosity of The Club at Mediterra, the members, and London Bay Homes. The Club hosted the 5th Annual Yameron Challenge Tennis & Pickleball Tournament presented by German BMW of Naples to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Collier County. Five years ago, Yameron Jewelers and The Club at Mediterra jointly held the first tournament and as a result of their partnership, the event has evolved into one of Southwest Florida's most popular charitable recreational and league player tennis events.

Last weekend, nearly 150 players from Mediterra and the greater Naples area participated in more than 20 singles, doubles, and mixed doubles tennis and pickleball double-elimination divisions plus a pro featuring local tennis and pickleball teaching professionals.

I'm proud to say that I played in one of the mixed doubles flights and that my doubles partner and I didn't win our division, but, like everybody else, we enjoyed every minute of the weekend.

The Club at Mediterra was the perfect place to host the Yameron Challenge. The Club has one of the best tennis programs in the country. The U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) has recognized Mediterra’s tennis program for its outstanding facilities that feature a tennis pro shop and eight Har-Tru tennis courts, including a stadium court and an award-winning coliseum court. I had a chance to speak with Michael Baldwin, Mediterra's Director of Tennis and Pickle Ball and a USTA Certified Pickle Ball Instructor, during the tournament weekend.

“ar facilities are absolutely beautiful,” said Michael Baldwin. “The hedges around the fences, the lavish stadium and coliseum tennis courts, the pergola and viewing area between the two courts, the highly forgiving, Laykold masters' gel surface and oversized perimeter areas on our pickleball courts, and the pride our team takes in maintaining the facilities just make the entire experience something special. We were all honored to host the Yameron Challenge for the fifth time. It's a first-class event, lots of fun, and it benefits a great cause. What could be better than that!”

It's only January and there's so much going on at Mediterra. The members are already enjoying every facet of life here. People are playing golf on the Club’s two golf courses, working out at the fitness center, relaxing at the pool and spa, taking in the sunsets at the Beach Club on Little Hickory Island, and enjoying the dining and happy hours at the clubhouse. I can’t wait to tell you about the clubhouse expansion and there are still more enhancements coming. Next weekend will be the first of four consecutive weekends for London Bay Homes’ Winter 2019 Model Home Showcase. They're presenting six furnished models and you don't want to miss it. I visited the models in last year's Showcase and it helped me decide which London Bay home I wanted to build. My new home is under construction now and I'm continuing to work with London Bay's team to finalize my interior design and finish selections. It's an amazing process and everyone has been so helpful. I'll tell you about it over the next several weeks. Have a good one!

Visit the Mediterra Sales Center at 15806 Sawana Way off Livingston Road two miles north of Immokalee Road. The Sales Center and model residences are open daily. Visit Mediterra online at MediterraNaples.com.
The peace and tranquility of a dream home is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. That’s the feeling you’ll get when everything comes together perfectly in a Divco Custom Home. For more than 30 years, we’ve built some of the area’s finest custom homes in the finest neighborhoods and have remodeled many others. From Marco Island through Ft. Myers, we’ve provided the perfect backdrop for a life fulfilled. So go on. Dream it. Live it. Love it. In a Divco Custom Home.

Baywood Model Hours
Saturday – Wednesday: 9 am - 5 pm
Contact Jennifer Lofstrand at 239.300.1531
For more information visit DivcoHomes.com
Private cottages and poolside cabanas now available to future Omega residents

In keeping with its commitment to providing a one-of-a-kind living experience at its Omega luxury high-rise tower within Bonita Bay, The Ronto Group is making five private cottages and six private poolside cabanas available for purchase by future residents of the luxurious tower. Three of the cottages have sold. Residents will also be able to reserve one of the three guest suites. Two of the suites can offer adjoining accommodations for multiple visitors or families with children. The guest suites will be available on a first come, first served basis. A nominal cleaning fee will be charged upon guest departure.

The Omega tower will feature 67 residences, including 63 tower residences and four penthouses. Three of the four penthouses have been sold. Ronto has processed binding sales contracts worth more than $79 million. The remaining penthouse is priced at $6.75 million.

Pre-construction pricing for the tower residences starts at $2.150 million. Located on level 2, the private Omega cottages provide an ideal setting for a private office, comfortable quarters for live-in help or an adult child, or a private, always available place for guests. The 1 and 5 cottage residences are priced at $750,000. The cottage 1 floor plan measures 1,105 square feet while the cottage 5 plan offers 1,250 square feet. Both plans include one bedroom, one-and-a-half baths, a great room, an eat-in kitchen with a full appliance package, a walk-in shower in the bath, a walk-in closet, a stacked washer and dryer, a separate storage unit, and a covered private terrace with lake and golf course views.

The 2, 3, and 4 cottage floor plans range from 990 to 1,040 square feet and are priced at $550,000. These one room studio cottages offer an eat-in kitchen with a full appliance package, a tub/shower combination in the bathroom, a linear closet, a stacked washer and dryer, a separate storage unit, and a covered private terrace with lake and golf course views.

For sun worshippers who look forward to lounging on Omega's pool deck, the private poolside cabanas offer a place to cool off or to nap in air-conditioned comfort. Each cabana features a full bathroom and a beverage center with a sink and a refrigerator. The cabanas also offer a unique, air-conditioned place for children and grandchildren to stay while visiting Omega. The private poolside cabanas are priced at $850,000.

Omega's luxurious guest suites are located on the building's lobby level. In addition to providing guests a private place to stay while enjoying their visit, each of the three guest suites features a king-sized bed, a dresser and nightstand, a full bathroom with a walk-in shower, a coffee bar and beverage center, and a television.

The Omega floor plans offer the square footage and width found in estate homes built on 100-foot home sites. The 01 and 03 tower residences will include 4,454 square feet of air-conditioned space, an unobstructed 68-foot wide view, outdoor terrace areas totaling 1,005 square feet, and an 80-square-foot or 75-square-foot private air-conditioned storage space on the same floor as the residence. The plans feature a massive great room, elegant dining area, comfortable family room, and a double-island kitchen. The great room and owner's bedroom open to a west and northwest facing terrace with multiple conversation areas, a dining area, and an outdoor kitchen with a gas grill. The double-island kitchen offers an additional gathering place. The plan also includes a den, four-and-a-half baths, and three large guest bedrooms. The den and all three guest bedrooms open to another large terrace that offers sunrise views.

The 02-tower plan offers 4,210 square feet under air, an unobstructed 78-foot wide view, 540 square feet of outdoor terrace space, and 75 square feet of private air-conditioned storage space. The plan features a massive great room, an elegant dining area, a comfortable family room, and an island kitchen. The great room opens to a terrace with conversation and dining areas and an outdoor kitchen with a gas grill. The plan also includes a den, three-and-a-half baths, and three large bedrooms, all three of which provide views of Estero Bay and the Gulf. The owner's suite features a huge walk-in closet, and a bath with separate vanities and separate water closets.

Omega residents will enjoy 18,000 square feet of indoor amenities. A more than 3,000 square foot clubhouse will feature tall windows overlooking the tower's exterior amenity deck. A pool with a beach entry and two sun shelves will serve as the amenity deck's centerpiece. Poolside day beds will be placed around the pool. Day cabanas will be available on a first come, first served basis. A pool pavilion with a bar, seating areas, and restrooms will offer a gathering place. Bar-6-que grills will be situated adjacent to the pavilion. A second pavilion is designed as a food area with an array of cooking appliances.

Omega's 4,200 square foot rooftop terrace will include two hot tubs positioned next to the terraces' glass railing, allowing residents to relax in the soothing waters while enjoying sunset views. Two firepits set against the west side of the tower terraces and six private poolside cabanas available for purchase by future residents at its 27-floor Omega luxury high-rise tower within Bonita Bay. Right: Designed by architect Robert Swedroe, The Ronto Group's 27-floor Omega high-rise tower to be built within Bonita Bay presents a fresh perspective on luxury and offers an approach to high-rise living never before available in the Southwest Florida. Below: The clean-lined Omega tower will feature 67 residences, including 63 tower residences and four penthouses. Three of the four spectacular penthouses have been sold. The remaining penthouse is priced at $6.75 million.

The Omega Sales Center is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and Sundays from noon to 5:00 p.m. Call 239-802-9480 for a sales appointment.
This Week’s Featured Listings
OPEN HOUSES ARE SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2019

TARPAULIN SQUARE, PORT ROYAL

Hosphere Park - 2 beds, 2.5 baths, 1,900 SF. Great teachers,imbibed, fenced back yard, biking, walking, beach, and more. $550,000, $525,000.

FURNISHED 1894 Miromar Lakes Blvd - Immaculate 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2,430 SF. Beautiful lake views, turnkey furnished, turnkey ready. $1,400,000, $1,300,000.

KING'S LAKE

4865 Sanibel Way - Gorgeous, brand-new contemporary home, with spacious and open floor plan. Excellent location near Collier Preserve. $875,000, $850,000.

OLD NAPLES

750 Royal CN - Walk or ride your bike to the beach! Newly-built pool, hot tub, spacious, open layout, and more. $1,099,995, $1,075,000.

ST ANDREW'S BY THE SEA

3080 Sunset Blvd. - Attention developers, 2.75 acres. $5,250,000, $5,000,000.

NAPLES BAY

16451 Sanibel Way - Gorgeous transitional, brand-new contemporary home with open floor plan and pool and spa in a true zen backdrop. Center for the Arts, Naples, private school, shopping, dining, beaches. $1,500,000, $1,450,000.

PARK SHORE

5750 Lely Rd - White kitchen marble, moldings, tile to the ceiling, and more. $1,978,000, $1,900,000.

PARK SHORE BAY

2520 Chapel Bike - Family retreat in this 3 bed, 2 bath, 2,025 SF campus home with pool and spa. Located near entry community pool, churches, schools, and restaurants. $475,000, $425,000.

DIAMOND HEAD

1209 Seaview Drive - Immaculate 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,480 SF. Minutes to the beach and 5th Ave. $400,000, $385,000.

PELICAN BAY

5050 Crayton Rd - When location matters, perfect height in the building and best ocean views are a must! Custom-built luxury pool house on the beach overlooking the Gulf. $4,000,000, $3,900,000.

NAPLES BAY

4681 Pelican Bay Blvd - 2-story home with pool and spa, golf course vistas, and beautiful lake views. $1,875,000, $1,800,000.

IMPERIAL GOLF ESTATES

4941 St James St - Updated 2,517 square foot home with private pool and spa, garage, and golf available. 5+Den/5.5 (H13910)

RIVERSTONE

19460 Pelican Harbor Dr - Luxury living in a premier golf community. 5 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms, 4,500 square feet, 2-car garage. $2,000,000, $1,900,000.

INDOOR LAKES

2025 Monroe Ave - So close to Gulf beaches and restaurants. 2 beds, 2 baths, 1,380 SF. $399,900, $385,000.

MAIN STREET MILLENIALS

1052 River Bistro Blvd - Immaculate vacation home with upgrades such as a newer kitchen with stainless-steel appliances, newer bathrooms, and golf cart. 3/2.5 (H13705) $375,000, $360,000.

FURNISHED 1052 River Bistro Blvd

5225 Second St W - Enjoy for your monthly maintenance fee of $2,800, the beach, the pool, the dock, and the beach house! 2 beds, 2 baths, 1,300 SF. $425,000, $400,000.

PARK SHORE

4940 Duckworth Dr #203 - Immaculate 2 beds, 2 baths, 1,300 SF. Perfect location, view of 18th green. Move-in ready with new appliances, quartz countertops, and more. $395,000, $375,000.

VANDERBILT COUNTRY CLUB

8440 Danbury Blvd #203 - Immaculate 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,315 SF. Granite countertops, stainless steel, high impact glass. Walk to beach. 2+Den/2 (C13405) $370,000, $350,000.

PARK SHORE

4751 Bonita Bay Blvd #1103 - Perfect for your new residence! Access to private pool and guest cabana. Gated, private pool and guest cabana. Gated, $599,000, $575,000.

VANDERBILT COUNTRY CLUB

8440 Danbury Blvd #203 - Immaculate 2 beds, 2 baths, 1,315 SF. Granite countertops, stainless steel, high impact glass. Walk to beach. 2+Den/2 (C13405) $370,000, $350,000.

LAKEWOOD RANCH

4860 Belmar Dr - Immaculate 2 beds, 2 baths, 1,380 SF. Close to everything! $375,000, $350,000.

MOUNTAIN HOUSE

3611 Crystal Oaks Ln - Immaculate 2 beds, 2 baths, 1,380 SF. Close to everything! $375,000, $350,000.

OLYMPIC GAMES

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EDEN PRAIRIE

4941 St James St - Updated 2,517 square foot home with private pool and spa, garage, and golf available. 5+Den/5.5 (H13910)

IMPERIAL GOLF ESTATES

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Construction begins at Moorings Park Grande Lake as Phase 2 sales released

There’s exciting news coming from Moorings Park Grande Lake, Naples’ new Life Plan (CCRC) Community being developed by Moorings Park in partnership with London Bay Homes.

The news includes the start of construction on the three buildings in Phase 1, and the release of sales in Phase 2, which includes Clubhouse Residences.

The three buildings in Phase 1 consist of a total of 47 residences, all of which offer panoramic lake and golf course views. Phase 2 consists of 23 residences, plus an additional 16 luxurious residences located on the upper floors of the Moorings Park Grande Lake Clubhouse is completed.

The membership includes golfing privileges on the Naples Grande Golf Club’s 18-hole championship golf course, and dining options in Naples Grande’s elegant clubhouse.

In addition, residents have access to Naples Grande Beach Resort and its Har-Tru tennis courts, fitness center and spa, resort-style pool and beach, and preferred pricing on hotel rooms and dining.

These announcements, along with additional details regarding Moorings Park Grande Lake, will be discussed at an upcoming special event.

The informational luncheon will be held on Friday, January 25, at 11:30 a.m., at the Moorings Park Grande Lake Sales Gallery. Those wishing to attend need to RSVP by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 23, by calling 239-919-4620.

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

“Moorings Park Grande Lake is going to be a spectacular community 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 55 acres in the heart of Naples, Moorings Park Grande Lake will combine one-of-a-kind vistas of magnificent lakes and championship golf with luxury homes and exceptional healthcare.

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

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

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

Moorings Park Grande Lake will consist of luxurious mid-rise residences, including spacious penthouses. Entrance fees start at $5.5 million and are 70 percent refundable. Assisted Living, Memory Care and Physician Services are included.

The Moorings Park Grande Lake Sales Gallery is open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Information is available online at MooringsParkGL.org.
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Falling Waters $269,000
3Bed, 2.5B and 1,573 SF under air, expansive view with hurricane shutters. Lake & Preserve view!

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Hunting Lakes $225,499
Remodeled 3Bed, 2.5B, 1st floor turned furnished condo. Lake view, storm shutters, newer A/C. A must see!
### Naples Real Estate Listings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Days of Sale</th>
<th>Agent &amp; Phone Number</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old Naples</td>
<td>150 13th Avenue South</td>
<td>$4,375,000</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939</td>
<td>Sunday 1-4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Naples</td>
<td>1301 7th Avenue North</td>
<td>$4,375,000</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Jeff Little 239.494.0820</td>
<td>Sunday 1-4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Naples</td>
<td>1501 Binnicle Way</td>
<td>$2,995,000</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Barbara Westerjd 239.213.9100</td>
<td>Sunday 1-4pm</td>
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### Fort Myers Real Estate Listings

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<th>Address</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<th>Agent &amp; Phone Number</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fort Myers</td>
<td>13930 Bay Woods Drive</td>
<td>$239,000</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Call 239.325.1960 to be included in Florida Weekly’s OPEN HOUSE DIRECTORY</td>
<td>Sunday 1-4pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, visit Florida Weekly’s REAL ESTATE section.
and friends alike.

The open main level has views from the living room, kitchen and dining area. A centrally placed wrought-iron railing surrounds a staircase between kitchen and dining descending to the lower level. The kitchen has an oversized island for food prep and casual dining. With an open floor plan, the lower level has two more bedrooms, full baths plus den/office. Kitchen has an oversized island for food prep and casual dining. Descending to the lower level. The kitchen has an oversized island for food prep and casual dining. Descending to the lower level. The kitchen has an oversized island for food prep and casual dining.

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A centrally placed wrought-iron railing surrounds the living room, kitchen and dining area.
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Liberte, egalite — sororite? While the male characters behind the French Revolution, like Maximilien Robespierre and Jean-Paul Marat, are well-known to history, the women get short shrift. Surely, there has to be a better feminine legacy in the fight for the republic than Marie Antoinette’s famous (and fictional) quip about the starving peasants and cake. In Gulfshore Playhouse’s latest production, Lauren Gunderson’s “The Revolutionists,” audiences can finally hear from four influential French women in this girl-powered, irreverent comedy playing at The Norris Center through Sunday, Feb. 3.

With biting wit and dark humor, Ms. Gunderson challenges Olympe de Gouges, a real female playwright who used her pen to champion the rights of women and slaves, to compose a new work that addresses the historical moment of political extremism. Olympe’s imaginings bring to life deposed queen Marie Antoinette, assassin Charlotte Corday and Marianne Angelle, a composite character of Ms. Gunderson’s creation who represents the female abolitionists of the French Caribbean in a girl-powered, irreverent comedy that emphasized the timeliness — and timelessness — of the fight against misogyny and racism. And for those of you who didn’t read your history books really closely, all three of the real ladies lost their heads.

“It might be hard to imagine that a play set during the French Revolution is a comedy, but it really is,” said Shannon Sullivan, who plays Olympe. “It’s a big, loud comedy, but it also has a real grounded moment because these are real women with real stories and real emotions.”

The audience can see the pressure Olympe feels to produce the perfect play that is profound and “annoyingly prescient,” as Ms. Sullivan puts it, when Marie, Charlotte and Marianne successively and intrusively burst into the writer’s appartement. Each lady represents a new and better idea that also forces Olympe to grapple with the significance of her art.

“Something wants something that is impactful and will make a difference.
What’s in a name?

What is in a name? Recognition perhaps? Cultural identity? Maybe you come from a long line of Pellegrinos whom friends call for Nonna’s Lasagna recipe. Or your last name is O’Malley and you’re the go-to guy for the St. Patrick’s Day bash. Hadid, as in Gigi Hadid or Klum, as in Heidi Klum, are supermodels with whom your teenage son is undoubtedly enamored. Wang, as in Vera Wang might have designed the wedding dress you wore on the day that eventually led to that teenage son. In each of these last names is a history and diversity unique to the United States. The U.S. as in “us.”

Unless your last name is “Runs with Bears” or “Flows like the Wind,” your people came here from somewhere else. What a prideful insight into your own background to realize your ancestors saw potential, both in themselves and in the promise of America.

Every non-Native American resident of this beautiful country can trace his or her presence here, to elsewhere, and to the vision of their forefathers. Forefathers who saw in the United States a glorious experiment of mixing, melding and collaborating. Like a stew, or soup.

Imagine Campbell’s vegetable soup with only the broth. Or only those little letters made out of that noodle stuff. Or no carrots. No carrots! It wouldn’t be Campbell’s Noodle Soup. The flavors mix and mingle and find harmony only because they are in the big bowl together.

National Geographic has always opened windows to the world, showing faces and places most of us will never visit. Velvety photographs and lush articles bring the world to one’s fingertips. The internet and Skype allow us to make friends around the globe. Instead of being scared of other places, it’s valuable to actually go to other places. You will soon realize that everywhere, people have eyes to see and mouths to smile and hands to hold. You will see the power in Maya Angelou’s words, “I noted the obvious differences between each sort and type, but we are more alike, my friends, that we are unalike.”

You know the other thing that makes me baffled? This actually happened to me once when walking around the downtown of a big city with my best friend. Someone shouted, “Go back to Africa!” Excuse me.

Do you know how her forefathers came here? Are you aware of the history that robbed her ancestors and millions of others from the choice that your ancestors took so readily? Trust me; it wasn’t a pleasure cruise.

I was loading groceries in the Publix parking lot up near Florida Gulf Coast University the other night when I saw a truck with a bumper sticker. It read “Immigrants Make America Great.” Indeed, we all make America great. It has always been great. A great big delicious bowl of Campbell’s soup. Lift your spoon and look down to see those floating noodle letters. They spell out we are more alike my friends than we are unalike.

— 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.
THURSDAY, JAN. 17, 9 P.M.
Doc Martin
Season 8, Part 1
After their ups and downs as a couple, Martin and Louisa are finally living together with their son, James Henry, but their problems are far from over. Many of the residents of Portwenn have decisions to make, both personally and professionally. And as some relationships bloom and others falter, can Martin cope with all the changes—or will he risk the fragile accord he’s forged with his family?

FRIDAY, JAN. 18, 9 P.M.
American Masters
Robbie Robertson
Here’s a candid look at a remarkable life with unprecedented access to Hope’s personal archives, including writings voiced by Billy Crystal, as well as new interviews with daughter Linda Hope, Margaret Cho, Kermit the Frog, film critic/historian Leonard Maltin, Conan O’Brien, Tom Selleck, Brooke Shields and more.

SATURDAY, JAN. 19, 9 P.M.
The Beatles: Eight Days a Week – The Touring Years
Academy Award-winner Ron Howard’s documentary feature film is based on the first part of The Beatles’ career (1962-1966), the period in which they toured and captured the world’s acclaim.

SUNDAY, JAN. 20, 10 P.M.
Victoria and Albert: The Wedding Part 2
Witness the most accurate reconstruction of Victoria and Albert’s wedding ever staged, followed by a sumptuous wedding breakfast, a prelude to the first night that began a marriage so iconic, it heralded constitutional monarchy as we know it today.

MONDAY, JAN. 21, 10 P.M.
Independent Lens
Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World
Discover how Native American musicians have transformed American blues, jazz and rock in this musical celebration featuring Robbie Robertson, Taj Mahal, Slash, Jackson Browne, Taboo, Quincy Jones, Tony Bennett, Iggy Pop, Steven Tyler and more.

TUESDAY, JAN. 22, 8 P.M.
Finding Your Roots
Reporting on the Reporters
Host Henry Louis Gates Jr. shows journalists Christiane Amanpour, Ann Curry and Lisa Ling that the stories within their own family trees are every bit as compelling as the news stories they have been covering for the world.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23, 8 P.M.
Nature
Eagles: The Story of the Horse Part 2
Travel around the world with anthropologist Niobe Thompson to uncover the history of mankind’s relationship with the horse. Discover the habits and biology of these majestic animals and ride along with the world’s last nomadic tribes.

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25% OFF Lounge Menu 4-6pm
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making art. 
You’ve probably seen their work in a museum or in the pages of a book or art magazine.

And so they decided to find new ways to provoke and shake everybody up, so we could get into the art market and have them dictate the canon of art history. And their message here is: ’You can’t tell strong-minded women what to do.’ Guerrilla Frida says.

