Foundations, Conservancy, FGCU to build climate change coalition

Three organizations and Florida Gulf Coast University have entered into a three-year partnership to address issues with Southwest Florida’s changing climate.

The founding group, Growing Climate Solutions – Path to Positive Southwest Florida, will work to build a coalition of residents involved in health, education, faith, business and the environment. Along with FGCU, the Community Foundation of Collier County, Southwest Florida Community Foundation and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, the partnership’s goal is to engage others through educational- and awareness-building efforts, and to provide research and information that will lead to local climate solutions, the group said.

“The partnership is an outgrowth of the climate change survey results released in February,” said Eileen Connolly-Keesler, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Collier County. “The results were very clear. Southwest Florida residents believe now is the time to act on this issue. Collective action means we are more powerful when we work together — within and across sectors.”

The recent survey also found attitudes are changing, and most Southwest Florida residents are concerned about the changing climate and believe action is necessary to protect the region’s future.

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

COVER ART BY NAOMI MILLER

Here’s to the people, places and things that make Southwest Florida so special

SEE CLIMATE, A14

INSIDE

SunFest
Check out what’s on tap for the upcoming music festival in Palm Beach. C1

Business
Invest in yourself to invest in your team. A27

Networking
Sagewood Institute joins the Blue Zones Project. A30

Expansion
Guadalupe Center is expanding its operations in Immokalee. A13

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As Florida’s regular legislative session screeches to a halt after 60 days Friday in Tallahassee plume of smoke, dust and burned rubber, political style, education reporters across the state have missed one of the key successes of the 2019 session: a potential end to the crisis in teacher shortages.

It’s astounding news but so far barely reported in a state ranked far down in the 40s for low teacher pay, for college graduates who choose not to go into teaching and for poor teacher retention.

But now, if Gov. Ron DeSantis will just put his pen to the notion and sign rather than veto legislation designed by his fellow Republicans, we can begin arming teachers in the schools.

For teachers who volunteer, the next steps are easy: Take 144 hours of training, get a concealed-carry permit, and pass psychological and drug tests.

Although Democrats were against this plan en masse, by September our schools could be much safer — protected not just by a lonely cop or two but by multitudes of people.

I predict that multitudes of people would say, “Do you feel lucky?”... Well, do ya, punk?”

Florida Republicans seem to feel lucky — they call it the “school safety bill.”

What this means, and what the pundits have failed to recognize is that our hiring dilemma for public schools — in which counties compete against each other and the state competes with better-paying states for good teachers — is over.

After introducing guns into schools for any teachers who want them, Florida public education will inherit a flood of wackos with college degrees just dying, so to speak, to shoot somebody.

I predict that multitudes of people who should have been named Harry or Harriet will come looking for teaching jobs in the Sunshine State. They won’t be complaining loudmouths who ask for more pay and benefits, either. Not for all the fun they’ll expect to have as part of the job.

They’ll probably be better math teachers than Dirty Harry was, too. They would’t say, “Do you feel lucky?” No. Instead they’d say, “You’ve got to ask yourself a question: ‘Did I learn how to count?’” Any good math teacher would.

Best for them, these Harrys will get to carry a gun with official authority but without the arduous effort required to become a soldier or a cop. It doesn’t get any better than that.

Teacher organizations, teachers themselves, many parents, a number of police agencies and many combat survivors of our wars dating back 75 years have all come out against this, sadly.

But what do they know? There are some obvious flaws in the bill, and I hope the governor will find ways to fix them.

Tactically speaking, the difference between a math teacher with a semi-automatic handgun or a .44 Magnum revolver that might be accurate to about 50 feet under perfect conditions, and an assailant armed with weapons currently legal in the open market, is the difference between one pistol-packing math whiz and the rough equivalent of an entire rifle squad in a World War II infantry platoon.

The assailant can and will shoot much more, faster, more accurately and at any distance from three feet to 300 yards; his firepower will be overwhelming.

Harry has to throw down his chalk, get out his peashooter, load a round into the chamber, remember to take the safety off, point it at the bad guy with a steady hand in an unstable situation, and fire — but without hitting anybody else. All in a place where many people will be clustered close and panicking.

The bad guy, however, is happy to hit everybody he can. Care and accuracy are irrelevant.

He’ll have a plan; they all do. He’ll have an AR-15 and several 30-round clips of .50 caliber ammunition fired at a muzzle velocity of 3,250 feet per second that can explode organs without ever touching them as a bullet slaps through a body and travels far beyond.

He’ll also likely be carrying his own handgun with extra clips and perhaps a 12-gauge, five-round pump shotgun with a short barrel shooting double-ought buckshot. And he may well be wearing a flak jacket, as they used to call them.

That’s not fair for Harry or Harriet. But the governor can solve this problem with a few short strokes of his pen and the support of Republican legislators, if he’s man enough.

This week, therefore, I call on Gov. DeSantis to even the odds. He must allow teachers to carry not just handguns, but everything else they want: AR-15s with high-capacity clips; shotguns; hand grenades; M203 grenade rifles, MPATS (man-portable anti-tank weapons), and — let’s give our teachers the best chance we can with well-spent tax dollars — the training to call in artillery strikes, if necessary, from 105mm or 155mm howitzers, standing by. The National Guard doesn’t have anything better to do, does it?

Let’s put Harry in the classroom.
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-Pia Myers, MD
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Dr. Myers has been putting patients first at NCH since 2011.
Impeach Donald Trump? What a bad idea for the Democrats, in spite of the pressure from the party’s left flank, and in spite of various presidential candidates, like Elizabeth Warren, pandering to the ultra-progressives.

After all, the ultimate goal of a House of Representatives impeaching the President to set up the Senate to remove him from office. In a rough form, it’s kind of like an incriminating trial. Actually, in the Senate it’s called a “trial,” nothing rough about it. One would think that with the Democratic majority in the House, impeachment, at least, would be a lock.

That’s not necessarily the case. A lot of the Democrats who are there hail from districts that are normally conservative. They benefited from the fact that their voters were turned off by the boorishness of the Trumpster — so much so that they ignored their normal Republi- can instincts and elected a Democrat. So that Democrat knows full well she or he is on shaky ground.

Why might not be inclined to vote for impeachment if the pollsters tell them that the voters are sick and tired of the rough-and-tumble games of politics. There would be nothing rougher and tamer … or gamier … than an impeachment fight with the Trump forces, led by a man who finds it impos- sible to hit above the belt.

So, it’s plausible that even a Demo- cratic-majority House would vote not to impeach. What an embarrassment that would be. Now wonder Nancy Pelosi and her long-experienced team of leaders don’t feel like it’s time to decide by a two-thirds supermajor- ity, 67 votes, to actually get rid of him. Did everyone forget that the Senate is 53-47? So the chances of 67 of them tossing out Trump are virtually undetectable. Even if they did remove him from office, they would leave Mike Pence in charge at the White House, which is something else the Democrats would hate to do.

The point is it’s a big waste of effort. Even if they did go through these contor- tions, there is not enough time between now and the 2020 elections to pull off this exercise in brinkmanship, which, by the way, would leave the country even more divided and paralysed than we already are. It would only hand to Trump more fodder for his tweet can- non.

When all is said and done, his ene- mies despise him not so much for his noxious policies and hateful declara- tions, but for the reality that he is who he is … loathsome. And by the way, that’s what the millions of those in his base love about him. They are convinced, with some justification, that the system that favors a few entitled elites is more justable.

There is time for the Democrats who run the House to investigate the day- lights out of Trump and discredit him, if they’re successful. But it will be up to us voters on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020, to determine whether Donald Trump is removed from office.

— Rich Lowry is editor of The National Review.

OPINION
Impeach? Nah!

Demonstrators protest outside the White House.

COURTESY PHOTO

Sorry, Democrats, your stars are socialists

There was Bernie Sanders at a Fox News Channel town hall, not giving an inch in a forum every Democratic presi- dential candidate has shunned.

His reward was a cataract of good reviews, and monster ratings. Sanders had a solid hour to try to reach people not favorably inclined to his worldview, at the very least demonstrating that he’s willing to decide by a few fresh- ers.

He didn’t have any of the others. Alex- andria Ocasio-Cortez. She has been on the cover of Time magazine, Rolling Stone (with Nancy Pelosi), Hollywood Reporter and Bloomberg Businessweek. Annie Lei- bovitz photographed her for Vogue. She’s been interviewed by “60 Minutes.”

She was among the top 10 House Democrats in fundraising the first quar- ter and had the highest percentage of small donors (her ally, Ilhan Omar, also excelled).

It’s obviously vexing to Pelosi to see a House majority built by the careful avoid- ance of ideological extravagance and won in marginal districts hijacked, at least in terms of public attention, by a few fresh- men and a 77-year-old Vermont socialist.

Yes, there are vast numbers of Demo- crats out there who aren’t on Twitter or Instagram. Maybe there are enough of them to nominate Joe Biden, or a Pete Buttigieg can win on a progressive plat- form clothed in a moderate demeanor.

But the party’s stars will have some- thing to say about it. The great Zionist Theodor Herzl maintained, “It is the simple and fantastic which leads men.” As Bernie Sanders showed, it’s also being willing to go on Fox News.

— Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary earns international distinction

Audubon’s Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary has become the first wetland in the southern United States to be recognized as a Wetland of Distinction by the Society of Wetland Scientists.

“We’re honored to receive this international recognition,” said research director Dr. Shawn Clem of the Western Everglades Research Center at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary has received many national and international accolades in its 65 years under Audubon stewardship, including being named a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, an Important Birding Area, a National Audubon Society sanctuary, a National Natural Landmark and a gateway to the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail.

The Wetland of Distinction initiative was created in 2007 “to promote awareness, appreciation, and knowledge of some of the country’s most ecologically sensitive landscapes.”

“While sanctuary visitors can easily see Corkscrew’s beauty and experience the power of ‘nature therapy,’ the importance of our wetlands for local, regional and global ecology can be more difficult to appreciate,” said Dr. Clem. “Audubon takes the responsibility of protecting and maintaining Corkscrew’s natural habitats very seriously. Events of the past few years clearly demonstrate the importance of inland wetlands like Corkscrew for buffering dry season wildfires, as well as, wet season water storage, aquifer recharge, and natural cleansing of water before it reaches our treasured estuaries and beaches.

Audubon’s Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary provides incredible birding and wildlife viewing and is a true ecological treasure.”

A National Audubon Society sanctuary, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary’s 11,000 acres are central to the over 60,000-acre Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed. The watershed collects seasonal rainfall across the region, provides drinking water for inland and coastal residents from Naples to Estero, and provides freshwater to the Estero, Imperial and Cocalachtee Rivers. A popular tourism destination, the remote Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is visited by 100,000 people from around the world each year.

Efforts to protect the sanctuary’s old-growth bald cypress from logging operations in the 1940s and ‘50s created the largest remaining old growth bald cypress forest in the world. These old growth bald cypress trees once supported the largest wood stork colony in North America, although the colony has struggled in recent decades due to changes in regional land use and hydrology, including destruction of much of the region’s unique shallow wetlands. Reversing these changes through wetland conservation and restoration has been a primary focus for Audubon and its regional partners.

A major initiative now underway is an effort to restore 1,000 acres of marsh and prairie wetland at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, an ambitious five-year goal with a price tag of $2 million. The work is considered vital to ensuring the health of Southwest Florida’s wetlands, waterways and water supply. It costs $2,000 to restore a single acre of degraded wetland habitat. Corkscrew is currently working to restore 140 acres of wetland, with a goal of 1,000 restored acres. Information on the restoration project is available at https://corkscrew.audubon.org/marshandprairie.

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FGCU professor Mike Parsons named to Blue-Green Algae Task Force

Gov. Ron DeSantis has named Florida Gulf Coast University marine science professor Mike Parsons to the Blue-Green Algae Task Force. Dr. Parsons is one of five researchers on the panel, joining scientists from the University of Florida, Florida International University, Florida Atlantic University and the Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce.

“I am honored to represent not only FGCU, but Southwest Florida in general, on the Blue-Green Algae Task Force,” said Dr. Parsons, a professor at The Water School at FGCU and Vester Field Station director. “These blooms have been of great concern locally, and more action needs to be taken to manage these harmful algal-bloom events. I look forward to serving so that we can improve our response and management actions when these bloom events return.”

During the announcement at the Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge, Gov. DeSantis said, “This is something that as we’re getting resources, financial resources to bear on the problem, and making good choices, we want to make sure those choices are informed by the best science and the best research available.”

Gov. DeSantis originally called for the Blue-Green Algae Task Force in an executive order he signed during a visit to FGCU’s Vester Field Station on Jan. 10. According to the order, the task force is “charged with focusing on expediting progress toward reducing the adverse impacts of blue-green algae blooms now and over the next five years.”

“Clearly the governor appreciates the expertise FGCU brings to the critical water issues facing the state,” said FGCU President Michael Martin. “Dr. Parsons represents that expertise at the highest possible level. We’re proud he will participate on this task force and confident he will make significant contributions.”

For more information about The Water School at FGCU, visit https://water.fgcu.edu/.

Record number of passengers travel through RSW in March

During March, 1,482,239 passengers traveled through Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers, an increase of 7.4 percent compared to March 2018. Year-to-date, passenger traffic is up 7.4 percent compared to last year.

The traffic leader in March was Southwest Airlines with 288,142 passengers traveling to and from Fort Myers. Rounding out the top five airlines were Delta (280,584), United (142,387), Myers. Rounding out the top five airlines were Delta (280,584), United (142,387), and American (133,798). The traffic leader in March was Southwest Airlines with 288,142 passengers traveling to and from Fort Myers, followed by Delta (280,584) and United (142,387).

Southwest Florida International Airport had 5,202 aircraft operations, an increase of 2.7 percent compared to March 2018. Page Field saw 11,086 operations, a 31.7 percent increase from March 2018. In addition, nearly 3 million pounds of air freight moved through Southwest Florida International Airport in March 2019.

Southwest Florida International Airport served nearly 9.4 million passengers in 2018 and is one of the top 50 U.S. airports for passenger traffic. No ad valorem (property) taxes are used for airport operations or construction. For more information, visit flyRSW.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/flyRSW.

Immokalee casino to hold hiring event

Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee will host a hiring event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 7-10 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, in the Seminole Center. Positions available include: Cashiers, Cocktail servers, Cooks, Count team members, Hosts/servers, Players Club representatives, Security officer, Slot attendant, Slot technician, Zig Zag dealer trainee. Candidates must submit an application in advance at www.gotoworkhappy.com or by texting the word CASINO to 97291. Candidates should also bring their resumes and dress for success.

Seminole Casino Hotel is at 506 S. First St., Immokalee. Open 24/7, 365 days a year, the $1,000-square-foot casino offers 1,400 slots and 38 live table games. Dining options include the First Street Buffet, Asian fusion restaurant Lucky Mi Noodle House and the recently renovated and 24-hour EE-TO-LEET-KE (“The Camp”) Grill. The casino’s Zig Zag lounge, home of the Zig Zag Girlz, features nightly live entertainment and no last call.

For more information, call 800-238-0007 or visit moreinparadise.com or facebook.com/SeminoleCasinoHotel/.
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AT 11:00
It's here at last — the final season of "Game of Thrones." I recall, back then, where we'd finally find out if things will end up happily or disastrously for... for... OK, I'm faking it, because I've only seen a couple episodes of GoT over the past seven years or so. But I've read plenty about it — or at least just enough to know that it's cool to call it GoT.

Don't misunderstand me. I'm not criticizing folks who are addicted to "Game of Thrones," because by all accounts it's one of the greatest TV shows of all time. It's not that I don't own a TV, or think I'm too sophisticated for popular shows. It's not that I don't own a TV, or think I'm too sophisticated for popular shows. It's not that I don't own a TV, or think I'm too sophisticated for popular shows.

Just earlier this summer, when the strains of Badfinger's "Baby Blue" echoed over the final minutes, I jumped to my feet and applauded, right there in front of the TV.

All that's how it was for me with "Breaking Bad," listed as number 3 on the "Rolling Stone" all-time list. I had not seen a single episode of that show while it was on the air, and just after it ended I binged-watched the entire five seasons over the course of a weekend, finding out what a great show I had been missing.

Skating past the winter of "Game of Thrones"


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Stamp Out Hunger with local mail carriers

On Saturday, May 11, postal workers in Collier County will deliver something other than mail as they go along their routes: hope, in the form of food.

May 11 marks the National Association of Letter Carriers 27th annual Stamp Out Hunger, the nation’s largest single-day food drive, when postal customers are asked to leave donations of non-perishable pantry items for their carriers to pick up. Collier food donations are delivered to Collier Harvest Foundation, which has partnered with the NALC since the food drive began.

The drive occurs just as Southwest Florida’s seasonal residents leave; its success is critical to the efforts of feeding those less fortunate in the area throughout the summer. Collier County Public Schools reports serving, on average, 38,034 free or reduced meals a day. Many locals also see reduced work hours in industries that provide seasonal services, further straining already stretched budgets.

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

The goal is to collect enough food to see these agencies through the summer, as well as have enough food to aid in the event of a hurricane or other disaster. Letter carriers last year collected 257,800 pounds of food donated by their customers.

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

Seasonal residents who are leaving before the May 11 collection day can take unopened, non-perishable items to the closest postal branch or give them to their mail carrier. Businesses, schools and other organizations can collect food ahead of the drive.

On May 11, volunteers are needed to help unload, sort and box food at the warehouse. Volunteers are asked to commit to two-hour shifts.

To sign up to volunteer or for information about other opportunities at Collier Harvest, call 455-3663 or visit www.collierharvest.org.

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MONTECALVO  SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Guadalupe Center is expanding its Early Childhood Education Program with the addition of a new campus in Immokalee’s Jullibration neighborhood.

The new campus, which was made possible through a lead gift from Helene and Rich Monaghan, will feature six classrooms and accommodate up to 64 children ages 6 weeks through 3 years old.

On Monday, April 22, Guadalupe Center held a “Breakthrough” demolition event in which donors, staff and volunteers donned sledgehammers and hard hats to participate in the first phase of renovation. The 6,233-square-foot facility at 1170 Harvest Drive will be redesigned and renovated over the next few months.

“The generous gift from Helene and Rich Monaghan, as well as their leadership, was the stimulus for our donors to once again step forward to help Guadalupe Center and the children of Immokalee,” said Linda Yost, Guadalupe Center’s campaign chair. “This expansion is a tremendous accomplishment for a nonprofit organization like ours, and it’s certainly gratifying to know that we’ll be able to provide a high-quality education to even more children in the future.”

Guadalupe Center was able to pursue this new facility debt-free and pay for renovations entirely through additional philanthropic support provided by Mary and Phil Beuth, Clark Family Foundation, Diermeier Family Foundation, Susan and Mike Duke, Aprile and Gene Renna, Sharon and William Schoen, and many others.

Guadalupe Center and its donors raised an additional $100,000 to cover annual operating costs for the new campus.

Guadalupe Center will begin a fundraising initiative seeking sponsors to help cover tuition costs for children attending the new campus.

Guadalupe Center presently offers its Early Childhood Education Program at the Morgridge Family Foundation Center on Hope Circle and at The Martin Foundation Campus at Lake Trafford Elementary. Because of limited space in these facilities, Guadalupe Center also offers the Smart Start Program to help parents become the best “first teacher” their child has at home. Combined, the Early Childhood Education Program serves approximately 375 children, but Guadalupe Center has a waiting list exceeding 500 children.

In addition to its successful Early Childhood Education Program, Guadalupe Center also offers an After-school Tutoring and Summer Enrichment Program and college preparatory Tutor Corps Program. Combined, the three programs serve more than 1,300 Immokalee youth.

The new center, which will be named at a later date, is scheduled for completion in early 2020.

To participate in Guadalupe Center’s campaign to fund the new center’s operating costs, visit www.GuadalupeCenter.org or call 657-7711.

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``We know positive change starts locally, making a Southwest Florida-focused partnership extremely relevant,’’ said Sarah Owen, president and CEO of the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. “The survey results illustrated that the changing climate knows no boundaries and impacts all who live, work and play in the region. Building personal connection to and collective leadership around the issue will empower action and sustain our quality of life.”

Since February, $840,000 in philanthropic support has been donated toward a fundraising goal of $1.2 million. The partnership will hire a community engagement coordinator to oversee education and outreach efforts to engage more participants. Leaders from each organization recently met to determine four primary goals for the initiative:

- Empower community members and leaders to initiate change. Representatives from the health, faith, education and business community will make decisions for the health, well-being and sustainability of this region.
- Ensure a prosperous and healthy community. Partners will build awareness and understanding of the importance of withstanding the impacts of a changing climate, such as sea level rise, increased extreme weather events and flooding.
- Build climate literacy. Using communication, education and engagement strategies, the partnership will lead the community to understand the causes of the changing climate and support initiatives to address the problems and adapt to be more resilient to future impacts.
- Protect natural assets. An educational outreach will help the community connect the changing climate to Southwest Florida’s environment, including mangroves, wetlands and dunes that protect the shoreline.

“The university is highly involved in the health of Southwest Florida’s waterways and its impacts on the surrounding ecosystems, our economy and the people who rely on water for life and leisure,” With an interdisciplinary approach, we’re addressing local issues with global consequences. This partnership allows us to expand our efforts,” said Robert Gregerson, dean of the FGCU College of Arts and Sciences.

“Southwest Florida has experienced multiple impacts from our changing climate, including more intense hurricanes, flooding and worsening water quality problems,” said Rob Moher, president and CEO of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. “The coalition is partnering with ecoAmerica, a national climate leadership organization, to serve in an advisory role and help the coalition build education and outreach programs. A leadership gift from The Kapnick Foundation also was instrumental in funding this initiative.”

Leaders from each organization

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The partnership will hire a community engagement coordinator to oversee education and outreach efforts to engage more participants.
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SOLD
GUEST COMMENTARY

Only if it’s worth stealing

BY DAVID TRECKER

A defense official was quoted as saying, “They are looking for digital weaknesses. An asymmetric way to engage the United States without ever firing a shot.”

On the business side, Chinese lawlessness has reached new heights. It is now common practice for China to require technology transfer as a condition for doing business. Sell us a plane? OK, first give us the specs on lift and new technology on in-flight navigation. Design and production secrets are one thing. Patents are something else. The Chinese have been violating U.S. patents forever. Not just on defense items, but on everything. Respecting patents and paying licensing fees is an unknown concept in Beijing.

Martin Feldstein, writing in The Wall Street Journal, said, “Beijing’s plan is to dominate global markets (by 2025) in a range of high-tech products. Its strategy is to give large subsidies to state-owned companies and supplement their research with technology stolen from American and other Western countries.”

But here’s the thing. The strategy works only if our technology is worth stealing. If China has better technology, why steal from the U.S.?

And that’s where things are heading. We are falling behind and, based on spending projections, we will soon sur-
render our lead on scientific research.

Frightening! You bet. Ezekiel Emanuel, Amy Gadsden and Scott Moore spelled out the problem in a recent WSJ piece. In 2017, the U.S. government spent $66.5 billion on basic and applied science, about 1.7 percent of all federal spending and a measly 0.3 percent of GDP. By comparison China spent some $40 billion in 2016.

The U.S. private sector invests about $24 billion annually in basic research. Chinese companies, supported by the Communist government, routinely spend over ten times that.

Further, U.S. funding is tilted heavily toward the biosciences. Advanced computer research — from artificial intelligence to gene editing to quantum computing — is ridiculously underfunded. The entire National Science Foundation research budget was $5.6 billion in 2017, as much as we spend in one weekend on Halloween candy and costumes.