In a tongue-in-check 1988 poster titled “The Advantages of Being a Woman Artist,” they list a number of things, including “Working without the pressure of success,” “Not having to undergo the embarrassment of being a failure,” and “The posters caused a stir in the art world. They made people think and start talking about gender inequality.”

In 1989, they counted the number of women artists and the number of nudes in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and came up with the infamous poster that asked, “Do women have to be naked to get into the Metro, MoMA? And when they saw that the percentage of women artists was less than 10%, they decided if we used the word ourselves, it would infantilize women,” she says. “We continued the word ‘girl.’ The word ‘girl’ is used to belittle and infantilize women,” says Mr. Dellinger. “We were able to give it a public face, to provoke them to think about this situation,” she says. “We’re the hair in the soup. We’re the thorn in the flesh.”

“Change has to come from all sides: in the art world, through the ceiling. But one of their group was a bad speller, so they mistook ‘guerra’ for ‘guarilla,’” says one of the artists. “The gorilla masks were certainly head-turners. And, as Guerrilla Frida has been quoted as saying, ‘Wearing this mask and being certain of freedom to say whatever you want ... If you’re in a situation where you’re a little afraid to speak up, put a mask on. You won’t believe what comes out of your mouth.’”

She agrees when asked about that comment. “With the mask come freedom,” she says. “When you’re free of your identity, you can speak your mind, speak truth to power when there are no strings attached.”

Bananas and Bob Jade Dellinger, director of the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery, recalls seeing the posters when he lived in New York in the late ’80s/early ’90s. And so, he asked the Guerrilla Girls to come up with an exhibit for the gallery.

“Guerrilla Girls: Rattling Cages Since 1985” exhibit

The group would go out in the middle of the night on a Friday and wheat-paste their posters on walls in SoHo and the East Village. “We went out late on a Friday night because Saturdays were a big day for gallery openings. Then they’d hang around the corner stores, the streets,” Guerrilla Frida says. “We claimed the streets as our forum. We claimed the space we could.”

But they didn’t do much except frustrate the patrons trying to go into the museum. “They were using their thinking; there’s a lot of discrimination going on in the art world,” they realized that, “not only did white men have a tremendous privilege in the art world, but they were the universal standard.”

On a Friday night, they went out late on a Friday night because they realized they couldn’t show paintings. This Frida is a founding member of Guerrilla Girls, a group of feminist activist artists who’ve been fighting sexism and racism in the art world since 1985. In its early years, it is all anonymous so they wear gorilla masks while in public, and have taken on the names of famous artists for purposes of identification.

They thought about wearing ski masks, or stockings on their heads. But one of their group was a bad speller, and instead of writing “Guerra,” the Spanish word for war, they misspelled it, Guerrilla Frida recalls. “We weren’t shy about naming names. We went after the collectors. They wrote them that pink letter, with a frown. It said: ‘Dear artist collection, it has come to our attention that your collection, like most, does not contain enough art by women. We know that you realize that many women have one-person exhibitions at NYC museums last year?’”

And underneath, it listed the Guggenheim, the Metropolitan, the Modern and the Whitney. Each museum had a zero next to it, except for MoMA, which had a one. “Everyone was passing the buck, saying it was everyone else’s fault. We went after every subgroup in the art world and put them on the spot,” she says. “It was like being spies, spies on ourselves.” “And it gave us ideas for the next batch (of posters).”

They would go and tell strong-minded women what to do. Guerrilla Frida says.

Joe Rauschenberg, the creator of the Rauschenberg Gallery, donated the space to the gallery. “We’re the hair in the soup. We’re the thorn in the flesh.”

In the art world, it seems like everyone wants the same thing. But we knew it wasn’t.”

“I read the bio and fell in love with her personality, how outspoken she was,” says Guerrilla Frida. “It was an honorific (to call myself by my name),” she says. “But we knew it wasn’t.”

And so they decided to find new ways to provocate and shake everybody up, so we could get into the art market and have them dictate the canon of art history. And their message here is: ’You can’t tell strong-minded women what to do.’ Guerrilla Frida says.

Mr. Dellinger notes that his first exhibit as director of the gallery featured the work of Yoko Ono. He says he’s “not aware of the range” of artists exhibited there at the time.

But it didn’t do much except frustrate the patrons trying to go into the museum. “They allow their work to be shown in 85% of the nudes are female,” Guerrilla Frida says. “You can’t tell strong-minded women what to do.” Guerrilla Frida says.

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In January and February last year Mr. Phillips started his piece detailing a quest that countless millions have followed in the 134 years since his adventure came before GPS, radio and Coast Guard helicopters. They had to navigate on their own and had no way to communicate from the schooner. If the Wallowy wallowed and had no way to communicate from radio and Coast Guard helicopters.

In 1884, its Indian mounds were likely protected under the 1901 Antiquities Act, which banned the desecration of Native American sites. Mr. Phillips apparently sensed what would happen in the next century when more people discovered Southwest Florida.

“Punta Rassa or Sanybel Island would make the most delightful of winter ‘resorts,’” he wrote of the place we now know as Sanibel. Although the fish were abundant and formed part of the crew’s diet they supplemented that with game. “On the Caloosahatchee we killed a fine buck,” Mr. Phillips said. “It was good while it lasted, but in this warm climate, where meat spoils rapidly, a fair supply of canned meat is a necessity.”

What Mr. Phillips and others on the Wallowy experienced on their cruise may sound familiar 134 years later. “We all came home bronzed with the sun,” Mr. Phillips wrote in the article’s conclusion, “hands punctured with mosquito bites, but with our memories filled with the many enchanting hours spent on this delicious coast.”

BY GLENN MILLER
Florida Weekly Correspondent

The crew of a yacht named the Wallowy experienced Southwest Florida in a way nobody alive today can. It sailed our waters in 1884, from Charlotte Harbor south to Cape Sable. The crew’s experiences were recounted in Harper’s New Monthly Magazine in an unsigned travel piece in its January 1885 issue.

Florida was then a remote outpost, not more than 300 people resided between its Indian mounds were likely protected under the 1901 Antiquities Act, which banned the desecration of Native American sites. Mr. Phillips apparently sensed what would happen in the next century when more people discovered Southwest Florida.

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ON THE WATER

Yacht crew sailing local waters in 1884 found ‘lonely coast’

BY GLENN MILLER
Florida Weekly Correspondent

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THURSDAY 1.17

**THEATER**

The Revolutionists – By Gulfshore Playhouse through Feb. 3 at The Norris Center, 755 Eighth Ave. S. 263-7990 or www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org.

Don’t Dress for Dinner – By The Naples Players through Feb. 10 at Sugden Community Theater, 253-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.

Come Blow Your Horn – By Marco Players through Jan. 20 at The Marco Players Theater, 1009 N. Collier Blvd. 642-7270 or www.themarcoplayers.com.

August Wilson’s Fences – By Florida Repertory Theatre through Jan. 30 in the Historic Arcade Theatre, 2268 Bay St., Fort Myers, 332-4488 or www.floridarep.org.

**TENDERLY:** The Rosemary Clooney Musical – By Florida Repertory Theatre through Feb. 24, 2308 Bay St., Fort Myers, 332-4488 or www.floridarep.org.


Worth the trip: Hot tickets across the state

**GUTHRIE**

January 17:

>> **60s R&B** – Jan. 17, 60s at The Plaza, 2017 1st St. S. $25, 941-7633.

>> **Yoga instructor Om on the River** – Jan. 17, 11 a.m. “Yoga for swallowers” at Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, 1600 Goodland Rd., Naples, 642-0355.

>> **DANCE: Improv Show** – Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. A Night of Improv presented by Stage 2 Improv, 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.

>> **THE ELDERS** – CorkscREW Swamp Sanctuary hosts a boardwalk tour of its wetlands for old-growth cypress from 9 a.m. to noon. $10-$25. 348-9151 or www.corkscrewaudubon.org.

>> **BIG BOATS** – Naples Boat Show features displays by marinas, dealers and more from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today through Sunday, Jan. 20, at Naples Municipal Airport, $80, kids under 12 free. 682-0900 or www.nmacc.org.

>> **ON TOUR** – FGCU’s Renaissance Academy hosts a lecture of the 18th and 19th century tradition of sending young men on a tour of Europe from 10-11:30 a.m. at Bentley Village, 850 Retreat Drive. 434-4737 or www.fgcu.edu.

>> **SPACEY** – Headquarters Library hosts a presentation on the James Webb Space Telescope set to launch in 2121 a.m. Free. 2835 Orange Blossom Drive, 593-0334 or www.collierlibrary.org.

**Friday 1.18**

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 and Saturday to help visitors of all ages enjoy the outdoor and indoor trains.

For the Birds – Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center hosts the Festival of Birds with three days of field trips, presentations Friday through Sunday, Jan. 18-20, $45, 300 Tower Road, 520-5940 or www.rookerybay.org.

Doll Show – The Naples Doll Show returns with vintage dolls, teddy bears and more from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at New Hope Event Center. $8-$9. 775 Davis Blvd. 446-972-1213.

Brews in the Garden – Naples Beach Brewery introduces its Palm Cotto Pilsner from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Palm Cottage’s Norris Gardens, $15 for members, $25 for others. 137 12th Ave. S. 261-8841 or www.napleshistoricalsociety.org.

Opera Concert – Gulfshore Opera hosts a concert with nationally recognized vocalists at 7 p.m. at Naples Church. $25-$45, 6000 Goodlette-Frank Rd. 529-3952 or www.gulfshoreopera.com.

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

Celebration in the Sky – Seminole Immokalee Casino hosts the area’s largest fireworks show at 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19. Free. (888) 218-0070 or www.moreniparadise.com.

Wild Art – Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park hosts its 21st annual Wildlife & Wildflnds Art Show, where all the featured works highlight “Old Florida,” from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free with park entry fee. 597-6296 or www.delnorwiggins.org.

Swamp Walk – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a 1.5-mile swamp walk for beginners, which includes stretches of boardwalk and submerged terrain, from 9:30-12:30 p.m. $60-$85. 348-9151 or www.corkscrewaudubon.org.

Saturday 1.19

To Market, To Market – Stock up on fresh produce and locally made goodies at the Third Street South farmer’s market from 7-10 a.m. Free, 243-6333 or www.thirdstreetsouth.com.

Art Tours – Naples Art District, located in the industrial park behind Airport-Pulling and Pine Ridge Roads, hosts studio and gallery tours from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. where artists will showcase their latest works and perform demonstrations at studios displaying the organization’s magenta and white flags, 289-5070 or www.naplesartdistrict.com.

The Rocket Man Show, headed by a fantastically flamboyant Rus Anderson as a young Elton John, tears up the stage at Center for the Performing Arts Bonita Springs at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18. www.artcenterbonita.org.
**WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO**

**Pets on Parade** — Third Street South hosts its annual Pets on Third with vendors and costumed pet parade from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. www.thirdstreetssouth.com.

**New Works** — The Naples Players presents “An Evening of New Plays” (“The Honeylocust Tree” by Marc Simon; “The Name Game” by Cerin Holes; “Intermission” by Ed Belling; “Stopping By” by Carole Fenstermacher”) at 7 p.m. at Sugden Community Theater. $10. 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.

**Free Concert** — Naples Concert Band performs at 2 p.m. at Cambier Park. 513-582-4031 or www.naplesgov.com.

**MONDAY 1.21**

**Yoga on the Beach** — Friends of Lovers Key hosts a morning yoga session at 9:30 a.m. each Monday through May at the state park’s gazebo. $10 plus park entry fee. 774-563-8874 or www.foloverskey.org.

**Author Talk** — Friends of the Library of Collier County host a breakfast buffet and lecture by T.J. English, author of “The Corporation,” at 9 a.m. at Moorings Country Club. This talk is part of the group’s annual non-fiction author lecture series. $55 for members, $65 for others. 2500 Crayton Road. 262-8135 or www.collierfriends.org.

**TUESDAY 1.22**

**Early Birds** — Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a birding walk from 8-11 a.m. 10-255. 348-9551 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.

**Nature Talk** — Naples Library hosts a presentation titled “From Stone Age to Space Age” at 10 a.m. Free. 1690 Tamiami Trail N. 261-4290 or www.napleslibrary.org.

**History Talk** — FGCU’s Renaissance Academy hosts a talk about how the U.S. Navy allied with the Mob during World War II from 2:30-4 p.m. at The Arlington. $20 for members, $25 for others. 7900 Arlington Cir. 434-4737 or www.fgcu.edu.

**Chamber Concert** — Maxwell Quartet, hailed as one of Britain’s finest string ensembles, performs at 7:30 p.m. at Wang Opera Center. $20-$39. 2408 Linwood Ave. 434-9151 or www.corkscrew.naples.gov.

**WEDNESDAY 1.23**

**Fashion Secret** — Fashion boutique The Secret Ingredient hosts a champagne reception and fashion show at 10 a.m. in Ave Maria University’s O’Bryan Performance Hall. $50. 280-1565.

**Luxe Life** — The Italian Cultural Society hosts a luncheon and presentations about Italian luxury goods, with speaker Patti Capalli speaking about fashion houses like Armani, Valentino and others at 11:30 a.m. at Audubon Country Club. Naples Ferrari Club will also display member vehicles. $45. 625 Audubon Blvd. 434-3323 or www.italianculturalsociety.com.

**Book Signing** — Melinda Ponder, author of “Katherine Lee Bates: From Sea to Shining Sea,” signs books from 2-3 p.m. at Marco Island Library. 210 S. Heathwood Dr. 394-3272 or www.collierlibrary.org.

**Artist Reception** — Gardner Colby Galleries hosts a reception with a painting Anna Kincade, whose exhibition “Vive la Femmes” will be on display, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Reservations required. 365 Broad Ave. S. 403-7787 or www.gardnercolbygallery.com.

**Bacon Jam** — Run Jan. 19 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. in Centennial Park. The event features a variety of creative bacon-based dishes from local restaurants and food trucks plus live music from local bands all day.

**#ONE DAY MORE**


**Almost 150 artists** will display and sell their work at the 22nd annual Art Fest Naples, a juried show that will feature a wide variety of mediums, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 19-20, at Fleischmann Park. Pictured here is “CR Blue” by photographer Steve Wewerca.
SUNDAY BRUNCH
11:00-12:30pm • Sundays on the Boat

Menu Features:
SCRAMBLED EGGS
BACON • SAUSAGE
BREAKFAST POTATOES
CARVING STATION OF HAM
KALE SALAD • ASSORTED PASTRIES AND MUFFINS
COFFEE, TEA, AND JUICE
ALSO INCLUDED AS YOU CRUISE AND TOUR

Beautiful Naples Bay.

Come join us!
$44.00 per adult
(price does not include port charge, cruise and tour)

The Best Events Are on the Water
NaplesPrincessCruises.com
239.649.2725 | 550 Port-O-Call Way | Naples, FL 34102

WHAT TO DO

COMING UP

WWII Lecture - As part of the seventh annual Elliot Kahn Lecture Series, The Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida host a lecture titled “The Heroines, The Numa and The Kaiser. Now It Begins.” When Will it End?” from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Jan. 24, at Hodges University. $20 per person, $80 for the entire series. 2647 Professional Cir, 263-9200 or www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org.

Cottage Tour - The English-Speaking Union hosts a tour of Palm Cottages with a cocktail from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, at 17th Ave. S. 330-233 or klanmen@comcast.net.

Opera Night - Gulfshore Opera hosts a dinner with performances of popular melodies and opera scenes at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, at The Colony Golf & Country Club. 410. 480 Pelican Colony Blvd. 529-9025 or www.gulfshoreopera.com.

Tile Time - Naples Italian American Foundation hosts a mah jong tourna-
ment Friday through Sunday, Jan. 25-27, at the organization’s headquarters, 7085 Airport Road N. 597-5210 or www.niafoundation.org.

Jazz Concert - Mudbone performs at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, at Wang Opera Center. $40-$50. 2408 Linwood Ave. 775-2800 or www.capacenter.org.

For the Birds - CREW Trust hosts a birding walk with master naturalist Ber-
nie Master from 8-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at the organization’s rookery swamp trails. 815-825. 1299 Shady Hollow Blvd. 657-2253 or www.crewtrust.org.

Chalk It Up - Pelican Bay Rotary hosts Chalk Art 2019, where local chalk artists display their work on Fifth Avenue South’s pavement from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at www.fifthavenuesouth.com.

Fill ‘er Up - Empty Bowls Naples invites the public to purchase a hand-
made ceramic bowl and fill it up with soup from dozens of local restaurants to benefit local organizations fighting hunger from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at Cambier Park. $30 in advance for early admission, $20 the day of the event, www.emptybowlsnaples.com.

Doc Screening - Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center hosts a screening of the award-winning National Geo-
graphic documentary “Science Fair” at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26. 5300 Tower Road. 530-9490 or www.rookerybay.org.

Cabaret Night - Gulfshore Opera’s Artist in Residence performs hits from the ‘40s, ‘50s and ‘60s with jazz accom-
pagniment at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at Naples Art Association. 585 Park St. 529-
9025 or www.gulfshoreopera.com.

Jazz Night - The Dan Heck & Rebec-
ca Richardson Quartet perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at Center for the Performing Arts Bonita Springs. 229. 10150 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

Double Dose - Hot ‘Tuna performs at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, at Southwest Florida Event Center. $40-$55. 11515 Bonita Beach Road. 245-9910 or www.
wefestivalcenter.com.

Who Am I - The Broadway produc-
tion of “Les Miserables” visits Artis-
 Naples Jan. 26-Feb. 3. 597-1900 or www.
artisnaples.org.


COMING UP

Will It End?” from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Jan. 24, at Hodges University. $20 per person, $80 for the entire series. 2647 Professional Cir, 263-9200 or www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org.

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artisnaples.org.

WHERE TO GO

Early Birds – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a birding walk from 8-11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5, 10 – 25, 348-9150 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.


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. Wednesday, Feb. 6, where artists will showcase their latest work and perform demonstrations at studios displaying the organization’s magenta and white flags. 289-5070 or www.naplesartsdistrict.com.

The Elders – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a boardwalk tour of its stand of old-growth bald cypress from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, Feb. 7. 813-655-4901 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.

WWII Lecture – As part of the seventh annual Elliot Katz Lecture Series, The Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida hosts a lecture titled “Armenia: Germany Perfects the Art of Extermination and the World Looks On and Does Nothing” from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Feb. 7, at Hodges University, 501 Pond Circle Ct. 880 per person. 856 for the entire series. 2647 Professional Cir. 263-9200 or www.holocaustmuseumswfl.org.

Beach Concert – Friends of Lovers Key hosts a beach barbecue and sunset performance by local singer/songwriter Kalee Casino. $67.50. 800-218-0007 or www.kaleecasino.com.


Great Day To Be Alive – Country star Travis Tritt performs at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, at Seminole Immokalee Casino. $67.50. 800-218-0007 or www.morenparadise.com.


Improv Night – Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs hosts a performance by the organization’s improv troupe at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, at The Norris Center. $10-$20. 250 S. Beach Dr. 529-3925 or www.italianculturalistsociety.com.

Corky’s 50th Birthday Bash – Bohemian-inspired birthday bash at Corky’s celebrity home at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, Free. 10150 Bonita Beach Rd. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

Art Show – Members of Naples Artcrafters host an arts and crafts show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at Cambier Park. www.naplesartcrafters.com.

Swamp Walk – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a 1.5-mile swamp walk for beginners, which includes stretches of boardwalk and submerged terrain, from 9:30-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, 813-655-4901 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.

Naples Party – The Norris Center hosts Neapolapalooza, where guests can enjoy local bands, art and cuisine at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at Hideaway Beach Club. $50. 348-9150 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.

Taste of Opera – Gulfshore Playhouse hosts dinner and performances of popular melodies and opera scenes at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at Hideaway Beach Club. $50. 348-9150 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.

Down Home – American roots band Chatham Country Line performs at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at Center for Performing Arts Bonita Springs. $35-$55. 10150 Bonita Beach Rd. 250-4989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

Musical Interlude – Guitarist Glenn Roth perform from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, at Marco Island Center for the Arts. $25 for members, $30 for others, 1010 Winterberry Drive. 394-4221 or www.marcoislandart.org.

Author Talk – Friends of the Library of Collier County host a breakfast buffet and lecture by Jade Wu, author of “Flash Points,” at 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 11, at Meeting House Country Club. This talk is part of the group’s annual non-fiction author lecture series. $55 for members, $65 for others. 2500 Cransty Road. 262-8135 or www.collier-friends.org.


Early Birds – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a birding walk from 8-11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, 813-655-4901 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.


Give My Regards – Cast members from Theatre Naples’ “Elvis Johnson and Tim Rice’s ‘Aida’” perform their favorite show tunes and share stories in a cabaret show with a pre-show reception from 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13. Check website for prices. 1325 Livington Road. 800-966-3352 or www.theadventurezone.com.

Songs of Love – Gulfshore Opera’s Artists in Residence perform popular love songs at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, at Arts—Naples’ Daniels Pavilion. 977-1900 or www.artsnaples.org.


Dynamic Duo – Saxophonist Eirinn Abu and guitarist Manny Lopez team up to perform theme songs to the best cinematic love stories at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, at Center for Performing Arts Bonita Springs. $35. 10150 Bonita Beach Rd. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

Jazz Concert – The Dan Miller-Lew Del Gatto Quintet performs the work of Irving Berlin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, at Wang Opera Center. $10-$20. 2408 Linwood Ave. 275-2800 or www.capacenter.org.

Swamp Walk – Swamp Walk Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts an advanced 1.5-mile swamp walk, where guests will walk for up to 4.5 hours in rough or submerged terrain, from 9:30-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16. $125-$150, 348-9150 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.

Art Tours – Naples Art District, located in the industrial park behind Airport-Pulling and Pine Ridge Roads, hosts studio and gallery tours from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, 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.com.

— Email calendar listings and high-resolution photos to Lindsey Nesmith at lnesmith@floridaweekly.com. Please send Word or text documents and jpegs with time, date, location, cost and contact information. No pdfs or photos of fliers. Deadline for calendar submissions is noon Monday. No phone calls, please.
Florida Rep knocks it out of the park with August Wilson’s ‘Fences’

What is it with fathers and sons? Fathers may love their sons, but some don’t seem to know how to show it. They set highly unrealistic expectations, then demand from them not reaching them. As the sons become young men, the fathers grow more competitive, as they feel envious, seeing their own youth and strength slipping away.

Troy Maxson in “Fences” is a prime example of that. He’s complicated, not an easy character to like. He is a bitter man. He has good reason for his emotions. Life has treated him unfairly. Society has treated him cruelly. He was denied the pursuit of his dreams because of the color of his skin.

And his own father — a poor excuse of a man — threw him out when he was only 14. Troy doesn’t seem to know how to be a good father either. He wasn’t there for his elder son, Lyons, and micromanages his younger son, teenage Cory.

He runs his household with an almost terrifying strictness, as they feel envious, seeing their men, the fathers grow more competitive, as they feel envious, seeing their sons growing up. Bono works as Troy’s easy-going best friend, Bono. They joke and banter and drink together, hauling garbage everyday. Bono works as Troy’s conscience, while Gabriel, Troy’s son (Brian D. Coats) plays the role of prophet. Injured in WW II, he has a metal plate in his head and is seemingly simple, or slow, but the playwright has him speak wisdom, even if it may seem foolish.

Troy’s wife, Rose (Gayle Samuels) may initially seem overlooked in this cast full of men and jostling testosterone; she cooks and cleans and keeps house. The men seem to do most of the talking. But don’t underestimate the character or the actress portraying her. She is the true strength and pillar of this play, and when Ms. Samuels finally has her say in Act II, there is no denying her.

The themes of fences, or enclosures, runs through this play. In an early scene, Rose sings a hymn while hanging laundry out, beseeching, “Jesus, build a fence all around me everyday.” Troy is building a fence for his backyard, but is having his son Cory do the work. A couple of characters have been in jail. Men feel trapped by their lives, fenced in by their responsibilities, their wives, their limitations in the world.

“Some people build fences to keep people out, others build fences to keep people in,” Bono philosophizes. This is a complex and multi-layered play, rich with dialogue and insight, and this cast, deftly directed by Bennie Sato Ambush, is more than equal to the challenge, inhabiting these characters with ease.

Richard Crowell’s set is a life-sized brick house with an alley on either side. Trash overflows the garbage cans, telephone poles are covered with flyers. He even brings the telephone wires off the stage and out into the theater. Danielle Preston’s costumes are of the era. She gives musician Lyons a straw porkpie hat and two-tone shoes and Cory a cuffed-up dungarees and red Converse.

The director’s choice of incidental music (played between scenes) is apt, including various blues songs that set the mood.

This is theater that is as large as life, as varied in its emotions. It contains multiple stories within it, including almost biblical tales of battles with the devil and death.

In many ways, Florida Rep has raised the bar for itself with this production of “Fences.” Its staging feels momentous and I hope it marks a new era of greater diversity and inclusivity for the theater. Whatever you do, don’t miss “Fences.” This is one they’ll be talking about for a long time.

More shows:

- The Ultimate Pink Floyd Tribute Band!
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E  C  A  R  K  R  E  E  C  H  K  E  R
S  C  H  T  G  H  S  C  L  E  C  H  E
C  N  R  N  T  N  E  C  T  N  N  T
R  O  K  L  E  K  A  R  L  I  F  O
L  I  D  A  L  H  M  H  D  I  L  I
E  L  T  L  I  L  T  E  E  L  T  L
Q  E  T  E  E  T  E  W  E  T  E
G  S  S  N  E  S  S  N  N  E  S
I  L  D  I  M  I  D  R  I  D  I
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S  R  N  M  M  N  N  M  R  S
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**Famous hand**

**BY STEVE BECKER**

In this deal from the 1997 world team championship final between France and the United States, judgment rather than superior card play or systemic bidding differences played the key role in a substantial gain for the French.

The bidding shown occurred when Bobby Wolff and Bob Hamman, for two decades one of the world’s foremost pairs, were North-South for the U.S., with Michel Perron and Paul Chemla East-West for France. Hamman’s opening club bid was strong and artificial, and by the time it was his next turn, the opponents were in five clubs. Hamman elected to make a forcing pass, whereupon Wolff rebid his diamonds.

Hamman now showed his true colors by bidding five hearts, and Wolff was at the crossroads. He knew that a cuebid of six clubs, showing first-round control of clubs and implying interest in a grand slam, was the correct bid, but he feared that if only a small slam could be made, his cuebid might provoke the opponents into taking a profitable sacrifice at seven clubs. So he settled for a raise to six hearts, figuring that plus 1,430 or 1,460 was better than setting seven clubs doubled four or five tricks.

Wolff was correct in this regard, since seven clubs doubled would probably have gone down five for 1,100 points. But the tactic did not allow for the possibility that the French pair at the other table might bid and make seven hearts for a score of 2,280.
CLUB NOTES

■ Quail Creek County Club will host an “80 and Greater” golf tournament on Monday, Jan. 21. The event is open to men and women in two age groups, 80 and great and 90 and amazing. There will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start followed by an awards party. Call the QC CC golf pro shop at 597-2900 to register. $80 per person.

■ “La Table Franc̣aise” (French Speaking Table) is for all individuals who are interested in chatting in French (all levels of French). It will be led by President Denyse Jenkins at noon on Thursday, Jan. 31, at La Colmar, 80 Tamiami Trail North, Naples. Each attendee needs to make his/her own reservation for the table of Alliance Française de Naples by calling 565-4504, and asking for Tom Clamton. The cost is for the meal only; there is no charge for the two-hour French conversation.

■ The Naples Area Alumnae Club of Pi Beta Phi invites all Pi Phi alumnae in Naples, Marco Island, Bonita Springs and Estero to an “Angels on the Town” Mixer from 4-6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 24, at Warehouse Cuisine & Cocktails, 9050 Bellaire Bay Drive (just north and east of the Immokalee Road and Collier Boulevard intersection). In addition, Pi Phi and Kappa alumnae are also invited to attend the annual Monmouth Duo Pi Phi-Kappa Luncheon (hosted by the Pi Phis this year), 11:30-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Country Club of Naples, 185 Burning Tree Drive, Naples. Pi Phi Peggy Cifrinó, Colin Powell’s assistant from Washington, D.C., is the speaker. Cost is $35; advance payment is required, seating is limited. For more information on either event, contact Connie Kindsnyder, conskind@aol.com, 249-4969.

■ The Tocys in Naples Foundation is hosting a casino night on Jan. 26 at Longshore Lakes Clubhouse. There will be a special menu designed by Chef Kevin, and following dinner there will be games open for fun, pleasure and prizes. Funds raised go to Buckeyes-4SWFL scholarships. To register, visit www.BuckeyesinNaplesFoundation.org.

■ The Naples Walking Club is an organization that is over 25 years old. It meets four times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday the group meets at 7 a.m. in the Tin City parking lot at the corner of Sixth Avenue S. and 11th St. (near the General Store) for a 4-mile walk to the City Dock, the pier and the Beach, followed by a breakfast together. On Saturday the group meets at 7 a.m. at the Greenway (park entrance) for a 3.1-mile walk at members’ own speed; some members are fast race walkers but others are more leisurely. After the walk, members meet for breakfast at Panera Bread, at Golden Gate Parkway and 41. For more information, visit www.napleswalkingclub.org.
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Art Fest Naples returns to Fleischmann Park
Event supports St. Vincent de Paul Naples Meals on Wheels

Art Fest Naples returns to Fleischmann Park on Jan. 19 and 20. Celebrating 22 years, Art Fest Naples is a juried show that offers Southwest Florida residents and visitors an opportunity to browse and purchase fine art that includes paintings in oil and acrylic, watercolors, drawings in graphite and pastels, art photography, blown glass, turned wood pieces, sculptures, metal works, ceramics and pottery, fiber art, hand-crafted fine art jewelry and a variety of 2D and 3D mixed media pieces.

"Art Fest Naples draws 140 of the best fine art and fine craft artists from around the country and is a must do for residents and visitors of Southwest Florida," said Taire Malloy, show director. "Art Fest Naples has been rated as one of the top shows in Florida and a Naples favorite since 1998."

Art Fest Naples returns to Fleischmann Park
Event supports St. Vincent de Paul Naples Meals on Wheels
Art Fest Naples is unique in Florida and the country because the proceeds benefit a nonprofit organization, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Naples’ Meals on Wheels Program. The program serves the homebound by providing up to 250 people meals five days per week and two frozen meals for the weekend. Volunteers deliver nutritious meals and provide daily contact for the recipients. St. Vincent de Paul’s other programs include the Family Assistance Center and Choice Food Pantry. “We are grateful to be a beneficiary of Art Fest and we greatly appreciate the community’s support,” said Diane Van Parys, Art Fest volunteer coordinator and St. Vincent de Paul Naples volunteer. “The funds raised will help the Meals on Wheels program serve Collier County’s homebound residents.”

For more information about the cause, visit www.svdpnaples.org. To volunteer for the festival, email artfest2019@gmail.com. Fleischmann Park is located at 1600 Fleischmann Blvd. in Naples. For more information about the 2019 Art Fest Naples contact Taire Malloy at 634-2347, email artfestnaples@gmail.com or visit www.artfestnaples.com. ■

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Gulfshore Opera celebrates anniversary with new production

The first concert of the company’s 2019 touring opera festival is celebrating a milestone for Gulfshore Opera — the audience will be introduced to the outstanding Professional Artists in Residence from Jan. 18 through April 4 for a five-year anniversary celebration. Gulfshore Opera will revisit past productions including “Brigadoon,” “The Mikado,” “Elixir of Love,” “Madama Butterfly” and “Rigoletto,” plus teasers from upcoming productions of “Don Pasquale” and “La Traviata.” Surtitles will be projected.

Serving Collier, Lee and Charlotte Counties, Gulfshore Opera presents quality opera theater and classical vocal music performances while maximizing accessibility for diverse audiences of all ages. Gulfshore Opera was founded with core values of a community-based creative collaboration. The company also promotes community well-being through musical education programs. Its mission is to make opera accessible to the general public by maintaining affordable ticket prices, and a wide range of performance experiences suitable for diverse audiences.

For the anniversary production, the audience will be introduced to a quartet of Professional Artists in Residence. Returning Soprano Camille Ortiz is back from her summer European concert tour. She appeared as Gilda in “Rigoletto” and Christine in “The Phantom Gala” with Gulfshore Opera last season. Making his Florida debut, tenor Peter Lake recently performed the title role in “Faust” at the Natchez Festival of Music. New to the region, baritone Paul La Rosa has performed in many of America’s top opera companies, including Lyric Opera of Chicago, Los Angeles Opera, Houston Grand Opera, and San Diego Opera. Mezzo soprano Lauryn Kay recently graduated from the University of Florida with a master’s in vocal performance.

Meet the artists reception following the concert at North Naples Church in sanctuary portico.

To purchase tickets for the Fifth Anniversary Celebration, visit www.GulfshoreOpera.org or call 529-3925.

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LONESTAR
MARCH 17

DON KAY’S GOLDEN BOYS
FRANKIE AVALON, FABIAN, BOBBY RYDELL
MARCH 23

KC & THE SUNSHINE BAND
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and along the way these characters enter,” Ms. Sullivan said. “I think the power of the play is that it shows the entwined lives of women and is about the deep injustice of racism, misogyny, the patriarchy, and all the while trying to negotiate and debate how important the arts is in our society.”

Pretty heavy stuff for a comedy, and director Kristin Coury emphasizes that the medicine comes with heavy doses of humor. The language is contemporary, the costumes are colorful and fun, and Marie Antoinette enters the stage like an actual rock star. There’s lots for the audience to enjoy alongside the discussion about women’s erasure from history.

“It reads kind of like an episode of ‘Sex in the City,’” Ms. Coury said. “It has a hilarious sensibility that punches you in the gut.”

By framing Marie Antoinette through the lens of a paparazzi-stalked celebrity, Ms. Gunderson turns the popular notion that the queen was a frivolous, out-of-touch tart on its head. She’s still willfully ignorant of her people’s plight, but in a fun way.

“Marie represents the obliviousness of people who have been pampered and treated so well they don’t know what it’s like to be in the real world, and she is hilarious,” Ms. Coury said. “She’s the most screwball in nature and there are a lot of laughs thanks to her and at her expense.”

To help drive home the point that “The Revolutionists” is not a stuffy period piece, costume designer Robin McGee updated the iconic frippery of 18th century France with modern elements and wild colors. While she was developing each character’s look, Ms. McGee considered who these women might be in the 21st century.

“Marie Antoinette is Marie Antoinette, but we did look at people like Paris Hilton and modern-day equivalents of who those people would be,” she said. “The costumes are a blending of the period sensibility with modern takes on the characters. It’s a hybrid of a period.”

For instance, there are corsets mixed with shorter skirts and 1950s crinolines to create a raucous and fantastical period look that mirrors Olympe’s imagination.

“It’s looked at a little bit through her theatrical and dramatic eye,” Ms. McGee said. “It’s almost a dream taken from the perspective of Olympe de Gouge.”

With so much going on in one play, Gunderson created a work that everyone will enjoy, according to Ms. Coury.

“This is a great opportunity for four strong women to take the stage in a play and talk about important issues without having any residue of being a chick flick,” she said. “There are layers upon layers of interesting stuff and there’s a huge onion to peel back, which adds to the zaniness and complexity of this play. It will make us laugh, make us think and entertain us, what more could you ask for?”

“The Revolutionists” runs through Feb. 3 at The Norris Center, located at 755 Eighth Ave. S. For more information about the play, Gulfshore Playhouse’s 2018-2019 season or to purchase tickets, call 866-861-4411 or visit www.gulfshoreplayhouse.com.
CALL CENTER CLIPS

**Naples Alumnae of Wellesley College**
will meet at noon on Friday, Jan. 25, for a cooking class and a gourmet luncheon at The Purple Spoon in Bonita Springs. For more information, contact Carol Goode at alumniewellesley.edu or go to the club website, www.naples.alum.wellesley.edu.

**Sons of the American Revolution Naples Chapter**
meets at 11:30 a.m. the second Thursday of the month through May at Tiburon Golf Club. Guests and prospective members are welcome. The next meeting is Feb. 14. For more information, call Tom Woodruff at 732-0602 or visit www.NaplesSAR.com.

**Solo Singles of Collier County** was organized more than 25 years ago to create and promote recreation, culture, charitable, and social activities for single, divorced or widowed men and women. Members meet at a different restaurant at 5 p.m. every Friday for happy hour followed by dinner. The January meeting places are: Jan. 18, Pewter Mug, 14700 Tamiami Trail N.; and Jan. 25, Watermark Grille at 12800 Tamiami Trail N. For membership information, call Carey Hughes at 262-0278 or email careyjih@aol.com.

**The Naples Beta Theta Pi Alumnae Association** hosts its seasonal luncheon on Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 21 and April 18. For reservations or more information, call Dave Nordhoff at 594-8420 or email davidcnordhoff@gmail.com.

**The Southwest Florida Chapter of the Alpha Delta Pi Alumnae Association** invites all ADPi alumnae who live in or visit Naples, Marco Island or Bonita Springs to attend the association’s monthly meetings. For information about meetings dates, times and locations, send an email with your name and telephone number to swfladpi@gmail.com.

**The Greater Naples Unit of the New York State United Teachers**, retired, meets the second Wednesday of each month through April at 11 a.m. at Longshore Lake Clubhouse on Valewood Drive in Naples. Lunch follows each meeting. The next meetings are Feb. 13 and March 13. All teachers are welcome. For further information, contact Paul Murphy at 233-7738 or Robert Lemick at 54-7234.

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**The Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae Chapter of Naples, Marco Island & Bonita Springs** holds its Founders Luncheon at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at The Club at Mediterria, 15755 Corso Mediterran Circle. RSVP by mailing a $40 check made payable to Kappa Alpha Theta to: Megan Marquardt, 8445 Sunner Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33908, or pay via PayPal to www.Naples.AlphaTheta.org. For more information, call Cindy Slavin at 762-249-6759 or csuvinc@comcast.net.

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**Naples Ship Modelers** meets at 9:30 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of every month at the Landmark Naples community in North Naples. All are invited to enjoy lunch together afterward at a location TBA. The next meetings are Jan. 19 and Feb. 2. For more information, call Dick Ritchie at 794-0868 or email dcritchie@comcast.net.

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**Tamiami Trail N.; and Jan. 25, Watermark**
create and promote recreation, culture, charitable, and social activities for single, divorced or widowed men and women. Members meet at a different restaurant at 5 p.m. every Friday for happy hour followed by dinner. The January meeting places are: Jan. 18, Pewter Mug, 14700 Tamiami Trail N.; and Jan. 25, Watermark Grille at 12800 Tamiami Trail N. For membership information, call Carey Hughes at 262-0278 or email careyjih@aol.com.

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**Through the winter season, the German-American Club Naples** holds a dinner dance on the third Friday of every month. The next two meetings are Jan. 18 and Feb. 15. Guests are welcome. For more information or to make a reservation, call 352-0041.

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BY DAN HUDAK

If Beale Street Could Talk ★★★★★
(KiKi Layne, Stephan James, Regina King) The loving courtship of Tish (Layne) and Fonny (James) is juxtaposed with scenes of prison visits after he’s (allegedly) falsely accused of rape. We see them fall in love and desperately try to hold onto that love, especially as Tish is pregnant. It’s a beautifully made film from director Barry Jenkins (“Moonlight”), as the music, narrative structure and performances (especially Regina King as Tish’s mother) are all outstanding. Rated R.

Mary, Queen Of Scots ★★★
(Saoirse Ronan, Margot Robbie, Guy Pearce) The story of Mary Stuart (Ronan), Queen of Scotland, as she had a “frenemy” relationship with her cousin, Britain’s Queen Elizabeth I (Robbie). Robbie has the higher-profile role, but it’s Ronan who shines as the beleaguered Mary. It’s not a great movie, but the performances are good enough for its leads to be in the awards conversation. Rated R.

Aquaman ★★★
(Jason Momoa, Amber Heard, Patrick Wilson) With a war between humans and the underwater kingdom of Atlantis imminent, half-man/half Atlantean prince Arthur Curry (Momoa) must unite the two worlds as Aquaman. It’s too long and there are too many storylines, but the sheer scale and ambition of director James Wan’s (“ Furious 7”) film is to be admired. Rated PG-13.

Mary Poppins Returns ★★★
(Emily Blunt, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Colin Firth) In this sequel to “Mary Poppins” (1964), Blunt assumes the title role as Mary once again helps the Banks family in a time of need. The story is weak, but the song and dance numbers are superb. It’s good enough to make the creators of the original proud. Rated PG.

Spider-Man: Into The Spiderverse ★★★★★
(Voices of Shameik Moore, Chris Pine, Liev Schreiber) Teenager Miles Morales (Moore), newly equipped with Spider-Man powers, must destroy a portal to other dimensions opened by Kingpin (Schreiber) and other villains. Great animation and imagination in the storytelling make this the year’s best animated film. Rated PG.

Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle ★★½
(Voices of Benedict Cumberbatch, Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett) Based on multiple Rudyard Kipling stories, this latest “Jungle Book” incarnation is darker than its predecessors, and only marginally better because of it. The visual effects are superb at times, murky at others. Ultimately it’s the twists on the story that you think you know that makes this worth a watch. Rated PG-13.
**LATEST FILMS**

*Ben Is Back*

**Is it worth $10? Yes**

“Ben Is Back” asks a fascinating question: What do you do when there’s little reason for hope, yet you can’t bring yourself to give up? The construct of the question manifests as a loving mother (Julia Roberts) who’s never entirely lost hope for her recovering heroin addict son (Lucas Hedges) home for Christmas even though she knows he could easily relapse, and is a danger to the family.

It’s Christmas Eve in upstate New York. It’s cold with a gray, overcast sky, but snow is on the ground and there are happy holiday vibes in the air. After morning errands, Holly (Roberts) returns home with teenage daughter Ivy (Kathryn Newton) and young twins Lacey (Mia Fowler) and Liam (Jakari Fraser). In her driveway is her oldest son from her first marriage, Ben (Hedges). He’s not supposed to be there, and aside from Holly, everyone is wary about his arrival, including her husband Neal (Courtney B. Vance).

You see, Ben is the aforementioned heroin addict, and he’s supposed to be in rehab. His sponsor said it’s okay to go home for a night, even though home has more triggers for a relapse than anywhere else in the world. Ben is allowed to stay as long as he adheres to a number of conditions, one of which is that he can’t go near Holly’s house. It’s important to note that Ben seems to genuinely want to enjoy the holiday with his family. The past, however, has a way of presenting itself in spite of his best intentions.

“Ben Is Back” was written and directed by Peter Hedges, who gets a solid performance from Ben and a great performance from Roberts. Equal parts fierce and emotional, Roberts is terrific as she shifts from one emotional extreme to the next. For example, Holly and Ben go shopping, and she is happy to buy him clothes for the twins’ holiday show. Before he enters a changing room, she checks his pockets for drugs. “You didn’t check my shoes,” he jokes before closing the door, and she smiles, but then her face quickly transforms into panic.

These bonding scenes in the first half of the film are its best moments. Roberts and Hedges share an affable chemistry, we like them, and hope they can avoid catastrophe. Unfortunately the second half derails the narrative, as the story goes into the after-hours criminal world. The tone gets darker, and it doesn’t fit the straight drama the film succeeded at being during its first hour.

In its totality, “Ben Is Back” plays as a testament to the strong mothers who’ve stuck by their children through the worst of the worst, even when all reasonable hope was lost. And that’s the real truth here: Loving mothers never entirely lose hope, and Roberts captures that conviction, and unconditional love, with wonderful candor.

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Local photographers encouraged to enter NAA’s national Camera USA competition

The Naples Art Association has put out the call for entries for its Camera USA 2019: National Photography Exhibition & Award. All photographers residing in the United States are invited to submit one photograph taken in the U.S. after Jan. 1, 2015. Entry deadline is March 4.

Now in its ninth year, Camera USA was created by NAA to inspire and encourage photographers of all skill levels and from all regions of the country. Three jurors will choose the winning entries, which will be on exhibit at the NAA June 3-July 5. A $5,000 grand prize will be awarded along with five $1,000 honorable mentions.

Entries can be made online through Call for Entry at www.callforentry.org.

For more information, visit naplesart.org/call-for-artists.

About the jurors

Camera USA 2019 jurors are Tracie Davis, photographer and art director at www.Zola.com; Karen Irvine, chief curator and deputy director at the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College, Chicago; and Carol McCusker, curator of photography at the Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

Ms. Davis earned an MA in historical and contemporary photography from the Sotheby’s Institute of Art in London and a BFA in photography from the Rhode Island School of Design. In graduate school she specialized in contemporary photography from Iran and later worked as a post-graduate intern in the archives of contemporary art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She worked in the digital collections department at the Brooklyn Museum for two years before entering the commercial photography world. Four years ago she started the photography and video department at www.Zola.com, an e-commerce startup specializing in the wedding space. As the senior photographer she is responsible for product, lifestyle and marketing imagery for the site and brand.

Ms. Irvine has organized more than 50 exhibitions of contemporary photography at the MoCP and other venues including the Hyde Park Art Center, Rockford Art Museum, Lishui International Photography Festival in China, Daegu Photography Biennale in South Korea and the New York Photo Festival. She has contributed texts to many publications including FOAM, Art on Paper and Contemporary magazines. She has an MA in art history from the University of Illinois at Chicago, an MFA in photography from FAMU in Prague, Czech Republic, and a bachelor’s degree in French and international relations from Tufts University.