China is also raising the ante on education. It opened more than 1,800 new universities from 2001 to 2014 and produced some 5 million science, technology, engineering and medicine graduates — nearly ten times that of the U.S. Emanuel, et al., offer a flag-waving solution. We win on an even playing field, they say, because America has the world’s best research universities, a pipeline of talent and a rich history of scientific breakthroughs. But to achieve an even playing field, to win the innovation battle, we need to significantly boost spending.

At the very least, non-biomedical basic research funding should be doubled. That would amount to about $12 billion, a paltry 0.25 percent of the federal budget. A tripling would be better. At the same time, tax breaks should be offered to American companies that catch up basic research.

These are obvious, yet modest steps. And important ones. It’s not an exaggeration to say our leadership in an increasingly digital and automated world is at stake — control of artificial intelligence, genetic engineering and the wizardry of rapid computing that will transform not only weaponry but much of our daily life.

If we don’t turn things around, before long we won’t have to worry about China stealing our technology. We may be looking for ways to steal theirs.

— A chemist and retired Pfizer executive, David Trecker serves on a number of local boards.
BEHIND THE WHEEL

Dodge Challenger Redeye feels like a factory-direct racecar

The Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat Redeye makes 797 horsepower. While that will get any enthusiast’s heart racing, this car can even appeal to your practical side.

Only a decade ago we all marveled at the $1.4 million Bugatti Veyron, and it produced 1001 horsepower. Today, the power gap between this $73,190 Hellcat Redeye and a record-setting supercar is a $25K Honda Civic Si. In fact, the most potent Mopar has more horsepower than the 2019 Chevrolet Corvette ZR1, and it will likely even out-muscle the upcoming 2020 Ford Mustang Shelby GT500.

So, feel free to pretend this is the rational choice. Still, we all know the real appeal is that the Redeye is arguably the wildest child Detroit ever put on the street.

The Challenger has the cool retro look of a 1960s-'70s coupe, and the ultra-hot SRT version gets a dual snorkel hood that directly feeds the air box, just like the ram air variations on classic muscle cars. We even had an aggressive color called White Knuckle.

Our test car had the optional $6,000 Widebody package. It added larger fender flares and an upgraded suspension, but the real benefit was wider tires. While 30 millimeters of width might not seem like much, on a mega-power car like this, it’s best to have the maximum amount of rubber on the road.

The interior is similar to the rest of the Challenger line with a driver-oriented dash and center console reminiscent of its 1970 predecessor. Of course, today it’s filled with modern pieces, like dual zone climate control, power driver’s seat and keyless entry/ignition. The standard 8.4-inch touchscreen infotainment system is also the gateway to a set of Performance Pages that can dial-in the steering, suspension and engine response.

There is a rear seat delete as a $1 option. It’s less about the money and more a competition-grade attribute to save as much weight as possible (there’s even a no-cost lightweight package available.) The Redeye is the only Challenger to have seat configuring options besides the race-ready SRT Demon, which is an indicator of what this car really is.

The Demon was a one-shot deal that was the factory providing a genuine drag racer with just enough adaptation to also be used on the streets. But if a car company invests that kind of time in a motor, then it isn’t just going to throw away the technology developed for the special 3,300-car run. The Redeye is the benefactor.

The 6.2-liter supercharged V8 motor produces 797 horsepower — 80 hp more than the standard Hellcat. With the upgrade, the manual transmission option disappears, and only the eight-speed automatic with paddle shifters is available. For drag racing the auto gearbox coupled with launch control and line-lock is ideal, but this setup is also likely a reminder that it’s best to keep two hands on the wheel at all times.

There’s so much beastly power fed to the rear wheels that it’s easy to convert the rear tires into smoke on demand. Even in regular driving situations the stickiest of supercar-worthy Pirellis are not able to immediately handle all that the Redeye can deliver. Floor the accelerator at a stoplight, and there’s plenty of tail wagging as the traction control and tires work to get the car moving forward and straight. The experience is exciting for a Redeye driver, because we’re already assuming a high level of guts in anyone who has purchased one.

While it growsls like a beast at idle, and Dodge says it tops out at 202 mph, this Hellcat is not feral. In everyday life, the Redeye can be driven at half throttle with ease, deliver fuel economy as good as a premium SUV, and the air conditioning keeps it ice-cold inside (something a classic muscle car often had trouble doing). Still, this is not likely to see much commuter duty.

The Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat Redeye might have some notion of practicality, but it’s part of a specialty breed of instant classics. This has the power, speed and all-out brazenness that feels like Dodge snuck a racecar out the back door.

mylesKORNBLATT
mk@autominded.com
Finalists announced for regional technology awards

The Southwest Florida Regional Technology Partnership has announced the finalists for the 11th annual Technology Awards that will be presented the evening of Thursday, May 16, at the Club at Grandezza. The award finalists are:

- **Innovation Award**, given to a company that has invented or demonstrated an innovative and creative technology solution: Cigent Technologies, Vectra Digital and VeraData.

- **Transformation Award**, for a business highlighting the use of technology in government, nonprofit or companies outside the technology sector to address a business or operational challenge: BMP Logic, Chico’s FAS and NCH Healthcare System.

- **Woman in Technology Award**, honoring the accomplishments of a local woman in a technology role and her commitment to diversity in STEM fields: Reema Bhatia, Stickboy Creative; Michelle Borders, Naples Network Services; and Priya Janardhanan, Chico’s FAS.

- **Technology Student Award**, presented to a high school or college student pursuing a career in technology: Klaudia Fisheku, Florida Gulf Coast University; Elisabet Ortiz, Cape Coral High School; and Sophia Velizzi, Gulf Coast High School.

In addition, the Partnership Award honoring a person who has made significant contribution to SWFRTP will be presented at the dinner. Ann Joyce, Chico’s FAS chief customer officer and executive vice president of technology, supply chain and field operations, is the evening’s keynote speaker. Lindsey Sablan of WINK TV is the emcee. Sponsors include DECA Strategic Enterprise Solutions, Bonita Print Shop and ITVantage.

Tickets are available until May 12 at 222.swfrtp.org.

**About the partnership**

Chartered in 2008, the Southwest Florida Regional Technology Partnership is dedicated solely to the growth of the region’s technology cluster. The nonprofit organization is a member of the Lee County Horizon Council and is comprised of technology companies and technology users, economic development groups and higher education institutions. Through its strategy to inspire, innovate and inform, the SWFRTP produces educational seminars, career forums, professional networking events and the only regional awards program dedicated to technology development and implementation. Membership and sponsorship information is available at www.swfrtp.org.
COLLECTOR’S CORNER

Desk transports me to sweaty school days of yore

As I recall, the temperature was somewhere north of 90. There was no breeze, only the buzz of a box fan as it barely moved the humid air of my second-grade classroom at Orange River Elementary School.

“Man, is it hot,” I said to my teacher, Mrs. Wilson.

“Yes, it is,” she replied, furrowing her eyebrows above her horn-rim glasses.

“But there’s nothing we can do about it.”

So my classmates and I suffered in silence. The perspiration dripped from my hair, blotting the pencil marks on the paper.

The paper. The pencil marks.

It was second grade, so we’d graduated to skinnier, No. 2 pencils, available for nickel apiece in the air-conditioned school office.

It was messy and tedious. I always got an “N” for penmanship — Needs Improvement. Still does, in fact.

We carried on like that until it was time for milk break — if you were lucky, you got to run to the cafeteria and pick up the basket of the refrigerated half-pints from Hart’s Dairy.

An hour later, it was time for lunch, with pizza or chicken or Salisbury steak turned out by women I still know — Gloria and Shirley Dean — with some of the yearest, lighter-than-air rolls I’ve ever had.

But writing was painful — my desk, that smeared the graphite already on the paper. It was messy and tedious. I always got an “N” for penmanship — Needs Improvement. Still does, in fact.

Teachers never had it easy.

“Man, is it hot,” I said to my teacher, Mrs. Wilson.

“Yes, it is,” she replied, furrowing her eyebrows above her horn-rim glasses.

“But there’s nothing we can do about it.”

Looking back, I now can say, “Poor her.”

My mom saw this desk and couldn’t believe the asking price was so high. Maybe, but $55 is a small price to pay for huge dose of nostalgia, if you’re in the market for it.

Worth a drive

A couple of events on Florida’s east coast:

West Palm Beach Antiques Festival

— The largest monthly antiques event in the state is May 3-5, South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach; 941-697-7475 or www.wpbafl.com.

Kofski estate sale — The Palm Beach antiques shop holds an estate tag sale 9 a.m.-3 p.m. May 4-5, at 508 Georgia Ave., West Palm Beach; www.kofski.com.

THE FIND:

A 1960s elementary school desk

The Place: Family Thrift, 4231 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers; 239-274-8821.

The Price: $54.94

The Skinny: This desk was very much like the desk in my elementary school in early 1970s Fort Myers, with a metal base, wooden seat and back and a wood-grained laminate top with a pencil rest. Some desks had armrests along their right sides for right-handed students. A precious few others were made for lefties, with the entries and armrests on opposite sides.

My mom saw this desk and couldn’t believe the asking price was so high. Maybe, but $55 is a small price to pay for huge dose of nostalgia, if you’re in the market for it.

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FLORIDA WRITERS

Florida: At once a real place and a state of mind

Lauren Groff understands North Florida communities like a native. She is alert to neighborhood changes — sometimes gentrification, sometimes something worse. The unnamed judgmental character who narrates the first story, "Ghosts and Empires," is an evening walker who enjoys scrutinizing those she meets or merely sees or expects to see along the way. She measures how quickly time is passing her by.

In another story, the author focuses on a young man, the son of a herpetologist, who has "learned how to keep a calm heart when touching fanged things." He has also learned how to survive the storms of his family. His father's polar sensibilities. Ms. Groff can pinpoint the loneliness and sense of isolation that breeds within members of the same families. She is alert — and she makes readers alert — to such things as "how the screens at night pulsed with the tender bellies of lizards." She knows how houses express the screen that covers her own house.


The 11 short stories in this daring, luminous book reveal, in various and complex ways, the truth of the poetical adage in John Milton’s "Paradise Lost": "The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven."

We carry our minds with us, wherever we reside. We can’t get away from who we are. Forget about blaming your troubles on your environment. The narrators in most of these stories, especially the recurring one with two small sons and only the pronoun "she" for a name, suffer from being too self-aware. Their expectations of themselves and sense of isolation that breeds within members of the same families. She is alert — and she makes readers alert — to such things as "how the screens at night pulsed with the tender bellies of lizards." She knows how houses express the screen that covers her own house.


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HEALTHY LIVING

Yes, your kid

Every child is at risk for suicide, and the warning signs are nearly impossible to spot.

BY DR. MARK GOULSTON
Special to Florida Weekly

As a psychiatrist specializing in suicide prevention, it is deeply troubling to me that suicide rates keep climbing, especially for teens. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the suicide rate for white children between 10 and 17 years old was up 70% between 2000 and 2016, for black children, that number was up 77%.

Every time it happens, the bereaved parents say, “I had no idea.” Other parents hear this and wonder how anyone could miss the signs. “That would never happen to my kid,” they often say.

The truth is it could happen to your child and you, too, could miss the warning signs.

Those signs might be easier to piece together in retrospect, when you are looking for them. In the moment, they can be much harder to detect. That’s why it is so important to help everyone understand the suffering and isolation that impact the at-risk community.

In “Stay Alive,” a new 75-minute video/podcast document (available on YouTube and Amazon Prime Video) featuring myself with suicide survivor Kevin Hines (best known as the man who jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge and survived) and suicide prevention advocate Rayko, we have an honest conversation about what it feels like to be suicidal, and we provide some insight into what parents and at-risk teens need to understand about how to address these thoughts before they become fatal (4StayAliveNow).

To really move the needle, we need to remove the societal stigma surrounding suicide. This begins with helping the loved ones of those at risk gain understanding and offer support. The next step is helping society recognize what it really feels like to be suicidal. When everyone understands how much suffering is really going on, we will have a real chance to reach out and save lives.

Meanwhile, parents need to be on the lookout for anything out of the ordinary in their children’s behavior. It’s crucial for them to learn to recognize the early warning signs of despair that could lead to suicide; knowing these signs will put them in a better position to break through at a time when their children need them the most.

A few insights:

First, accept that anyone can become suicidal — yes, even your high-performing, seemingly confident and happy child — at any time.

Know that your kids probably won’t open up to you. They might feel that you wouldn’t understand, or that there’s nothing you can do. They also might think that what they’re going through is a “failure” that will only disappoint you.

Look for changes, even subtle ones. Be aware of any changes in your child’s demeanor. Keep in mind, though, that these changes can be difficult to spot among naturally moody teens who tend to isolate themselves even in the best of circumstances.

Our nation has observed Mental Health Awareness Month every May since 1949. The good news is that we have made progress in those 70 years.

Stronger willingness to talk about what was once completely hidden in the shadows is now more openly discussed. A topic once completely hidden in the shadows is now more openly discussed.

Prevention, the suicide rate for white children between 10 and 17 years old was up 77% between 2006 and 2016; for black children, that number was up 70%.

In March, at our annual Sound Minds symposium, keynote speaker Austin Eubanks, a survivor of the Columbine school shooting who turned to opioids to numb his emotional pain, shared his compelling story of addiction and recovery. Speaking to a sold-out audience, Austin’s compelling #StandUp message was we can’t just anesthetize emotional pain with substances, but instead, we need to deal with it head-on — often with the help of mental health and addiction.

There is still a long way to go before we are as comfortable discussing these issues the same as other common ailments. As a whole, we still view mental health as something other, distinct from our physical health.

My hope and prayer are that, someday, we won’t need to designate just a month to focus on mental health, but rather that it will be a part of our everyday conversations about overall health and wellness. We are not there yet, but David Lawrence Center will continue to advocate for such and encourage the community to come together to assist all our neighbors.

In response to the Parkland shooting, last Mental Health Awareness Month, we launched the #StandUp campaign, a community-wide initiative designed to keep our kids healthy, safe and well.

Because today’s youth face more stress, anxiety, and depression than ever, the #StandUp campaign is focused on bringing attention to these issues so we can intervene earlier to avoid tragedies and unnecessary suffering.

#StandUp movement began. Through community partnerships, we kept the important conversations going all year. In March, at our annual Sound Minds symposium, keynote speaker Austin Eubanks, a survivor of the Columbine school shooting who turned to opioids to numb his emotional pain, shared his compelling story of addiction and recovery. Speaking to a sold-out audience, Austin’s compelling #StandUp message was we can’t just anesthetize emotional pain with substances, but instead, we need to deal with it head-on — often with the help of mental health

See Burgess, A23

By Scott Burgess
President and CEO, David Lawrence Center

Our nation has observed Mental Health Awareness Month every May since 1949. The good news is that we have made progress in those 70 years. A topic once completely hidden in the shadows is now more openly discussed. Sadly, much of that attention has grown due to far too many headline-making tragedies, loss of life and suffering.

Those signs might be easier to piece together in retrospect, when you are looking for them. In the moment, they can be much harder to detect. That’s why it is so important to help everyone understand the suffering and isolation that impact the at-risk community.

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That said, as a society, we seemly bet-
cumstances. Teens are moody — that's to be expected. But when it crosses over into physiological disturbances of sleep, appetite, sexual desire or just an unshakable dark feeling, and stays stuck there, it becomes a mood disorder and can be incredibly destructive.

■ Know that little things can cause bigger problems. Be aware of possible catalysts, whether it’s the stress of starting a new school year, changes in their medicine, or even problems in their social life.

■ Initiate the conversation. Most importantly, parents must ask their teens how they are feeling. It’s not enough to rely on indicators that you may or may not spot. If you suspect your child is struggling — and even if you don’t — here are five questions that might get the conversation flowing:
  1. “At the worst that you can feel, how bad does that get?”
  2. “When you’ve felt how bad it could get, how often did you feel alone?”
  3. “When you were feeling that horrible and alone with it, what did it make you think, feel and want to do?”
  4. “And what did you do?”
  5. “I don’t want you to be alone with those thoughts and feelings. So I’m asking you to call me when you are feeling that way and I will do my best to listen to you, hear you and keep you company. I promise not to give you advice or solutions unless you ask me for them. So would you be willing to call me when you’re feeling like that? And by the way, if you think you’re a burden, you’re not. I can see and feel the good person you are — the person you can’t see or feel when you’re feeling so awful.”

■ Let them know they are loved and that they are not alone. Pain is pain; suffering is feeling alone in pain. When you eliminate the aloneness, suffering that people can’t live with it becomes a mood disorder and can be incredibly destructive.

Dr. Mark Goulston is a former UCLA professor of psychiatry, a suicide and violence prevention expert and one of the world’s foremost experts on listening. He is the author of the best-selling “Just Listen: Discover the Secret to Getting Through to Absolutely Anyone” and the host of the “My Wakeup Call” podcast. He is the 2019 recipient of the Dr. W. Mark Warfel Resilient Heart Award.

About the Author

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For more information, call 455-8500 or visit DavidLawrenceCenter.org.

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Dr. Mark Goulston is a former UCLA professor of psychiatry, a suicide and violence prevention expert and one of the world’s foremost experts on listening. He is the author of the best-selling “Just Listen: Discover the Secret to Getting Through to Absolutely Anyone” and the host of the “My Wakeup Call” podcast. He is the 2019 recipient of the Dr. W. Mark Warfel Resilient Heart Award.

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PET TALES

Rough side of the tongue?

The spines on a cat’s tongue serve a variety of purposes

BY KIM CAMPBELL THORNTON
Andrews McMeel Syndication

If you’ve ever been licked by a cat, you know the rough feel of the tongue, lined with rows of backward-facing barbs called papillae.

It used to be thought that papillae were in the form of a solid cone, but engineering researchers at Georgia Tech took a closer look and made a surprising discovery. Using 3D scanning with micro-computed tomography, the actual shape of the small spines was revealed to be not conical, but hollow. And that shape has a specific purpose.

“I liken them to ice-cream scoops,” says Alexis C. Noel, lead author of a paper published last December in the peer-reviewed scientific journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). “They have this little U-shaped hollow from the tip down. We found that this cavity holds fluids really well.”

To test the action of the papillae, Noel and co-author David L. Hu introduced drops of food dye to the tip of the spine. “It sucked it up like a straw,” she says.

To film three adult cats grooming themselves. During grooming, papillae become hollow from the tip down. We found that this cavity holds fluids really well.”

The investigation was inspired by Noel’s own cat, who was sitting on her one day while she watched TV. “He decided to lick this microfiber blanket that he was on top of, and he got his tongue stuck in it,” she says. “I had to detangle him from the blanket, and it made me think. Everybody says cat tongues are kind of like sandpaper, but it really looks like the tongue is a lot more like Velcro.”

She and Hu hypothesized that when cats lick themselves, saliva — containing enzymes that break down fats and particulars — is distributed from the hollow spines, all the way down to the root of the hairs. They used high-speed videography to film three adult cats grooming themselves. During grooming, papillae become erect, increasing their contact area with fur. This contributes to saliva’s cooling effect.

Cats don’t have sweat glands over their bodies, except on their paws, so the thorough distribution of saliva helps to remove heat from the skin. Without papillae to push saliva deep into the fur, it would wet only the top layer of hairs.

The spines also help cats lick up oils, dirt, blood, feces and other contaminants. This not only keeps cats clean, but it also reduces odors that might otherwise expose their presence to predators.

Beyond domestic cats, Noel and Hu were able to examine the tongues of five other members of the feline family: bobcat, cougar, snow leopard, tiger and lion. What they found surprised them: Papillae are the same size and shape regardless of species.

That means the papillae of your tabby or tortoiseshell are just like those of a tiger or lion — except the big cats have more of them. Cats have about 300 papillae, while tigers have approximately 2,200.

“We thought that was strange because generally when you go from a small species to a large species, these things tend to scale, but these papillae didn’t,” Noel says.

On further investigation, they learned that no matter what the species, feline papillae are almost always long enough to penetrate fur and reach the skin. The exception is the Persian, with long, thick fur that’s impenetrable. “With these cats, the cat physically cannot push the tongue spine through the fur and reach the skin,” she says.

A cat’s tongue is a highly engineered tool for cleanliness.

The spines on a cat’s tongue serve a variety of purposes.
The future of banking is here — and it's an app

PayPal, the online payment company, announced its quarterly earnings. The company slightly beat earnings expectations, slightly missed on revenues and the stock barely moved after the announcement. However, what was interesting about this very ho-hum earnings release was that the company devoted a huge portion of its earnings call talking about an app the company owns which is barely a rounding error on its earnings.

I would guess that if you do any online shopping, you are familiar with PayPal. The company is one of the leaders of processing payments for online transactions. The company provides both buyer and seller protections, giving both parties a greater degree of security for a transaction where often neither party knows one another. However, if you are over 30 years old, you may not know of the app PayPal acquired via its purchase of Braintree for $800 million in 2013. This app has become so popular with Millennials that the brand was acquired via its purchase of Braintree for $800 million in 2013. This app has become

Venmo has experienced dramatic growth over the last few years, especially among young people. Last week PayPal announced that over 40 million people have now used Venmo to transfer money. In this latest quarter alone, Venmo was used to move $2 billion. This was a growth of over 70% from a year ago. Despite this amazing expansion of users and funds transferred, Venmo is not making money for PayPal. This is mainly because transactions on the platform are executed for free. Person-to-person transfers using bank accounts or debit cards incur no fee. Only payments made to businesses or using credit cards are hit with a nominal charge.

But going forward, PayPal believes that Venmo could be a huge profit driver for the company. This is because many anticipate that apps like Venmo or Square or Apple Pay are the future of banking and commerce. I personally witnessed this when I was in China, where almost no one used cash or credit cards. Everyone used WePay. Even when we saw someone buy an apple from a pushcart sitting on a corner, the person just scanned a barcode on the side of the cart and 25 cents was debited from the buyer’s WePay account. PayPal hopes that Venmo becomes just as ingrained in U.S. society as it already is in people’s 20s. I often talk of “Venmo-ing” their friends money. It is not that big of a leap to start using Venmo to buy a shirt at Nordstrom’s or a burger at McDonald’s.

I believe apps like Venmo or Square will transform our financial system. These apps are a clear threat to companies like Visa, American Express, and even banks like Citigroup and JP Morgan, which issue credit cards. But the apps still face challenges, including security concerns, fraud issues, privacy issues, regulatory hurdles and maintaining market share. Nevertheless, just as credit cards all but replaced checks and cash in the last couple of decades, I believe it is just a matter of time until apps replace cards. The only question that remains is which apps will survive.
Creme de la weird

In St. John’s, Newfoundland, Canada, Lucas Dawe, 20, appeared in court on April 11 to face charges of possess- ing stolen skeletal remains. According to court documents reported by The Chronicle Herald, Dawe is suspected of stealing a skeleton, estimated to be more than 100 years old, from the All Saints Parish cemetery. The skeleton was found along a walking trail on April 6, and police were led to Dawe after an anonymous witness reported see- ing him licking the bones. He was also charged with interfering with human remains, after he was accused of boiling the bones and drinking the water.

What’s in a name?

Residents of a particular neighbor- hood in the Denver suburb of Cherry Hills Village may not have ever known the name of their subdivision: It didn’t appear on signs, but could be found in the fine print of real estate documents. Nonetheless, the Cherry Hills Village City Council voted unanimously on April 6 to change the neighborhood’s name from Swastika Acres to Old Cherry Hills. Councilman Dan Sheldon explained that the name came from the Denver Land Swastika Co., which divided the land into plots in the early 20th century, before the Nazis appropriated the symbol: “There was nothing wrong with (the name) at that time,” Sheldon said. “She thought it was impor- tant to preserve that historical value of that symbol ... even though she herself lost family members in the Holocaust.”

Florida

Some days everything goes right. So it was for the Polk County Sheriff’s officers who responded to a call on March 24 from Marta Diaz in Winter Haven. Diaz’s car, a tan Jeep Patriot, had been stolen earlier in the day. As the officers took Diaz’s state- ment, that same tan Jeep pulled up in front of the house, and Ronnie Dillon Wil- lis, 25, emerged, telling deputies he was “looking for his cellular phone, which was pinging back to the residence,” reported the Miami Herald. Diaz told the officers she didn’t know Willis but had seen him earlier on her street. Willis told the offi- cers he woke up that morning at that location, inside a vehicle, but he wasn’t sure if it was the Jeep or a minivan also parked there. He knocked on the door of the house, but when no one answered, he took the Jeep to look for his phone, which was missing. The deputies arrested Willis for grand theft of a motor vehicle; Willis also had a suspended license, for which he received a traffic citation.

Latest religious messages

Over Easter weekend, hundreds of people visited a gum tree in a suburb of Perth, Australia, after the tree appeared to start “weeping” on Good Friday, Perth, Australia, after the tree appeared to start “weeping” on Good Friday, which the faithful took to be a divine sign. For three days, the tree continued to leak water from a branch stump, pro- voking people to drink the “holy” water and bathe in it. “What made it exciting yesterday, a man decided to take all his clothes off and have a shower,” remarked neighbor Jacqui Bachi to 9News. The excitement died down after the Water Corporation discovered the tree’s roots had wrapped around a cracked iron water pipe about a foot underground, and the leaking water had slowly filled up a hollow part of the trunk.

What goes up ...

Two years ago, 39-year-old Dion Call- away was attempting a high-speed land- ing after skydiving at the Cloverdale Municipal Airport in Sonoma County, California, when he shattered his left heel and eventually having to have his leg amputated below the knee. On April 21, the Santa Rosa resident was back at it, skydiving, when he lost his leg again — his $15,000 prosthetic leg “just flew off,” Callaway told the Press Democrat. “I’ve jumped with the prosthetic before, but a rush of air got inside this time, I tried to watch where it was falling, but ... I could not keep track.” Early the next morning, workers at Redwood Empire lumberyard spotted something they first thought was a soda can. Yard production manager Micah Smith said his first reaction was, “Oh, that’s not a soda can, that’s a leg ... where’s the rest?” The story ended happily after Smith called the sheriff’s office, where Callaway picked up his leg later that day. “Skydiving is my everything,” Callaway said. “I always seem to come back to it.”

News that sounds like a joke

In College Station, Texas, the Peach Creek Vineyard is trying out a new con- cept for its wine-tasting events: wine with alpacas. Teaming up with the Bluebonnet Hills Alpaca Ranch, the vineyard offers customers the chance to pet and take self-
Invest in yourself to invest in your team

"The best managers intentionally choose the environment they hope to create."
— David Deacon

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MANAGE

From page 27

"While you may not get to choose the training your company invests in, you can choose your attitude," he adds. "You can choose your intention. In this way, you invest in yourself.

Attitude and intention, Mr. Deacon says, are the cornerstones of becoming what he calls a self-determined manager — one who constantly and intentionally creates environments of over-achievement, where people thrive and produce great work.

"Bad managers are so focused on their own needs, their own fears or their own performance that they lose sight of the negative, unproductive, demotivating, or destructive environment they are creating," he says. "It's like they think it happens accidentally."

"On the other hand, the best managers intentionally choose the environment they hope to create."

Making this deliberate and intentional choice is the most powerful thing you can do to become an exceptional manager. Everything else you do will flow from this decision and, without this intention, you will be a better manager regardless of any skills training your company may or may not offer. That said, here are a few pieces of advice from Mr. Deacon.

■ Set your own standards (and make them high) — Self-determined managers never look outside themselves for the standards of their work. So, set your own high standards and strive to live up to them as far as possible. You are the one who defines professionalism and sets benchmarks — and when you do this, you will be recognized as a role model for others.

■ Stop playing favorites — Some managers give certain people time and attention, but offer little contact or guidance to others, based on personal preferences rather than business or project reasons. Those in favor can do no wrong regardless of what (or little) they do or the quality of their work. Those out of favor learn to moderate their efforts and simply do enough to stay out of trouble. The result? People direct their efforts toward staying in favor; there is no focus on performance itself. Resist any urge to have favorites among your team.

■ Be more restless. Each week ask yourself and your team: What can we do better? — The best managers have impatient (if someone is worth doing, why wait?), an instinct for continuous improvement (good enough is never good enough) and a lingering sense of constructive dissatisfaction (how can we do this better next time?). They set themselves and others very high standards of performance and conduct.

■ Have a plan in mind for your people — The best managers have a good sense of where they believe each of their people should be and what each person does to achieve this. They look forward and ponder three thoughts: 1. Where might they be in a fe or five years? (This is a bigger job, a different role, a larger team?) 2. Do you have a clear view of what they need to learn now and what they need to learn next that will support their future growth? 3. Do you have a sense of accountability and the capability for helping them make that progress? With great managers, the plan is mainly in their heads, and they can tell you instantly what it is," Mr. Deacon says. "Not in the language of career frameworks and competency models, but in words that show what they see and appreciate and hope for and worry about for each of their people.

■ Manage your own energy — Self- determined managers know that maintaining their energy and enthusiasm is their own responsibility. Pay attention to your energy levels and develop habits that help you sustain them. Focus on fitness, nutrition and stress management and be alert to signs of burnout, to taking on too much (for too little) and to giving yourself breaks.

"Remember, one of the most powerful outcomes of maintaining your energy is how it enables you to be positive," Mr. Deacon says, adding, "When you feel good, you show it by your actions and your attitude.

■ Learn something new. Take a class, master a new skill, even take a new hobby outside work — The best managers are interested, curious, open and alert. They are forever seeking out new opportunities and their professional work and reflects their interests, passions, pastimes and preoccupations.

Mr. Deacon says thinking "widely" opens possibilities by helping you foster curiosity, recognize new opportunities and find better ways to do things. In addition, "broad knowledge and curiosity about what you adapt; a key part of career success is about applying what you have learned in new situations.

■ Keep an open line of communication with your employees — Learn what they do and work with (yes, even the unlikable ones) — If you deal with someone who is unlikable, find something to appreciate about them. First, it changes the nature of all interactions and maximizes the possibilities that you will be successful. Secondly, it finds the chance that your team members will overlook your unlikable qualities and focus on your best traits as well. Finally, everyone responds well to being treated as if you are happy with the work you work with.

■ Give feedback, coach employees — The best managers focus on your best traits as well. Finally, everyone responds well to being treated as if you are happy with the work you work with.

■ Don't perfect expectations, but do keep working toward it — It is impossible to be self-determined 24/7, Mr. Deacon says, especially when you lose your focus because other things are taking the way. Maybe your boss makes an unreasonable request or creates a firestorm you must pay attention to, or the CEO is creating a negative environment, or you have a problem in your personal life. These kinds of things happen to everyone — even self-determined managers. During these times, it's important to stay conscious and determine catch people doing things right, articulate clearly and find meaning and purpose to transmit to your people.

■ Until you believe that you are worth investing in, you can't be a self-determined manager.

"Decide right now that you not only deserve to become the best manager you can possibly be, but that you are capable of reaching this achievement on your own ... Once you do this, you'll be unstoppable." — David Deacon

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  - Loan Size .......... $4,200,000
  - Type of Loan ...... Car Wash
  - Business.......... Investment Real Estate
  - Loan Size .......... $4,100,000
When considering whether to buy shares of a stock, you'll need to have a sense of whether it's undervalued or overvalued. The price-to-earnings ratio (P/E) can help with that.

Calculating a P/E ratio is easy: You just divide a company's stock price by its last 12 months of earnings per share (EPS). For example, The Home Depot's EPS was recently $97.3, and its recent stock price was around $304. Divide $304 by $97.3, and you'll arrive at a P/E of about 21. (You could also calculate a “forward” P/E by using next year's expected EPS, but standard P/E ratios use trailing EPS.)

Since investors would like to pay as little as possible per dollar of earnings, or for treat lower P/E ratios are generally preferable to higher ones. This might seem confusing, but remember that at a stock price of $300, Home Depot's P/E would be close to 31, but it would be a little over 10 at a stock price of $800. Meanwhile, P/E ratios range differ by industry. Capital-intensive businesses such as automakers or railroads tend to sport lower ratios, while businesses that cost less to run, such as software companies, often have steeper ones. Thus, a P/E of 20 can be high for some kinds of companies and low for others. Ideally, companies have a company's P/E both with those of its peers and with its own P/E range over the past few years.

Know, too, that it's possible to manipulate earnings, such as by delaying when a company recognizes certain revenue, which can change its bottom-line results. Also, if a company's earnings have been flat but it buys back a lot of shares, that will reduce its number of shares outstanding, and will cause its earnings per share to rise. Finally, while the P/E is handy, never forget that it's the last thing you should do — diluting the value of existing shares like mine. I didn't do any extra research before concluding even more money to this sinking investment, either.

First, you become a shareholder in the process. The stock is now in extreme stock territory, and the company's market value is now lower than the price of many average houses.

The Motley Fool®

Sinking Shipping Company

My dumbest investment happened several years ago. I was chasing dividends and ran across a shipping company based in Greece. The company was paying out 90% of its income in dividends, and its dividend was yielding a whopping 12%! Unfortunately, the stock started heading south, and I bought more shares, repeatedly, thinking they were becoming more and more of a bargain. I'm sitting on a 99.9% loss now — I learned a lot of lessons from it all.

For starters, I didn't appreciate that any company paying out most or all of its earnings as dividends won't have much left over for reinvesting in and growing its business. I based my purchase decision on a single positive article I read, while ignoring negative coverage of the company that pointed out issues such as its problematic debt load. I didn't realize that when the company said it could raise money any time by issuing more shares, it would do so — diluting the value of existing shares like mine. I didn't do any extra research before concluding even more money to this sinking investment, either.

Now I assume things are too good to be true until proven otherwise.

— Dale, online

The Fool Responds: You become a much savvier investor through this process. The stock is now in extreme stock territory, and the company's market value is now lower than the price of many average houses.

Last week's trivia answer

I trace my roots back to the 1980 founding in Austin, Texas, of one of the country's first natural-foods supermarkets. Over the years, I gobbled up multiple markets such as Bread & Circus, Fresh Fields, Mrs. Gooch's, Harry's Farmers Market, Wild Oats Markets, Bread of Life and Fresh & Wild — and in 2017, a big retailer bought me! I recently opened my 500th store, and I employ close to 90,000 people. Last year I was ranked the eighth-largest retailer bought me! I recently opened my 500th store, and I employ close to 90,000 people. Last year I was ranked the eighth-largest retailer bought me! I recently opened my 500th store, and I employ close to 90,000 people. Last year I was ranked the eighth-largest retail buying. Sorry, we can't provide additional financial advice.

Want more information about stocks? Send us an email to foolnews@fool.com.
NETWORKING

Sagewood Institute’s Blue Zones Project ribbon cutting

1. Susan Moyer, Kosmas Ballis, Ewold Longfield-Smith, Sue Huff, Rae Woods, Mike Riley, Deb Logan, Joaquin Hernandez, Ying Betz, Caroline Burgess and Giselle Scheuermann
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House Hunting
11596 Quail Village Way

The four-bedroom Aberdeen II villa is equally enjoyable for year-round living or as a seasonal home for family and friends. The first floor has the master bedroom and bath, a second bedroom/office with half bath, spacious living room with fireplace, dining room with built-in granite topped cabinets and wet bar. The kitchen is equipped with stainless steel appliances, abundant cabinet space, granite countertops, pantry and breakfast bar. Also, there is a breakfast area for casual everyday dining. Upstairs provides privacy and comfort with two bedrooms, one full bath, a loft/den and a bonus craft room. The 2½-car garage ensures room for a golf cart, bikes, a kayak or additional storage.

Amenities in the Quail Village private gated community include golf (additional membership), tennis, pickleball, swimming pool and clubhouse for dining and entertainment.

Gordie Lazich and Mark Maran of Premier Sotheby’s International Realty have the listing for $389,000. For more information or to arrange a showing, call Ms. Lazich at 777-2033 or Mr. Maran at 777-3301 or send an email to gordie.lazich@premiersir.com or mark.maran@premiersir.com.
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Wilderness Country Club selected to host U.S. Senior Open qualifier

Wilderness Country Club has been named a host site to conduct U.S. Senior Open sectional qualifying. The event on May 29 will feature 84 of the area’s best senior golf professionals and amateurs competing for two to three spots in the 2019 U.S. Senior Open Championship in June on The Warren Course at Notre Dame.

Located on 200 forested acres on the east side of Goodlette-Frank Road, just north of Golden Gate Parkway, Wilderness Country Club features a series of low-profile condominium buildings around an 18-hole Arthur Hill designed golf course, main clubhouse, driving range, short-game area, putting green and four Har-Tru tennis courts. This is the first time in the 45-year history of Wilderness Country Club that it has been selected to host a Senior Open Qualifier. A total of 34 domestic sites will be conducting 18-hole sectional qualifying between May 14 and June 10. Wilderness Country Club is the only Southwest Florida club represented and one of just three in the state of Florida.

“We are excited to welcome the region’s top players at our club,” said Josh Hershoff, head golf pro for Wilderness Country Club. “Wilderness is a perfect venue for this type of event. The course conditioning, strategic shot values, ease to walk and the membership desire to host an event of this caliber were all key components in the selection process.”

Wilderness Country Club has been member owned and controlled from its inception. For more information on the private club, call 261-6060 or visit www.wildernesscc.com.

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The Lutgert Companies announces the new Le Ciel Model Home; only three homesites remain.

As summer approaches, there has never been a better time to explore cool coastal living in Residences at Mercato. With pedestrian access to the restaurants, shops and warm weather events of Mercato, the private enclave of 45 contemporary homes offers the ultimate luxury lifestyle. The new Le Ciel model, along with the designer Le Jardin and Le Rivage model homes, is open daily.

The newly completed Le Ciel features 3,037 square feet of luxury living, with three bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths and an expansive loft. A special feature is the flexible cabana space – also accessible from inside the home – which is ideal for an office or guest room. Styled by Char-lie Hansen and Rebekah Errett-Pikosky of Clive Daniel Home, the residence is designed with a new coastal style and a fresh color palette of warm backgrounds. Perfect for entertaining, the home’s open floor plan showcases a stunning, two-sto-ry great room that opens to a private outdoor living area with pool, spa and kitchen. Le Ciel is priced at $2,050,000.

Le Jardin boasts three bedrooms plus a cabana and four-and-a-half baths; there are master suites on both levels. The cabana in the 3,516-square-foot residence is crafted so that it is also 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. 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. 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.

From live music to outdoor movies and more, Mercato offers an exciting calendar of events this summer, complemented by new restaurants and boutique shopping to explore. Rocco’s Tacos and Toojay’s Deli have just opened to rave reviews and foodies are flocking to the new Hampton Social, a Chicago-based restaurant by the Parker Restaurant Group. Meanwhile, Saratoga Sundress, Southern Tide and Cariloha have all recently opened; exercise enthusiasts are delighting in the recent debut of Cycle Bar, an indoor premium cycling studio. Situated on 11 acres, Residences at Mercato is priced at $2,290,000.

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, only three home-sites are available for your selection and personalization.

Premier Sotheby’s International Realty
239.594.3400 | ResidencesAtMercato.com
NURTURE YOUR SOUL
Savor life on the water and under the big blue sky. Here, classic coastal homes are surrounded by salty breezes and peaceful nature sounds. Explore the great outdoors of Naples at The Isles of Collier Preserve.

Now open - The Overlook Bar & Grill, a unique resident exclusive amenity situated on the tranquil Cypress Waterway, featuring fresh, local, Florida flavors.

Villas, coach and single-family homes from mid-$300s to over $1.5 million.
Stock has move-in ready homes for end of season: special pricing in the area’s most sought after communities

With the seasonal crowds dwindling, there is no better time to visit Stock Development’s sales centers to see their unparalleled selection of new homes available for immediate occupancy.

Stock’s had an amazing first quarter of the year with 93 new home sales across Southwest Florida totaling $108 million.

Stock’s legacy of award-winning design and its keen understanding of the Florida lifestyle, has made it the luxury homebuilder of choice for over 17 years, building more than 4,800 homes throughout the state. The company has fostered long-term relationships with its homebuyers, who often return to purchase a second or third home, which speaks volumes about the trust they’ve earned, their reputation for excellence, and their never-ending commitment to quality.

Stock maintains a broad portfolio of homes available for immediate occupancy and has many soon-to-be-completed homes available throughout Southwest Florida.

“With 28 beautifully furnished models and 30 move-in ready homes in 11 different communities, this represents an amazing array of opportunities for homebuyers,” said Brian Stock, CEO of Stock Development. “We’re proud to present a wide range of offerings from all three tiers of excellence: Stock Classic Homes, Stock Signature Homes and Stock Custom Homes.”

At Fiddler’s Creek, Stock is 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 have been unveiled for viewing. The new Cambria has 2,627-square-feet under air and 4,033 total-square-feet. It includes three-bedrooms, three and one-half bathrooms, a large, open kitchen and a dining area that opens to a screened and covered lanai. The outdoor living area features a summer kitchen with fireplace, pool and spa. The plan also includes a three-car garage. Prices in Capistrano begin from the $500s.

Naples Reserve is a 488-acre gated community midway between Naples and Marco Island along the U.S. 41 Tamiami Trail/Collier Boulevard.

The exciting new Canoe Landing neighborhood consists of 64 homesites, nearly all of which offer waterfront views. Home and homestake packages beginning just from the $400s. Four new furnished models are open!

The Wisteria is a three-bedroom, three-bath home with 2,445 square feet under air and a total of 3,863 square feet. The great room floorplan includes a dining area overlooking the lanai, a study that is convertible to a formal dining room, a spacious outdoor living area with an optional kitchen and a pool and spa option as well as a three-car garage. The interior design of the Wisteria was completed by Soco Interiors. It is priced from just $474,990.

The Marigold from The Mahogany Collection. Homes are base priced from the $500s.

The Isles of Collier Preserve is nestled amidst a pristine natural setting minutes from Downtown Naples. Stock Signature Homes offers residences from The Sycamore Collection, The Cottonwood Collection and the Mahogany Collection. Homes are base priced from the $500s.

The Marigold from The Mahogany Collection is underway as an inventory home. The Marigold’s superb floorplan includes 3,578 square feet under air plus a covered lanai measuring 1,062 square feet. There are four bedrooms or three bedrooms plus an optional bonus room, a study, four-and-a-half baths. The plan features a great room with an optional built-in entertainment center, a large gourmet island kitchen and breakfast area and a formal dining room. The Master suite features twin walk-in closets, a soaking tub and a large walk-in shower. It is priced at $1,562,170.

The Madison has 2,947-square-foot under air in a four-bedroom, four-and-a-half bath residence. The great room floor plan includes a study, a large island kitchen, a dining room with 90-degree pocketing sliders that open to an outdoors living area and a three-car garage. The home has a total of 4,606 square feet. It is priced from $3,495,000, including interior design and furnishings from Soco Interiors.

Don’t miss the chance to find your dream home before the winter season ends!

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) 992-7344. Stock Development is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FLStockDevelopment.
London Bay combines personalization and partnerships to create truly unique homes

The moment has come. You’re ready to build the home of your dreams and looking for a builder who’s up to that task, and will focus on quality while providing the flexibility to personalize the project to your individual needs and tastes.

For nearly 30 years, London Bay Homes has been working with homeowners, collaborating with architects and partnering with designers to build custom homes throughout Southwest Florida that embody the rich culture and vibrant lifestyle of living in paradise.

Underscoring London Bay Homes’ personalized approach to homebuilding is a commitment to design-led services – a cornerstone of its brand promise of “Private Label Living.” Elevating homebuilding to an artform, London Bay combines personalization and partnerships to create truly unique homes.

“Collaborating with other industry experts is always a tremendous experience for us,” said Mark Wilson, president and CEO of London Bay Homes. “The creativity and ideas produced by a team of experts is virtually limitless.”

The power of these kinds of partnerships is on full display at London Bay’s Port Royal custom estate at 4395 Gordon Drive in Naples. Priced at $13,475,000, the 4,667-square-foot, West Indies Coastal-inspired home overlooking Cutlass Cove and Keewaydin Island was created in collaboration with the award-winning team of John Cooney of Stofft Cooney Architects, Jennifer Stevens of Romanza Interior Design and Naples landscape architect Koby Kirwin.

“Over the years, I’ve worked with London Bay Homes on numerous projects,” said Cooney. “It’s a good team. And when you have a team like that, the end result is a phenomenal product.”

At 4395 Gordon Drive, that means elements like a great room that maximizes stunning water views, a custom walnut-paneled wine room designed by Stevens that can accommodate approximately 300 bottles, and outdoor living spaces that include a custom pool with in-water benches and built-in spa, with fully outfitted outdoor kitchen and private dock.

London Bay recognizes the expertise and insight collaborators can bring to a project. For a new, custom home build in Old Naples, the company worked with MHK Architecture & Planning and Romanza Interior Design to create a stunning Port Royal estate at 4395 Gordon Drive that features a custom wine room, a contemporary kitchen overlooking views of Keewaydin and blended indoor-outdoor spaces.

At 4395 Gordon Drive, the award-winning single-family residence is on full display at London Bay’s newest, most breathtaking properties.

Naples’ most desirable neighborhoods are home to London Bay’s newest, most breathtaking properties. Tour our award-winning, single-family model homes and discover a range of residences to suit your specific tastes and preferences.