Ms. McCusker earned a BFA from Massachusetts College of Art in Boston and an MA and Ph.D. in art history with an emphasis on photography from the...
University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Prior to that, she was curator of photography at the Museum of Photographic Arts in San Diego, where she curated more than 35 exhibitions. She was recently awarded National Endowment for the Arts and Andy Warhol Foundation grants for her traveling exhibition and catalogue, "Aftermath: The Fallout of War – America and the Middle East" (2016) that featured 12 international photographers along with award-winning authors and poets. While at MoPA, she curated the exhibition and edited the catalogue for “First Photographs: William Henry Fox Talbot and The Birth of Photography” (2003). Her award-winning exhibition "Breaking the Frame: Pioneers Women in Photojournalism” (2006), explored women working in the mass media during WWII. She won the 2011 Ansel Adams Fellowship from the Center for Creative Photography in Tucson for original research on several pivotal 1970s events that elevated the currency of photography worldwide. She was the 2010 juror for the International Center for Photography, New York, Infinity Awards along with gallery owner Peter MacGill and Chris Boot, executive director of the Aperture Foundation.


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SOCIETY

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2. Erin Taube, Samuel Oshry, Joel Treewater and Harve Sturm
3. Stu Warshauer
4. Jane Schiff and Susan Pittelman
5. Jane Galler
6. Joel Kessler and Jeffrey Feld
7. Michael Feldman

Florida Weekly welcomes submissions for the Society pages from charity galas and fundraising events, club meetings and other to-dos around town. We need 300-dpi photographs of groups of two or more people, facing the camera and identified by first and last names. Questions? Email editor Robbie Spencer at rspencer@floridaweekly.com.
VIEW FROM PLANET KERTH

The haunting — this time it’s personal

BY TR KERTH

My ceiling fan is haunted.

I know, you might not believe in ghosts. I didn’t either, until an old Buick I once owned decided to lock and unlock its doors every now and then throughout the night. The garage was right beneath my bedroom, so I could hear it every time it happened. It was disconcerting, sort of like sitting at a funeral and hearing the guy in the horizontal box keep clearing his throat. But I had bought the car used, so I figured the ghost just came along for the ride, rather than showing up just to haunt me. I sold the car and the ghost moved on.

So, see, I know what I’m talking about when it comes to hauntings.

And I’m telling you, that fan is haunted.

I have four other fans in the house, and they all behave themselves. But not the one right over my bed, so I’m pretty sure this ghost has it out for me personally.

I like to sleep with the lanai sliders open during these nice, cool nights, and I set the ceiling fan to low, just to keep the air moving. It’s perfect like that, and I sleep like a baby.

Until the ghost shuts off the fan. Or kicks it into high gear. Just to let me know he (or she… or maybe it’s just the job).

You might suggest it’s a botched electrical connection, but that’s not it. I know that for a fact, because I’m the one who installed the fan, and although I’ve never had any training in electrical work or fan-hanging, I read some of the instructions almost all the way through. And Scotch tape is pretty much the same as black electrician’s tape, so the electrical thing is just fine.

I operate the fan with a remote clicker I keep on the nightstand, so I thought for a while it might be a nearby neighbor with a clicker on the same frequency, trying to open a garage door, or changing the channel on his TV. But that’s not it, because I asked all the neighbors if they were up clicking away at 2:43 a.m. last night, or 3:18 the night before that. They’ve all sworn innocence, and I believe them because if their clicker matched mine, then their garage door and TV would be doing flip-flops every time I set that fan right again in the middle of the night. So, no, that’s not it.

The fan is haunted. Plain and simple.
I can't think of anything I might have done to raise any spook's haunt-hackles—except maybe putting up the fan all by myself. I'm sure there are dearly departed union electricians out there, and some of them probably float around looking for frugal folks like me who took food out of their kids' mouths by doing their work instead of hiring them. Even though they're dead now, they're probably nice guys—but still, they have a point to make.

And so, late at night when you're sleeping like a baby with the temperature and air flow just right, they stop those fan blades from spinning. Or they ramp up the speed until your hair is whipping all over your pillow.

I could probably set things right by calling in a card-carrying union electrician—not because my wiring is wrong, but because that ghost would consider my debt paid, and he would move on to the next guy to haunt. Oh, the electrician who came to do the job would never admit that there were no crossed wires to tidy up. No, he'd gladly accept my hundred bucks, then move on to his next exorcism at the next house with perfectly good amateur wiring haunted by a disgruntled union sparky. Those guys are tight like that.

But hey, I've lived with that haunted ceiling fan for nine years, so why would I blink now?

Besides, money is a bit tight these days, ever since I had to hire that union plumber to come and exorcize the ghost under the sink I installed myself.

— TR Kerth is the author of the book “Revenge of the Sardines.” Contact him at trkerth@yahoo.com.
Krazykrops, a local produce distrib- utor, now offers delivery services of its “ugly” fruits and vegetables to the public. The company aims to minimize food waste by utilizing all the misshapen produce that retailers bypass or discard because of cosmetic defects.

“Food waste is against the grain of who I am,” says Krazykrops owner Melissa Bazley. “If you have ever grown a garden, you know there is no such a thing as per- fection. Billions of pounds of produce get wasted every year because they are not the right color, shape, size or have minor scarring. We are here to change that by delivering creatively but delicious looking produce to our customers‘ doors via our platform and we are continuing to build awareness one community at a time.”

Krazykrops delivers weekly bi-weekly or periodic deliveries for between $15-$24 per box. To sign up, visit www. krazykrops.com.

Take Note:
The Wine Store hosts a tasting of five Carletta Wines with brand ambassador Lindsey Crawford from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, 5020 1200 Central Ave. 234-6625 or www.thewinestorenaples.com.

Purple Spoon hosts a dinner di- sussion about medical marijuana with Nurse Practitioner Deborah J. Post from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18. To accompany the talk, Chef Kristina San Fillipp will prepare a three-course meal from the freshest ingredients of the day. $78. 2551 Chamber of Commerce Drive. 908-3842 or www.purpleboost.com.

The Hungarian-American Club hosts a Bunojaras dinner, or pre-Lenten celebration Lindsey Crawford from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, 202, Audubon Country Club. Reservations required. 821-1041 or www.haccswfl.org.

For diet-conscious diners, BurgerFi added a KetoBurger to its menu to comple- ment the restaurant’s other healthy offer- ings. The sandwich features two all-natu- ral Angus beef patties topped with bacon and a fried egg, dressed with mustard and served “green style,” with a lettuce wrap in place of a bun. 163 Immokalee Road. 631-8227 or www.burgerfi.com.

With an order of Chicken Bryan, Chicken Marsala or Pollo Rosa Maria, Carrabba’s Italian Grill will send diners home with a free serving of spaghetti or lasagna from Jan. 26-31. The restaurant has two local locations, one at 4320 Tamiami Trail N. in Naples and another at 12631 Church St. in Estero.

Cuisine News

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For a bounty of seafood, chart a course for the new Drop the Anchor

A nightly special features two Maine lobsters with potatoes and corn on the cob.

Shrimp balls with sweet and sour dipping sauce look plain but taste great.

A brownie sundae finishes the meal on a sweet note.

If it’s seafood you crave and a casual atmosphere to boot, crank up the engine and make your way to the little restaurant at the corner of Pine Ridge Road and U.S. 41 that’s now known as Drop the Anchor.

You might know it as Frascati’s or Loving Hut or, most recently, albeit briefly, Nene’s Kitchen. But owner Bobby Fong is now at the helm, with Culinary Institute of America grad Keith Cleary in the kitchen and there’s been a sea change here.

I missed the NeNe’s incarnation but had visited during the Loving Hut era and can say that the new look is brighter and, of course, more nautical than the vegan version.

Mr. Fong has outfitted his new venture in natty nautical style with cheery white walls trimmed in blue. White butcher paper covers the table. White napkins are encircled by blue rings and blue seats and a blue bar adds to the coordinated feel. Décor includes small ship’s wheels, starfish, anchors and painted paddles with a big whiteboard on one wall listing nightly specials. A lobster tank sits just to the side of the bar.

A couple of TVs add to the laid-back feel of the place with football on one and basketball on the other the night we were there.

Our server was quick to arrive and happy to deliver a properly chilled bottle of ZD Chardonnay. I’d heard that the concept here was seafood with an Asian twist. That is true, but there are just a handful of dishes that show an Asian accent, two of which are is no longer found in the kitchen and there’s been a sea change here.

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The shrimp balls ($9) didn’t sound like much — I envisioned lots of breaded with a bit of shrimp — but they were the only appetizer in the Asian section so shrimp balls it was. The six fried balls arrived in a plain white bowl. But looks can be deceiving and that was the case this time. This dish is clearly misnamed. It should be called Orbs of Crispy Shrimp Deliciousness or clearly misnamed. It should be called shrimp balls it was. The six fried balls included Maine lobster, shrimp, blue crab, crab cakes, fish and chips, crab or lobster by the pound and combo platters for two that include Maine lobster, shrimp, blue crab and choice of snow or Dungeness crab.

From the menu, we tried the tropical mahi mahi ($21, with mango pineapple sauce) along with the plastic bib and a small fork for picking — and dug out the sweet meat from all four claws. The flesh was tasty on its own but even better when dipped in the drawn butter (what isn’t?).

The small whole potatoes were fine but the corn on the cob was soggy and inedible, appearing to have sat in boiling water for far longer than necessary.

We shared the nightly special dessert, a brownie sundae ($7.99), which consisted of a good-sized brownie topped with vanilla ice cream, thick chocolate sauce and confectioner’s sugar. Our server, Kaityn, was charming and attentive throughout the meal, making sure the dishes suited us and that our wine and water glasses were refreshed in a timely manner. A manager checked in periodically as well.

It was the type of service you expect at more expensive restaurants, but don’t always receive.

What’s more, children are welcome and well taken care of here. A nearby table had three of them and all of them had dishes that were clearly to their liking.

One devoured a plate of JP’s Buffalo wings while the others appeared pleased with the shrimp and noodle dishes they ordered.

Perhaps because it’s only been open since mid-December, it isn’t packed on a Saturday night yet. So it’s a good time to give it a try. It won’t be long before those with a craving for seafood are likely to be packed in like sardines.

A brownie sundae finishes the meal on a sweet note.

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Sterling Graham Collection, Teak Root Furniture
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OTARY CLUB & FRIENDS OF LOVERS KEY STATE PARK

FEBRUARY 25, 26, & 27 2019
SATURDAY 9AM - 5PM  SUNDAY 9AM - 4PM

Lovers Key Boat Show, Market and Seafood Fest

To Bonita Springs ➔
This map is subject to change.
Lovers Key had an auspicious beginning. Dredged, denuded and altered to become another waterfront real estate development, the Park was saved by local citizens and became part of the State Park System. Coincidentally, the Friends of Lovers Key State park (FOLKS) was established as this state sanctioned organization serves the Park in many ways via fund raising and volunteer projects. Roughly 15+ years ago, the State recognized the need for Lovers Key to have an indoor facility within which to welcome visitors, hold educational programs and classes, house exhibits and hold events. The Park’s unique environmental impact to the Gulf and Estero Bay will finally be displayed and its important story taught. That vision was included in the Park’s “Master Plan” all those years. Four years ago, a couple of local citizens began to work with our local State legislative delegation to obtain the funds needed for the facility. That 4 year effort culminated with the final sum appropriated in the 2018 budget providing the +$4 million needed - the dream of so many for so long is now in process! Ground was broken in December 2018 at Lovers Key State Park for the new “Welcome and Discovery Center”. But the work of the FOLKS is not over. With the Welcome and Discovery Center construction ending in a short 12 months – FOLKS is responsible for equipping the facility with exhibits, classroom furniture and furnishings. Add electronic equipment for presentations, kitchen equipment, etc., it is a tall, $1.5 million order for FOLKS. Donations and major naming rights are part of the effort to ensure our children and residents along with visitors learn how unique and important Lovers Key really is. Your attendance at this year’s Boat Show is part of that effort.

Funding Our New “Welcome and Discovery Center”
WHAT IS ROTARY?

What is Rotary?
That is the question I asked my neighbor when he asked me to join him for a Rotary breakfast meeting. After several attempts to get me to join him, I finally succumbed and went to my first Rotary meeting. That was nine years ago and I haven’t missed a meeting since.

Having moved to Bonita from Connecticut, I wanted to become a part of the community and give back. But, I didn’t have a clue how to do this. I knew my neighbors who were very welcoming and I got involved with our HOA. Even though I was starting a new business and was quite busy, I still didn’t feel fulfilled and thought I could do more and help others. Fast forward nine years...I have made 100 new acquaintances who are the best of the best in the area. Many of them have become very good friends. Fellowship is a big part of Rotary. But there is much more.

So, what is Rotary?
Changing lives across the globe by providing wheel chairs free of charge to the neediest, some have lived their entire lives on the ground. I am grateful to have gone on two wheelchair missions to Honduras and El Salvador.

Saving lives of children from third world countries and providing them with lifesaving heart surgery that would otherwise not be available in their countries and certainly not affordable.

Providing clean water to villages with only dirty water obtained by filling buckets from the source that may be miles to walk each day.

Providing closed cooking stoves where indoor open fires were used for cooking creating a tremendous health hazard.

Locally, Rotary is there to help as well. Hurricane Irma was devastating to parts of our city and the Rotary Clubs in the area were there with the first responders providing supplies and assistance. In fact, Rotarians from around the country came to our town to help. The local Rotary Clubs have raised and granted over $100,000 and partnered with Habitat for Humanity to help restore homes and lives.

We invite you to come to one of our meeting and consider becoming a Rotarian.

The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs meets every Wednesday at 7:00 AM at the Bonita Bay Club. The meetings include a full breakfast, speakers and fellowship.

If you would like more information, call Bob Lombardo, Secretary and Membership Chair 239 628 8800 or Roger Brunswick, 239 989 6457.

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(239) 765-7272

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www.SaltySamsMarina.com
(239) 463-7333

SHRIMP DOCK
www.OriginalShrimpDock.com
(239) 463-3043

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www.MyParrotKey.com
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LOCAL FLAVOR
Four chefs dish on where they like to dine.

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Free Things to Do and See

From museums and parks to farmers markets and galleries, here are some places to go where you can keep your wallet in your pocket.

LEE COUNTY

■ The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at Florida SouthWestern State College

The world-renowned pop artist Robert (or “Bob” as he preferred to be called) Rauschenberg found sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of the New York City art scene at his gulf-front compound on Captiva Island. In fact, he lived and created art there for nearly 40 years until his death in 2008. His legacy in Southwest Florida has made a lasting impact and can be experienced at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery on the campus of Florida SouthWestern State College in South Fort Myers. Over the years, the gallery has featured works by Yoko Ono, Jack Kerouac, Peter Greenaway and, of course, Robert Rauschenberg. There’s a New York art vibe in Southwest Florida, and it’s only at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery — and it’s priceless.

— The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at FSW
8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers
239-489-9313; rauschenberggallery.com

■ Art Fest Fort Myers

Where else can you stroll along the waterfront and peruse the art of more than 200 national artists at no cost? Every year on the first weekend in February, ArtFest Fort Myers takes over the downtown Fort Myers River District. In addition to all the great art, there’s food, music and plenty of activities for the kids. Dogs are welcome, too. And money can’t buy a more perfect setting than on the banks of the beautiful Caloosahatchee River.

— Art Fest Fort Myers
Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 2-3 (VIP opening night Friday, Feb. 1) along Edwards Drive
239-768-3602; artfestfortmyers.com
When you join a Hosted Sailing, be prepared to have your idea of cruising redefined. Aboard our Hosted Sailings, you’ll enjoy personalized onboard assistance and an array of special amenities. We’ll ensure that your voyage is unlike any other.

**2019 PREFERRED TRAVEL HOSTED SAILINGS**

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**Alliance for the Arts GreenMarket**

The Alliance for the Arts has plenty to offer in the way of free happenings — monthly gallery shows, complimentary art classes every quarter and entry into a variety of festivals and events on the expansive grounds — but every Saturday morning, the GreenMarket is a cultural hub that most definitely is not your grandmother’s farmers market.

It opens at 9 a.m. with vendors offering local produce, cheeses, breads, plants, soaps, jewelry and more. Bring your yoga mat for a free outdoor yoga class at 9:30 a.m. There’s also live entertainment by area musicians along with a variety of food trucks and fun stuff to keep the kids busy. We can’t think of a better way to spend a Saturday morning.

— **Alliance for the Arts GreenMarket**
10091 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers
239-939-2787; artinlee.org

**COLLIER COUNTY**

**Marco Island Historical Museum**

You’ll travel back thousands of years to an island near Naples that was inhabited only by Calusa Indians, wild animals and (sometimes) pirates. Check out items unearthed from archaeological digs and learn how this subtropical island so rich in history became the place of world-class golf courses, resorts and restaurants it is today. Within the museum, you’ll find the Sandlin Gallery with rotating exhibits, plus the Museum Gift Shop filled with artwork, books detailing local history and an array of Marco-centric gifts.

— **Marco Island Historical Museum**
180 S. Heathwood Drive, Marco Island
239-252-1440; colliermusems.com

**ART Alive! Studio & Gallery Tour**

On the first Wednesday evening and the third Saturday afternoon of the month November-April, the Naples Art District, comprised of more than two dozen galleries and artist studios in the several-block area north of Pine Ridge and west of Airport-Pulling roads, comes alive with art lovers strolling from one gallery to the next. ART Alive! visitors can peruse local art in all mediums — sculpture, paintings, photography, ceramics and more — and can meet and talk with many of the artists.

— **ART Alive!**
November-April
5-8 p.m. every first Wednesday
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. every third Saturday
The Naples Art District
239-289-5070; naplesartdistrict.com

**Evening on Fifth**

Live music fills the air along Naples’ tony Fifth Avenue South on the second Thursday of every month. There’s free entertainment on every corner and plenty of people-watching while you explore the boutiques, restaurants and bars of the avenue. The neighborhood glows with sparkly lights as you encounter musicians, dancers and street performers in a luxurious, tropical setting just a short walk from the beach.

— **Evening on Fifth**
6-9 p.m. every second Thursday
239-692-8436; fifthavenuesouth.com

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**

**Military Heritage Museum**

Make sure you have plenty of time when you visit the Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda, because there’s lots to see and do at this ever-expanding facility dedicated to preserving the nearly three centuries of history of all five branches of the U.S. Military.

Local military veterans lead tours through galleries filled with more than 10,000 artifacts. Experience the Hall of Heroes, immerse yourself in the library/research center and check out the many interactive displays that bring the military experience closer to home. Visits to the museum bring both pride and emotions to the surface — and there’s no price tag for that.

— **Military Heritage Museum**
Fisherman’s Village, Punta Gorda
941-575-9002; freedomisntfree.org

**Muscle Car City monthly car show**

Auto enthusiasts put the pedal to the metal on the third Saturday morning of each month and head to the Muscle Car City Museum for a popular car show that’s free to the public and to show car owners (check out the website for details on entering your wheels). Enjoy music, food and the opportunity to look under the hoods of vintage Camaros, Corvettes, Trans-Ams and more. Rev up your engines and step back into the ’50s, ’60s, ’70s and ’80s, when emissions weren’t an issue and everyone loved the sexy rumble of a souped-up automobile.

— **Muscle Car City Museum**
10175 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda
941-575-5959; musclecarcity.net

**Ponce de Leon Park**

Overlooking Charlotte Harbor and filled with things to do, this picturesque city park is named after the legendary Spaniard who searched Florida for the Fountain of Youth. An ideal place to catch a famous Southwest
America’s first solar-powered town is open to everyone.

Know the best kayak drop-ins.

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Knows every single fire hydrant.

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Florida sunset, it’s also a great place for fishing (bring your rod and take up a spot on one of the piers), walking (stroll the mangrove boardwalk), picnicking (the pavilion offers shade) and unleashing the kids (the playground promises to keep them busy).

Ponce de Leon Park is also home to the Peace River Wildlife Center, a nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation and education center (and gift shop) tucked neatly into the mangroves.

— Ponce de Leon Park
802 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda
941-575-5041; ci.punta-gorda.fl.us

Great Ways to Start Your Day
Breakfast spots where you can fuel a full day of Southwest Florida fun

SANIBEL ISLAND

■ Over Easy Cafe
The living is easy on Sanibel Island, and starting your day at the Over Easy Cafe is a must-do for getting into the island state of mind. The atmosphere is French cafe, but the dress code is strictly relaxed. Settle in with a Sunrise Mimosa (bubbly champagne, fresh OJ and cranberry juice). Rolls and muffins are fresh baked, and the chef doesn’t skimp on pancake stacks topped with your choice of Oreo, strawberry, banana and more. A hearty crab-and-asparagus omelet (or one with gulf shrimp or Portobello mushrooms) promises to fuel you for a full island day of beaching, biking, fishing or shopping.

But it’s not just the delicious breakfasts that have locals and tourists flocking to the Over Easy Cafe. It’s also the super friendly service and the easy island vibe.

— Over Easy Cafe
630 Tarpon Bay Road, Sanibel
239-472-2625; overeasycafasanibel.com

PUNTA GORDA

■ John Ski’s House of Breakfast and Lunch
A good old-fashioned diner serving up simple fare, John Ski’s House of Breakfast and Lunch is not about overpriced brunch. This place is home of the Fat Boy Breakfast Challenge: Eat two Fat Boy breakfasts (a plate of potatoes topped with a sausage patty, three slices of bacon, three eggs, sausage gravy and cheddar cheese), drink one large glass of milk and a large glass of orange juice and earn a T-shirt, your photo in the Fat Boy Hall of Fame and a discount off of your bill.

While John Ski’s also serves up Fruity Pebbles French Toast and Pot Roast Omelets, they haven’t forgotten to include some lighter, healthier options such as oatmeal, fruit, veggies and yogurt. Still, we’re pretty confident that when you walk in and smell the bacon sizzling, you won’t start salivating for vegetables.

— John Ski’s House of Breakfast and Lunch
502 King St., Punta Gorda
941-347-7645; johnskishouseofbreakfast.com

Souvenir Savvy
When you want more than a T-shirt as a reminder of your time in the sun

NAPLES

■ The Best of Everything
With several locations in Bonita Springs and Naples, locals know this shopping destination from its catchy commercial jingles on TV. The song is right on target, though: The Best of Everything is a shopper’s paradise truly filled with the best of everything, Southwest Florida style. Whether it’s a lovable manatee tea infuser or cute coasters decorated with mermaids, you’ll find an abundance of the best must-haves to to help you celebrate your time under the Southwest Florida sun.