At London Bay Homes, we are proud to introduce our latest array of stunningly designed masterpieces:

**NAPLES COLLECTION**

Luxury Custom Homes from $1 Million to One of a Kind

Schedule Your Private Tour with Toby Cloutier 239.280.7357

LondonBay.com

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PORT ROYAL
OPEN SUNDAYS 1-4PM
1201 GALLEON DR., NAPLES
• 1 BR, 1.5 BA, 1 Car Garage
$199,900 MLS 219022526
Connie Lummis, The Lummis Team 239.289.3543

BONITA BAY - CREEKSIDE
NEW LISTING
3371 OAK HAMMOCK CT., BONITA
• 4 BR, 3 BA & Den, 3 Car Garage
$419,900 MLS 219010750
Anabelle Miller 239.565.0146

PARK SHORE
OPEN 5/4 & 5/5 1-4PM
351 NEAPOLITAN WAY, NAPLES
• Furnished 3 BR, 2 BA & Den, 3 Car Garage
$249,900 MLS 219018818
Mike & Lauren Taranto 239.572.0066

PELICAN ISLE
OPEN 5/4 & 5/5 1-4PM
445 DOCKSIDE DR. #204, NAPLES
• Gorgeous Waterfront Views
• Beautiful Lake View from Screened Lanai
$259,900 MLS 218088321
Mike & Lauren Taranto 239.572.0066

OLDE NAPLES
OPEN 5/5 1-4PM
150 13TH AVE. S., NAPLES
• One Block to Beach & 3rd Street Shopping
• 3 Beds, 3 Bathrooms + Den
$959,000 MLS 219018847
Mike & Lauren Taranto 239.572.0066

PELICAN BAY - CRESCENT
OPEN 5/4 & 5/5 1-4PM
8460 ABBINGTON CIR. #1822, NAPLES
• Private & Serene Golf Course Views
• 3 BR, 3 BA + Den, Renovated Condo
$1,199,000 MLS 219018847
Mike & Lauren Taranto 239.572.0066

BONITA BAY - CREEKSIDE
NEW LISTING
1160 CAMELOT CIR., NAPLES
• Big Private Yard
• 1 Story Home w/Swimming Pool & Spa
$698,900 MLS 219010750
Patti Fortune, The Fortune Group 239.272.8494

CAMELOT PARK - VINEYARDS
NEW LISTING
3574 BEAUFORT CT., NAPLES
• Turnkey Furnished Pool Home
• Private Backyard w/Screened Lanai
$649,900 MLS 218055714
Patti Fortune, The Fortune Group 239.272.8494

RIVERSTONE
NEW LISTING
7063 TIMBERLAND CIR., NAPLES
• 4 BR, Florida Style Pool Home
• Private Backyard w/Preserve View
$489,000 MLS 219024929
Liz Bluwurm 239.370.0312

PELICAN BAY - CRESCENT
NEW LISTING
23331 FOXBERRY LN., ESTERO
• Weekly Rentals Allowed
• Rare Investment Opportunity in Downtown
$299,000 MLS 219016998
Mike & Lauren Taranto 239.572.0066

GLEN EAGLE
NEW LISTING
5115 CEDAR SPRINGS DR. #204, NAPLES
• Updated 2nd Floor Condo
• 3 BR, 2 BA, 1 Car Garage
$319,900 MLS 219029264
Kurt Petersen 239.777.0408

WOODS EDGE
NEW LISTING
19800 CORKSCREW ESTATES CT., ESTERO
• 10+ Acres
• Gated Community
$224,999 MLS 219027470
Bradford Bateman 239.273.8842

PELICAN BAY - CRESCENT
NEW LISTING
28631 CARRIAGE HOME DR. #201, BONITA
• Outstanding Views
• Rare Investment Opportunity in Downtown
$299,000 MLS 219016998
Mike & Lauren Taranto 239.572.0066

HORSE CREEK ESTATES
NEW LISTING
335 SADDLEBROOK LN., NAPLES
• Vacant Residential Lot
• Private Preserve View
$230,000 MLS 219000021
Corie Reiter, The Lummis Team 239.273.3722

BREKENRIDGE GOLF & TENNIS
NEW LISTING
19870 BREKENRIDGE DR. #407, ESTERO
• Updated & Upgraded
• 3 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms + Den
$214,500 MLS 219027586
Anabelle Miller 239.565.0146

PARK SHELTER GARDENS
NEW LISTING
19900 CORKSCREW ESTATES CT., ESTERO
• 90+ Acres
• Gated Community
$259,900 MLS 219024929
Liz Bluwurm 239.370.0312

OLDE NAPLES
NEW LISTING
19800 CORKSCREW ESTATES CT., ESTERO
• 90+ Acres
• Gated Community
$259,900 MLS 219024929
Liz Bluwurm 239.370.0312
**SATURNIA LAKES**

**NEW PRICE**

OPEN SUNDAYS 1:00PM - 4:00PM

28637 DEL LAGO WAY, BONITA
• New A/C, Refrigerator 6 mos old, Updated Kitchen
$449,000 MLS 219019963
Bobagan, The Pengan Team 239.273.3006

**SPANISH WELLS**

2806 WICKLOW CT., BONITA
• 4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, 3 Car Garage
• New A/C, Roof, Kitchen, Tile, Backyard Pool
$699,000 MLS 219015491
Larry Bell 239.919.4404

**BONITA NATIONAL**

20340 WOODLIN DR., BONITA
• Classic & Elegant Harkwood Home
$3,875,000 MLS 219001634
Connie Lummis, The Lummis Team 239.289.3543

**PELICAN LANDING**

OPEN 5/5 1:00PM - 4:00PM

3538 HERON GLEN CT, ESTERO
• Completely Updated 3 BR, 3 BA + Den
• Large, Private Wooded Lot
$599,000 MLS 219076275
Gary Rye 239.273.3676

**PELICAN LANDING**

OPEN 5/5 1:00PM - 4:00PM

767 MARBELLA LN, MARBELLA LAKES
• Gorgeous Lake View Home
• 3 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, 2,285 S.F.
$529,000 MLS 219014634
Sylvia Hall, Western Group 239.300.6328

**MARBELLA LAKES**

OPEN 5/5 1:00PM - 4:00PM

2408 PINEWOODS CIR, #12, MARBELLA LAKES
• One of the Largest Lakefront Lots, 7,000 S.F.
• Screened Front Courtyard
$524,000 MLS 21903236
Coral Coast Collection 413.773.9147

**CORKS CREEK ESTATES**

28061 WICKLOW CT., BONITA
• New A/C, Roof, Kitchen, Fenced Backyard
• 4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Lake Views
$384,900 MLS 219014895
Susan Payne 239.777.7227

**RIVER REACH**

OPEN 5/5 1:00PM - 4:00PM

3271 BONITA LANDING BLDV, ESTERO
• 4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Lake Views
• Remodeled Kitchen & Bathrooms
$636,000 MLS 219083767
Gabe Molina 239.825.2834

**MARSH LANDING**

OPEN 5/5 1:00PM - 4:00PM

4020 SAWGRASS POIN Point Dr., #203, BONITA
• Metisically Maintained 3 BR, 2 BA, 2nd Floor
• Beautiful Views of Greens & Large Lake
$280,000 MLS 219019236
Larry Bell 239.919.4404

**PELICAN LANDING**

OPEN 5/5 1:00PM - 4:00PM

19050 CORKS CREEK ESTATES CT, ESTERO
• Country Living Just Outside the City
• Over 10 Acres
$376,000 MLS 219004100
Bradford Beteman 239.273.8842

**SHADOW WOOD ON THE BROOKS**

OPEN 5/5 1:00PM - 4:00PM

58624 POIN Point View Dr., #205, MARBELLA LAKES
• Over 10 Acres
• Country Living, Pool, Privacy, Newly Updated
$619,000 MLS 219013868
Sylvia Hall, Western Group 239.300.6328

**HERITAGE BAY CC**

10321 HERITAGE BAY BLDV, #1514, MARBELLA LAKES
• Furnished, 1st Floor, 2 BR, 2 BA Condo
• Pocket Doors, Updated Decor
• 2nd Floor, 2 BR, 2 BA, Turnkey, Elevator
$159,000 MLS 219015763
Dorothy & Steve, The Robot Team 239.357.7123

**HERITAGE BAY CC**

10321 HERITAGE BAY BLDV, #1514, MARBELLA LAKES
• Furnished, 1st Floor, 2 BR, 2 BA Condo
• Pocket Doors, Updated Decor
• 2nd Floor, 2 BR, 2 BA, Turnkey, Elevator
$159,000 MLS 219015763
Dorothy & Steve, The Robot Team 239.357.7123

**WORTHINGTON CC**

13001 SOUTHAMPTON DR., BONITA
• Turnkey Villa Home, Golf Course View
• 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 Car Garage
$255,000 MLS 219017520
Sandy Kass, The Fagan Team 239.272.0442

**PIPER'S GROVE CONDO**

2779 SAWGRASS WAY #3424, MARBELLA LAKES
• 2nd Floor, 2 BR, 2 BA, Turnkey, Elevator
• Luxurious Views of Greens & Large Lake
$169,900 MLS 218056858
Patti Fortnum, The Fortune Group 239.272.8494

**CEDAR HAMMOCK - TERRACE V**

23540 WALDEN CENTER DR., #310, MARBELLA LAKES
• New Laminates, 6th Baseboard
• 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms
$159,000 MLS 21804114
Dorothy & Steve, The Robot Team 239.357.7123

**PELICAN LANDING - THE TIDES**

NEW PRICE

13001 SOUTHAMPTON DR., BONITA
• Turnkey Villa Home, Golf Course View
• 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 Car Garage
$255,000 MLS 219017520
Sandy Kass, The Fagan Team 239.272.0442

**PELICAN LANDING - THE TIDES**

NEW PRICE

13001 SOUTHAMPTON DR., BONITA
• Turnkey Villa Home, Golf Course View
• 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 Car Garage
$255,000 MLS 219017520
Sandy Kass, The Fagan Team 239.272.0442
Realistic home values led to strong sales in March

According to the March 2019 Market Report released by the Naples Area Board of REALTORS, which tracks home listings and sales within Collier County (excluding Marco Island), the median closed price of homes decreased 5.6 percent to $340,000 in March 2019 from $360,000 in March 2018. Broker analysts reviewing the report clarified that the median closed price decrease was due, in part, to an increase in the number of closed sales of homes priced under $500,000 during the last year.

Another reason for the decrease in median home price is due to sellers pricing their homes appropriately — based on actual comparisons of recently sold homes — to gauge their home’s estimated value rather than pricing their homes based on unvalidated values.

The March 2019 Market Report showed overall closed sales decreased 17 percent to 973 in March 2019 compared to 990 in March 2018. This decrease was isolated to the single-family home market, whose sales in March 2019 fell by just 17 total sales compared to March 2018. The condominium market in March ended with 499 closed sales, the same number reported in March 2018.

However, as Bill Coffey of Amerivest Realty Naples pointed out, the report also showed closed sales in March increased 64 percent compared to February 2019, which reported 995 closed sales; and it increased 65 percent compared to January 2019, which reported 588 closed sales.

Many brokers have reported an increase in contracts (pending sales) during March, which they feel contributed to the 10 percent decrease in overall inventory for March. It is important to remember that inventory during the first quarter of 2018 included many homes that were put back on the market after having been taken off the market for repairs following Hurricane Irma during the last quarter of 2017. As such, the report showed 8.7 months of inventory for March 2019, down 11 percent compared to March 2018.

Brokers reviewing the March report also discussed their concern about how water quality issues and short-term rental limits might impact the Naples housing market moving forward. Adam Vellano of BEX Realty – Florida, and a member of the NABOR Water Quality Task Force, remarked that actions by the new Governor to fast-track many delayed water-quality projects, appoint a new South Florida Water Management Board, and request the Army Corps of Engineers modify Lake Okeechobee’s scheduled releases so there are fewer in the summer, is already being met with positive response.
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Mangrove Bay is a unique waterfront neighborhood located in the heart of Old Naples. With direct Naples Bay and Gulf access and surrounded by mangroves teeming with life, Mangrove Bay is an extraordinary community of 55 luxury single-family homes. The Old Florida Cottage style residences feature one and two story options with a boat slip included in every purchase. These distinctive homes designed by the renowned MHK Architecture & Planning firm are complete one-of-a-kind residences with private pools and superior construction.

The Useppa I at 1483 2nd Avenue South is furnished and ready for preview! This stunning 3-bed, 4-bath home is superbly furnished and available for immediate occupancy. Sublime appointments throughout include an upstairs loft living space and expansive exterior deck offering a refined, casual elegance. The home is priced at $3,453,000.

Come view Old Naples’ last remaining significant waterfront homes. Our 4 furnished models are open 7-days a week, and include the Coquina II, 1315 1st Avenue South; Coquina I, 1315 1st Avenue South; and include the Coquina II, 181 14th Street. Furnished models are open 7-days a week, offering firm are complete one-of-a-kind waterfront homes. Our award-winning floor plans range from approximately 2,500 square feet to over 4,900 square feet under air. All homes are concrete block construction and have spacious and open floor plans, these new construction homes inspire luxury living at its finest.

Located mere blocks from the phenomenal 5th Avenue South shopping, dining, and entertainment district, this exclusive community is within walking distance to an abundance of Naples attractions, including entertainment venues such as the Sugden Community Theater and the von Liebig Art Center, the 120-acre Greenway Preserve project and the City of Naples Baker Park, both immediately adjacent to the community. Downtown dining experiences are countless from quaint cafes to a plethora of options with all types of cuisine to tempt the most discerning palate. Residents will soon be able to enjoy the new nearby location of The Gulfshore Playhouse, the Naples Design District and the Playhouse, the Naples Design District and the Naples Design District.

Residents of Mangrove Bay will experience luxury concierge and comprehensive property management services. The Amenities Center provides private on-site spa, outdoor kitchen and grilling station. Guest suites are an option on most homes.

Amenity Center provides private on-site storage for resident kayaks, paddleboards and jet skis, conveniently located near the on-site boat ramp. All homeites include a private boat dock within the community. Exclusively represented by Gulf Coast International Properties and built by Lotus Construction, LLC the exclusive General Contractor for Mangrove Bay, these waterfront homes are available and in high demand. Visit or call the Sales Office today at (239) 261-2200 or go to www.mangrovebaynaples.com to learn more about this exciting one-of-a-kind waterfront community in the heart of Old Naples.
Appreciate the view. Without ever leaving home. Whether gathering with friends in your new home or enjoying a solitary evening sunset, you'll appreciate 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 sunsets over the gulf.

Forever views that are forever yours. Tower 200 from $1.4 million.
London Bay introduces new design choices from the high-$800s in Cabreo and Lucarno at Mediterra

London Bay Homes is introducing a new collection of contemporary floor plan and elevation choices in its Cabreo and Lucarno neighborhoods at Mediterra, a 1,697-acre gated community located two-miles north of Immokalee Road on Livingston Road in North Naples. Homesites showcasing water and preserve views, completed furnished models, and a model under construction are also available. Purchasers of homes by London Bay are eligible to secure a full golf membership immediately rather than being placed on the membership waiting list as a Limited Golf Member. London Bay manages all new home construction sales and marketing for Mediterra.

The new floor plan choices in Cabreo and Lucarno are priced from the high-$800s with homesites starting in the mid-$200s. Spacious outdoor living areas can include optional outdoor kitchens, a fireplace, custom pools, and spas. Finish selections can be made at London Bay's Selection Studio that presents the latest design trends in the building industry.

Several new open-concept floor plan choices ranging from 2,894 to 3,020 square feet under air are available in Cabreo, a neighborhood that presents maintenance-free single-family luxury villas. Homesites on the neighborhood's single-loaded streetscape measure 65 to 70 feet by approximately 145 feet and offer lake and nature preserve views. One of London Bay's newest villa neighborhoods, Cabreo is situated adjacent to Mediterra's landscaped walking trails and within comfortable walking distance of the community's extravagant gardens.

The new contemporary single-story home choices in Cabreo feature attractive covered entries, wide foyers, spacious great rooms, island kitchens, and dining areas, a study, three bedrooms, three bathrooms, master suites with large walk-in closets and elegant baths, and three-car garages. One of the plans, the Langston, offers a formal dining room in lieu of the study. Each of the plans can include an optional pool bath and two of them can be modified to include a fourth bedroom.

Double-loaded one-way cobblestone streets, sparkling lakes, glorious gardens, and majestic fountains combine to create the maintenance-free Lucarno neighborhood's distinctive feeling. The neighborhood's entry sequence includes the Parterre Garden, a French-inspired garden set on an island in the middle of a lake. Several new one and two-story open-concept home choices in Lucarno range from 3,170 to 3,844 square feet under air. The floor plans feature spacious great rooms, island kitchens, and dining areas, a study or formal dining room, optional wet bars, three or four bedrooms, three or four baths, lofts, large walk-in closets and bathrooms in the master suites, and two or three-car garages.

Visit the Mediterra Sales Center at 15836 Savona 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. For information about London Bay Homes, visit LondonBay.com.

Above: The 2,894 square-foot under air Devonshire floor plan is one of several new contemporary floor plan and elevation choices available in London Bay Homes' Cabreo neighborhood at Mediterra. Right: Priced from the high-$800s, London Bay Homes' new design choices in Cabreo and Lucarno offer contemporary exterior and interior styles that present a new take on luxury at Mediterra.
The second tower in Kalea Bay, the gated, luxury high-rise community located in North Naples, is scheduled to celebrate its topping off this summer. Currently, construction crews are working on the tower’s 19th floor.

“Kalea Bay remains one of the hottest selling communities in Southwest Florida,” stated Inga Lodge, vice president of sales & marketing for Kalea Bay. “Since January, we recorded 23 new sales for a sales volume of nearly $50 million. That’s an incredible testament to the quality of our construction, the views from our luxurious residences, and the amenities offered – both on the rooftop and in and around our phenomenal clubhouse area.”

Lodge added the recent sales pace is rapidly approaching the second tower to the 80 percent sold mark.

Like its predecessor, Tower 200 is 22-stories with 120 residences. It will also have similar rooftop amenities as Tower 100, including a pool, open-air fitness center and a sky lounge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“We take our outdoor living as seriously as our indoor living with over-sized 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 also the envy of every community in the Naples area.”

“The state-of-the-art fitness center features Peloton bicycles, as well as assorted strength machines, free weights and a stretch area.

For those residents who have young children or grandchildren, the clubhouse also has a teen lounge, with virtual reality and PS4 games, Foosball, WiFi, and multiple TVs, and a kids’ game room with child-size furniture, books, chalkboard and TVs.

Unfortunately, the tennis pavilion has 4 Har-Tru tennis courts, as well as eight pickleball courts.

Restaurant is designed as a resort pool, an adults-only pool and a children’s pool, plus an expansive pool deck, an open-air bar, an indoor/outdoor restaurant, a fitness center, the café Bistro, a lakeside fire pit, kid’s game room and event lawn.

All three pools overlook the lake and provide a multitude of recreation-al options. Expansive sun decks with lounge chairs and native, tropical plants separate each of the three pools for the ultimate in privacy.

“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. This is what living in Florida is supposed to be.”

In fact, the clubhouse at Kalea Bay has two restaurants, the Driftwood Café and the Salt and Oak Restaurant. The Driftwood Café is open for breakfast and lunch. The Salt and Oak Restaurant is designed for an elegant dining experience and includes such features as a private dining room, a banquet room and wine tasting – among others.

“We take our outdoor living as seriously as our indoor living with over-sized 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.

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PENDING HOME SALES
MARCH 2019

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Pending home sales rose in March, reversing course from a month prior, according to the National Association of Realtors. Three of the four major regions saw growth last month, as the Northeast reported a minor slip in contract activity.

The Pending Home Sales Index, a forward-looking indicator based on contract signings, increased 3.8 percent to 105.8 in March, up from 101.9 in February. Year-over-year contract signings declined 1.2 percent, making this the 13th straight month of annual decreases.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, noted that pending home sales data has been exceptionally fluid over the past several months but predicted that numbers will begin to climb more consistently. “We are seeing a positive sentiment from consumers about home buying, as mortgage applications have increased, too. These are great conditions for the region.”

Pointing to active listings from data at realtor.com, Mr. Yun says the year-over-year increases indicate a potential rise in inventory. Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, Colo.; Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, Wash.; San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, Calif.; Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, Ore.-Wash.; and Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, Tenn., saw the largest increase in active listings in March compared to a year ago.

Although pending contracts appear to be on an overall upswing, Mr. Yun says the year-over-year increases indicate a potential rise in inventory. Despite some affordability issues in the West, the numbers indicate that there is a reason for optimism. Inventory has increased too. These are great conditions for the region.”

Pending home sales in the South jumped up 4.4 percent to an index of 107.2 in March, which is 0.7% higher than last March. The index in the West ascended 4.7 percent in March to 95.1 and fell only 1.6% below a year ago.

The National Association of Realtors is America’s largest trade association, representing more than 1.3 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries. ■
Advertise Your Featured Listing Here
Contact your Account Executive for details.

Florida Weekly’s OPEN HOUSE DIRECTORY
May 4 & 5

Naples

PORT ROYAL
1201 Gulfstream Drive
$1,595,000
Royal Shell Real Estate
Lisa Maizel 239.370.9090
Sunday 1-4pm

ROYAL NAPLES
1720 Fifth Avenue South
$1,895,000
Premier Sotheby’s International Realty
Mark & Barbara Harnish 239.598.0808
Sunday 12-3pm

PARK SHORE
1854 Fifth Avenue South
$1,895,000
Premier Sotheby’s International Realty
Tommy Yakucke 239.598.0808
Sunday 12-3pm

PARK SHORE - TERRACES
3000 Gulf Shore Boulevard North
$2,250,000
Premier Sotheby’s International Realty
Diana Schneider 239.598.0808
Sunday 12-3pm

THE VINES
1760 Glory Avenue
$2,399,000
Premier Sotheby’s International Realty
Greg Lewis, The Lewis Team 239.287.1158
Sunday 1-4pm

OLD NAPLES
3722 El Dorado Drive
$1,995,000
Premier Sotheby’s International Realty
Julie Rembis 239.595.1809
Sunday 1-4pm

LESBROOKS
6805 West Lake Shore Drive
$2,949,000
Premier Sotheby’s International Realty
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ELBA ISLAND
10302 La Paz Drive
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Sunday 1-4pm

BAY ISLANDS
1381 South Beach Road
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Premier Sotheby’s International Realty
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OLD NAPLES - VILLA VERA
2420 Beach Road
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Julie Rembis 239.595.1809
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WINESCAPE
1819 Main Street
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The Isles of Collier Preserve brings residents closer to nature

Savor life on the water and under the big blue sky at the serene waterfront community of The Isles of Collier Preserve. Here, classic coastal homes are surrounded by over 1,300 acres of natural preserves connected by a network of recreational trails, nature observation stations, bike paths and waterways for kayaking. Every day, residents here have the opportunity to take in the beauty of the neighboring Rookery Bay National Estuarian Research Reserve, Naples Botanical Garden and Dollar Bay. You may be wondering if living so in touch with nature means sacrificing the modern comforts of home. But The Isles of Collier Preserve was developed by Minto Communities and features elegant new luxury villas, coach homes and single-family homes, bringing a refreshing update to outdoor-inspired living.

In fact, the community's homes are award-winning. Most recently, two model homes built by Minto won the Overall Excellence Award and the Merit Award, respectively, at the 2019 Collier Builders Industry Association Parade of Homes. Currently, there are 16 fully-furnished model homes open for tours and for a limited time, Minto is offering buyers up to $50,000 off select homes and 50% off homesite premiums for select coach homes. For those who prefer maintenance-free living, the Buttonwood Collection of luxury villas offer spacious open floor plans. Ranging from 1,565 to 1,862 square feet under air, these villas include a number of premium features from granite countertops and energy-efficient appliances to spacious walk-in closets and covered lanais. These homes start in the high $300s.

One-to-three story coach homes are also available. Ranging from 1,621 to 2,960 square feet under air, these stunning homes feature floor plans with two or three bedrooms and two or three baths. All two- and three-story units have private elevators. High-efficiency design, low-VOC paints and other energy-efficient aspects have earned these homes LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design) Certification. Coach homes also feature a number of high-end finishes, both inside and out, and start in the mid $400s.

Seven collections of single-family homes are available, ranging from 2,016 square feet to 4,047 square feet under air. These homes also include an impressive selection of premium features, from high-end kitchens and baths to safety and security features, high-quality construction and enhanced design. Single-family homes start in the low $500s.

The Palmetto collection features six floor plans that range from 2,016 square feet to over 2,624 square feet under air, with prices starting in the low $500s. Many of these collection homes range from 2,333 to over 4,300 square feet. Prices for this collection start in the high $500s. Ryland collection floor plans range from 2,741 to 4,047 square feet and start in the high $600s.

Additional single-family homesites have been acquired by Stock Signature Homes, which feature a variety of floor plans and designs to meet every family’s needs. Collections include the Cottonwood, Mahogany and Sycamore.

The Isles of Collier Preserve offers plenty of opportunities for recreation at The Isles Club. Inspired by nature, The Isles Club provides residents and friends sweeping views lining the resort-style pool. Above Left: A lushly landscaped event courtyard, yoga lawn and kayak launch provide additional opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The new addition of The Overlook Bar & Grill, a unique resident exclusive amenity, brings another dimension to the community’s resort lifestyle. This private waterfront restaurant situated on the tranquil Cypress Waterway gives residents and their guests a place to enjoy good times and great local flavors in an old Florida-inspired setting.

Just minutes from the community lies one of the most popular destinations in all of downtown Naples – Fifth Avenue. Residents can stroll along the street and discover a vast array of premier boutiques, art galleries, interior design stores, fine dining, cafes, and entertainment opportunities. When the time comes for fun in the sun, residents of The Isles of Collier Preserve can sink their toes into the sugar white beaches along the Paradise Coast on the Gulf of Mexico or visit the boat-accessible unspoiled beaches at nearby Keewaydin Island.

For a limited time, interested buyers can experience life at The Isles of Collier Preserve with a Stay & Play Getaway™.

For just $229, you can enjoy 3 days and 2 nights in a beautiful Coach Home with full access to amenities and admission for 2 at the Naples Botanical Garden. The Isles of Collier Preserve is located just four miles east of downtown Naples on U.S. 41/Tamiami Trail East. The Discovery Sales Center is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit today to take advantage of the limited-time purchase incentives on select move-in ready coach homes select single-family and villa homes. For information on The Isles of Collier Preserve, call 888-797-1251 or visit MintoUSA.com.
Discover the best of the season from Stock, the region’s leading luxury homebuilder. With award-winning floor plans, and the widest array of move-in-ready homes in the most sought-after communities in Southwest Florida, the time to buy is now.

END OF SEASON MOVE-IN-READY HOMES AVAILABLE

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**FIDDLER'S CREEK Marsh Cove**

**GRAND OPENING OF 5 NEW MODELS, INCLUDING THE AWARD-WINNING MADISON II**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Bedrooms</th>
<th>Bathrooms</th>
<th>Square Feet</th>
<th>Base Price</th>
<th>Furnished Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAMBRIA</td>
<td>3/3.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,627 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$1,175,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EASTON</td>
<td>4/3.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,818 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$1,199,990</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAYFIELD</td>
<td>4/3.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,033 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$1,312,140</td>
<td>Furnished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ULYSSA</td>
<td>5/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,196 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$1,199,990</td>
<td>Furnished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADISON II</td>
<td>4/4.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,054 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$1,469,990</td>
<td>Furnished</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**NAPLES RESERVE**

**GRAND OPENING OF 4 NEW MODELS IN CANOE LANDING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Bedrooms</th>
<th>Bathrooms</th>
<th>Square Feet</th>
<th>Base Price</th>
<th>Furnished Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WISTERIA</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,445 sq.ft.</td>
<td>From $474,990</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIESTA III</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,589 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$673,290</td>
<td>Coming Soon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELFIELD</td>
<td>3/3.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,812 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$849,990</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARATHON</td>
<td>3/3.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,767 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$913,485</td>
<td>Furnished</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**HIDDEN HARBOR**

**ONLY 10 HOMES REMAIN, INCLUDING MOVE-IN-READY HOMES WITH PRIVATE DOCKS**

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<th>Square Feet</th>
<th>Base Price</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MARATHON</td>
<td>3/3.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,909 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$599,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIESTA</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,630 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$699,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARATHON</td>
<td>3/3.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,909 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$725,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYRTLE</td>
<td>4/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,813 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$850,000 Waterfront</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYRTLE II</td>
<td>4/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,687 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$930,000 Waterfront</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**THE ISLES OF COLLIER PRESERVE**

**INTRODUCING THREE NEW NEIGHBORHOODS GRAND OPENING OF MARIGOLD MODEL**

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<th>Square Feet</th>
<th>Base Price</th>
<th>Furnished Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIRCHWOOD</td>
<td>3/2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,431 sq.ft.</td>
<td>From $579,990</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BURLINGTON</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,517 sq.ft.</td>
<td>From $664,990</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADISON</td>
<td>4/4.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,947 sq.ft.</td>
<td>From $774,990</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COCOPLUM</td>
<td>4/4.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,641 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$1,479,530 Estate Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARIGOLD</td>
<td>4/4.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,578 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$1,562,170 Estate Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**BABCOCK RANCH**

**ONE-OF-A-KIND SOLAR COMMUNITY FROM THE LOW $400s**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WISTERIA</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,445 sq.ft.</td>
<td>From $439,990</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIESTA</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,630 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$577,415</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>3/3.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,822 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$749,990 Furnished</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEBRING</td>
<td>3/3.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,676 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$759,990 Furnished</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DELRAY</td>
<td>3/3.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,195 sq.ft.</td>
<td>$849,990 Furnished</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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**QUAIL WEST**

**BEST-SELLING LUXURY COMMUNITY IN NAPLES EXQUISITELY FURNISHED ESTATE HOME MODELS**

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<th>Bedrooms</th>
<th>Bathrooms</th>
<th>Square Feet</th>
<th>Base Price</th>
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**RENAISSANCE**

**ONE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA’S FINEST GOLF COMMUNITIES FINAL 2 HOMES**

<table>
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<th>Model</th>
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<th>Square Feet</th>
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For directions and complete listings of all our models & communities please visit [StockDevelopment.com](http://StockDevelopment.com)
“I like the fusion of all the elements that came together on that song ... It felt like that was a good, broad entry into the rest of the album.”

— Keith Urban, musician

Singer defies genres on latest album. He closes out this year’s SunFest.

Soon after celebrating its 20th anniversary serving and advocating for the needs of local children, Naples Children & Education Foundation plans to move into new, permanent digs at the beginning of 2020.

Top Picks
Newsies, Kentucky Derby parties, Cinco de Mayo fun and much more to celebrate this week.

Taking solace
Lalai finds a bit of comfort while grieving for her sister.

NCEF to float no more — new offices to open in 2020

Soon after celebrating its 20th anniversary serving and advocating for the needs of local children, Naples Children & Education Foundation plans to move into new, permanent digs at the beginning of 2020.

Urban Renewal

It’s “Avengers: Endgame” with no spoilers. C15

Film review

Top Picks

NCEF to float no more — new offices to open in 2020

Soon after celebrating its 20th anniversary serving and advocating for the needs of local children, Naples Children & Education Foundation plans to move into new, permanent digs at the beginning of 2020.

BY LINDSEY NESMITH
lnesmith@floridaweekly.com

COURTESY RENDERING
The new NCEF headquarters will feature a boardroom, lecture hall, expanded wine storage, administrative offices more when it opens next year.
Lalai finds a bit of comfort while grieving for her sister

It’s been more than a year and a half since we lost our 20-year-old kitty, Pony. And for my husband Todd and I, while her passing was incredibly sad, there was a small feeling of relief. Her little body had struggled so hard with a myriad of sicknesses caused by old age that neither surgery, nor a barrage of medications, were helping her to recover. We miss her, but we know her sweet soul is in a happier place.

But, it’s hard to explain that to her twin sister and litter mate, Lalai, who is almost 22. Lalai and Pony were rescue kittens, born prematurely at a local shelter. When I adopted them, I adopted both of them because they clung together in their cage like refugees. I had to bottle feed them during their first two weeks with me. Pony and Lalai were inseparable for 20 years. They slept together, groomed each other, ate at the same time, played together and occasionally fought with each other. In human years, they were two little old 96-year-old sisters who loved each other terribly.

After Pony left us, I don’t think we fully realized the effect it would have on Lalai. She lost weight and became extra clingy — but the most heartbreaking part was watching her wander around the condo meowing a deep mournful meow — almost a warble — as she searched for her beloved sister.

Then one early evening last week, we were at our wits end when Lalai was warbling up a storm and Todd was trying to complete a project for work. I scooped up all eight pounds of Lalai and cradled her in my arms as I walked around outside for a few minutes. Like her sister, Lalai has always been an indoor cat, which is one of the reasons she’s lived so long. According to most online sources, the life expectancy of an indoor cat can be more than 17 years, while the average outdoor cat lives to 3 to 8 years old. In other words, not counting our screened-in balcony, Lalai has never been outdoors.

During our brief walk, she perked up and looked around at the trees, the setting sun, and the birds. She clung to me, but she purred contentedly. The next day, we did it again, and when we came back inside, she curled up and took a nap — no warbling.

So, I did something crazy. I bought her a soft mesh harness and started walking her. At first, she was tentative, but by the third day of walking, she was walking ME. Lalai loves to smell flowers, nibble on grass and explore the small, safe world outside of our condo. When I get her pretty turquoise harness off the shelf, she comes running, eager for her end-of-the-day walk.

Of course, walking a senior cat on a leash attracts a lot of attention. Neighbors stop and pet Lalai and wonder how in the world I can get a cat on a leash. I just tell them, “She’s elderly — and we’re calling this grief therapy.”

A whole new world has been opened up to Lalai — and it seems the old girl might just have a few lives left in her yet.

Lalai looks forward to donning her harness and taking a stroll outside.

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Recognized Amongst American Top Podiatrists
2010-2019

LONGEST TRACK RECORD OF FOOT & ANKLE SURGERY SUCCESS IN COLLIER COUNTY

4 New Facts About Your Feet & Ankles
Avoid Surgery—Live Amniotic Stem Cell Therapy For Knee, Ankle and Foot Pain.

1. Heel pain in the morning can be easily resolved.
2. Diabetic infections kill more people than breast cancer and AIDS. If diabetic, must see us now.
3. Ingrown toenails can lead to bone infection; we treat them fast.
4. Top pickleball injuries seen include foot fractures from ankle sprains.
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 10 P.M.
Midsummer Murders
The Creeper, Part 2
The time-honored craft of the cat bur-
grar is revived in Midsummer County and
when a state-of-the-art security system in
the Chief Constable's own house is effort-
lessly breached, the pressure is on for
Barnaby to catch this highly skilled and
agile housebreaker.

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 11 P.M.
POV: Almost Sunrise
In an attempt to put haunting combat
experiences behind them, two friends,
both veterans, embark on an epic 2,700-
 mile trek on foot across America, seeking
redemption and healing as a way to close
the moral chasm opened by war.

MONDAY, MAY 6, 10 P.M.
The Queen's Garden
With permission from Her Majesty the
Queen, this documentary reveals a year in
Buckingham Palace Gardens.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 8 P.M.
Finding Your Roots:
Reporting on the Reporters
Host Henry Louis Gates Jr. shows jour-
nalists Christiane Amanpour, Ann Curry
and Lisa Ling that the stories within their
own family trees are every bit as compel-
ling as the news stories they have been
covering for the world.

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 9 P.M.
Emilio and Gloria Estefan:
The Library of Congress
Gershwin Prize for Popular Song
See an all-star tribute to Emilio and
Gloria Estefan, the 2019 recipients of the
Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for
Popular Song and the first married cou-
ple or musicians-songwriters of Hispanic
descent to receive the honor.

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 11 P.M.
Call the Midwife
Season 8, Part 5
Meet a husband suffering inexplica-
bly similar to his wife’s pregnancy
symptoms.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 9 P.M.
Nova: Inside the Megafire
Scientists investigate what was behind
the deadly megafires that swept through
California in 2018.
URBAN

From page 1

And a “me album” at that point in time meant reflecting the kind of music that Mr. Urban currently is drawn to and finding ways to take those influences and come out with songs that felt authentic to him.

He will offer a sampling of that authenticity at 7:30 p.m. May 5 at SunFest.

Exactly what types of music inspired “Graffiti U” proved to be hard to pin down, even for Mr. Urban. He allowed that he’s attracted to a lot of new music at this point, but he works more by instinct than any other factor in crafting songs.

“It’s always based on an energy. I get pulled toward a certain energy, whether it’s in people I meet, whether it’s in art in some form, movies, music, whatever it is, I get pulled toward certain energies,” Mr. Urban said. “And I have personally found myself being very pulled toward a lot of new music that’s been made, not just in pop, but in country. There’s a lot of great music. And there’s nongenre music, like Post Malone is having right now; that I find myself strongly pulled toward because it’s so original. I was watching a documentary last night about this band over in the U.K., this duo called the Sheaford Mods. That documentary is called ‘A Bunch of Kunst.’ I was riveted by that documentary because the music is so uncategorizable and so (original) and so raw. So it doesn’t matter what the genre is. I can be pulled toward anything that just has this riveting (quality) in it.”

In fact, Mr. Urban said he titled the album “Graffiti U” because he sees graffiti as a pure form of expression, and he wanted to experience that sort of unfettered freedom and creativity as he wrote the songs. “I want to be around her all the time, talk to her and listen to her. We’re just very, very simpatico as personalities, the two of us. I think that’s why I like being around her when I first met her and doing everything with her when I first met her. And that hasn’t changed. It just feels exactly the same as it did the first week we started going out.”

Another secret to the relationship is that Mr. Urban and Ms. Kidman put their relationship ahead of their careers and find ways to spend as much time together as possible.

“If she’s shooting out in California — we just relocate out there, even if it’s in a rented place, or a hotel, wherever it is. We just go as a family, the four of us,” Mr. Urban said. “Obviously, I’m on tour. I go to where the show is and then I go back to wherever she and the girls are, so that we stay together.”

There will be plenty of trips to tour stops and family locations over the next several months as Mr. Urban plays a healthy selection of festivals this summer. He said his hit-filled show very much aims to reinforce the themes of the “Graffiti U” album.

“I think if there’s a theme to this album and a want for things it’s to give everyone the confidence in each person to just express who they are and how they feel and not feel like they have to apologize for it or make excuses for it or filter it in any way or change it in any way,” Mr. Urban said. “It’s just an absolutely natural, unapologetic form of expression. That’s what the album is. It’s very much what we are. And if people feel that way in listening to the music and seeing the show, then I think I’ve done my job.”

SunFest 2019

>> When: May 2-5, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

>> Where: Flagler Drive along the Intracoastal Waterway between Banyan Boulevard and Lakeview Drive, West Palm Beach.

>> Info and tickets: www.sunfest.com (Ballyhoo! 12:45-2:15 p.m., Citizen Badger 4:30-5:15 p.m., Magic City Hippies 7:15-8:30 p.m., and Diplo 9:30-11 p.m. on the Jet Blue Stage).

>> May 3, 5-11 p.m. (Ballyhoo! 6-7 p.m., Dnaus 7:30-8 p.m., Anthony Russo 8:30-9 p.m., and Donnie 9-10 p.m. on the Stage; Average Tomatoes 7-8 p.m., Josie Dunne 7:15-8:15 p.m., and Earth, Wind & Fire 8-9:15 p.m. on the Tire Kingdom Stage; and Five For Fighting 8:30-10 p.m. on the B-52s 4-5 p.m. on the central Ford Stage, and Spazz Cardigan 12:45-1:45 p.m., Garbage 3:45-4:45 p.m., and Rebelution 9-10:30 p.m. on the Jet Blue Stage).

>> May 4, noon-11 p.m. (Mayday! 1-3 p.m., Lucabra 3-4:15 p.m., Retrofits 5-6:15 p.m., Sled靖 6-7 p.m., Snatchback 8-9 p.m., and Odes 9-10:30 p.m. on the Ford Stage; Mere Scuba 2-3 p.m., the B-52s 3-4:30 p.m. on the central Ford Stage; OneRepublic 8:30-10 p.m. on the northern Ford Stage; Lochness Monster 5:15-6 p.m., and Dan Omar 9-10:15 p.m. on the Jet Blue Stage).

>> May 5, noon-9 p.m. (Ballyhoo! 12:45-2 p.m., Stick Figure 2:30-4 p.m., Arete 5-6 p.m., and Croy 7-8 p.m. on the Ford Stage; Patrick Dammy 1:15-2:15 p.m., Bebe Fezra 2-4:30 p.m., and Danya 4-6 p.m. on the Ford Stage; Jett Johnson 4:30-5:30 p.m., and Planet Zero 6-7 p.m. on the Jet Blue Stage).

>> Where: Flagler Drive along the Intracoastal Waterway between Banyan Boulevard and Lakeview Drive, West Palm Beach.

>> Info and tickets: $47-560, with discount for two-day, four-day, youth and senior package. 800-SUNFEST (800-786-3378) or www.sunfest.com

For more information, read the full article located at www.FloridaWeekly.com.
NCEF
From page 1
just around the time of a milestone Naples Winter Wine Festival in January.

Since its inception in 2000, NCEF operations have floated among a variety
of office spaces and conducted important community meetings in rented halls, trust-
ee’s homes, coffee shops and more. The
new 15,000-square-foot property will
be located on Good-lette-Frank Road, just
north of Golden Gate Parkway, in the Eagle
View Professional Park.

“Every time you move, it takes a
while to settle in and we want to be
efficient with our time and energy,” she
said. “Right now, we have to go else-
where to store more if we need to and it
won’t be easier to maneuver around the
valuable vintages. It’s not terrible, but it just makes
it complicated when we have to arrange for A/V and food. Our objective is to
be able to carry out our responsibilities under one roof instead of begging and
borrowing all the time.”

Features of the organization’s new
headquarters include a lecture hall, indus-
trial kitchen, expanded wine storage facili-
ties and upper floor offices for staff. Ms. Jimenez-Lara and staff are looking for-
ward working more efficiently for both
the community and patrons of the wine
festival at the new digs.

“Every time you move, it takes a
while to settle in and we want to be
efficient with our time and energy,” she
said. “Right now, we have to go else-
where and borrow space. We literally go
everywhere we can find like community
rooms, homes of our trustees, and hand-
ful of clubs. It’s not terrible, but it just makes
it complicated when we have to arrange for A/V and food. Our objective is to
be able to carry out our responsibilities under one roof instead of begging and
borrowing all the time.”

Aside from the work of fulfilling NCEF’s
mission of bridging the gap between pub-
lic and private resources for local non-
profits, staff also has the major undertak-
ing staging one of the nation’s premiere
wine festivals to fund its activities. While
bottles are properly stored and cared for,
everyone is happy to have more room to
maneuver around the valuable vintages.

“Right now, the space it’s in, it’s prop-
erly stored, but it’s tight” Ms. Jimenez-Lara
said. “Our person who does inventory
tapes lines on the floor so she can get
through the bones. “In the new building,
we’ll have a bigger generator and it will
allow us to store more if we need to and it
will make moving around that space easier
and more conducive to carrying out the
work that needs to happen.”

The $6.5 million capital campaign to fund
the building — which Ms. Jimenez-Lara and
NCEF Trustee and Capital Campaign co-
chair Paul Hill note is separate from the cash
and pledge donations the building commit-
tee to find a suitable site
and looked high and low
with the building commit-
tee to find a suitable site
NCEF’s new headquarters.
After settling on the Eagle
View Professional Park site,
the board partnered with
developers Alex and Fred
Pezeshkan, DeAngelis Dia-
mond Construction and
Stoff Cooney Architects to design and
build the new headquarters.

“How many times in your life do you
get to do something that ultimately, when it’s completed, help the children?” Mr. Hill
said. “We’re going to get a lot of lift out of
this facility and it will allow us to do even
more work with the charities that we sup-
port in Collier County.”

To support NCEF’S Onward & Upward
capital campaign, contact Director of
Development Andy Reed by calling 54-
2239 or emailing andy@napleswinefesti-
val.com.

Most people are more concerned with a
forecast than the possibility of developing skin
cancer. In honor of Melanoma Awareness
Month, we are dedicated to spreading the
word of the ever-present threat of skin
cancer and invite you to come in for a free
skin screening at one of our participating
locations. After all, the earlier Melanoma is
found the greater the chances of beating it.

In honor of Melanoma May we are offering:
FREE SKIN CANCER SPOT
CHECKS THROUGHOUT
THE MONTH OF MAY*

Call us today to Schedule Yours!
800-591-3376 (DERM)
RiverchaseDermatology.com

* Free screenings are for new patients and by appointment
WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

THEATER

Lost in Yonkers – By The Naples Players through May 26 at Sugden Community Theatre, 26th-7990 or www.naplesplayers.com.


Over the River and Through the Woods – By The Studio Players May 4-19 at Joan Jenkins Community Auditorium. 4701 Golden Gate Pkwy. 398-0929 or www.thestudioplayers.com.


Native Gardens – By Florida Repertory Theatre through May 19 in the ArtStage Studio Theatre. 2268 Bay St.

FRIDAY

Art Talk – FGCU’s Renaissance Academy hosts a lecture on the relationship between Mary Cassatt and Edgar Degas from 10 a.m. to noon at Bentley Villa. $24 for members, $29 for others. 850 Retreat Drive. 434-4737 or www.fgcu.edu.

Give My Regards – Cast members from “Guest of Honor,” “Easy Way Out” perform “The World Goes ‘Round” perform their favorite show tunes and share stories in a cabaret show Thursday, May 2 at 7 p.m. at Arts Center of Inverness. $25-$30 per person, tables of eight available. 206 Ridge Drive. 596-3522 or www.invernessarts.org.

Dinner and Art – Stay in May hosts an evening to experience Brazilian cuisine prepared by Chef Brian Roland while enjoying demonstrations by artists Steve and Cynthia Adams and Maggie DeMarco at 7 p.m. at Venue Naples. 95. 13240 Tamiami Trail N. 292-5259 or www.stayinmay.com.

SATURDAY

To Market, To Market – Stock up on fresh produce and locally made goods at the market from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the corner Pine Ridge and Livingston roads.

Jazz in the Garden – Bob Zottola & Tequila and Mexican Taqueria, with comida y bebida by way of Guadalajara, Mexico. $30. 850 Retreat Dr. 390-2788 or www.stayinmay.com.

Free Concert – Gateway Brass, a chamber group of active service Air Force officers, perform from 2-3 p.m. at Cambier Park. 213-2058 or www.naplesgov.com.

Flashback Film – Silvestro at Mer-catos screens “Monty Python & The Holy Grail” (1975) at 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. $12-$15. 392-0380 or www.silvestro.net.

THURSDAY

Art Talk – FGCU’s Renaissance Academy hosts a lecture on the relationship between Mary Cassatt and Edgar Degas from 10 a.m. to noon at Bentley Villa. $24 for members, $29 for others. 850 Retreat Drive. 434-4737 or www.fgcu.edu.

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FRIDAY

Classic Film – FGCU’s Renaissance Academy screens “Ace in the Hole” (1951) at 2 p.m. at the university’s Naples campus. A muckraking journalist plots to take advantage of a collapsed mine incident to sell more newspapers, $6 for members, $8 for others. 1050 Fifth Ave. S. 434-4737 or www.fgcu.edu.

Jazz Night – Trumpeter Leroy Jones performs with Lew Del Gatto at 7 p.m. at North Naples Church. $30. 6000 Goodlette-Frank Road. 390-2788 or www.stayinmay.com.

Masterworks – The Naples Philharmonic performs with mezzo-soprano Susan Graham at 8 p.m. tonight and Saturday, May 5. 397-1900 or www.artisnaples.org.

The Party’s On – Country music icon Hank Williams Jr. performs at 8 p.m. at Hertz Arena. 840-8000. 948-7825 or www.hertzarena.com.

SUNDAY

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

Jazz in the Garden – Bob Zottola & Simpatico perform from noon to 2 p.m. at Naples Botanical Garden. Free with admission, 644-7275 or www.naples-botanical-garden.org.

Foreign Film – FGCU’s Renaissance Academy screens “Nine Queens” (Argentina, 2015) at 7 p.m. at Academy screens “Monty Python & The Holy Grail” (1975) at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. $12-$15. 392-0380 or www.silvestro.net.

Dueling Pianos – Pianists Karen Davis and Anne Roberts perform side-by-side works by Gershwin, Kismet and Mozart at 3 p.m. at the Center for Performing Arts Bonita Springs. $25. 1050 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

Got Brass? – Stay in May hosts an organ and brass concert featuring organist James Cochran and Naples Brass at 4 p.m. at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church. $30. 1228 Piper Blvd. 390-2788 or www.stayinmay.com.