— The Best of Everything
28194 Tamiami Trail S., Bonita Springs
3652 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
747 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
3754 Tamiami Trail N., Naples (clearance center)
844-604-3567; bestofeverything.com
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30 years in Southwest Florida and over 22,000 satisfied customers. A level of old-world craftsmanship, attention to detail and professionalism on every job, large or small - and a sterling reputation built one satisfied customer at a time.

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It's a pleasure - and an honor - to make your dream a stunning reality.
FORT MYERS

■ Arts for ACT Gallery

You won’t find any rubber alligators at the Arts for ACT Gallery in downtown Fort Myers, but you will find authentic Florida creations you’ll treasure for years to come. A portion of sales at this novel gallery and boutique in a historic arcade benefits the Abuse, Counseling and Treatment Inc. shelter for victims of domestic violence. Much of the artwork depicts local scenes and landmarks. You’ll find hand-painted postcards and jewelry made with local materials as well as painted furniture and handmade clothing. Area artists volunteer at Arts for ACT and can walk you through the large space as you search for the perfect Southwest Florida souvenir.

— Arts for ACT Gallery
2265 First St., Fort Myers
239-337-5050; artsforactgallery.com

PUNTA GORDA

■ Pottery Express & Bamboo Farm

If you’re looking for something uniquely Florida without it screaming “souvenir” in a manufactured, plastic sort of way, then you’ll love exploring Pottery Express & Bamboo Farm’s 5-plus acres of walking paths filled with more than 60,000 pottery items. You’re sure to run into colorfully painted (and completely harmless) frogs, lizards and alligators. You’ll also find planters and fountains of all sizes, plus weather-worthy metal art depicting all kinds of Southwest Florida flora and fauna.

Go on a Saturday and work up an appetite so you can fill up on something from the food trucks stationed in the parking lot. Really though, you can make a day of it at Pottery Express & Bamboo Farm any day of the week. You never know what treasures you’ll find.

— Pottery Express & Bamboo Farm
25370 Zemel Road, Punta Gorda
941-505-8400; potteryexpress.com

Hidden Gems

Venture off the beaten path and discover these dining and imbibing treasures

■ The Boathouse Tiki Bar & Grill

As you’re headed north on Highway 31 east of Fort Myers off Palm Beach Boulevard, don’t blink or you might miss one of the best new places in Southwest Florida. The Boathouse Tiki Bar & Grill overlooks the Caloosahatchee River near the Lee/Charlotte county line not far from the entrance to Babcock Ranch. It’s off the beaten path, yes, but it’s well worth the drive.

An open-air eatery with a pool that’s open to customers and a sandy “beach” area complete with cabanas, the complex is nearly 8,000 square feet of party space. There’s a great spot for musicians to set up and play, and sports fans will love the 12-by-8 TV for watching their favorite teams.

The television isn’t the only jumbo-sized feature at the Boathouse. Come hungry, because there’s no skimping on dishes like the Boathouse Burrito, the Cuban sandwich or the Gator Bites.

Not in the mood to drive? No worries — come by boat instead. The Boathouse is at Sweetwater Landing Mari-
VISUALIZE yourself here.

YOUR VISION, YOUR WAY.
Florida Leather Gallery has 1000s of items in-stock & countless options to customize the look you’ve been dreaming of for your home.

BONITA SPRINGS | BRANDON | CLEARWATER | FT. MYERS | SARASOTA | TAMPA | FLORIDALEATHERGALLERY.COM
na, and attendants will be happy to help you dock.

Get here however you like. Then grab a colorful cocktail — we like the sounds of a Tini Bikini, a Redfish Margarita or Sex on the Boat — and settle into a barstool or a comfy Adirondack chair with a view of the rural side of the Caloosahatchee River. We guarantee you’ll be glad you did.

— The Boathouse Tiki Bar & Grill
17101 State Road 31
239-332-2628; theboathouseusa.com

■ The Local

If you’re looking for crowds in Naples, you’ll want to head to posh Fifth Avenue, Third Street South down by the Naples Pier or even to the north end of town for the shopping and dining at Mercato. That’s where you’ll find tourists. And window-shoppers. And potential diners pricing menus outside busy restaurants.

But if you’re looking to hang with the locals, then head to a little strip mall on Airport-Pulling Road and pop into The Local, a farm-to-table eatery specializing in everything Southwest Florida. The beef comes from area ranchers, the seafood arrives regularly from local fishermen, and the fruits and veggies are all flo-grown nearby.

For the past five years, owner and veteran chef Jeff Mitchell and his team have served up deliciously sustainable dishes to hungry patrons at brunch, lunch and dinner. The happy hour crowd loves The Local for locally brewed beers and ales. And be sure to check out the ever-changing chalkboard menu for chef-inspired specials based on what area farmers have delivered on any given day.

Never boring or predictable (except that it will be fresh and yummy), The Local is the polar opposite of a chain restaurant. You’ll leave knowing that your satisfied appetite supported our local economy, from the farmer who planted the seed or raised the pig to the server who took your order.

— The Local
5323 Airport-Pulling Road, Naples
239-596-3276; thelocalnaples.com

■ The 86 Room

There’s no website, they don’t advertise, and good luck finding parking close by — but when you make your way to the 86 Room tucked away in the Patio de Leon in downtown Fort Myers, you’ll find a 1920s throwback speakeasy and some of the finest craft cocktails in Southwest Florida.

It’s on the ground floor of what once was the Greystone Hotel, built near the turn of the century and rumored to be haunted (don’t be spooked when the local ghost tour makes a stop outside the doors just after dark — simply order another drink). Dominated by a massive U-shaped oak bar with floor-to-ceiling shelves holding all the libations and cozy sofas and chairs beckoning from dimly lit corners, the 86 Room specializes in Prohibition-era cocktails such as Old Fashioneds, Sidecars and Bee Knees — plus, they make all their own mixes, so while your drink is vintage inspired, the flavor is as fresh as it can be.

— The 86 Room
22 Patio de Leon, Fort Myers
239-332-0014

The 86 Room is a 1920s throwback speakeasy.
Get Into The Zone!

**50th Anniversary Abbey Road Tour** Feb. 19, 2019

**SPECIAL GUEST:** Julia Baird, John Lennon’s sister, will sell and sign her book, *Imagine This: Growing Up with My Brother John Lennon*.

**January 10-20, 2019**

**The Mystery of Edwin Drood**

**February 7-17, 2019**

**Elton John & Tim Rice’s AIDA**

**March 7-17, 2019**

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**The Mersey Beatles: Four Lads from Liverpool**

**An Evening with Judy Collins** Feb. 21, 2019

**April 25 - May 5, 2019**

**And the World Goes 'Round**

**The Songs of Kander & Ebb**

**BROADWAY Happy Hour**

**January 17, February 13, March 14 and May 2**

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BY KAREN FELDMAN
cuisine@floridaweekly.com

We all have our favorite restaurants, places we can rely on to deliver time after time. The ones that top my list are almost all independent spots run by chefs whose passion for what they do is evident even when they aren’t greeting customers in the dining room.

So where do discerning chefs go when they decide to let someone else do the cooking? Florida Weekly asked four accomplished local chefs to share some of their favorite spots. And so here are some chef-approved options for your consideration.

Point 57

Matt Arnold, executive chef/partner

Matt Arnold opened Point 57 in February 2017, after overhauling the building that previously housed the Lazy Flamingo and The Dog. Originally from Kansas City, Mo., he’s a graduate of the New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier, Vt. He worked at the Magnolia Grill in Durham, N.C., then spent several years working for renowned Italian chef Lidia Bastianich in Pittsburgh and as executive chef of her Kansas City restaurant.

Mr. Arnold came to the area to open Point 57, which he describes as “very approachable and comfortable with upscale comfort food. The soul is certainly Southern and coastal, but we also wanted a broad perspective of culinary offerings.”
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Florida Weekly: Where do you go for brunch?
“I only do it occasionally, but it’s usually Slate’s (in Cape Coral). I like the benedicts, and the owners are nice, hard-working restaurateurs.”

FW: What about a romantic dinner?
“One of my favorites is Caffe Toscano (Fort Myers). I met owners Antonio and Diana (Durante) and thoroughly enjoyed it. When you have their plates, it’s clear there’s thought and passion behind it.”

FW: What about a casual spot?
“I like Nice Guys (Cape Coral) when I’m in the mood for pizza. I can catch up on sports at Overtime (Pizzeria & Sports Pub, Cape Coral) and grab a sandwich there.”

FW: Do you have a favorite city for food?
“Obviously Manhattan, because there’s nothing like it. Others would be New Orleans or Charleston. I love city cultures driven by food, which all of those cities are. I’d even put my hometown of Kansas City in there. The food scene has grown tremendously in the past 15 years and, of course, there’s the barbecue factor.”

Palladio Trattoria

Emanuela “Emma” Calcana, chef/owner
Emma Calcana comes from Vincenza, Italy. As a sixth-generation chef who grew up watching her Italian father cook while her Brazilian mother assisted, she knows the restaurant business is in her blood. The family owned and operated Lombardi’s, a popular Italian restaurant in Ocean City, Md., for many years.

Ms. Calcana earned her bachelor’s degree from Accademia delle Belle Arti in Venezia and a culinary diploma from Le Cordon Bleu in Los Angeles. Prior to opening her restaurant, she worked for Live Nation, cooking for celebrities including Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, Elton John and the Rolling Stones.

She settled in Florida to be closer to her parents and sister, who have homes here in the Sunshine State.

Ms. Calcana’s customers get a taste of her world because her cooking reflects how she was brought up. “I’m bringing back traditions I grew up with,” she says, although she enjoys infusing her specials and the dishes she prepares for monthly wine dinners with some Brazilian influence and touches from cuisines that intrigue her.

FW: Where do you go for a nice dinner?
“When I am able to escape once in a while, for meat my favorite is The Continental steakhouse (in Naples). For fish, I like USS Nemo (also in Naples). I love the atmosphere at Bleu Provence (Naples) and they have lovely food. I also like C Level (Bonita Springs), which is nearby and is open a little later.”

FW: What about casual spots?
“True Food Kitchen (at Waterside Shops in Naples) is really good. It reminds me of California. I miss that sometimes.”
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Crave Culinaire by Brian Roland

Brian Roland, chef/owner

When he was a child living just outside Princeton, N.J., Brian Roland's family had a vegetable and herb garden where he learned about growing fresh produce and using it in the kitchen. He started as a dishwasher in an Italian restaurant and quickly realized he wanted to know more about cooking. By the time he was in high school, he had his sights set on the Culinary Institute of America. He applied for early admission and was accepted.

After graduating with honors, he worked for Daniel Boulud at Restaurant Daniel and Café Boulud, then headed south to open Chops City Grill in Bonita Springs, moving on to operating partner/executive chef at Cru in Fort Myers. He opened M Waterfront Grill in Naples as executive chef and then ventured out on his own with Crave Culinaire in 2013.

In 2017, Mr. Roland and his wife, Nicole, expanded the business by opening Venue Naples, an event space.

“Being a chef and owning a business in the culinary industry is more than just about cooking and food,” he says. “It is about building an experience.” He and his team strive to give guests “an experience that will heighten their senses, provoke their emotions, tease their palate and make them smile.”

FW: Where do you like to go for breakfast?

“Jane’s on Third Street (Naples). The food is delicious, and the outdoor setting around the fountain is one of a kind. First Watch on Immokalee Road and U.S. 41 (North Naples) is our favorite of the First Watch locations. They did an entire menu and interior redesign and are very consistent with food quality and service.”

FW: What’s your favorite spot for a romantic dinner?

“Cote d’Azur in North Naples is a cute little French cafe with some classically prepared Provencal fare and an intimate and quaint country-style dining room. The Grill Room at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples, offers the best of the best ingredients, with service that makes you feel special. The dining room is designed to give every party its own intimate space.”

FW: What’s your favorite restaurant in the region?

“Bha! Bha! Persian Bistro (Naples). The spices, techniques and creative dishes are unmatched here. Service and ambiance are elegant. The Duck Fesenjune is my favorite. Osteria Tulia (Naples) is the best Italian restaurant in the region. Chef Vincenzo (Betulia) cooks from the heart and sources the best ingredients from Italy. The handmade pastas are to die for, and the tapenade and bread service is addictive. Bay House (North Naples) is an upscale restaurant with a Southern play on some American classics, right on the river. Very consistent quality and a fun atmosphere with live music.”

FW: Do you have a favorite steakhouse or seafood restaurant?

“Capital Grille’s (North Naples) reputation for the best dry aged steaks and delicious sides holds true. I enjoy a dry aged ribeye with their lobster mac ‘n’ cheese and creamed spinach. For seafood, M Waterfront Grille’s Chef Adam (Nardis) does an awesome job.”

FW: If you had to pick one city for dining, what would it be?

“In the U.S., it’s Chicago for sure. I have so many favorite restaurants in that city. Alinea and The Girl and the Goat are two you don’t want to miss. In the world, so far, it would be Lyon, France. I had the opportunity to work for two amazing French chefs from Lyon. Daniel Boulud and Patrick Verre taught me the true essence of Lyonnaise cuisine. I traveled there in 1999 and visited the late Paul Bocuse’s restaurant. It was one of the best experiences I have had. But even the small mom-and-pop spots put their hearts into the food. Don’t be turned off by a little cafe with a short menu. Sometimes those are the most impressive hidden gems.”
River City Grill, Italia

**Steve Iadevaia**, executive chef

Growing up in an Italian family in Naples (the Southwest Florida one), Steve Iadevaia realized early on that food was an important part of life.

“We’d do everything around the table,” he says, adding “My dad’s meatballs were the stuff of legends. Any time we did anything, people would say, ‘Make sure Frank brings meatballs.’”

At age 15, Mr. Iadevaia was a busboy at Frascati’s (a long-time Naples institution that closed in 2010). He didn’t have formal culinary training but learned by “knowing when to keep my eyes open and my mouth shut” as he worked his way up at Frascati’s, then Tommy Bahamas in California and Florida. He eventually landed at Mangrove Café in Naples, working with chef/owner Doug Amaral, and then headed up the kitchen when Mr. Amaral decided to expand his restaurant holdings in Punta Gorda. Mr. Iadevaia later joined him there and now runs the kitchens for River City Grill, which features global comfort food, and its next-door neighbor, Italia, which offers the food of his heritage.

**FW: You work late, so do you get up in time for breakfast?**

“I’m not an early riser, but I do brunch occasionally. I normally stay away from chains, but First Watch does a good job. In Punta Gorda, The Smokehouse does great stick-to-your-ribs biscuits and gravy.”

**Where do you go for a romantic night out?**

“Around town, The Perfect Caper is always a go-to. Jeanie (Roland) creates great food. The Blue Turtle (formerly The Turtle Club) has a great atmosphere, and the food is always nice. In Naples, we always like Osteria Tulia or The French. (Chef/owner) Vincenzo (Betulia) does an excellent job.”

**FW: What’s your favorite casual joint?**

“There’s a guy who was a dishwasher who now runs Danny’s Food Truck. He does traditional Mexican tacos and other items. Que-rico Colombia Flavors (in North Port) is absolutely delicious. The Greek Grille (in North Port) has great Greek food. And Nan’s (Port Charlotte) has nice Thai food. Sandra’s (Punta Gorda) does good German food.”

**FW: What about wine and cocktails?**

“I’m mostly a beer person, so I spend a lot of time at the Celtic Ray (Punta Gorda). It has great music and a really good beer list. Plus the vibe is cool.”

**FW: If you had to pick a favorite city for its food, what would it be?**

“It’s hard to beat New York City. There’s so much diversity in one small area. Whatever the nationality — Ethiopian, Thai, Jamaican, Lebanese, anything you want — you can find someone from that country cooking it there. We’ve had amazing meals at beautiful restaurants in Paris, but I remember going to the market, buying bread and cheese and wine and sitting in the Jardin du Luxembourg and eating there.”

River City Grill: 131 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda
941-639-9080, rivercitygrill.com
Lunch 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, dinner 5-9 p.m. every day

Italia: 127 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda
Southwest Florida five ways

Whoever says the Sunshine State is all the same hasn’t discovered these destinations

BY CHELLE KOSTER WALTON
Florida Weekly Correspondent

■ Down by the Riverside

If you’ve ever needed an excuse to abandon the bustle of Tamiami Trail in Bonita Springs, Riverside Park has your alibi. The Imperial River runs straight to the heart of old downtown Bonita and its ongoing redevelopment, trickling into the past at this historic site.

Liles Hotel, above, is the cornerstone, dating back to 1926. Today it holds city offices, a recreated 1930s hotel room with period furnishings, historic photographs and paintings and changing exhibits hosted by the Bonita Springs Historical Society. Later in its life, the hotel became the Imperial River Court tourist camp, and the six restored circa-1945 fishing shacks next to it survive from that era. They are home today to a kayaking operation and art galleries selling artisan pine-needle baskets, ceramics and watercolors (the cottages made a cameo appearance in Sean Connery’s 1990 “Just Cause”).

Also part of Riverside Park’s Historic Plaza, a lovely fountain (currently under repair) and old water tower complete this flashback. On certain Sundays, guided history walks depart from the site.

In present tense, a bandstand makes this a popular spot for community festivals and events such as free monthly concerts. On any occasion, bring a picnic lunch, walk shaded trails, explore the park’s sculptures or take a leisurely paddle into the past.

■ Shop ’til you dine

Third Street South started it all when it comes to Naples’ reputation for fine shopping and dining. Street sculptures and blossoms decorate Third Street South and its side streets, which lead to the beach and historic neighborhood homes. Known as “the birthplace of
Naples,” the district’s close proximity to the Naples Pier and the gulf beach brought early commerce to its streets. As far back as 1919, Naples Mercantile Building held the Seminole Market. Today, Campiello restaurant, above, which recently celebrated both its 20th anniversary and the building’s 100th, occupies its noble façade and courtyard.

The tradition of fine dining in the Third Street area began in the late 1980s with Tony Ridgway and his Chef’s Garden (today’s Ridgway Bar & Grill). Culinary giants such as Sea Salt Naples and The Continental carry the tradition for shoppers looking to hit pause and enjoy the finer things in life.

Long reputed for its Gallery Row and designer boutiques such as Marissa Collections with couture fashions and Gattle’s with top-quality linens, Third Street South claims one of the area’s earliest — if not the first — shopping concierges. Today, concierges still offer insider shopping tips and are at the ready to deliver packages to nearby hotels and homes.

■ An island all its own

It may show glimmers of Key West and hints of Nantucket, but there’s no comparing Captiva Island, really. Playful whimsy contrasts with gated homes, salty sass with artful heritage. Visitors come for its destination resorts, ranging from Jensen’s Twin Palms’ fishing obsession and ‘Tween Waters Beach Resort’s historic memories to South Seas Island Resort’s 330-acre playground.

Day-trippers head to Captiva’s beaches, watersports-driven by day, sunset-focused by twilight. Maybe they catch a fishing or cruise charter in between. They plan on lunch or dinner at iconic, beachfront Mucky Duck or quirky, nostalgic Bubble Room.

Those in the know ferret out the island’s secrets: its quiet Chapel by the Sea and its pioneer cemetery, the surprisingly well-done historic museum capsule within the local library, the Buck Key Paddling Trail through a mangrove canopy, music jams with the Jensen brothers and glimpses from the water of the stilted historic fish house that perpetuates the late artist Robert Rauschenberg’s legacy on the island with a thriving artists’ colony.

■ Funky, fishy, randomly fun

At the Matlacha Bridge, a sign alerts (warns?) you: Island Time Begins Here. A giant fish that morphs grouper, trout and redfish into one — with cracker-box buildings forming its fin — greets you on the side of the post office. Shops, rental cottages, bars and restaurants jumble in a disorderly but exceedingly charming Alice-in-Wonderland kind of way.

Forever, the tiny Pine Island community of Matlacha (matt-la-SHAY) has been all about commercial fishing and selling seafood. A town that hosts an annual Mullet Toss Championship, it still is. But in more recent times, an art influence has seeped in, inspired by bobbing shrimp trawlers and manatees in the pass.

The town exudes a renegade spirit, where rules are meant to be broken — or at least bent. The best way to understand it is to stop at Bert’s Bar for a cold one; paddle Matlacha Pass; do lunch at the Blue Dog Bar & Grill, where mullet is considered anything but lowly on the food chain; and visit the gallery and fanciful waterside gardens belonging to Leoma Lovegrove, creator of that aforementioned composite fish mural.

■ Riveting river vibes

Don’t let its compact size fool you. Downtown Punta Gorda has it going on. On the Peace River, on its historic streets, on its walls. Roughly half of the city’s 30 murals pop up around the heart of downtown’s main streets of Tamiami Trail, Marion Avenue and Olympia Avenue. They tell the stories behind these historic buildings that now hold highly hailed restaurants such as The Perfect Caper, River City Grill and Leroy’s Southern Kitchen.

Boutique shops intersperse with the restaurants, selling books, art and fashion finery. The best dining and drinking with river views holds forth from the Wyvern Hotel and the Four Points by Sheraton. Head up to the rooftop at the Wyvern for tapas and cocktails at Perch 360. The Tiki Bar at the Four Points sits along 2.5-mile Harborwalk for a relaxed lunch and local craft beer you can follow up with a scenic stroll.

For import beer and Euro noshes, try The Belgian Monk, at right, or Celtic Ray. Top off your lunch with ice cream at Harborwalk Scoops & Bites, part of the marina, restaurant, interactive fountains, pathways and green space of Laishley Park.
ITH JUST ONE PHOTO EQUALING the force of 1,000 words, it’s possible that the best things we can say about Southwest Florida come from behind a camera in the form of images of where we live — and of those who live here with us.

Most would agree there is plenty to see and do here in the realms of our sporting and cultural events, our great nature and our abundance of dining and shopping offering. But what really makes the area great is its people.

With Southwest Florida being a destina-

 Faces of SWFL
As some of our favorite photographers know, it’s the people who make this place so great.

BY ERIC RADDATZ
eraddatz@floridaweekly.com

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tion for retirees, young families, newlyweds and everyone in between, we can be sure that it is the smiles, the engagements and the community of people who make this a truly special place.

We asked some of our favorite photographers to share their images of the people of Southwest Florida, in their element, to give you a glimpse into the beauty of the human element as the backdrop to this place many consider paradise.

We’ve even included an extremely rare shot by legendary still photographer Clyde Butcher — one that includes a person (top of this page). Photographing at Myakka State Park one day, Mr. Butcher had everything set and just as he clicked the shutter, a boy came seemingly out of nowhere to run up the tree. Clyde normally wouldn’t take a photograph of a person, but he accidentally did on this one.

We hope you enjoy our compilation of telling expressions. If you see any of these friendly faces around town, be sure to let them know you saw them here.
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From mile to wild

There’s more than one way to explore the good nature of Southwest Florida

BY GLENN MILLER
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Four Mile Cove Eco Preserve

One of Southwest Florida’s many delights is how nature and culture co-exist, dancing cheek-to-cheek, if you will.