Short Film Fest – Stay in May screens three short films (“Figs for Italo,” “Guest of Honor,” “Easy Way Out”) with filmmakers and actors at 7 p.m. at Moorings Park’s Sheikh Theatre. $15. 120 Moorings Park Dr. 390-2788 or www.stayinmay.com.

MONDAY

Films for Film Lovers – Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs screens “My King” (2015) at 7 p.m. A woman recovering from a ski accident in a rehabilitation center remembers a tumultuous love story from her past. $10. 1050 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.
WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

COMING UP

Southern Rock — The Marshall Tucker Band performs at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 9, at Southwest Florida Event Center. $33-$58. 115151 Bonita Beach Road. 245-9910 or www.swfleventcenter.com.

Great Docks! — The 43rd annual Great Dock Canoe Races paddle into Naples Bay with this year’s theme, “Heroes & Villains,” guiding festivities that include races, live music, family activities and more on Saturday, May 11, at The Dock at Crayton Cove. www.greatdockcanoerace.com.

Met Live — Silverspot hosts a live viewing of the Metropolitan Opera’s production of Poulenc’s “Dialogues de Carmelites” at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 11. $92-0300 or www.silverspot.net.

Nature Talk — The Conservancy of Southwest Florida hosts a talk about why algae blooms are so disruptive with marine scientist Vince Lovko at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 14. Reservations required. 403-4207 or sophian@conservancy.org.

All I Want — Toad and the Wet Sprocket perform at 7 p.m. Friday, May 17, at Southwest Florida Event Center. $33-$58. 115151 Bonita Beach Road. 245-9910 or www.swfleventcenter.com.

Safe Boating — United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 966 hosts water safety presentations for paddlers, boaters, swimmers and more from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at CGT Kayaks in Bonita Springs. 231-13 Old 41 Road. 646-483-5580 or ellendeleo@gmail.com.

Patriotic Concert — Gulfshore Opera performs American standards while guests enjoy lunch at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 19, at Club Pelican Bay. $75. 707 Gulf Park Circle. 403-4207 or www.gulfshoreopera.org.

Early Birds — Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a birding walk from 8-11 a.m. Tuesday, May 21, 310-825. 348-9173 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.


The Elders — Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a boardwalk tour of old stand of old-growth bald cypress from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, May 23. 310-825. 348-9173 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.

For the Birds — Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center hosts a breakfast and a lecture by shorebird expert Adam Dinuovo from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 23. 515 300 Tower Road. 530-5940 or www.rookerybay.org.

This Life — Emmy-nominated television and music star Lynda Carter performs at 8 p.m. Friday, May 24, at The Ries Brothers Brewing Company May 13 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $65-$200. — pointybtlbrew.com.

Piano Concert — Award-winning pianist Kate Liu performs works by Beethoven, Prokofiev and Brahms at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 28, at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church. 540. 1225 Piper Blvd. 644-734-8179 or www.grandpianoseries.com.

Florida Tunes — J. Roberts’ Florida Songs Jamboree brings together local musicians Michael Oakland, Grant Peebles, Radifer Starke and Marie Nofsinger, and Restless Saints to perform Florida-inspired tunes from 6-8 p.m. Friday, May 31, at Goodland’s Margood Harbor Theater. $10 suggested donation. jroberts@jrobert.net.
WHAT TO DO

On in the swamp – Spiritual guide Bethany Gonzalez hosts an outdoor meditation session at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, June 1, in Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary’s natural amphitheater. $20. 349-9511 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.

Art Tours – Naples Art District’s galleries and studios welcome guests to meet the artists, shop and party from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, June 5. Free. 269-5070 or www.naplesartdistrict.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, June 20. $10-$25. 349-9511 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.

Tile Time – Naples Italian American Foundation hosts a mah jongg tournament Friday, June 21, at the organization’s headquarters. Call for more information. 7035 Airport Rd. N. 597-5210 or www.niafoundation.org.

Piano Concert – Lang Lang Foundation Young Scholars Jeffrey Chin and Shuheng Zhang perform at 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 24, at Vanderbuilt Presbyterian Church. $40. 1225 Piper Blvd. 646-734-8279 or www.grandpianoseries.com.

For the Birds – Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center hosts breakfast and a lecture by shorebird expert Adam DiNuovo from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 27. $15. 300 Tower Road. 530-5940 or www.rookerybay.org.

Artist Reception – Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary hosts a reception with wood artist Leslie Peebles from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, June 28. 375 Sanctuary Road. 348-9215 or www.corkscrew.audubon.org.

Jazz on the Beach – Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club hosts a free performance by Late Night Brass from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 2, as part of the hotel’s 39th annual SummerJazz on the Gulf concert series, 261-2222 or www.naplesbeachhotel.com.

For the Birds – Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center hosts breakfast and a lecture by shorebird expert Adam DiNuovo from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 23. 35. $15. 300 Tower Road. 530-5940 or www.rookerybay.org.

Jazz on the Beach – Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club hosts a free performance by Chet Baker Trio from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17, as part of the hotel’s 39th annual SummerJazz on the Gulf concert series, 261-2222 or www.naplesbeachhotel.com.

For the Birds – Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center hosts breakfast and a lecture by shorebird expert Adam DiNuovo from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, at Goodland’s Marjoroke Harbor Theater. $10 suggested donation, jrobert@jrobert.net.


I Scream, You Scream – Collier County Parks & Recreation hosts an ice cream social, music, fireworks and more from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, July 4, at Sugden Regional Park, 252-4045 or www.collierparks.com.

Light it Up – The City of Naples hosts fireworks off the Naples Pier at 9 p.m. Friday, July 5. 213-7210 or www.naplesgov.com.

Piano Concert – Pianist Reed Tetzlaff performs at 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 15, at Vanderbuilt Presbyterian Church. $40. 1225 Piper Blvd. 646-734-8279 or www.grandpianoseries.com.

GREAT! – Fox News’ Brian Kilmeade speaks at 7 p.m. Friday, July 19, at Southwest Florida Event Center. $25-$35. 11515 Bonita Beach Road. 245-9910 or www.swflcvcenter.com.

The 43rd annual Great Dock Canoe Races paddle into Naples Bay with this year’s theme, “Heroes & Villains,” guiding festivities that include races, live music, family activities and more on Saturday, May 11, at The Dock at Crayton Cove. www.greatdockcanaorace.com.

Jazz on the Beach – Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club hosts a free performance by Late Night Brass from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, July 20, as part of the hotel’s 39th annual SummerJazz on the Gulf concert series, 261-2222 or www.naplesbeachhotel.com.

Jazz on the Beach – Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club hosts a free performance by Chet Baker Trio from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, as part of the hotel’s 39th annual SummerJazz on the Gulf concert series, 261-2222 or www.naplesbeachhotel.com.

Jazz on the Beach – Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club hosts a free performance by Ari & The Alibis from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, as part of the hotel’s 39th annual SummerJazz on the Gulf concert series, 261-2222 or www.naplesbeachhotel.com.

Arkansas – John Oates and The Good Road Band perform at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, at Southwest Florida Event Center, 11515 Bonita Beach Road. 245-9910 or www.swflcvcenter.com.

Wait, Wait! – Comedian Paula Poundstone (NPR’s “Wait, Wait … Don’t Tell Me!”) performs at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, at Southwest Florida Event Center, 11515 Bonita Beach Road. 245-9910 or www.swflcvcenter.com.

WAIT! – Comedian Paula Poundstone (NPR’s “Wait, Wait … Don’t Tell Me!”) performs at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, at Southwest Florida Event Center, 11515 Bonita Beach Road. 245-9910 or www.swflcvcenter.com.

— Email calendar listings and high-resolution photos to Lindsey Nemeth at lnemeth@floridaweekly.com. Please send Word or text documents and jigs 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.
The Naples Players KidzAct on tap to perform wacky family comedy

The Naples Players KidzAct presents the zany family comedy “You Can’t Take It With You,” which runs May 11-13 in Blackburn Hall at The Naples Players Sugden Theatre. Directed by associate artistic director, Jessica Walck, “You Can’t Take It With You” is a hysterical production for the entire family. The cast includes (in alphabetical order) Leonard Allen as Donald, Jenny Belandres plays Henderson and The Man, Brian Boland is Ed, Jordon Crawford is Essie, Joseph Eustache plays Mr. Kirby, Nabil Eustache is Mr. DePinna, Gina Giannoutsos is Grandpa, Amanda Howes plays Duchess and Mac, Tessa Kent is Gay Wellington, Giszelle Kirton is Kolenkhov, Karli Kneefly plays Jim, Lila Mastro is Rheba, Alex Portaro is Mrs. Kirby, Hunter Reum is Paul, Sophie Sawyer is Penny, Megan Schelling is Alice and Luke Walsh plays Tony.

“You Can’t Take It With You” is a comedic play by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, which originally premiered on Broadway in 1936 and won the 1937 Pulitzer Prize. TNP Associate Artistic Director, Jessica Walck, is not only directing the production, but has applied a “master class” technique to the rehearsal process with the young and bright cast.

“I informed the kids from the top, that I am not treating this show as a kids show (and it’s not) and that I am directing them as I would adults so they understand the expectation of them as actors,” said Ms. Walck. “This is a longer character-driven play; it’s very stylized. I have been teaching them every step of the acting process: when I block them in rehearsal, I challenge them to think where their character will go next, or stay, how they will move (if at all), and challenge them to take their daily rehearsal notes to study and bring with them a new layer to their character by the next rehearsal. I motivate them to be in the moment and communicate with each other. It goes far beyond acting. To truly tell a story these actors have to learn to really talk to each other, really love each other so the audience, in turn, falls in love with them.”

The play welcomes audiences to the freethinking Sycamore family, a tad quirky and whimsical and the mayhem that ensues when their daughter’s fiancé brings his conservative, straight-laced parents to dinner on the wrong night. Tickets are $20 for adults, $10 for students and are available for purchase online at www.NaplesPlayers.org or by contacting the box office at 263-7990. Performance times are 2 p.m. Saturday, May 11, 6:30 p.m. Sunday, May 12, and 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 13.
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PUZZLES
10 CELEBRITIES TURNING 90

By Linda Thistle

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Music and art dominate the week, giving the sensual Bovine a lot to appreciate. On the practical side, deal firmly, but fairly, with those who might try to undermine your work efforts.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
Good feelings continue to flow from your recent efforts to reconnect with family and friends. But be ready to defuse a dispute before it can disrupt all that peace and harmony.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
A practical view of a romanticized situation could help to clarify some of its more confusing aspects before you make a decision that could be tough to undo later on.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
Pay more attention to what a recent spate of workplace criticism might say about your performance and not what you think it implies about you personally. Some flexibility might be called for.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
With new information, and new promises of support (not to mention growing self-confidence), this could be a good time to restart a project you couldn’t quite handle before.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
Before you decide to close down a problem-loaded project and make a fresh start with someone else, try once more to reach a compromise with your balky partner. He or she might surprise you.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
While you continue earning points for your sharp negotiating skills, be alert for an attempt to undercut your efforts. You’ll need to provide solid facts and figures to stay in the game.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
A minor health problem might cause you to ease up on your usually busy schedule. But you’ll soon be back in the saddle and ready to pick up the reins and charge ahead.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
The adventurous Sea Goat might be eager to take on a new challenge. But before you do, you might want to take some time to check out previously overlooked factors.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
A feeling of being overwhelmed by all that you have to do can be eased by setting priorities. Deal with the most urgent and time-sensitive situations first, and then work down the line.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
Creating a calm, peaceful place for yourself in the middle of a roiling emotional whirlpool this week starts when you, and no one else, decide how to make decisions about your life.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
This is a good week to look at healing bruised feelings and re-establishing weakened relationships. It’s also a good week to start new projects and make new job-linked contacts.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your determination to stick with your principles wins the admiration of everyone who knows you.

HOROSCOPES

SUDOKU
Difficulty level: ★★

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

By Linda Thistle
CONTRACT BRIDGE

Desperate measures

BY STEVE BECKER

There are times when declarer is forced to attempt a play that would make him look very foolish if it did not succeed. Even so, if that play actually offers the best chance to bring the contract home, declarer should screw up his courage and back his convictions to the hilt.

Consider the accompanying deal where South got to three notrump and West led the diamond deuce. After taking East's king with the ace, South played the A-Q of clubs.

Had West taken the queen with the king, declarer would have made four notrump easily. But West properly ducked the queen, leaving South with only eight sure tricks and no obvious way to utilize dummy's J-10-9 of clubs. Although dummy could be entered with the ace of spades in order to establish the club suit, there would then be no way to reach the other two club winners.

Declarer gave some thought to attempting to establish his fourth heart, but quickly dismissed the idea. Even if the opposing hearts were divided 3-3 — just a bit better than a 1-in-3 possibility — he would very likely wind up losing two diamonds, two hearts and a club before he could score nine tricks.

And so, South instead took what looked like his only chance for the contract. After the club queen held, he led a low spade and finessed dummy's 10. When the ten won the trick, he conceded a club to the king, and, with the spade ace still in dummy as an entry, he had no difficulty collecting 10 tricks.

Interestingly, even this line of play could have been thwarted if West had played his jack on the first spade lead. This would have restricted dummy to only one entry and rendered the contract hopeless. However, the jack play was certainly not an easy one for West to make, and might have worked out badly had South held a different hand.

East dealer.

Neither side vulnerable.

WEST

\[10\]
\[9\]
\[8\]
\[7\]
\[6\]
\[5\]
\[4\]

SOUTH

\[K\]
\[Q\]
\[A\]
\[J\]
\[10\]
\[9\]
\[8\]

The bidding:

East South West North

Pass 2 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

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Elisabeth Moss) On vacation, a family enjoys a day at the beach; later that night, doppelgangers of themselves appear at their home with malice intent. This is writer/director Jordan Peele’s follow-up to “Get Out,” and it’s not as good, but it is a horror movie that gets you to think, so it certainly does something right. Rated R.

Teen Spirit (Elle Fanning, Zlatko Buric, Rebecca Hall) A sweet girl from nowhere (Fanning) enters a singing competition in the hope of escaping her small town and finding stardom. The story is as predictable as it sounds, but it’s also surprisingly peppy and well made by first-time director Max Minghella. Rated PG-13.

Mary Magdalene (Rooney Mara, Joaquin Phoenix, Chiwetel Ejiofor) The story of Mary Magdalene (Mara) before, during and after her relationship with Jesus Christ (Phoenix). Performances are fine, but it’s more about Jesus than Mary, and feels disappointing as a result. Rated R.

Storm Boy (Geoffrey Rush, Jai Courtney, Finn Little) A retired businessman (Rush) reflects on his childhood when he lived on the coast of Australia and befriended a pelican. There’s an earnest sweetness that works, but be prepared for heavy-handed environmental and anti-hunting messages. Rated PG.

The Highwaymen (Kevin Costner, Woody Harrelson, Kim Dickens) Two retired Texas Rangers come back to the action as they help track down Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow in the 1930s. It’s a fun conceit, but it’s a good 20 minutes too long and drags most of the way. Rated R.

Us (Lupita Nyong’o, Winston Duke, (Brie Larson, Jude Law, Samuel L. Jackson) The story of how Carol Danvers became Captain Marvel (Larson) is told as she fends off villainous Skrulls on Earth. She’s a bit of a bore as a lead character, but this satisfies the palate enough to get us even more excited for “Avengers: Endgame”. Rated PG-13.

The Wedding Guest (Dev Patel, Radhika Apte, Jim Sarbh) Samira’s (Apte) lover (Sarbh) sends a man (Patel) to kidnap her before her arranged marriage to another man could take place, but complications make their reunion tenuous at best. It starts strong, but becomes less compelling and more predictable as it goes. The ending? Underwhelming. Rated R.

To Dust (Matthew Broderick, Geza Rohrig, Sammy Voit) A Hasidic cantor (Rohrig) seeks answers about his wife’s death from a community college biology professor (Broderick). It’s an interesting, albeit a bit depressing, black comedy that smartly explores uncommon questions surrounding death. Rated R.

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### ‘Avengers: Endgame’

As for the 181-minute running time, the nicest thing I can write is that it doesn’t feel that long (your bladder could disagree, however, so keep the soda to a minimum). Yes, the opening drags, but once the story kicks into gear it doesn’t let up. All in all, it’s an absolute treat.

Looking back at the entire MCU, one has to marvel (pun intended) at what producer Kevin Feige has achieved. For more than a decade, he has taken comics created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby and made them into full-fledged and spectacularly entertaining films. Even with different casts, directors and tone, they have been consistently good movies. And that’s pretty awesome.

**Is it worth $10? Yes**

Critic’s note: In the interest of all that is good in the world, this is a completely spoiler-free review.

The ending of last year’s “Avengers: Infinity War” included the most shocking gut punch in recent memory: Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman), Spider-Man (Tom Holland), Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) and others turned to dust, literally, after Thanos snapped his fingers to eliminate half of all life on earth.

“Avengers: Endgame” begins in the aftermath.

Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), is adrift in space with Nebula (Karen Gillan), Captain America (Chris Evans), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), War Machine (Don Cheadle), Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) and Thor (Chris Hemsworth) wrestle with losing the battle. Thankfully for them, Captain Marvel (Brie Larson) is there to help — and what a difference she makes.

More will not be written about the plot, but there’s plenty to say about the film. An awe-inspiring cinematic experience in its grandest form, it’s complete with humor, sadness and pure joy. On its own it isn’t quite as good as “Infinity War,” but rest assured: It’s satisfying.

Some quibbles: There’s not as much action as you would expect, and the morose brooding in the early moments grows tedious. But this is offset, as usual, by the interplay between the characters, which ranges from contentious to congenial. There’s also a decent amount of humor, particularly from Thor, whose film “Ragnarok” remains the funniest of the 22 Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) entries.

Speaking of which, it is well documented that “Endgame” serves as a conclusion to the first phase of MCU films. That feels right. We’ve been watching since “Iron Man” in 2008, and the way this world has evolved since has been nothing short of astonishing. Appropriately, there are homages to the prior films, which means the more of them you’ve seen, the more rewarding you’ll find “Endgame” to be.

“Endgame” was directed by Anthony and Joe Russo and written by Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely, all of whom also worked on “Infinity War.”

Endgame might not be everything you hope it will be, but it is a fulfilling conclusion to one of the greatest accomplishments the film industry has ever seen.

**Marvel Studios**

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Dan Hudak

punchdrunkmovies.com

> Fear not, MCU fans: Just because this “phase” is over doesn’t mean the movies will stop coming. “Spider-Man: Homecoming” opens July 5.

Florida Weekly’s news staff is exploring the prevalence of loneliness in today’s society and is looking for your input. Please take a moment and answer the following questions:

1. Do you describe yourself as lonely?
2. If you would describe yourself as lonely, does your loneliness feel constant or fleeting?
3. What do you feel is the main cause of your loneliness?
4. Do you live alone?
5. How do you combat feelings of loneliness?

Please feel free to add any other information along with your answers.

Send your name, age, town, answers to these questions, email address and a daytime phone number to:

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CLUB NOTES

The Gulf Breeze Bop Club meets at 6:30 p.m. on two Fridays through May: May 10 and 24 at the Elks Lodge, 3231 Coconut Road in Bonita Springs. This is a nonprofit dance club with members. Free dance lesson with paid admission: $10 for members, $15 for guests. After the 6:30 opening there will be dancing from 7:15-9:30 p.m. Each week has a DJ and dance instructor on hand. www.gulfbreezebopclub.com for details.

If you are a widow or widower and would like to have an evening out with dinner and dancing, there will be dinner and dances at the Naples Hilton with excellent food and dancing to the music of Manhattan Connection. If interested, contact Saralene at 643-4703, Ral at 596-2454 or Olivia 450-0738.

Florida Community of Mindfulness meets every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at House of Yoga (formerly Green Monkey Yoga and Flo Yo Yoga), 6202 Trail Blvd., Naples, just north of the intersection of U.S. 41 and Pine Ridge Road on the east side of U.S. 41. The sangha meeting, in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, features guided meditation, chanting, a dharma talk and a tea social. Beginners, advanced practitioners and guests are welcome. Contact Carol at carolgreen2@mac.com or 303-886-6031 (leave voice mail), or John at jmchar里斯2@gmail.com.

FA (food addicts), patterned after AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), helps folks deal with dependence on food as a coping mechanism. FA meetings are held at 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday at Juan Diego Outreach Center (St. Leo Church), 28360 Beaumont Road, and Saturdays at 10 a.m., Moorings Presbyterian Church, 791 Harbour Dr.

Norfolk Division of Mindfulness meets every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at House of Yoga (formerly Green Monkey Yoga and Flo Yo Yoga), 6202 Trail Blvd., Naples, just north of the intersection of U.S. 41 and Pine Ridge Road on the east side of U.S. 41. The sangha meeting, in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, features guided meditation, chanting, a dharma talk and a tea social. Beginners, advanced practitioners and guests are welcome. Contact Carol at carolgreen2@mac.com or 303-886-6031 (leave voice mail), or John at jmchar里斯2@gmail.com.

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Although medical marijuana is legal in Florida it remains illegal under federal law.
 CLUB NOTES

 gamma phi beta

 Gamma Phi Beta alumnae living in or visiting Southwest Florida are welcome to join local members for monthly events and meals. For further information, call Lynne Nordhoff at 594-8420.

 Tall Friends of Southwest Florida, an affiliate member of Tall Club International, invites men who are at least 6 feet, 2 inches tall and women who are at least 5 feet, 10 inches tall, to monthly events. Members must be 21 years old or older. For more information, email TallFriends@SWFLW.com.

 The Southwest Florida Chapter of the Alpha Delta Pi Alumnae Association invites all ADPi alumns 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 swfladpialum@gmail.com.

 The Naples Walking Club is an organization that is over 25 years old. It meets four times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 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 (snooze 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.

 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 May 9. For more information, call Tom Woodruff at 732-0062 or visit www.NaplesSAR.org.
SOCIETY

Naples Children & Education Foundation groundbreaking

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.

1. John DeAngelis, John Cooney, Peter Welch, Renee Zepeda, Maria Jimenez-Lara, Fred Pezeshkan, Bill Barnett, Bill Cary, Barbie Hills, Paul Hills and Alex Pezeshkan
2. Lisa Julian, Barrett Farmer, Allison Durian and Sarah Zaiser
3. Brian McKenzie, John DeAngelis, Chad Moore, Brian Hood and Reggie Morgan
4. Alex Figares, Maria Jimenez-Lara and Linda Richards Malone
5. Beth Messel, Darlene DeMichie, Don DeMichie and Maria Jimenez-Lara
6. Michael Dalby, Sheriff Kevin Rambosk and Dr. Kamela Patton
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SOCIETY

Conservancy of Southwest Florida honors volunteers at annual breakfast

1. Christine Blanchard and Sharon Truluck
2. Phil Douglas and Pam Fultz
3. Rob Mohr, Charlie Cavaliere, Brenda Wagner, George Lawton, Jean Hartman, James Kintz, Barry Brunell, Christine Blanchard, Sharon Truluck and Tuck Nichols
4. Heather Williamson, Brenda Wagner, Kathleen Greenewalt, Marion Bowen, Linda Reizes, Christine Blanchard and Kathy Doerr
5. Rob Mohr, Ned Miller and Victoria Pollock
6. Tim Thompson and Judy Hoshon
7. Wayne Schneider and Barbara Schneider

Jean Hartman, James Kintz and Marion Bowen

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 bwells@floridaweekly.com.
CROW to host celebration of Migratory Bird Day

In honor of World Migratory Bird Day, May 11, the Clinic for the Rehabilitation will host a special presentation about plastic pollution at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 9, in the AWC Visitor Education Center.