Take the Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve as an example. This 365-acre chunk of pristine nature is just on the Cape Coral side of the busy Midpoint Bridge, which spans the Caloosahatchee, the river flowing between Cape Coral and Fort Myers.

In pleasant weather November-May, you can rent kayaks and paddle the still waters of the quiet preserve or venture out into the Caloosahatchee, which empties a few miles away into the Gulf of Mexico.

On foot, you can leave the hurly-burly of the Midpoint Bridge behind year-round and venture out on a 6,600-foot nature trail to spot eagles, ibis and other resident avian species. The preserve also has two observation piers, with fishing permitted from the one on the river.

It’s all right here, at the entrance to Cape Coral.

After communing with nature, continue into the city for shopping, movies, parks, golf and restaurants galore.

Or head back toward Fort Myers and find a cultural hub practically at the foot of the span. Straight ahead on Colonial Boulevard, the Lee County Alliance for the Arts and the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre offer art and entertainment just minutes away from Four Mile Cove.

Also on the Fort Myers side is another scenic delight: stately royal palm-lined McGregor Boulevard and the lovely neighborhoods that flank the road all the way north to the Edison and Ford Winter Estates. Instead of going straight across the bridge on Colonial Boulevard, keep to the right and exit for McGregor, then turn north toward downtown.

No matter which direction you come from or where you go afterward, a trek through Four Mile Cove Eco Preserve by land or water gives you an idea of what the sights and sounds of Southwest Florida were like before bridges spanned the rivers and condos pierced the sky.
Babcock Ranch Eco Tours

Babcock Ranch is about the past and the future, all wrapped up into one innovative destination straddling the Lee and Charlotte county lines. A peek into the future of sustainability, walkability and “front porch living,” it’s America’s first solar-powered town.

You can step away from the sprouting neighborhoods and Founders Square with its shops, restaurants, fitness center and more and have a look back into the past by taking a Babcock Ranch Eco Tour. You’ll discover a Florida long before the Internet and interstate highways — a Florida described by Patrick Smith in “A Land Remembered,” the beloved novel about the Sunshine State.

Climb aboard a Babcock Ranch swamp buggy and dip into the wilderness of the massive property. The narrated 90-minute ride takes guests into a wild, rough and beautiful version of Florida, complete with birds and alligators and perhaps deer and wild hogs. The trip meanders through four different eco systems, including Telegraph Cypress Swamp, and includes the working cattle ranch for which the community of the future is named. The tour includes lunch at the Gator Shack.

Of hundreds of reviews on TripAdvisor, 81 percent rate the experience as excellent and another 16 percent peg it very good.

The Bailey Tract at ‘Ding’ Darling

The name “Ding” Darling might throw visitors for a loop. Ding? What is that? A sound effect or a bird? An endangered species of some kind found only on Sanibel Island?

None of the above.

Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling was a Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist who had a passion for conservation and the outdoors. He died in 1962, but his name lives on in a national wildlife refuge that covers about half of Sanibel Island. Within the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge, the Bailey Tract is a freshwater ecosystem that has a walking loop from .3 miles to 1.1 miles, depending on the route taken.

Like much of this magical barrier island off the Lee County coast, the tract is a haven for flora and fauna. Floridahikes.com describes it as “… a quiet place, where the sea breeze rustles through cattails.”

You’ll see birds and gators, shell mounds, gumbo limbo trees and cabbage palms.

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Northerners of a certain age might have a question here: Gumbo limbo? Isn't that the name of an old Jack Lemmon movie?

No. That would be “Under the Yum Yum Tree,” which was released in 1963, a year after Mr. Darling died. It was also the year the causeway to Sanibel opened. Native to South Florida, the gumbo limbo is known by locals as the “tourist tree,” a nod to its red, peeling bark.

You can explore the Bailey Tract on your own or with naturalist guides who are happy to share their knowledge about the delicate ecosystem and its inhabitants.

They also know that “Ding” Darling is not the name of a bird.

■ Collier-Seminole State Park

The name of this state park evokes two Florida legends.

One is Barron Collier, the pioneering early 20th century business tycoon for whom Collier County is named (the state park is in that county, about 17 miles southeast of Naples).

The other part of the park's name, Seminole, refers to the legendary native people who once ruled this part of the state and fought United States soldiers in the 19th century.

The 7,271-acre park is “within one of the largest mangrove swamps in the world,” according to floridastateparks.org. Its flora and fauna may remind visitors of the nearby and better-known Everglades National Park.

Anyone who’s been to Fort Myers will no doubt be familiar with the stately royal palm trees that were planted by Thomas Edison along miles of McGregor Boulevard. According to the website, Collier-Seminole State Park is home to one three original stands of royal palms in Florida that co-exist with large areas of mangrove swamps.

The park has miles of trails for hiking and bicycling and is a destination for fishermen, birders, picnickers and campers (the campground has shower and laundry facilities). Boat ramps and canoe rentals make it easy to explore the watery vastness.

■ Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park

To many Northerners, Florida consists of just two destinations: Miami and Disney World.

But the Sunshine State is about so much more than the glamour of Miami and the glitz of Disney.

Our state park system refers to itself as the “real Florida.” And Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, below, the largest in the state system, is a fabulous slice of that Florida. Near the peninsula’s southern tip, it consists of 120 square miles where the subtropics and tropics converge in the world's largest strand swamp.

This remarkable sanctuary is home to 44 species of orchids, including the legendary and elusive ghost orchid. You might also spot rare species such as the American crocodile and the Florida black bear.

Floridahikes.com calls the Fakahatchee “the Amazon of North America.” How lucky for us that it’s so easy to reach, off State Road 29 just south of where the two-lane road intersects with Interstate 75 in Collier County.

Launch a canoe or kayak and explore the magic of an Amazonian swampland. Or come to fish, bicycle or hike. No swimming is allowed.

The 2,500-foot-long Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk meanders through the swamp and ends at an observation deck and alligator pond.

Remember, no swimming.

You want to swim?

Find a pool in Miami or at Disney.

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Edison & Ford Winter Estates
The winter homes of Thomas A. Edison and Henry Ford, beautifully situated along the Caloosahatchee River, are among the greatest historic treasures in Southwest Florida. The Estates offers extensive guided tours of the Edison and Ford homes, gardens and laboratory. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily (closed Thanksgiving and Christmas). 2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers 239-334-7419 edisonfordwinterestates.org

Shell Factory & Nature Park
A top spot for family fun and shopping, the Shell Factory holds the world’s largest collection of seashells and shell specimens. You will also find fabulous fossils and exquisite coral. 2787 N. Tamiami Trail North Fort Myers 239-995-2141 shellfactory.com

IMAG History & Science Center
Fun for all ages to discover the wonders of science and history, IMAG has more than 60 hands-on exhibits. Feed a stingray, touch animals in the LIVE Animal Encounter shows and visit the Living Lab to see turtles, snakes, frogs, a bearded dragon, and much more. Gaze at the native Florida and exotic fish in the 3,200-gallon aquarium built by Animal Planet’s Tanked and visit the original fort of Fort Myers in a one-of-a-kind 3D virtual reality experience. Younger visitors will enjoy the Mini Museum’s early childhood area.

Zoomers Amusement Park
Enjoy go-carts, a roller coaster, midway rides and indoor games for the entire family. 17455 Summerlin Road, Fort Myers 239-481-ZOOM (9666) zoomersamusementpark.com

Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens
A paved path almost a mile in length winds past rare and beautiful animals residing within a tropical garden that was planted in 1919. Guests delight in seeing many of their favorite animals and also discover an array of rarely seen creatures such as the endangered Malagasy fossas, Red River hogs and Asian deer that bark and eat meat. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, (closed Thanksgiving and Christmas). 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road, Naples 239-262-5409 napleszoo.com
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400 Santa Barbara Blvd., Cape Coral
239-574-0558
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Greenwell’s has it all: go-cart tracks, miniature golf, batting cages, paintball and a 6,000-square-foot arcade.
35 NE Pine Island Road, Cape Coral
239-574-4386
.greenwellsfamilyfunpark.com

The Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida
The museum’s mission is to promote respect and understanding by teaching the history and lessons of the Holocaust through artifacts that tell individual stories within the larger history of the Holocaust. Special events include touring exhibits and guest lecturers. Hours of operation and daily docent-guided tours change with the seasons.
4760 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
239-263-9200
holocaustmuseumswfl.org

Naples Botanical Garden
A world-class paradise that combines delightful cultivated tropical gardens with beautifully restored natural habitat. The Garden connects people and plants through displays, education, conservation and science. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Tuesdays, when the gates open at 8 a.m.
4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples
239-643-7275
naplesgarden.org

Naples Fishing Pier
One of the most popular attractions in Naples, the pier was built in 1888 as a freight and passenger dock and now stands as a community landmark extending 1,000 feet into the Gulf of Mexico. Open 24 hours daily.
25 12th Ave. S., Naples
239-213-3062
naplespier.com

Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Racing & Poker
Operates throughout the year with greyhound racing, full-card simulcasting of dogs and thoroughbreds, as well as a casino-style poker room.
10601 Bonita Beach Road
Bonita Springs
239-992-2411
naplesfortmyersdogs.com

James and Barbara Moore Observatory
Open to the public on specified dates and typically beginning 30-45 minutes after it is dark enough to see stars, weather permitting. Call or check the website for scheduled dates.
Florida SouthWestern State College
Charlotte campus
26300 Airport Road, Punta Gorda
941-637-3518
fsw.edu/charlotte/observatory

Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary
Pack a picnic lunch and spend a day at the sanctuary that provides recovery and living environments for abandoned and abused exotic wildlife.
41660 Horseshoe Road, Punta Gorda
239-543-1130
octagonwildlife.org

Fishermen’s Village
This destination on Charlotte Harbor offers an array of shopping and dining options. The award-winning marina has cruise and fishing charters, rental boats, kayaks, bicycles and a heated swimming pool.
1200 West Retta Esplanade
Punta Gorda
941-639-8721
fishville.com

The Military Heritage & Aviation Museum
Home to artifacts and memorabilia representing most military conflicts in which the U.S. has participated, from the Civil War to the present.
Fishermen’s Village
1200 West Retta Esplanade
Punta Gorda
941-575-9002
freedomsnotfree.org

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NCHmd.org/Mayo
Blanchard House Museum
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406 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Punta Gorda
941-575-7518
blanchardhousemuseum.org

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center
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941-575-5435
Cedar Point
2300 Placida Road, Englewood
941-475-0769
checflorida.org

Babcock Ranch Eco-Tours
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8000 State Road 31, Punta Gorda
800-500-5583
babcockranchecotours.com

Redneck Mud Park
The largest off-road mud camp in the Sunshine State has an oval race track, mudding trails, camping, RV parking and mud holes.
44570 Bermont Road, Punta Gorda
239-691-8557
redneckmudpark.com

Nav-A-Gator Grill
With airboat rides, riverboat tours, boat and canoe rentals and Old Florida rock ‘n’ roll, the Nav-A-Gator is a slice of the way things used to be.
9700 SW Riverview Circle, Arcadia
941-627-3474
nav-a-gator.com

Florida Tracks & Trails
If the off-road life and other down-and-dirty outdoors activities are your thing, this is your Disney World, complete with tracks and trails, paintball, a zipline, a general store and even a beach. Check the website for concerts and festivals. Opens at 5 p.m. Fridays.
39450 Bermont Road, Punta Gorda
844-743-3388
floridatracksandtrails.com

C’mon, the Golisano Children’s Museum of Naples
Celebrate the natural curiosity of children in this dynamic space that encourages exploration and discovery. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Wednesday and Sunday. Adults must be accompanied by a child to gain entrance.
15080 Livingston Road, Naples
239-514-0084
cmon.org

Sun-n-Fun Lagoon
Kids of all ages, parents and grandparents all enjoy getting drenched in the park’s 1 million gallons of water fun. Because days and hours of operation vary with the seasons and with the weather, always check ahead of time before a visit.
15000 Livingston Road, Naples
239-252-4120
napleswaterpark.com

The REVS Institute
The finest sports car collection in America, according to The New York Times, began as the Collier Collection, owned by Miles Collier. Nearly every vehicle in the collection has been masterfully restored according to exacting historical standards and is maintained in peak operational condition. Museum is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Tickets must be purchased in advance.
2500 Horseshoe Drive, Naples
239-687-7387
revisnstitute.org

The Baker Museum at Artis—Naples
Emphasizing modern and contemporary art, The Baker Museum hosts several traveling exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collections. This season’s highlights include: Philip Haas: The Four Seasons, Isabelle de Borchgrave: Fashioning Art from Paper and Daniel Buren: A Colorful Pause.
5833 Pelican Bay Blvd., Naples
239-597-1111
artisnaples.org

The REVS Institute

■ Blanchard House Museum
■ Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center
■ Babcock Ranch Eco-Tours
■ Redneck Mud Park
■ Nav-A-Gator Grill
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  239-395-0900
  bigarts.org

- Florida Repertory Theatre
  Drama, comedy, musicals
  2268 Bay St., Fort Myers
  239-332-4488
  floridarep.org

- Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall
  Orchestra, Broadway, performances
  13350 Edison Parkway
  Fort Myers; 239-481-4849
  bmannpah.com

- Broadway Palm
  Dinner Theatre and Off Broadway Palm
  Comedy, musicals
  1380 College Parkway
  Fort Myers; 239-278-4422
  broadwaypalm.com

- FGCU Bower School of Music
  Faculty and student recitals
  10501 FGCU Blvd.
  Fort Myers; 239-590-1000
  fgcu.edu/cas/bsm/concerts.html

- Theatre Conspiracy
  Drama, comedy, new plays at the Alliance for the Arts
  10091 McGregor Blvd.
  Fort Myers; 239-936-3239
  theatreconspiracy.org

- Southwest Florida Symphony
  Performances at various locations in Lee County
  Box office: 8290 College Parkway
  Fort Myers; 239-418-1500
  swflsymphony.org

- Alliance for the Arts
  Theater, art exhibits, classes
  10091 McGregor Blvd.
  Fort Myers; 239-939-2787
  artinlee.org

- Gulf Coast Symphony
  Performances at various locations in Lee County
  239-277-1700
  gulfcoastsymphony.org

- Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center
  Art exhibits, music, theater, films
  2301 First St., Fort Myers
  239-333-1933
  sbdac.com

- Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at FSW
  Fine art
  8099 College Parkway
  Fort Myers; 239-489-9313
  bobrauschenberggallery.com

- The Laboratory Theater of Florida
  Contemporary, classic and experimental theater
  1634 Woodford Ave., Fort Myers
  239-218-0481
  laboratorytheaterflorida.com

- New Phoenix Theatre
  Entertainment to enlighten and inspire
  13211 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers
  239-284-5214
  newphoenixtheatrefortmyers.org

- Centers for the Arts
  Bonita Springs
  Art exhibits, performances, classes
  26100 Old 41 Road
  Bonita Springs; 239-495-8989
  artcenterbonita.org

- Cambier Park bandshell
  Outdoor concerts
  755 Eighth Ave. S., Naples
  239-213-3058, naplesgov.com

- Gulfshore Playhouse
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  755 Eighth Ave. S., Naples
  866-811-411, gulfshoreplayhouse.org

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  Community theater, drama, comedy, musicals

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888-966-3352
theatrezone-florida.com

Arts—Naples
Philharmonic orchestra, Broadway, lectures, concerts
5833 Pelican Bay Blvd., Naples
239-597-1900, artisnaples.org

The Naples Art Association
Fine art, exhibits, classes
585 Park St., Naples
239-262-6517, naplesart.org

The Norris Center
Music, films, comedy, live performances
755 Eighth Ave. S., Naples
239-213-3058, naplesgov.com

Charlotte Symphony
Philharmonic orchestra, Broadway, lectures, concerts
5833 Pelican Bay Blvd., Naples
239-434-7340, naplesplayers.org

Asolo Repertory Theatre
Drama, comedy, musicals
FSU Center for the Performing Arts adjacent to the Ringling Museum of Art
5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
941-218-3779, veniceperformingartscenter.com

Venice Theatre
Celebrating and nurturing creative expression, fostering communication and understanding, and challenging audiences through theater and the performing arts
140 W. Tampa Ave., Venice
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Englewood Art Center
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350 S. McCall Road, Englewood
941-474-5548, ringling.edu/EAC

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RECURRING EVENTS

- **Fort Myers Art Walk**
  6-10 p.m. on the first Friday.
  Downtown Fort Myers
  fortmyersartwalk.com

- **ART ALIVE Naples**
  6-9 p.m. on the first Wednesday November–June and 11 a.m.–4 p.m. on the third Saturday January–March.
  Studios and galleries north of Pine Ridge Road and south of Trade Center Way between Taylor and Airport Pulling roads
  239-289-5070
  naplesartdistrict.com

- **Music Walk Fort Myers**
  6-10 p.m. on the third Friday of each month.
  Live music at restaurants, galleries and bars, plus street performers.
  Downtown Fort Myers
  fortmyersmusicwalk.com

- **Alive After 5 Punta Gorda**
  5-8 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.
  Live entertainment, wine tastings, artist demonstrations and art receptions. Plenty of free parking.
  Downtown Punta Gorda
  941-505-0130

- **Art After Dark Naples**
  6-9 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the Galleries of Crayton Cove.
  12th Ave., Naples
  239-404-5014
  galleriesofcraytoncove.com

- **Art in the Park Naples**
  Feb. 9, March 9 and April 13
  Naples Artcrafters display and sell their works in Cambier Park.
  naplesartcrafters.com

- **Second Tuesday on Marco**
  5:30–7 p.m. on the second Tuesday at the Marco Island Center for the Arts.
  A reception for the new exhibits, a wine bar and hors d’oeuvres.
  1010 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island
  239-394-4221
  marcolandart.org

- **Art in the Park Punta Gorda**
  5-7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.
  Live entertainment, wine tastings, artist demonstrations and art receptions. Plenty of free parking.
  Downtown Punta Gorda
  941-505-0130

- **Sanibel Island**
  SUNDAYS
  8am-1pm | City Hall

- **River District WEDNESDAYS**
  9am-1pm | Centennial Park

- **Coconut Point THURSDAYS**
  9am-1pm | Coconut Point Mall

- **Sonobur Island SUNDAYS**
  8am-1pm | City Hall

- **Bonita Springs SATURDAYS**
  8am-Noon | Promenade Mall

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  - **Fort Myers Center for the Arts**
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- **MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET**
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  MAR 19-APR 10
  In the Historic Arcade Theatre

- **NATIVE GARDENS**
  by Karen Zacarias
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SIGNATURE EVENTS

The Caloosahatchee Celtic Festival
Jan. 25-26
The 16th annual festival celebrates music by the Screaming Orphans, Rathkeltair, Albannach, House of Hamilt, Marcille Walls & Friends, West of Galway, Blue Skye Pipes & Drums and the Kellyn Celtic Arts Irish Dance Academy. Centennial Park, Fort Myers celthertageproductions.com

Swamp Buggy Races at Florida Sports Park
Jan. 26-27
Get down and dirty -- or just have fun watching others do so -- at the mud-feast that’s been a Naples tradition since 1948. 8520 Rattlesnake Hammock Road, Naples thefloridaSPORTspark.com swampbuggy.com

Ghost Walks at Koreshan Park
Jan. 26-Feb. 2
The history of the Koreshan Unity Settlement comes to life in an atmosphere of moonlight and candlelit pathways as historical interpreters in period costumes portray its founding more than 100 years ago. Limited tickets go on sale Dec. 1. 3800 Corkscrew Road, Estero 239-992-0311 friendsokoreshan.org

ArtFest Fort Myers
Feb. 2-3
Enjoy and purchase artwork in a variety of mediums and prices from more than 200 nationally recognized artists from across the country and around the world. Edwards Drive, Fort Myers 239-788-3602 artfestfortmyers.com

Charlotte County Fair
Feb. 1-10
Amusement rides, animals, fair food and bull riding.
2333 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte 941-629-4252 thecharlottecountycfair.com

Everglades Seafood Festival
Feb. 9-10
The 48th annual festival brings live country music, carnival rides, arts, crafts and, of course, fresh shrimp, fish and stone crab claws, fried gator and lots more seafood. More than 100 vendors offer food, refreshments and arts and crafts. 102 Copeland Ave. N., Everglades City 239-685-3781

Cars on Fifth
Feb. 9
The Naples Chapter of the Ferrari Club of America hosts the 14th annual Cars on Fifth for owners and admirers of exotic cars of all kinds. Along Fifth Avenue South, Naples 239-692-8436

Bonita Springs National Art Festivals
Feb. 9-10, March 2-3
Enjoy the work of national and international artists in the quaint ambience of downtown Bonita. 10450 Reynolds St., Bonita Springs artinusa.com/bonita

Funk Fest Punta Gorda
Feb. 15-16
Get down at the 10th annual outdoor music festival that celebrates funk at its finest. City Marketplace, Punta Gorda On Facebook: Funk Fest Punta Gorda

The Edison Festival of Light Grand Parade
Feb. 16
One of the largest nighttime parades in the country pays tribute to celebrated Fort Myers winter resident Thomas Edison. Downtown Fort Myers 239-334-2999 edisonfestival.org

Naples National Art Festival
Feb. 23-24
Fine juried art along with great food and entertainment. Naples Art Association Cambier Park and Eighth Street Naples naplesart.org

14th annual Wine and Jazz Festival
Feb. 23
Presented by the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce and featuring Gerald Albright, Sax Pack and Matt Marshak. Laishley Park 100 Nesbit St., Punta Gorda puntagordachamber.com

The Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair
Feb. 28-March 10
Local agriculture, horticulture, home-baked goods, small farm animals and a horse show, plus dozens of carnival rides, games and food booths. Lee Civic Center 11831 Bayshore Road North Fort Myers 239-543-7469 swflcfair.com

Southwest Florida Reading Festival
March 2
The largest one-day reading festival in Florida brings dozens of authors to town to discuss their work and celebrate books with readers of all ages. Fort Myers Regional Library 2450 First St., Fort Myers readfest.org

Bonita Blues Festival
March 8-9
The 13th annual festival brings Southern Hospitality (Victor Wainwright, Damon Fowler and JP Sosar), Albert Cummings, Johnny Rawls, The Angel Forrest Band, The Jimmys, Amanda Fish & Levee Town and more to the outdoor stage. Riverside Park 10451 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs bonitablues.com

Collier County Fair
March 14-24
Midway rides, 4-H competitions and favorite fair foods. 10 miles east of I-75 (exit 111) on Immokalee Road in Naples. 239-455-1444 colliercountyfair.com

Sanibel-Captiva Lions Club Arts and Crafts Fair
March 15-16
The 36th annual festival features more than 100 fine artists and craftsmen from across the U.S. Sanibel Community Center 2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel
The Naples St. Patrick’s Day Parade
March 16
For more than 40 years, the largest privately run parade in the Sunshine State has livened up downtown Naples in celebration of Irish culture and heritage in America. The Naples St. Patrick Foundation keeps the tradition going.
Fifth Avenue South, Naples
239-692-8436
naplesparade.com

Peace River National Art Festival
March 16-17
The 11th annual event features more than 70 booths of fine arts and exquisite crafts complemented by art demonstrations, live music, food, wine and beer.
Laishley Park
100 Nesbit St., Punta Gorda
boulderbrook.net

The Naples Flower Show
March 22-23
A project of the Naples Garden Club, the largest juried flower show in Southwest Florida includes floral designs, exotic plants, education displays and interactive demonstrations.
Naples Botanical Garden
4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples
naplesgardenclub.org

Peace River Revival
March 30
Multiple bands from folk and Americana to country rock and indie pop performing on two stages promise to get you up on your feet.
Food trucks abound, too.
Laishley Park
100 Nesbit St., Punta Gorda

The ninth annual Fort Myers Film Festival
April 10-14
Opening-night gala and films at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center and awards ceremony at the Broadway Palm Theatre with screenings at FSW, Alliance for the Arts and IMAG.
239-810-6323
fortmyersfilmfestival.com

The ninth annual Fort Myers Film Festival
April 10-14
Opening-night gala and films at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center and awards ceremony at the Broadway Palm Theatre with screenings at FSW, Alliance for the Arts and IMAG.
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fortmyersfilmfestival.com

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NEWS & INFO

FLORIDA WEEKLY

Florida Weekly is one of the largest circulating newsweeklies in Florida, with a circulation of more than 90,000 papers in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Palm Beach, Sarasota and Monroe counties reaching more than 220,000 readers in print, online and mobile each week. We provide weekly print editions, online, iPad and mobile for your iPhone or Android devices.

Electronic

- **Online** – In addition to our complete print edition, our website, www.floridaweekly.com, provides photo galleries, contests, pickup locations, special sections and profiles of all of our advertisers.
- **iPad** – Read the entire edition of Florida Weekly in an easy-to-navigate format. Go to the iTunes store and download the app to read Florida Weekly anywhere.
- **iPhone/Android** – Download the easy-to-navigate smart phone version of Florida Weekly at the iTunes store.

Print

Eight weekly editions covering: Fort Myers, Naples, Bonita Springs, Punta Gorda/Port Charlotte, Venice, Palm Beach Gardens/Jupiter and West Palm Beach and the Palm Beaches and Key West; and one monthly, the Babcock Ranch Telegraph.

- **Luxe Living** – Naples and Bonita Springs luxury living guide.
- **At Home** – Charlotte County’s guide to everything about the home.
- **Healthy Body** – Charlotte County’s guide to your health.
- **Healthy Living** – Palm Beach County’s guide to looking and feeling better.
- **Destination Southwest Florida** (January) – Discover the great things about our Southwest Florida communities.
- **Arts Preview** (November and February) – Our definitive guide to the Southwest Florida arts, theater and music scenes.

- **Florida Weekly’s Best** (May) – Florida Weekly’s intrepid writers and editors scour South Florida looking for the best of everything.
- **Market Pulse** (July, August, September or October depending on market) – Our nod to the men and women who run Florida’s companies.
- **Southwest Florida Physicians Directory** (November) – A comprehensive guide to the leading doctors and medical services in Southwest Florida.
- **Southwest Florida Newcomers Guide** (November) – Everything you need to know to settle down in paradise.
- **New Year’s Eve Party Guide** – Where to go and what to do to ring in the new year.
- **Spring training preview** – Annual guide devoted to the Grapefruit League.
SPORTING EVENTS

■ Professional hockey ECHL
Florida Everblades
Germain Arena
11000 Everblades Parkway, Estero
239-948-7825
floridaeverblades.com

■ Chubb Classic
golf tournament
Feb. 11-17
A Champions Tour event
Twin Eagles
11725 TwinEagles Blvd., Naples
239-593-3900
chubbclassic.com

■ College basketball,
men’s and women’s
Alico Arena
Florida Gulf Coast University
10501 FGCU Blvd., Fort Myers
239-590-7145

■ The Gene Cusic
Collegiate Classic
Late February-March
Up to 200 college baseball and
softball teams compete at various
Lee County fields
leeegov.com/parks/

■ Edison Festival
of Light 5K
Feb. 16 at 5:45 p.m., before
the Grand Parade of Light
Downtown Fort Myers

■ Boston Red Sox
spring training
Grapefruit League games
begin in late February
JetBlue Park at Fenway South
11581 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers
617-482-4300

■ Minnesota Twins
spring training
Grapefruit League games
begin in late February
CenturyLink Sports Complex
14100 Ben C. Pratt/Six Mile Cypress
Parkway, Fort Myers
612-33-TWINS; 800-33-TWINS

■ Tampa Bay Rays
spring training
Grapefruit League games begin
in late February
Charlotte County Sports Park
2300 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte
raysbaseball.com

■ All-Florida Championship
Rodeo in Arcadia.

COURTESY PHOTO
- **Florida SouthWestern State College Athletics**  
  Men’s and women’s basketball at Suncoast Credit Union Arena;  
  baseball and softball at City of Palms Park  
  Fort Myers  
  239-481-4849; 800-440-7469  
  fswbucs.com/tickets  
  bucstix@fsw.edu

- **Professional rodeo**  
  Arcadia All-Florida Championship Rodeo  
  March 7-10  
  124 Heard St., Arcadia  
  800-749-7633  
  arcadiarodeo.com

- **The Naples Boat Show**  
  Jan. 17-20  
  The Marine Industry Association of Collier County brings dozens of boat dealers, marinas and nautical vendors of all kinds to the tarmac at Naples Municipal Airport.  
  526 Terminal Drive, Naples  
  239-682-0900  
  miacc.org

- **The Minto US Open Pickleball Championship**  
  April 27-May 4  
  This international competition includes singles, doubles and mixed doubles play in a variety of skill levels and age groups. In 2018, 2,000 players from 47 states and 20 countries battled it out for seven days on 50 courts. CBS Sports covers the 2019 action at East Naples Community Park.  
  3500 Thomasson Drive, Naples  
  239-793-4414  
  usopenpickleballchampionship.com

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Pain Management Consultants of Southwest Florida treats a broad range of chronic pain conditions with an emphasis on spinal ailments that lead to chronic back and neck pain. Other areas of expertise include: treatment of migraines, facial pain, joint pain, muscular pain and spasms, Fibromyalgia, vertebral compression fractures, pain secondary to work injuries, CRPS (complex regional pain syndrome), shingles (post-herpetic neuralgia) and nerve injury pain. Our friendly, caring and experienced staff, Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants will help you with all aspects of your plan of care with compassion and professionalism.

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## STATE PARKS

### Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park
12301 Burnt Store Road
Punta Gorda
941-575-5861
Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park is comprised of 42,000 acres and protects 70 miles of shoreline along Charlotte Harbor in Charlotte and Lee counties. Boating, canoeing and kayaking, fishing

### Don Pedro Island State Park
8450 Placida Road, Placida
941-964-0375
Don Pedro, part of an extensive chain of barrier islands extending along Florida’s Gulf Coast, is accessible only by private boat or ferry. Boaters can tie up at the dock on the mangrove-lined bay side of the island. Boating, canoeing and kayaking, fishing, hiking/nature trail, picnicking, restrooms, swimming, wildlife viewing

### Cayo Costa State Park
880 Belcher Road, Boca Grande
941-964-0375
With 9 miles of beautiful beaches and acres of pine forests, oak-palm hammocks and mangrove swamps, this barrier island park is a Gulf Coast paradise. Beaches, bicycling, boating, cabins, camping, canoeing and kayaking, fishing, hiking/nature trail, picnicking, restrooms, swimming, wildlife viewing

### Mound Key Archaeological State Park
Managed by Koreshan State Park
3800 Corkscrew Road, Estero
239-992-0311
Prehistoric Native Americans are credited with creating this island’s complex of mounds with an accumulation of seashells, fish bones, and pottery. Mound Key is believed to have been the ceremonial center of the Calusa Indians when the Spaniards first attempted to colonize Southwest Florida. Boating, fishing, hiking/nature trail, interpretive exhibit, restrooms, wildlife viewing

### Gasparilla Island State Park
880 Belcher Road, Boca Grande
941-964-0375
The centerpiece of Gasparilla is the restored Boca Grande Lighthouse built in 1890. Beaches, bicycling, canoeing and kayaking, fishing, hiking/nature trail, picnicking, restrooms, swimming, wildlife viewing

### Koreshan State Historic Site
3800 Corkscrew Road, Estero
239-992-0311
Visitors can fish, picnic, boat and hike where Cyrus Teed’s visionaries, who came to Estero in 1894 to build New Jerusalem for his new faith, Koreshanity, once carried out survey experiments to prove the horizon on the beaches of Collier County curves upward. Boat ramp, camping, canoeing and kayaking, fishing, hiking/nature trail, historic site, picnicking, playground, restrooms, wildlife viewing

### J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge
1 Wildlife Drive, Sanibel
239-472-1100
fws.gov/dingdarling
Part of the largest undeveloped mangrove ecosystem in the United States, the refuge is world famous for its spectacular migratory bird populations.

### Big Cypress National Preserve Oasis Visitor Center
5215 Tamiami Trail East
Ochopee
239-695-2000
nps.gov/bicy/index.htm
Big Cypress National Preserve contains a mixture of tropical and...
temperate plant communities that are home to a diversity of wildlife, including the elusive Florida panther. Canoeing and kayaking, hiking, hunting, CRV use, tours

■ Estero Bay Preserve State Park
Managed by Koreshan State Park
3800 Corkscrew Road, Estero
239-992-0311
The first aquatic preserve established in Florida, this is one of the most productive estuaries in the state. The bay is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including the bald eagle. Bicycling, boating, canoeing and kayaking, fishing, hiking/nature trail, restrooms, wildlife viewing

■ Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park
137 Coastline Drive
Copeland
239-695-4593
A 2,000-foot boardwalk at Big Cypress Bend meanders through the old growth cypress and enables visitors to experience the beauty of this unusual swamp. Hiking/nature trail, tour, wildlife viewing

■ Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
11135 Gulfshore Drive, Naples
239-597-6196
The mile-long stretch of white sugar sand at Delnor-Wiggins has been rated one of the best beaches in the nation. The 166-acre park is a tropical paradise for beach lovers, boaters and divers.

Beaches, boat ramp, boating, fishing, picnicking, restroom facilities, scuba diving, showers, swimming, wildlife viewing

■ Everglades National Park
Gulf Coast Visitor Center
815 Oyster Bar Lane, Everglades City
239-695-3311
nps.gov/ever/index.htm
The largest subtropical wilderness in the United States boasts rare and endangered species. Hiking, camping, fishing, boating, canoe and kayak trails, tours

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15215 Collier Blvd # 301
Naples, FL 34119

Fort Myers • 939-7211
Daniels and I-75
9510 Market Place Rd
Fort Myers, FL 33912

DESTINATION SWFL 2019 | 65
HEALTH CARE

HOSPITALS

Lee County
Lee Health runs five hospitals:
Cape Coral Hospital, 636 Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral; 239-424-2000
Gulf Coast Medical Center, 13681 Doctor’s Way, Fort Myers; 239-343-1000
HealthPark Medical Center, 9981 S. HealthPark Drive, Fort Myers; 239-343-5000
Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, 9981 S. HealthPark Drive; 239-343-KIDS (5437)
Lee Memorial, 2776 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers; 239-343-2000

Prime Healthcare Services runs:
Lehigh Regional Medical Center, 1500 Lee Blvd., Lehigh Acres; 239-369-2101

Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, 9981 S. HealthPark Drive; 239-343-KIDS (5437)
Lee Memorial, 2776 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers; 239-343-2000
HealthPark Medical Center, 9981 S. HealthPark Drive, Fort Myers; 239-343-5000
Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, 9981 S. HealthPark Drive; 239-343-KIDS (5437)
Lee Memorial, 2776 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers; 239-343-2000

North Collier Hospital, 11190 Health Park Blvd., Naples; 239 513-7000
Physicians Regional Healthcare System operates:
Physicians Regional-Collier, 830 Collier Blvd., Naples; 239-354-6000
Physicians Regional-Pine Ridge, 6101 Pine Ridge Road, Naples; 239-348-4000

Charlotte County
Bayfront Punta Gorda, 809 E. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda; 941-639-3131
Bayfront Port Charlotte, 2500 Harbour Blvd., Port Charlotte; 941-766-4122

Collier County
NCH Healthcare System operates:
Naples Community Hospital, 350 Seventh St. N., Naples; 239-436-5000
North Collier Hospital, 11190 Health Park Blvd., Naples; 239 513-7000

Physicians Regional-Collier, 830 Collier Blvd., Naples; 239-354-6000
Physicians Regional-Pine Ridge, 6101 Pine Ridge Road, Naples; 239-348-4000

Find a physician or caregiver
Florida Weekly’s Physician’s Guide is a comprehensive listing of medical practitioners in Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties. Go to floridaweekly.com, select your area and click “Special Sections.”
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26795–26851 South Bay Dr., Bonita Springs, FL 34134
**SHOPPING**

### LEE COUNTY

- **Sanibel Outlets**
  
  Just east of the Lee island coast, Sanibel Outlets includes more than 40 designer brands at discount prices.

  20350 Summerlin Road, Fort Myers

  9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday - Saturday
  10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday

  239-454-1974; 888-471-3939

  sanibeloutlets.com

- **Promenade at Bonita Bay**

  With exquisite boutiques, high-end salons and excellent restaurants, Promenade at Bonita Bay attracts both locals and visitors from around the world. This open-air center is Lee County’s southernmost shopping, dining and entertainment destination.

  South Bay Drive, Bonita Springs

  Hours vary by business

  promenadeshops.com

- **Coconut Point**

  This picturesque outdoor mall features more than 140 stores including Dillard’s, Target, Apple Store, Michael Kors and Barnes & Noble — all surrounding several acres of lakes with a boardwalk. Its variety of dining options for all tastes is topped by the elegant Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse.

  23106 Fashion Drive, Estero

  10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday - Saturday
  Noon - 6 p.m. Sunday

  239-992-4259

  simon.com/mall/coconut-point

- **Edison Mall**

  The region’s original indoor mall celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015, and this Southwest Florida landmark has expanded to more than 160 specialty shops surrounded by the Big 4 anchors: Macy’s, Dillard’s, Sears and JCPenney.

  4125 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers

  10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday - Saturday
  Noon - 6 p.m. Sunday

  239-939-1933

  simon.com/mall/edison-mall

- **The Bell Tower Shops**

  Located just east of the Lee Island coast, The Bell Tower Shops includes more than 160 designer brands at discount prices.

  239-489-1221

  thebelltowershops.com

### CHARLOTTE COUNTY

- **Edison Town Center**

  This outdoor mall opened in phases between 2005 and 2007, and is still expanding in its location just off Interstate 75. The center features Bass Pro Shops, Belk, Best Buy, Costco, Dick’s Sporting Goods, JCPenney and Target as its anchor stores, and offers a variety of dining options to suit every budget and taste.

  9903 Gulf Coast Main St., Fort Myers

  10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday - Saturday
  Noon - 6 p.m. Sunday

  239-948-3766

  miromaroutlets.com

- **Periwinkle Place**

  This island gem was selected by the Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau as Sanibel’s top shopping destination for its 25 shops, including the original Chico’s, the award-winning Blue Giraffe Restaurant and Sanibel Day Spa among covered boardwalks, tropical landscaping, fountains and a butterfly garden.

  2075 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel

  10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday - Saturday,
  (select shops open until 8 p.m.)

  Noon - 6 p.m. Sunday

  Dining: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily

  periwinkleplace.com

### COLLIER COUNTY

- **Coastland Center**

  Opened in 1976, Coastland Center is anchored by Macy’s, JCPenney and Dillard’s. In all, there are more than 130 places to shop and dine.

  1900 Tamiami Trail N., Naples

  10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday - Saturday
  Noon - 6 p.m. Sunday

  239-262-2323

  coastlandcenter.com

- **Miacomet Center**

  Naples’ tony Fifth Avenue South is a timeless mix of glamour and laid-back ease for shopping, dining and social life. Historic and modern architecture blend in eclectic sophistication; tropical blooms grace its pedestrian-friendly promenades and each storefront is filled with wonderful finds and delights.

  Hours vary by business

  239-692-8436

  fifthavenuesouth.com

- **Mercato**

  Anchored by Whole Foods Market, Nordstrom Rack and Silverspot Cinema (a 12-screen luxury theater complex), Mercato offers more than 20 upscale retailers and luxury residential condominiums. The year-
round event calendar includes live music, festivals and fairs, most of which are free and open to the public.
9132 Strada Place, North Naples
10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday
noon-6 p.m. Sunday
239-254-1080
mercatoshops.com

■ Third Street South
Next to the beaches of the Gulf of Mexico, the Naples Pier and the colorful original beach cottages of Old Naples, delightful shopping and dining on historic Third Street South awaits amidst courtyards, antique European fountains and colorful, cascading flowers.
Hours vary by business
Concierge kiosk at Camargo Park, opposite the Fleischmann Fountain
239-434-6533
thirdstreetsouth.com

■ The Village on Venetian Bay
Set on the waterfront of Venetian Bay, the village encompasses almost 50 shops and restaurants. Be sure to check out the special-events calendar.
4200 Gulf Shore Blvd. N., Naples
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HEY SEEM ALMOST AS ONE, THESE IDYLLIC, SUN-splashed barrier islands just off the Lee County coast.

They’re both dotted with palm trees and beaches, lovely homes, fine restaurants and resorts. Now, their connection is a bridge and a chamber of commerce and the feeling of subtropical tranquility.

Actually, until a 1926 hurricane blasted them apart, they were one island. Now, they’re two, but they share a lifestyle and more.

The islands could be reached only by boat until 1963, when the 3-mile-long causeway was built, linking Sanibel to the mainland — and changing the islands forever.

Residents and visitors alike are often spotted doing the “Sanibel Stoop,” walking along an island beach, head down, stopping every few steps to pick up a seashell. Sanibel is one of the world's top shell-hunting destinations and home of the Bailey-Mathews National Shell Museum, the only such museum in the country.

Sanibel is also home to J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge, a pristine retreat where more than 220 species of birds can be found.

It’s all just a convenient drive over a bridge from the mainland.

Fort Myers

Fort Myers was incorporated in 1885 with a population of 349 and two years later became the county seat when Lee County was carved out of what was then Monroe County. Then, it was little more than a cow town of a few ramshackle buildings hugging the river.

The downtown area along the Caloosahatchee is now known as the River District and borders the governmental hub of the county with city, county, state and federal offices.

The city offers a vibrant, diverse arts scene. Florida Repertory Theatre, one of the nation’s top repertory companies, is based in the downtown Arcade Building, which opened in 1908. Fort Myers also offers the Broadway Palm
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The River District is speckled with architectural gems such as the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, the Burroughs Home (built in 1901) and the Lee County Courthouse, which was constructed in 1915.

Two Major League Baseball teams, the Boston Red Sox and Minnesota Twins, have spring training in Fort Myers.

**Estero**

Estero used to be little more than a wide spot on U.S. 41 between Fort Myers and Naples, an unincorporated place where folks grew oranges and fished the Estero River.

But since Dec. 31, 2014, it is the Village of Estero, Lee County’s newest incorporated community.

Estero is bustling beyond what anybody might have imagined even very late in the 20th century. It’s virtually the economic centerpiece of Southwest Florida now that Hertz has moved its global headquarters to the heart of the village. The company has a $70 million, 300,000-square-foot complex within walking distance of Coconut Point mall. A short jaunt north of Hertz is a new 180,000-square-foot Walmart Supercenter.

Throughout, Estero brims with shopping, movies, fine dining and hotels.

But bits of the past remain at the Koreshan State Historic Site, which preserves 11 buildings that provide a glimpse into history. The Koreshan Unity, a religious cult founded by Cyrus Teed, moved to Estero in 1894. The Koreshans are gone now, but a growing, vibrant community where business mixes with pleasure remains.

**Bonita Springs**

This golf mecca in southern Lee County is much more than tee boxes and greens. Indeed, there are numerous golf courses throughout the 39 or so square miles of Bonita Springs; they are beautiful courses, too many to try to name here. Heck, there’s even a disc golf course at the Bonita Springs Recreation Center.

But Bonita Springs is much more than golf or fishing or boating, and it’s getting better all the time.

The Centers for the Arts by its name tells you it is about arts in the plural: Film festivals. Art shows. Classes of all kinds for kids and adults.

Bonita Springs, which became an incorporated city in 2000, is sprucing up its downtown, a delightful area that straddles Old 41 Road, with an extensive redevelopment program.

Longtime residents know their city has come a long way in a short period of time. In 1970, the population was just a bit shy of 2,000. Today, it’s more than 49,000.

Any mention of Bonita Springs must include the Everglades Wonder Gardens, a throwback to old Florida roadside attractions. It opened in 1936 and is still right there along Old 41 Road.

**Cape Coral**

Only a little more than half a century ago, there was no place called Cape Coral.

Two visionary Baltimore businessmen and brothers, Leonard and Jack Rosen, essentially created a city by buying a huge swath of land, bulldozing trees and digging one of the world’s most extensive canal systems.

Then, the people started coming. And they haven’t stopped.

Now, the 1957 creation by those Baltimore boys is the largest city in Southwest Florida in size and population, a community of more than 160,000 people spread over 120 square miles.

It is home to four public high schools, theaters, shopping, highways and businesses of all sorts.

Where locals once hunted and fished in a vast expanse of pine trees and palmettos, it is now a place where people of all ages shop, dine, work, raise families and enjoy retirement.

The Rosen brothers might not recognize what they created along the shores of the Caloosahatchee River and Pine Island Sound all those years ago, but they surely must have envisioned it.

**Alva**

This rural, unincorporated swath of Lee County east of Fort Myers is a retreat reminiscent of a bygone Florida, a place of citrus groves, cattle, oak trees and trails where residents ride horses through woodlands.

An assumption many newcomers make is this town must be named for Thomas Alva Edison, the legendary inventor who owned a winter home in Fort Myers. Not so.

Peter Nelson, a sea captain, Danish immigrant and rugged Florida pioneer, chose the name, and it has nothing to do with Mr. Edison. Mr. Nelson
chose the name because of the small white flowers, called alvas, that he found here. So Alva it became in the late-19th century, and Alva it remains. Residents want to preserve Alva’s unique charms and have created a website, alvafl.org, whose home page carries this mission statement: “Dedicated to preserving the tranquility and beauty of Alva.”