World Migratory Bird Day is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. It has a global outreach and is an effective tool to help raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them. The theme for this year’s WMBD is “Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution” and will put the spotlight on the impact of plastic pollution on migratory birds and their habitats.

“We live in the age of plastics, but this convenience comes at a price that has tremendous impact on the health of our environment, wildlife, and even ourselves,” says Dr. Heather Barron, CROW’s medical and research director, who will be giving a special presentation on May 9 as part of WMBD. “Everyone needs to be aware of the pervasiveness of plastics in order to better protect Earth and all her children.”

Titled “Lost at Sea: The Impacts of Plastics on a Growing Seabird Conservation Crisis”, Dr. Barron’s presentation will focus on how plastic pollution affects seabirds and share recent research, as well as experiences from CROW’s wildlife hospital, that reveals startling information about the growing plastic pollution epidemic. A question and answer session will follow.

The presentation is included with general admission to CROW’s AWC Visitor Education Center ($12 for adults, $7 for ages 4-12 and free for ages 3 and under). CROW is located at 3883 Sanibel Captiva Road on Sanibel Island.

Established in 1968, CROW is a teaching hospital saving the sick, injured and orphaned native and migratory wildlife of Southwest Florida and beyond. Through state-of-the-art veterinary care, public education programs and an engaging visitor center, CROW works to improve the health of the environment, humans and our animals through wildlife medicine. For more information, see www.crow-clinic.org.

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Dr. Heather Barron, medical and research director at CROW, will give a special presentation as part of World Migratory Bird Day.
Youngsters to deliver ‘Newsies’ at Florida Repertory Theatre

Florida Repertory Theatre’s Education Department will stage Disney’s “Newsies” as part of its Conservatory Program. Playing in the Historic Arcade Theatre May 10-12 and May 15-19, the musical features a professional director and creative team and an all-star cast of young people from across Southwest Florida.

Florida Rep’s Conservatory Program gives young artists who want to introduce them to the professional world with a real-life regional theater experience that culminates with a nine-performance professional run over two weekends. The conservatory program began in 2001 and recently produced acclaimed productions of "A Chorus Line," "Heathers: The Musical," School of Rock," and "Metamorphoses," among others. The program will produce “Spring Awakening” as its summer offering this August.

Disney’s “Newsies” tells the story of Jack Kelly, the charismatic newsboy who leads a band of teenage newsies in turn-of-the-century New York City. When the titans of publishing raise distribution prices at the newsboys’ expense, Jack rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions and fight for what is right.

Based on the 1992 motion picture and inspirational true story, Disney’s "Newsies" features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman and a book by Tony Award-winner Harvey Fierstein. It features the now-classic songs “Carrying the Banner,” “Seize the Day” and “Santa Fe.”

The cast features a record number of 49 teens from across Southwest Florida, many of whom are veterans of the Conservatory and Florida Rep’s educational programs, along with others making their Florida Rep Conservatory debuts. The cast includes Sawyer True, Matteo Occhino, Caleb Edwards, Christian Dinsmore and Matthew Eakins in Disney’s “Newsies.”

The cast also features two student stage managers, Anna Collins and Gabby Steimborn. Florida Rep’s Education Programs are sponsored by Sanibel Captiva Community Bank. Disney’s “Newsies” is sponsored by Lynne Birdt and Marvin Birdt, Emily Eason and Lise Laviolette and Marc Laviolette. The media sponsor is Florida Weekly. Tickets are $10 for students and $20/$25 for adults and are available at www.FloridaRep.org.

Sawyer True, Matteo Occhino, Caleb Edwards, Christian Dinsmore and Matthew Eakins in Disney’s “Newsies.”

The Florida Rep Education Director Kody C. Jones directs the production and is joined by an creative team including assistant director Christina DeCarlo, musical director Rosalind Metcalfe, choreographer Kayley Stevens, set designer Jordan Moore, costume designer Jacqueline Loy, lighting and projection designer Bob Siler, sound designer Katie Lowe, properties designer Jessica Reaves and production stage manager Cycaelyn Hoggard. The team also includes two student stage managers, Anna Collins and Gabby Steimborn. Florida Rep’s Education Programs are sponsored by Sanibel Captiva Community Bank. Disney’s “Newsies” is sponsored by Lynne Birdt and Marvin Birdt, Emily Eason and Lise Laviolette and Marc Laviolette. The media sponsor is Florida Weekly. Tickets are $10 for students and $20/$25 for adults and are available at www.FloridaRep.org.


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CUISINE NEWS

Dagny’s Spirits The Wine Store offers a semi-nar on Chilean wines with Italo Jofre, wine ambassa- dor for Concha y Toro, from 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 7. 520, reservations required.

Barbatella hosts dinner and a performance by opera singer Livio Ferrari at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 8. Dishes included baked goat cheese, trefiole pasta, marinated flank steak with key lime cake. $65. 1290 Third St. S. 263-1955 or www.barbatellanaples.com.

For Mother’s Day, Barbatella offers a three-course menu and free mimosa on Sunday, May 12. Options include endive and radicchio salad, cucumber-avocado gazpacho, branzino filet, tiramissu and more. $35. 1290 Third St. S. 263-1955 or www.barbatellanaples.com.

Sea Salt offers a special Mother’s Day menu with items like Diver scallops, harrata cheese mezzealuna, grilled swordfish, creamsicle gelato and more on Sunday, May 12, 1186 Third St. S. 434- 7268 or www.seasaltnaples.com.

Grave Culinaire hosts a Mother’s Day brunch with creative chef’s sta- tion, mimosa’s and live music by Victor Guillart at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 12, at Venue Naples. 820-850, children under three are free. 13240 Tamiami Trail N. 292-1529 or www.barbatellanaples.com.

Zen Asian BBQ celebrates Mother’s Day by offering moms a complimentary meal that includes an appetizer, entrée and a glass of wine on Sunday, May 12, in celebration of Mother’s Day.

Sea Salt’s Chef Josh Zeman presents a 90-minute cooking demo where guests can learn to prepare provolone cheese flambe and pan-roasted filet mignon with chimichurri and fried shallots at noon on Saturday, May 18. 65. 1186 Third St. S. 434-7268 or www.seasaltnaples.com.

Naples Area Professional League of Executive Services hosts a Blue, Brews and BBQ cruise aboard the Naples Princess on Tuesday, May 21. Guests will enjoy beer from Riptide Brewery and a selection of barbecue treats. $65 for pre-sale tickets, $75 after May 1. www.naplesgroup.com.

Want to work on your skills in the kitchen? Here are some cooking classes on the front burner: Sur La Table, 9501 Strada Place, Mercato; 598-9436 or www. surtable.com – Paris in Spring; Thurs- day, May 2 ($59); Thai Restaurant Favor- ites: Thursday, May 2 ($49); Nashville Fried Chicken: Thursday, May 2 ($49); French Pastries: Friday, May 3 ($59); Cinco de Mayo Celebration: Friday, May 3 ($59); Family Fun Pizza from Scratch: Friday, May 3 ($49); Mother’s day Mac- arons: Saturday, May 4 ($59); Cinco de Mayo Celebration: Saturday, May 4 ($59); Date Night Romantic Seafood for Two: Saturday, May 4 ($69); Nashville Fried Chicken: Sunday, May 5 ($59); Cast Iron Entrees to Dessert: Sunday, May 5 ($59); Dinner: Sunday, May 5 ($59); Homemade Pasta Workshop: Monday, May 6 ($59); Tuscan Chicken Dinner: Monday, May 6 ($59); Chicken a la Fran- caise: Wednesday, May 8 ($59); Secrets of Great Seafood: Wednesday, May 8 ($89).
Naples is blessed with an overabundance of upscale dining options, but when you’re in the mood to sit back with a beer and something a little less refined, locally owned and nationally ranked Brooks Gourmet Burger’s & Dogs is a natural choice. After taking over Lindburgers, a local landmark restaurant, in 2000, owner Todd Brooks transformed the greasy spoon into TripAdvisor’s No. 2 burger joint in the nation. Read on to learn how he and his family managed through the recession to operate a million-dollar operation with three locations throughout town.

Q: What is your culinary background?
A: I have been in the restaurant business since I was 15 years old back in my hometown in Kansas City. The majority of my training was on-the-job, which was very common before culinary schools became more popular. I started off as a pizza cook (remember, as a 15-year-old) at a high-end restaurant called Fedora Cafe and worked myself up to be a sous chef at that restaurant. By the time I was 23, I became the executive chef at the Grand Street Cafe in Kansas City. Besides the training I received from other chefs, I was doing a lot of continuous education in Napa Valley as well.

Q: What inspired you to become a chef?
A: I was very young and didn’t like going to school. You could say that I was more of a free spirit. While having my first job at a restaurant, I realized that when I moved to the outlet to be creative and express myself, I was fortunate enough to learn from some great chefs like Dan Palmer, who was a great mentor and inspiration as well.

Q: What brought you to Naples?
A: After working with a steak house chain in Kansas City for many years, the owner unfortunately got into legal issues and ended up in jail. By that time, I had become the vice president of the company and was responsible for opening more than 13 restaurants. So, you can imagine that these developments hit me and my family hard. After that we had to look for a new opportunity. We had friends in Naples who we regularly visited, so we were quite familiar with that area. Since my career didn’t hold us back in Kansas, we decided to give it a try in Naples and open our own restaurant.

Q: You took over the space where Lindburgers, a Naples institution, used to be and updated the burgers they’d offered locally for decades. What needed to change? What did you keep?
A: Although the restaurant had a long tradition and many people were reminiscing of the old days — they used to get their burgers after school there — it was time for a change. We liked the idea of continuing it as a burger joint because it was the oldest original burger joint, which still makes us THE original burger joint in Naples. However, I changed nearly everything in regards of the culinary concept. Based on our extended knowledge and experience, we felt that it was important to make a better product but continue the long history at the same time. We changed the name but kept the aviation decor. It happened that aviation and flying is a big hobby and passion of mine, so I wanted to keep it. I have a pilot license and still fly occasionally.

Q: Brooks Burgers had a bit of a rough start before it took off. What obstacles did you overcome and how did you do it?
A: We had to overcome the history and reputation of the previous restaurant as well as renovating an ancient building. Although many people had positive memories about Lindburgers, the majority felt that the dining experience was no longer what they were used to. So, starting from zero with a new name helped to get people back in but we still had to do a lot of convincing obviously.

Q: Your restaurant is surrounded by upscale restaurants. Why did you decide to open a burger joint downtown Naples?
A: It was a good opportunity considering the location and price it was offered to us back then. I also wanted to take the challenge on and appeal to the locals, not just to the tourists. We wanted to maintain the history of the burger joint since there are not many things which haven’t changed in Naples, especially in the downtown area.

Q: Four locations — the newest scheduled to open on Immokalee Road — in Naples must be a lot to handle, especially since you get a lot of good press targeted at tourists. How do you keep an eye on quality and service, especially during season?
A: We have at every restaurant a partner who has an ownership in the restaurant and works there on daily base. Each of them shares the same philosophy, we had from the beginning: always putting people (staff and customers) first. In general it is always about having a team that not only takes pride and ownership of the business, but feels like part of a family. I handpicked managers and partners I have known for years, and some of them moved from Kansas City to work with me again. They truly are family to us.

Q: Name the most important elements of a delicious hamburger.
A: The meat and how it is handled. It is not just about getting the best meat. You need to know and understand your source as well as the whole process from farm to grinding to delivery. You really need to know the details and their effects, like the food they are giving to the cattle and the timing of their growing cycle. There is a scientific recipe behind that. Our burgers follow a specific and unique blend which no one else has. This recipe is a combination of 30 years being in the restaurant business (many years of them purchasing meat for steak houses) and simple trial and error method.

Q: What do you find challenging?
A: The season itself is challenging. Having a product and making sure that the quality stays the same regardless of how busy the restaurant gets, that is the biggest obstacle, I believe.

Q: Who or what are your greatest culinary influences?
A: My Mother. She always cooked from scratch a lot of comfort food which to this day influences me when I think of new creations. People forget: Food doesn’t need to be complicated to be great.

Q: What has been one of your favorite culinary experiences?
A: It was a private lunch with both Robert Mondavi Jr. and Sr. at the carriage house on their Napa Valley property. Spending three hours with them while eating an incredible dinner with great wine was just an outstanding experience. A great culinary experience depends not only on the food but also on the company you are sharing it with.

Q: Brooks Burgers has some interesting combinations and guests will see items like fig jam or peanut butter testing combinations and guests will see items like fig jam or peanut butter on menu. What are your favorite culinary resources (books, blogs, etc.)?
A: We try to take popular comfort food people are familiar with and put our twist on it. I.e. many people love twice-baked potatoes and steak so why wouldn’t this make a perfect burger? We did the Twice-Baked Burger and people seem to like it. Same applies to other creations like the Reuben Burger, Goobers Burger or Donut Burger.
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Here’s to the people, places and things that make Southwest Florida so special

The
Best
2019
Welcome to Florida Weekly’s Best special section

The is Florida Weekly's take on some of the best, of course, but also some of the wackiest, most wondrous, obscure, ridiculous and even scandalous people and things that make Southwest Florida such a great place to live.

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

After nonscientifically scouring the region and our archives, this section emerges: things we praise and applaud, pontificate on and poke fun at. Here’s to the Best of Southwest Florida 2019.

Best contributing writers: Glenn Miller, Stephanie Davis, Dayna Harpster, Karen Feldman, Sheldon Zeldan, Osvaldo Padilla, Nancy Shatton, Evan Williams, Eric Raddatz, Chelle Koster Walton, Ron Hayes, Jan Norris, Roger Williams, Kristine Gill, Melanie Pefanis and Dan Maams.

Cover illustration by Naomi Miller.
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Charlotte Correctional Institution

Situated between Fort Myers and Punta Gorda, Charlotte Correctional Institution is right next door to the area’s famous beaches and bustling entertainment districts. Yet you’ll feel like you’ve escaped to another world in this unique Florida Department of Corrections community with its motto: “Inspiring success by changing one life at a time.” Here you’ll find a close-knit fellowship of nearly 1,300 residents. Enjoy daily dining options in an old-fashioned mess hall. Expand your horizons and meet new friends at an array of inspiring on-site forums such as “Mandatory Literacy” and “Anger Management.” And as its motto suggests, prepare for a life-altering experience with CCI’s cutting-edge program that former residents have described as including sickening food, a lack of oversite allowing for atrocities to occur, and being stored like cattle in a hellish meaningless existence, all in one of the area’s important historic and architectural landmarks. And of course, the security here is second to none. Men only may apply with proof of felony for terms of one year to life.

FLORIDA WOMAN

A Collier County woman was arrested in December after she attempted to rob a postal worker with a black and silver toy gun, then flee on a tricycle. She was charged with aggravated assault and armed robbery.

Gov. Ron DeSantis

Gov. DeSantis swept clean the South Florida Water Management District’s board. Some of those members were appointed by Gov. Rick Scott in the 11th hour of his administration, despite DeSantis’ requests to the contrary. Environmentalists have complained for years that the water management district and its governing board, all Scott appointees, were too closely aligned with special interests and failed to protect the public from toxic blue-green algae.

The Caloosahatchee

Is it just a coincidence that the Caloosahatchee is 143 miles long? 1-4-3. Texting code for “I Love You.”

The river made Southwest Florida what it is. Its halcyon waters teaming with life underneath. The oak trees leaning over its side. Its easy access to the Gulf of Mexico and the world beyond. The river, whose name means river of the Calusa Indians, brought Thomas Edison and Henry Ford here, of course. But it also brought Native Americans and cowboys, farmers, developers, homesteaders and snowbirds. And still they’re coming — we’re all coming — to play in its waters and picnic by its side. The river continues to accomplish wonders, even as it’s under attack by toxins, by doing what many thought unthinkable: bringing together right-wing conservatives and left-wing tree-huggers in their desires and efforts to protect it. Now that’s the power of love.

Outside the Jailer’s Office

With Republicans like these, who needs Democrats? Republican Rick Scott could have gone to Washington and been sworn in as Florida’s junior senator a couple of days before his term as governor ended, but instead, he gave future Republican governor Ron DeSantis the equivalent of the political middle finger by naming almost 100 people to fill board vacancies. At his first opportunity, Gov. DeSantis yanked the nominations, giving the political middle finger right back.

Lee County resident late for work: I gave myself plenty of time, but there was an accident on I-75 between Daniels Parkway and Corkscrew Road.

Cape Coral commuter to Fort Myers for work: I gave myself plenty of time, but there was an accident on the Midpoint Bridge.

Lehigh Acres commuter anywhere: Colonial Boulevard.
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Shula’s can cater the perfect group function or private dinner. We offer the exclusive Wine Room, the Coach’s Room or the Players’ Area that can seat from 10 to 125 guests. Shula’s Naples offers full service catering for your home or office.
BEST SECOND CHANCE
An official rescue

Deputy Chance is the new spokesdog for the Lee County Sheriff’s Office Community Relations Bureau’s Pets on Patrol. The Florida cur was found abused, abandoned and dehydrated, with his mouth taped shut. But after he was treated and spent some time recovering at Lee County Domestic Animal Services, he received a visit from Lee Sheriff Carmine Marceno, who deputized the dog and made him part of the team. The deputy had this to say about his new position: “Ruff!”

Only In Paradise

Southwest Florida has its share of characters, achievers, do-gooders, movers and shakers — and scores of institutions and nonprofits — to keep our staff supplied with stories all year round.

BEST FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY GIFT
Give Where You Live Collier

The fifth anniversary of Give Where You Live Collier, hosted by the Community Foundation of Collier County and the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, generated 2,221 donations totaling $5,464,847. This record amount was an increase of 39 percent over the previous year. The funds will help 40 Collier nonprofits.

BEST EVENT DESTINATION IN THE HEART OF NAPLES
Naples Princess

Impress your guests when you invite them aboard the 105-foot, three-level luxury yacht, the Naples Princess. If you haven’t been on board recently, you will be blown away and wow your guests with their million dollar renovation. Whether you have a large or intimate party you will enjoy first class service, personalized menus, a full service bar and an event team to customize and plan every detail of your day. Perfect for your next corporate gathering, holiday party, wedding, birthday or anniversary. The Naples Princess is also available for daily public cruises and sets sail daily from Port O Call Marina in downtown Naples. 239-649-2275; www.naplesprincesscruises.com.

BEST BRIDGE TO SOMEWHERE
The Blair Foundation Bridge

Last year, it was the bridge to nowhere. Thanks to Baker Park finally opening, it’s now the connector to Gordon River Greenway, the new park and Naples Airport. Thanks for your patience, Blair Foundation Bridge. You’re now the great unifier.

BEST PLACE TO PUT YOU ON THE WATER
Naples Boat Mart

Nothing beats life on the water in Southwest Florida, and there’s no better place to put you there than Naples Boat Mart. Check out the Best new and pre-owned boats on the market and let the award-winning customer service team help you find the perfect vessel for your adventures or repair the one you already have. More than that, at Naples Boat Mart you’ll find a community of experienced boaters eager to share their passion for exploring our waterways so that you can have the adventure of your dreams. 239-643-2292; www.naplesboatmart.com.

BEST BLOG TO FOLLOW
@simpleandprettyco

Whether you’re looking to jumpstart your own social media presence, ramp up or blog or grow a following on Instagram, @simpleandprettyco can help. The handle is run by Neapolitan and millennial Mandy Nicole, whose upfront honesty is a refreshing presence on the platform. Follow her for everything from tips on monetizing the internet and your own personal brand to fashion advice, or check out what’s hot in SWFL as she hits up local events and restaurants.

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If style is substance — and it is — Naples Design District has it in spades. From its home-interior boutiques and eclectic galleries to restaurants with unique local flavors, the district’s many shops form an intersection of art, design, food, style and culture. The area is Naples’ latest and hottest shopping destination, brimming with home inspiration retailers and interior designers who are at your service to help you find that special piece to complete your home. Visitors will find well established local stores as well as emerging businesses and national brands. Bring your friends and make a day of it shopping at this creative and cultural enclave near downtown, tucked between U.S. 41 (Ninth Street North) and 10th Street North, as far north as Goodlette-Frank Road. www.naplesdesigndistrict.com.

Joyce Owens is the Best architect in Southwest Florida. But don’t just take our word for it: Architecture Joyce Owens/Studio AJO was declared Firm of the Year by AIA Florida Southwest, the regional chapter of the American Institute of Architects, late last year. The award is based on the firm’s body of work and community involvement.

B. T. Owen’s Offshore Sailing School has consistently been named the best place in America to learn to sail. And it’s no wonder why; It has “the greatest classroom in the world,” and its six locations are in the most beautiful sailing areas imaginable. Whether your goal is to learn to sail, cruise or race, you’ll learn aboard B. T. Owen’s Charter Cruising boats. Options include sailing lessons, certification courses for Learn to Sail, Performance Sailing and Bareboat Charter Cruising, group team building and leadership programs. The courses are packaged with premier resort accommodations. 239-454-1700, www.OffshoreSailing.com.

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

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Naples Bay is one of Naples’ greatest attractions and Port-O-Call Marina has the newest and Best options for enjoying the water to its fullest. Whether you are an experienced or novice watersport enthusiast, here’s where to find deck boats, tritoons, charter fishing, public and private cruises and a boutique gift shop to remember your fun. Adjacent to Tin City and in the same building as the Naples Princess, this one-stop shop has everything under the sun for your next day out on the water. Best of all, all these options give you the experience of being up close and personal with Naples Bay and the wildlife that resides within. 239-774-0479; www.portocallmarina.com.

BEST YACHTING DREAM TO REALITY
Naples Nantucket Yacht Group

Those who travel to Southwest Florida to escape the cold winters up North, and those who have chosen to call this place their year-round home, all share the common passion for our greatest attraction: the picturesque gulf waters. Capt. Bill Charbonneau was inspired to find a way to share his passion for boating and provide a superior opportunity for clients to experience yachting on the waters of Southwest Florida in a truly luxurious fashion. His fleet of yachts, ranging from 31-165 feet long, with highly trained and attentive staff will be sure to make your luxury cruise something to remember for a lifetime. 239-331-6868; www.naplesnantucketcharters.com.

BEST 75TH ANNIVERSARY
D-Day

Fewer and fewer people are alive today who remember June 6, 1944. We know it now from history books, documentaries and movies as D-Day. It was one of the pivotal battles of World War II and helped tune the tide against the Nazis. If you know one of the few remaining veterans who fought on that signature day in world history, please thank him or her. Before it’s too late.

BEST COLLECTION OF ISLAND VACATION PROPERTIES
Marco Escapes

A leader for the finest vacation rental properties on Marco Island and Naples, Marco Escapes delivers unparalleled professionalism, unmatched work ethic and superior guest support. Browse the portfolio and choose from modern, family-friendly homes to epic waterfront mansions, all of which meet exacting standards of comfort, cleanliness, beauty and location. From family vacations to a romantic rendezvous for two, this is where memories are made. 239-237-6806; www.MarcoEscapes.com.

BEST COLORFUL NEW HOFFMANN COMPANY
Kaleidoscope Floral

Started by husband wife team Sean and Melissa, Kaleidoscope Floral has bloomed into a fully fledged floral company, catering everything from weddings to birthday parties. The couple describes their style as organic and free-flowing, as evidenced by large installation pieces that look as if they’ve been plucked in their entirety from a natural garden. With its newfound success, the company has become one of the latest acquired by the Hoffmann family, which has stamped its approval on the Kaleidoscope model and its potential for continued growth. Soon, you’ll be able to visit a new brick-and-mortar location on Fifth Avenue South.