The website also notes Alva has a “unique historical, rural, agricultural and equestrian ambience.”

No big condos, overpasses or shopping malls here. Alva was beautiful when Capt. Nelson first ventured up the river in the 1880s, and remains much the same today.

**Lehigh Acres**

In some ways, Lehigh Acres resembles Cape Coral. Both were created by visionary northern businessmen in the 1950s and have grown beyond what anybody could have predicted 60 years ago.

But while residents of Cape Coral long ago became an incorporated city, Lehigh Acres remains an unincorporated, 86-square-mile tract of eastern Lee County that about 96,000 people call home.

Lehigh Acres’ origins can be traced back to the days when Dwight Eisenhower was president and television was in black and white. That’s when Chicago businessman Lee Ratner bought 18,000 acres of scrubland and pine trees east of Fort Myers. Few people lived there at the time.

Even before that, what is now Lehigh Acres became known to thousands of young Americans who were stationed at Buckingham Army Airfield, an Army Air Forces training base during World War II.

Now, Lehigh Acres is known as a community where housing is affordable. Its location just east of I-75 puts it within easy driving distance of downtown Fort Myers, Southwest Florida International Airport, Florida Gulf Coast University and the region’s beaches and golf courses.

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**Cape Coral**

Cape Coral borders the Caloosahatchee River and Pine Island Sound.

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Pine Island

This 18-mile-long stretch is Florida’s largest island. But it’s more than the answer to a state geography trivia question.

Pine Island is a glimpse into Florida’s past, to a time before high-rise condos and five-star resorts. It has five communities, each with its own charms, from Bokeelia to the north to St. James City to the south.

In between is Pine Island Center, where motorists drive into the island’s heart and reach the fork. Head north, and a left turn takes one to Pineland; its setting overlooking Pine Island Sound is arguably the most beautiful view in Lee County.

Before driving onto the island, motorists go through Matlacha, a fishing village-turned-art colony on a separate small island that, for the record, is pronounced, “mat-la-SHAY.”

Check out Matlacha’s art galleries, bars and restaurants before or after visiting the four other communities. Walk from any of the galleries to a bridge connecting Matlacha and the island, a span nicknamed “The Fishingest Bridge in the World.” Yes, the fishing is great on Pine Island … as are many things.

Fort Myers Beach

Don’t get confused. Fort Myers Beach is on Estero Island. The bridge connecting it to the mainland is called the Matanzas Pass Bridge.

The Town of Fort Myers Beach was incorporated in 1995. The island is a 7-mile-long playground of beaches, hotels, restaurants and shops.

The island also has a rich history. Long before the first Europeans reached what is known now as Fort Myers Beach in the 1500s, the native Calusa resided on the island. Remnants of their time and culture are visible at the Mound House, an early 20th-century house built atop one of the mounds the Calusa tucked away from the main road.

The primary road along the island is Estero Boulevard, where most of the town’s hotels, shops and restaurants are located.

Near the island’s north end is a pedestrian-friendly shopping and dining district known as Times Square.

It’s all here on Estero Island, aka the Town of Fort Myers Beach.

North Fort Myers

From North Fort Myers’ shores on the Caloosahatchee, the skyline of downtown Fort Myers is clearly visible. That’s “the city” over there. Business and life are different on the north side of the river where fine waterfront homes, restaurants, shops and treasures of all sorts in this unincorporated part of Lee County mix with the farms of rural Florida.

Over to the east of I-75 is the venerable Lee Civic Center, home to a wide array of activities. The center is used for events such as the Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair, concerts, gun shows, craft fairs, RV shows and more.

Another classic venue in North Fort Myers is the Shell Factory & Nature Park, a tourist stop for decades and a place for locals to eat and listen to music.

Yes, North Fort Myers has its attractions, but venture off U.S. 41 and I-75 and you’ll find charming rural settings with names such as Rosy Tomorrows Heritage Farm and the ECHO Global Farm. When one visits these farms and private ranches, “the city” seems much farther than just a river crossing away.

Boca Grande

This tooney resort on Gasparilla Island is an outpost of charm, grace and wealth. The Wall Street Journal once called it the preppiest place on Earth.

Boca Grande’s downtown district is a haven of small shops and cafes, far removed from the malls and chain restaurants dotting many other Florida communities. No high-rise condos touch the sky above Boca Grande.

The centerpiece of town is the rustic Gasparilla Inn, which opened in 1911. The resort has three croquet lawns and is home to the Gasparilla Inn Mallet Club. Interested? The inn offers packages that range from $210 to $590 per night.

Boca Grande has long been a retreat for the elite, from business leaders to politicians and even movie stars; actress Katharine Hepburn was a regular in town in the 1980s.

It’s not all about kicking back on the beach here. The village offers a bicycle path and is home to the World’s Richest Tarpon Tournament, where the entry fee per boat is $5,000.

Punta Gorda

In Punta Gorda, time is divided between now and B.C., or Before Charley, the powerful hurricane that barreled through the city in 2004.
In the wake of the storm, Punta Gorda essentially reinvented itself. An organization called TEAM Punta Gorda was formed to help the city’s recovery.

The city still retains that old-time Florida feel with an historic district near a charming downtown. With a population of about 17,000, it remains the only incorporated community in Charlotte County. Although small, Punta Gorda offers much in the way of beauty, art and culture. The city is nestled along the water where the Peace River meets Charlotte Harbor. The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra provides a dose of class and classical music.

One of the big changes since Hurricane Charley is the addition of the Charlotte Harbor & Event Center on the waterfront, a venue for all sorts of activities. The center is a short walk from downtown restaurants, shops and galleries.

Yes, Hurricane Charley was a destructive intruder, but it left behind a determined community that has used the 14-plus years since to reinvent and improve itself.

Port Charlotte

When Forbes magazine in 2015 named the best 25 places to retire in America, Port Charlotte was on the list. Forbes noted that the cost of living is 8 percent lower in Port Charlotte than the rest of the country, and the unincorporated community has above-average air quality and a low serious-crime rate. It also has great recreation, shopping and culture.

The Port Charlotte Town Center is a major mall, and baseball fans will want to spend time at Charlotte Sports Park, spring-training home of the Tampa Bay Rays and regular-season home of the Charlotte Stone Crabs of the Class A Florida State League.

Then there’s the Charlotte Players, a community theater troupe that traces its roots back to 1961 and calls the Cultural Center of Charlotte County home.

So with many activities at hand and just a short drive to airports in Punta Gorda, Sarasota and Fort Myers, Port Charlotte isn’t just a great place to retire, as Forbes noted. It’s a great place to live, period.
Englewood

Englewood straddles two counties, Charlotte and Sarasota, but it’s a singular place. So much can be found around its bustling, art-district heart on West Dearborn Street. Just east of town, visitors can hike, camp and ride bikes in the Myakka State Forest. On the other side of Englewood is Manasota Key, a beautiful barrier island with restaurants and cottages overlooking the Gulf of Mexico.

Also on Manasota Key is the Hermitage Artist Retreat, where some of the nation’s top creative talent can get away from it all and focus on their art. A short ferry ride away is Palm Island Resort, a distinctive resort with private villas tucked away in subtropical paradise.

In town, there are plenty of things to do, even simple delights such as strolling West Dearborn Street and checking out the shops and bistros. This is a community that offers a barbershop quartet, the Lemon Bay Playhouse, and the Lemon Bay Playhouse. The prestigious Ringling College of Art & Design has a center in Englewood.

Yes, Englewood may be part of two counties, but it is, indeed, a singular place.

Venice

Aptly named the “Shark Tooth Capital of the World,” part of this island town’s charm is its main street for shopping and dining or just strolling down the tree-lined street alongside stately 1920s homes leading to the Gulf of Mexico.

Once a fishing and farming community, Venice is now a vacation destination for families who like to play in the surf, hunt for shark teeth, shop in the historic downtown, bike around the Venetian Waterway Trail and wet a line at the Venice Pier.

Venice offers 14 miles of white sand beaches from Casey Key to Manasota Key and plenty of recreational opportunities, including swimming, sunbathing, fishing and boating. Shelling is a favorite pastime as is golf on the many outstanding courses throughout the area.

Ave Maria

One of Southwest Florida’s fastest growing areas is the town of Ave Maria in eastern Collier County.

Approximately a half-hour drive east of Naples, between Immokalee Road and State Road 29, Ave Maria was founded by Barron Collier Companies, the founding family of Collier County, and Tom Monaghan, founder of Domino’s Pizza.

Since opening in 2007, the planned community has become home to thousands of new residents and growing commercial businesses as well as private schools including Ave Maria University. A town center provides many of life’s necessities and is the spot where you can make a new friend over a cappuccino or treat the kids to a fruit smoothie after school. Friends and families gather nightly at the local pizza shop or the pub. There are also boutique shops, salons, a walk-in clinic and a Publix supermarket.

Ave Maria boasts a private water park, Panther Run Golf Club, miles of walking and biking trails, sports and recreation fields and the Orange Jeep Tours eco-safari company.

The focal point of the town center is the stunning Ave Maria Oratory with a façade by the famed contemporary sculpture artist Marton Varo.

Ave Maria offers several free events open to the public each season. Find the schedule at www.avemaria.com.

Immokalee

Immokalee was once known as Gopher Ridge and also Allen’s Place before acquiring its current name, which means “my home” in the Seminole language.

Immokalee has a connection to millions of Americans who have likely never heard of this agricultural town: about 90 percent of the nation’s winter tomatoes come from farms in and around this rural community. Cucumbers, bell peppers and citrus also are major crops.

But Immokalee is about more than farming. Seminole Casino Immokalee and its hotel stay abuzz with gaming, food and drink, special shows and concerts year-round, thanks to 38 live gaming tables and more than 1,300 slot machines.

Where nearby Naples is considered blue blood, Immokalee represents blue-collar Collier County. NeighborhoodScout.com reports 54.2 percent of its workers are employed in blue-collar work, well more than twice the national average of 27.7 percent. The website also notes that Spanish is the most common language in the town and that 42.3 percent of residents were born in other countries.

Babcock Ranch

Babcock Ranch is a solar-powered city set to grow from its first few residents to eventually some 50,000 people.

It’s a regional outdoor adventure destination with trails and lakes stocked with bass, set among a mosaic of oak hammocks and dry prairie, palmetto flatwoods and cypress domes.

It’s also a foodie oasis with its gourmet Table & Tap restaurant and Slater’s market. There’s a lot to see and do, so where do you start?

You can find all the answers at Woodlea Hall, also known as The Discovery Center, in Founder’s Square. The civic and information hub of Babcock, it is perhaps the most important initial destination for first-time visitors, whether visiting for a day fishing on the lake or looking for more information about the town’s new charter school.

Here you’ll find town ambassadors who can tell you everything you want to know about real estate, events, where to eat, plans for autonomous cars at Babcock or any other question you have about the town.
If a day outdoors is on your agenda, The Discovery Center also houses Curry Creek Outfitters, a gateway to the area for hikers, bikers, kayakers, boaters and fishing enthusiasts alike. Rent a kayak or bike. And if you forget the sunscreen, Curry Creek has that, too. It’s a fully-stocked outdoor shop.

Marco Island

This place was once known as Caxambas, a tough name to spell and pronounce that’s a Native American word for “fresh water.”

This island is blessed for a number of reasons besides its now easier-to-pronounce name. For starters, it’s the biggest of the Ten Thousand Islands. It’s also an ideal place for all sorts of water sports, from kayaking to fishing and sailing.

It’s possible to catch a boat on Marco Island and make a journey south to Key West, the southernmost city in the continental United States, in less than four hours.

The 22.8-square-mile island is connected to the mainland by the SS Jolley Bridge. Once visitors or newcomers cross that bridge, they’ll find just about everything they need for a good time.

Marco Island has hotels, restaurants, shops, beaches, golf courses and plenty of ways to get out and enjoy the water, including six miles of beaches.

Off the sand, a theater troupe has been a staple of the island since the 1970s, bringing live shows to residents and visitors under the banner of the Marco Players. That’s an easier name to deal with than the Caxambas Players.

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9280 Troon Lakes Drive
Terri Moellers
239.213.7344
Web ID 218067164
$699,000

320 Via Portofino
Terri Moellers
239.213.7344
Web ID 218060861
$1,275,000

1405 Via Portofino
Terri Moellers
239.213.7344
Web ID 218060861
$1,275,000

Premier
Sotheby’s
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Pelican Marsh

Pelican Bay

Bay Colony
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Web ID</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7735 Hernando Court</td>
<td>Wes Fendall</td>
<td>239.572.1825</td>
<td>Web ID 218063205</td>
<td>$1,325,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6267 Adkins Avenue</td>
<td>Kim O'Neill</td>
<td>239.572.1825</td>
<td>Web ID 218063205</td>
<td>$1,325,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Hickory Road</td>
<td>Christian Casares</td>
<td>239.963.7873</td>
<td>Web ID 218046606</td>
<td>$470,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9333 Monticello Court</td>
<td>Susan Paynes/Jo Bynum</td>
<td>239.777.7209</td>
<td>Web ID 218068247</td>
<td>$2,699,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>149 Caribbean Court</td>
<td>Whitney Casamento</td>
<td>239.253.6262</td>
<td>Web ID 21801695</td>
<td>$2,495,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1419 Hemingway Place</td>
<td>Heather Hocknick</td>
<td>239.370.3944</td>
<td>Web ID 218065204</td>
<td>$1,595,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naples Square #137</td>
<td>Tom Gaskin</td>
<td>239.404.4883</td>
<td>Web ID 218076968</td>
<td>$1,579,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>530 Cassena Road</td>
<td>Sue Black</td>
<td>239.250.5611</td>
<td>Web ID B19771182179</td>
<td>$1,499,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58 East Avenue</td>
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<td>239.250.5611</td>
<td>Web ID 21704886</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naples Square #307</td>
<td>James Bates</td>
<td>239.961.3973</td>
<td>Web ID 218077065</td>
<td>$1,095,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club #202</td>
<td>Julie Rambos</td>
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<td>Web ID 2190000245</td>
<td>$995,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness</td>
<td>Wilderness Country Club #212</td>
<td>Jane Darling</td>
<td>239.299.3102</td>
<td>$695,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4517 Club Estates Drive</td>
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<td>Web ID 218053904</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Gray Wing Point</td>
<td>Michelle Thomas</td>
<td>239.860.7176</td>
<td>Web ID 218000124</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windstar</td>
<td>Marina Cove #1-102</td>
<td>Vince Colace</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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**NAPLES & SURROUNDS**

Le Repos (detail) by Pablo Picasso

SOTHEBY'S HERITAGE
TASORI

Luxury coach homes from $400,000

Tasori is a neighborhood of spacious, luxury coach homes located within Lely Resort. Weekly open house at 8038 Signature Club Circle. Thurs. Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

239.825.0857

PENDINA AT TREVISO BAY

Single-family waterfront estates from $1,635,000

Private gated enclave within Treviso Bay. Includes the Arthur Hills TPC 18-hole championship golf course membership.

239.249.6830

PeninsulaNaples.com

AQUA II AT PELICAN ISLE

Boutique residences from $2,195,000

Steps away from the water, and a drive away from a plethora of dining, entertainment and shopping. AQUA II provides a sophisticated lifestyle.

239.591.2727

Aqua-Naples.com

TASORI

PENINSULA AT TREVISO BAY

AQUA II AT PELICAN ISLE

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

THIS WEEK’S

GREY OAKS

Luxury coach homes from $400,000

Tasori is a neighborhood of spacious, luxury coach homes located within Lely Resort. Weekly open house at 8038 Signature Club Circle. Thurs. Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

239.825.0857

PREMIER | SOTHEBY’S INTERNATIONAL REALTY
Any Way You Like It (detail) by Diana Ong

More than 270 years of excellence with the Sotheby’s auction house.
One of the nicest units Mystic Gardens has to offer! This updated 2/2 featured updated wood look flooring. $86,000
1866-657-2300 800FM080939.

FORT MYERS

ST. JAMES CITY

Best Buy in Flamingo Bay
3 bed 2 bath manufactured home, minutes from the Center, voluntary HOA offers boat ramp use. $96,500
1866-657-2300 800FM079178.

NORTH FORT MYERS

LABELLE

One of the nicest units Mystic Gardens has to offer! This up-

dated 2/2 featured updated wood look flooring. $86,000
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1866-657-2300 800FM079178.
**Century 21 Sunbelt**

**Independently Owned and Operated**

**Owen this lovely 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home**
Recently painted exterior; open kitchen floor plan with high volume ceilings, and inside laundry. $179,900
1866-657-2300 800CC049007.

**3/2 Condo in Burnt Store Marina**
Gated community with many amenities, upgraded kitchen, enclosed lanai, turley. $178,900
1866-657-2300 800PN17418.

**First Floor Condo All Upgraded great view in Kelly Green Golf**
Totally upgraded great view Kelly Greens championship. $179,900
1866-657-2300 800FM07842.

**3/2/1 with pool!**
Wow! This home has 2525 sqft of living space! Relax by the pool side like a true Floridian. $179,900
1866-657-2300 800KF098038.

**Spacious NW Cape Home**
Split floor plan with over 1600 sq ft under air; newer a/c and screened lanai under truss. $229,000
1866-657-2300 800CC045173.

**The Best View! Kelly Greens Top Floor Veranda Condo**
2nd Floor Veranda Condo with Des, 2 lks, Garage. $214,500
1866-657-2300 800FM04582.

**Move in ready home on 1/2 acre property**
This home has space to spare with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and formal living areas. $218,900
1866-657-2300 800CO088553.

**Wonderful home for a family or investment!**
This well taken care of 3/2 plus den home was built to Dade County standards $210,975
1866-657-2300 800MF083269.

**Great pool home near the river and downtown Ft Myers**
This move in ready home is ready for its new owners. 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. $235,000
1866-657-2300 800LE070240.

**Walk to Cape Harbour...**
Assessments paid on this adorable 3/2 with 2 car garage, screened lanai and fenced yard. $225,000
1866-657-2300 800CC044499.

**Location Location Location...**
Amazing opportunity to own this well kept home with over 1,000 sq ft of living area. $223,000
1866-657-2300 800CC017537.

**Canal Front Home in Matlacha**
Beautiful Large heated pool and spa. Built in 2008 $224,900
1866-657-2300 800KM06548.

**Walk to Cape Harbour...**
Walk to Cape Harbour... 3/2, 2-car garage, fenced lanai, new pool $225,000
1866-657-2300 800CC038915.

**4 Bed 3 Bath Home McInnis Along Kept Home**
4 Bed 3 Bath 2300 sq ft home on an oversold corner lot. $229,900
1866-657-2300 800CC020108.

**Looking for a beautiful townhome in South Ft. Myers, Florida?**
Reflection Lakes this spacious beauty offers 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. $235,000
1866-657-2300 800CC002074.

**Beautiful Bokellia!**
2 Bedroom 2 Bath Captains Cove Condo $229,000
1866-657-2300 800PF071704.

**4/2 Pool Home in Cape Coral**
Desirable SE Cape Coral. Formal living room & family room, 2-car Garage, screened pool. $235,000
1866-657-2300 800PF036616.

Visit www.c21sunbelt.com to view ALL available listings!
Beautiful Condo in Blue Crab Key Bokeelia
A new appliances, screened back balcony views of canal, storage room/office, amenities.
$239,900
8029309418.

CAPE CORAL
3 BR/2 BA POOL HOME - NE CAPE CORAL
Lovely 3 BR 2 POOL HOME in the NE area of Beautiful Cape Coral. TERRACE CAN Garage.
$240,000
8029709804.

Adorable Island Cottage in Matlacha
2/1 cottage within easy walk to all downtown Matlacha. Canal front with dock & 10,000# boat lift.
$249,000
8029707168.

CAPE CORAL
Ready for the great community lifestyle?
This popular gated community in Cape Coral features great amenities!
$249,000
8029205474.

CAPE CORAL
Spectacular Riverfront Views
Updated, stylish 2/2 end unit, 6th FL condo w/hurricane impact windows/doris, Ceramic stone.
$257,500
8029601571.

CAPE CORAL
Your very own “Haven of Relaxation” on freshwater canal.
Your very own “Haven of Relaxation” on freshwater canal
$258,500
8029205474.

Lehigh Acres
Beautiful Plantation Coach Home
Stroll deal at the Plantation for this 3BR 2BA 2 car garage coach home w/ lots of upgrades.
$274,000
8029601700.

PORT CHARLOTTE
Affordable waterfront living in Port Charlotte!
Enjoy fishing and boating from your private dock. Beautiful pool home with many updated
$289,900
8029486767.

Bokeelia
Cozy Canal-Front Cottage in Matlacha
Canal front with dock & 10,000# boat lift. Beautiful, soothing views of canal. RV parking, open floor plan, 3 driveways & double garage.
$298,900
8029609447.

Punta Gorda
Gorgeous Updates & Pond View
Beautiful Plantation Coach Home
$305,000
8029608347.

Ft Myers
Manufactured Home on 10 Acres
Beautiful agricultural acreage with plenty of room for cows or horses.
$329,900
8029742113.

Ft Myers
Huge Lakefront home in Cypress Cay
5 BR 3 Baths. 3 car garage on lake in Gateway. Great shape and ready for new residents.
$345,000
8029601016.

CAPE CORAL
Canal Front Home on Bocilla Island
2 bed 2 bath open concept, kitchen, Florida room, wood, tile & carpet on the top main floor.
$349,000
8029608047.

Matlacha
Canal Front Cottage in Matlacha
2/2 old Florida cottage with updated kitchen & baths, 10,000# boat lift with easy walk to entertainment.
$314,000
8029606844.

Ft Myers
LEGENDS GOLF MEMBERSHIP EXECUTIVE HOME
Canal front with dock and easy access to the Gulf with an easy stroll to all the entertainment in Matlacha.
$387,000
8029604305.

CAPE CORAL
LEGENDS GOLF MEMBERSHIP EXECUTIVE HOME
Canal front with dock and easy access to the Gulf with an easy stroll to all the entertainment in Matlacha.
$387,000
8029604305.

CAPE CORAL
DIRECT SAILBOAT ACCESS!
3 bed, 2 bath, a spacious pool and lanai area. Roof from 2013! Very efficient layout.
$379,000
8029607028.

CAPE CORAL
3/2 Canal Front Home in Matlacha
Pond, dock, easy access to the Gulf with an easy stroll to all the entertainment in Matlacha.
$385,000
8029607032.

CAPE CORAL
Spacious Bokeelia Home
3/2 whitewashes, RV parking, open floor plan, 3 driveways & double garage, custom home in Bokeelia.
$387,000
8029604305.

CAPE CORAL
Legends Golf Membership Executive Home
Executive Home with bundled golf membership. Well maintained Devon model has many renovations.
$395,000
8029602988.

CENTURY 21 Sunbelt Realty
866-657-2300

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