BEST NAPLES ENTREPRENEURS OF 2018
The Hoffmann family

Is there any other answer? David Hoffmann and his family’s Osprey Capital holding company have invested hundreds of millions in the Naples area in the last several years. The family’s bronze plaques are scattered all over downtown Naples, and they continue to aggressively pursue local businesses they feel are worth supporting. We’ll see if the Hoffmann’s faith in Naples will withstand the test of time ... and money.
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Baker Park’s long awaited opening
Phase 1 of Baker Park opened in March, with the southern and eastern portions connecting Central Avenue and downtown Naples to the Blair Foundation Bridge and the Gordon River Greenway. Amenities include Sunrise Terrace, The Peninsula, a kayak launch, outdoor fitness equipment and three picnic shelters. The remainder of the park is on schedule to open in October 2019.

Voters OK tax for schools
The Lee County School District did everything you shouldn’t do to try to win an election. It botched an attempt to get a tax increase on the ballot in a special summer election, and it received a black eye for overruns at Bonita Springs High School — to name a couple. Yet Lee County voters said yes to a half-cent sales tax increase, by a margin of 51.5% to 48.4%.

ROOKERY BAY’S 40TH ANNIVERSARY
Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is celebrating its 40th anniversary with a new PBS documentary, “Southwest Florida’s Mangrove Coast.” The film tells the story of how the 110,000-acre reserve, which protects 40 percent of Collier’s coastline, was created by local visionaries and has grown to encompass research, stewardship and education on the water and at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center.

Your dog gets bored just like you do, so why not change up his regular walk? For the Best scenery and amenities, we recommend the Gordon River Greenway. With dog-friendly paths and regular poop bag outposts, you’ll find it easy to clean up after your pet while enjoying the natural beauty of 26 acres of raw Florida. You’ll encounter wildlife, glimpse the river and share your jaunt with walkers and cyclists. Spend the better part of a morning along more than 3.5 miles of pathway or chop it up and do a smaller section. The Best part? It’s free and open from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day, with lighted pathways for after the sun sets.

Local author and New York transplant Jan Marin Tramantano has done it again with her second novel, “What Love Becomes.” The book debuted in February and is published by Adelaide Books. It follows the relationships of three couples dealing within the fallout of the Persian Gulf War and its lasting impact on their families. A poet at heart, Ms. Tramantano’s prose will at once grip you and tug at your heartstrings. Take a copy with you to the beach, but don’t feel surprised if the words whisk you elsewhere.

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

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Best Beach Read
“What Love Becomes”

Best Celebration
Rookery Bay’s 40th anniversary

Best Save the Date
“Hamilton” – in 2020

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Best Foot Forward

8 Facts About Your Feet & Ankles

1. Heel pain in the morning easily resolved.
2. Feel pebbles in the balls of your feet; can be a nerve tumor.
3. New customized total ankle implants for end stage ankle arthritis, see us now.
4. Diabetic infections kill more people than breast cancer and AIDS. If diabetic, must see us now.
5. Collapsing arch may be a sign of serious tendon damage.
6. Ingrown toenails can lead to bone infection; we treat them fast.
7. Dull Achilles pain can lead to ruptures, if untreated.
8. Top pickleball injuries seen include foot fractures from ankle sprains.

LONGEST TRACK RECORD OF FOOT & ANKLE SURGERY SUCCESS IN COLLIER COUNTY
BEST WAY TO FIT IN
Rent your ride

It’s no secret that Neapolitans love their fancy cars. On any given weekday the parking lot of Waterside Shops looks like a gift bag from the Sultan of Brunei: Bentleys, Rolls-Royce, Maserati, Ferraris, etc., as far as the eye can see. But you can fit right in for a fraction of the price and for zero of the maintenance headaches. It’s called renting, and because Naples is Naples, you can rent a Rolls-Royce, Ferrari, Range Rover and even a Lamborghini, as if you were renting a Dodge Caliber from Hertz. In fact, Hertz offers high-end luxury rentals such as Porsches and Mercedes-Benzes. Enterprise has Rovers, Teslas, BMWs and Jaguars. If those are too community School car line for you, Top Gear Exotics Rental offers the Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG, Ferrari California, Ferrari F430 Spyder, Lamborghini Gallardo Spyder and Rolls-Royce Ghost. Oz Exotics even offers McLarens, Maybachs, Bentleys and the newest Lamborghini — the Aventador and the Huracan. Of course, drive responsibly. There are drunk people on massive bicycles roaming the streets.

BEST PLACE TO LISTEN TO REAL NEWS
WGCU

We all know the opposite of real. Real diamonds vs. fake diamonds. Real leather vs. fake leather. Well, for real news vs. fake news, you need turn your radio dial no further than WGCU 90.1 our local NPR station. Providing Southwest Florida with clear, cogent investigative and fact-based journalism, both the national NPR programs and the locally produced shows supply the power of the presses and the power of the people.

BEST CLUB FOR TWENTY-SOMETHINGS
Rotaract Club of Naples

Rotaract Club of Naples, a partner club of Rotary International, brings together people ages 21-30 to exchange ideas with leaders in the community, develop leadership and professional skills and have fun through service. Locally, the group has supported charities including Make-a-Wish, American Cancer Society and Habitat for Humanity. Not a bad way to get young people engaged in the community.

BEST ADVICE FOR PROCTER & GAMBLE IF IT EVER TESTS A NEW DETERGENT IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
Don’t call it Red Tide.

BEST PLACE TO SPOT AN OSPREY NEST
Parking lot 4, Delnor-Wiggins State Park

If you find yourself on the beach by the north end of parking lot 4 in Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park and notice people looking skyward, don’t be alarmed. They’re not watching the arrival of a UFO. Instead, their eyes, cameras and binoculars are focused on a large osprey nest atop a towering Australian pine. More often than not, white-breasted ospreys can be spotted in the nest, circling the pine or perched on a nearby branch. And even if the ospreys are temporarily AWOL, just turn 180 degrees and you can watch pelicans and other bird species gliding gracefully across the gulf and diving for fish.

BEST HEALTHY TOURISM NEWS
CVB’s wellness task force

With such wonderful weather for being outdoors, Collier County is becoming known as a health and fitness destination. To help tourists learn about “active” activities, the Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention & Visitors Bureau established a Wellness Tourism Visionary Task Force to grow and promote the area as a Wellness Destination. Now go do some yoga!

Diane Pisani is an enthusiastic advocate in the world of Home Watch. What once was a service conducted by a “Neighbor Doing A Favor” or a “Hobby Home Watcher” is now recognized as a true profession. She has been training and consulting with individuals since 2008. The Home Watch Training Program is the best and only time-tested education in the industry.

Diane is the author of the eBook, The Ultimate Home Watch Interview Guide™ that helps Seasonal Homeowners make an informed decision when hiring a home watch provider.

The International Home Watch Alliance™ is a non-profit, professional, organization that tests members to earn the designation of IHWA Certified Home Watch Reporter™; a first and major step towards professional certification and recognition. Members take part in group marketing as well as professional development. Diane is a co-founder of the IHWA which was established in 2017. The alliance is experiencing rapid growth in many Florida locations as well as other seasonal cities throughout the US and Canada.

Diane Pisani
Founder
Diane@YourHWP.com

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BEST BOOK FESTIVAL
Collier County Jewish Book Festival

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

BEST PLACE FOR GEEKS, DEALERS AND POLITICIANS
Comics, Cards and Stuff

They all want what Brian Chandler is selling. Cops and politicians, drug dealers and lawyers, young, old and middle-age. When they want to get away from this world and geek out, Chandler is the man with the goods. From vintage action figures to the latest issues of Captain Marvel and Black Panther, Brian’s shop — Comics, Cards and Stuff, at the Edison Park Shopping Center on Winkler Avenue in Fort Myers — has catered to a diverse clientele seeking sci-fi escapism since 1993. For his part, Brian has become Southwest Florida’s point man on comic book culture, often organizing and hosting local conventions and events. His next big deal is Free Comic Book Day on May 4.

BEST CLOSE-BUT-NOT-TOO-CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH WILDLIFE
Babcock Ranch Preserve Eco-Tours

Climb aboard one of the swamp buggies (converted school buses) and bump your way through four ecosystems at the old ranchland. The animals are wild but wise to the way food seems to come along with the bus. The 90-minute jaunt features turkeys, cracker cattle, hogs and a little gator the guide brings aboard. Check out www.babcockranchecotours.com.

BEST FGCU COLLEGE COURSE
“From Hogwarts to FGCU”

This is a popular course that explores Hogwarts and its impacts on both the wizarding and the Muggle (mere mortal) world. The class examines the Hogwarts curriculum as well as literary, social, cultural, political and religious concepts in the books and as part of the Muggle world and ties Hogwarts concepts to those of the real world. Students are sorted into houses to compete for “House Points” and the prized “House Cup.” Points are earned by participating in class discussions, activities and extracurricular opportunities, such as attending a Quidditch match.

BEST DEFTLY NAMED MALL
Waterside Shops

It’s hard to be in Naples, especially west of Tamiami Trail, and not be within a stone’s throw of the water. But one place that has no natural body of water within sight is the swanky yet incongruously labeled Waterside Shops. Perhaps, though, the mall developers had more prescience than we give them credit for. To be fair, the mall’s beautiful aesthetic includes an array of manmade waterfalls and rivers throughout. After another century or two of global warming and erosion, the Gulf of Mexico could be lapping at the doors of Waterside's retailers like Tesla, Saks and Tiffany’s.

BEST ADVICE TO A RESTAURANT WANTING TO PUT A HEALTHY SALAD ON THE MENU

Don’t call it the blue-green algae special.

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BEST WOMEN’S BASKETBALL COACH
Karl Smesko

Karl Smesko is the only coach the Florida Gulf Coast University women’s basketball team has ever had. In 17 years, the Eagles’ record is 463-91 and in its last seven years in Division I play, the team has advanced to the NCAA tournament five times under his leadership. He is a nine-time Atlantic Sun Conference Coach of the Year and the third winningest active Division I head coach in the country.

BEST COLLEGE TEAM
FGCU women’s basketball

The Florida Gulf Coast University women’s basketball team continues earning straight A’s in the A-Sun Conference. The Eagles recently won their third consecutive conference title and earned their third successive appearance in the NCAA Tournament. In the A-Sun it’s FGCU and then everybody else. The Eagles blasted Liberty 72-49 in the conference tournament title game after blowing out Kennesaw State 77-48 in the semi-final. Their average margin of victory for the 28-5 Eagles in the regular season was 19 points. The Eagles were seeded No. 13 in their NCAA region and opened the tournament against No. 4 Miami. Although they lost 69-62, it shouldn’t take away from a magnificent season.

BEST REDUX POLITICAL CANDIDATE
Jenna Persons

When Jenna Persons ran for mayor of Fort Myers, she was 26 and had just been admitted to the Florida Bar. She won 33% of the vote during the primary against popular incumbent Randy Henderson. She went on to become a partner at the law offices of Bruce Strayhorn (now Strayhorn & Persons) and dedicated herself to building her career. Ten years after her first political bid she put her hat in the ring for the Florida House of Representatives. With a year-and-a-half before the 2020 election, Persons has already raised more than $116,000 for her campaign — and her friend and former opponent Mayor Henderson is among her many donors and most staunch supporters.

BEST COWBOY POET
Clint Raulerson of Labelle

Author of “Cowboy Legacy: A Lifet ime in the Saddle,” Mr. Raulerson’s been known to lead the Immokalee cattle drive and to spend a good bit of time in the rodeo ring. But he’s most known for the stories he tells of days old and new spent on the ranch — and this true cowboy knows whereof he speaks.

BEST PLACE TO FIX A PUNCTURE
Trek Bicycle Store

An interesting social phenomenon about bike shops is that their employees are almost always exceedingly friendly, laidback and helpful. Such is certainly the case with most Naples bike emporiums, nowhere more so than the Trek Bicycle Store in North Naples on Tamiami Trail. Most employees here have been at the shop for a long time, are knowledgeable and go out of their way to assist you. An especially helpful feature is that for $30, you can have lifetime repairs on flat tires. That’s no small deal, considering all the thorns and construction wires that seem to line Naples’ streets and puncture bike tires all too frequently.

BEST PINBALL WIZARD
Eric Stone

“Ever since I was a young boy, I’ve played the silver ball” — The Who

You may know him as a meteorologist on Fox 4-TV. But Eric Stone also plays a mean pinball, in fact one of the world’s meanest. In 2017, he took first place in the IFPA (International Flipper Pinball Association’s North American Championship. In 2018, he was ranked the third Best player in the world by the IFPA. At press time, he was ranked seventh behind players from Germany, Italy and the U.S. In a profile of Mr. Stone in The News-Press in February, he recounted how his mother bought him his first pinball machine when he was 4, after doctors told her he would have poor eye-hand coordination due to a problem in his nervous system. These days he stays up on his game with a local club, The Pinball Asylum, and was spotted working the flippers recently at Nice Guys Pizza.

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BEST PLACE TO FIND AN IRON FORK AWARD
Claw Bar at Bellasera Resort

No, it’s not a fancy utensil you can just go in and use. It’s Claw Bar Executive Chef Andrew Hunter’s award for being a top local chef in Nashville, Tenn. He’s been putting his craft to work here in Southwest Florida for years now since taking home that prize, most recently at the second edition of the Claw Bar at Bellasera Resort. It’s one of those hidden gems that you have to work to find, but will be oh so glad you did. Most especially because you know Chef Hunter’s creations and guidance create a culinary experience that’ll have you coming back for more.

BEST BLOOMIN’ VALUE AROUND THESE PARTS
The vinca

Treat it with some TLC (like water), and this annual flower breezes right through the seasons and becomes a perennial. Talk about staying power!

BEST SECOND WORST FIRST SEASON BY A COLLEGE COACH
Michael Fly

Can Michael Fly do his Best Marty McFly and take Florida Gulf Coast University basketball back to the future? The first-year coach had the school’s first losing record since 2011-12.

BEST WORST FIRST SEASON BY A COLLEGE COACH
Willie Taggart

Florida State University football had high hopes when it hired Willie Taggart last year. The first season was a disappointment when the Seminoles struggled through a 5-7 record.

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BEST RARE ISLAND HOMES ON THE MARKET
The Ark and the Walker Guest House

Two truly unique island homes went on the market this year. On Captiva Island, “The Ark,” which evolved from a beached houseboat in the 1930s, is listed for $4.35 million. The Walker Guest House — part of a listed 1.74-acre, $6.795 million property on Sanibel Island — is one of the most important creations of acclaimed architect Paul Rudolph and the Sarasota School of Architecture, circa 1952. The one-bedroom cottage is only 575 square feet, but when its wall panels are lifted up (by a pulley system that includes weights that look like red cannonballs), it grows more spacious, incorporating the surrounding environment. The guesthouse, which was said to be one of Rudolph’s personal favorites, is well-known and admired among architects. (The building was even replicated and on display on the campus of The Ringling; it is now being exhibited in Palm Springs, Calif.) The owners are looking for a buyer who understands the necessity of preserving the guest house.

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**BEST CAT AROUND**

Key Marco Cat

On loan from the Smithsonian Institution, the iconic Key Marco Cat is on display at the Marco Island Historical Museum through April 2021. Discovered by Frank Hamilton Cushing during his Calusa archaeological digs on Marco Island in 1896, it is considered one of the most important native American objects ever.

**BEST ATHLETE YOU NEVER HEARD OF**

Harry Billie

Harry Billie flashed across the Southwest Florida high school sports landscape in the early 1960s as a three-sport marvel at Naples High. Those who saw him play football, basketball and baseball compared him to Jim Thorpe, Roberto Clemente and Pete Maravich. Mr. Billie earned a full ride to Florida State University to play football but didn’t attend class. The Pittsburgh Pirates signed him to a contract and he played four years in the low minors, never getting close to the majors. Off-field issues derailed his career, but old-timers who saw Mr. Billie, who is now 76, still recall his transcendent talent.

**BEST 2018 HURRICANE NEWS**

No storms

Sometimes the Best news is no news. That was the case in Southwest Florida in 2018. There was no local hurricane news of note. It wasn’t 2017, when Hurricane Irma roared up the peninsula. Or 2005, when Hurricane Wilma charged ashore. Or 2004, when Hurricane Charley barreled through Punta Gorda. Or 1960, when Hurricane Donna clobbered Southwest Florida. Many people had many problems with 2018 for many reasons. But it was the Best of times because we skated through the hurricane season without an Irma or a Wilma or a Charley or a Donna. … What about 2019?

**BEST MINI-DYNASTY**

Boston Red Sox

The Red Sox reported to Spring Training in Fort Myers in February coming off their fourth World Series title since 2004. Fans in New England and Southwest Florida are accustomed to such success. The Red Sox have won more World Series in the 21st century than any franchise. They’ve won twice as many World Series as the New York Yankees. Eighteen of the 30 Major League Baseball franchises have not won a World Series in the 21st century but the Red Sox have four.

**BEST SOCIETY, SPORTS DIVISION**

The Society for American Baseball Research

The Society for American Baseball Research has a Naples branch, the Seymour-Mills Chapter. It is named after baseball historians Harold Seymour and Dorothy Jane Mills, Mr. Seymour’s widow.

Mr. Seymour died in 1982. Ms. Mills, a legendary baseball writer and researcher, is 90 and a Naples resident. The Society is known by its initials — SABR, which is pronounced saber. The late Detroit Tigers announcer Ernie Harwell once described the society, its mission and its members as "the Phi Beta Kappa of baseball."

**BEST CATCH BY A FLORIDA TEAM**

Mike Zunino

Mariner High graduate Mike Zunino is a Florida kid through and through, from his days growing up in Cape Coral and becoming an All-America catcher at the University of Florida. He married his Mariner High School girlfriend, Alyssa Barry, in 2012. That was the same year the Seattle Mariners selected him third overall in the baseball draft. Ever since he had played in the Great Northwest, a long way from his Southwest Florida roots. The Mariners traded him to the Tampa Bay Rays in November. Now, Mr. Zunino is much closer to home, especially in Spring Training. The Rays hold spring training in Port Charlotte.

**BEST ARRIVING AND DEPARTING FLIGHTS FROM RSW**

Honor Flights

Collier-Lee Honor Flights has one mission: To take veterans to Washington, D.C., for a day to visit their memorials. World War II, Korean and Vietnam veterans — the most senior veterans are given priority — are escorted during the trip, and folks welcome them on their return to Southwest Florida International. If you’d like to join a welcome team and pay your respects, the next flight will be returning at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 4. See www.collierhonorflight.org.
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Our Diversity, Your Inspiration

NAPLES DESIGN DISTRICT

The Naples Design District is Southwest Florida’s creative quarter offering locals, seasonal residents, and tourists, an eclectic mix of art, design, style, food, and culture.

Welcome to the Naples Design District
Near the end of spring training Mr. Sale signed a five-year contract extension that will pay him $304 million per year from 2020 through 2022. He will have to somehow scrimp and save and get by on a mere $275 million per year following the next two seasons.

BEST TREE
Mango
Mango trees, thick with intricate orange spires, announce springtime in Southwest Florida. They promise a sweet, wet and sloppy start to the summer. Mangos are generous trees. The mango harvest inevitably becomes a mango glut. Old friends and strangers alike will offer you mangoes and stories of how prolific their tree has been. On any given day during the next few months, you’ll walk into your company’s break room and find the bowl filled with mangoes for the taking. They’re good fresh, frozen, dried, in a smoothie or puréed and preserved as chutney. ... Oranges you say? No. The Florida mango reigns supreme.

BEST FLORIDA MAN, SOBER, NON-CRIMINAL DIVISION
Craig Pittman
Tampa Bay Times reporter Craig Pittman is perhaps best-known for his 2016 book, “Oh, Florida! How America’s Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country.” He has also popularized the Florida Man internet meme and Twitter handle that explores the alleged over-abundance of weirdness abounding in Florida. Mr. Pittman, it should be noted, is not a Man internet meme and Twitter handle that explores the alleged over-abundance of weirdness abounding in Florida. Mr. Pittman, it should be noted, is not a machete-wielding drunk who has ever passed out at a fast-food drive-through or tried to pay for a hamburger with a live alligator.

BEST GOOD OLD IDEA ABOUT TO TURN 100
The 19th Amendment
A century ago your great-great-grandmothers could not vote. Yes, it is hard to believe now, but that was the case. Everything changed in 1920 when the 19th Amendment was ratified giving women across America the right to vote. From the 19th Amendment: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any of the States on account of sex.” The 18th Amendment was repealed after 13 years. The 19th Amendment isn’t going away.

Call Us Crazy
Sometimes it’s called Flori-Duh, and often news stories across the country begin, “A Flor-ida Man” or “Florida Woman.” We have wild politics and colorful folks who do interesting, notable, corrupt and even illegal things.

BEST PENNY TAX
Collier County and municipal infrastructure 1-cent sales surtax.
Call us crazy, but a penny sure seems like it’ll go a long way for the county. The midterm elections brought Collier a successful sales tax vote enacting a 1%, seven-year increase that will raise nearly $500 million. The windfall of cash would result in the funding of 38 projects the county considers high priority, divvied into three categories: transportation/infrastructure, new facilities or capital improvements, and community projects.

WATERFRONT GRILLE
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"Great dining experience"
Reviewed yesterday
Will start with the service which was outstanding. We were served an amuse-bouche of tomato soup and a cheese toast to start our experience and it got better as the evening went on. The bread served with our meal was excellent as well. Now let’s get to the real highlights: main course. The roasted lamb shank was so tender and tasty as well as the sea bass which was so moist and had a slight crispy topping and it was served with a chili dusted cauliflower and a thin and crispy potato side as well. The sauces were very tasty. We did not have room for dessert but were treated to a chocolate truffle when our check arrived. Obviously, a fine dining experience at a restaurant that knows how to please their customers. We will definitely be returning.

U.S. 41 to Park Shore
The Village on Venetian Bay
Make a reservation at mwaterfrontgrille.com or call 239.263.4421

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BEST CAR SHOW THAT’S NOT A CAR SHOW

Fifth Avenue South

Bentleys, Ferraris, Maseratis, oh my! Season always brings the greatest annual yardstick-measuring contest of the area every year — rich people and their fancy cars, driving downtown to eat, drink and show off. All us common-folk need do is purchase a latte from Starbucks or a cheap beer from Paddy Murphy’s, sit on the patio and gaze as they drive by.

BEST INSPIRING NONAGENARIAN

Roy Haase

Anyone who imagined that the lethal Vibrio vulnificus bacteria could stop 94-year-old Roy Haase, the man often called the Mayor of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, obviously never met the man. Mr. Haase had been swimming and regaling other beachgoers with his wit and wisdom at the park virtually every morning for two decades when the bacteria, which kills about half its victims, got into his blood stream though an open leg cut last August. Doctors questioned whether he could survive, then considered amputation. Neither happened, and after several months in rehab, Mr. Haase has returned for his daily visits to the park, although doctors have advised him against swimming again.

BEST DEMOLITION DERBY

Port Royal homes

There have been some record-breaking real estate purchases in the Port Royal area of Naples this year … and then some inexplicable demolition. The largest purchase in 2018 was a $48.8 million mansion formerly owned by the Collier family. The home is now gone, with a complete demolition already completed. A new home will be constructed atop the freshly cleared lot. Here’s hoping it doesn’t cost the new owners another $48 million.

BEST PLACE TO CATCH A BUZZ

Naples Pier

The Pier is an iconic landmark of Naples beaches, with its 100-plus-year history marked by several renovations and refreshment projects. The latest added some new offerings, including a beer stand. From noon to sunset, the Pier is the place to catch a buzz, and maybe that elusive Green Flash.

BEST PLACE TO FIND NOWHERE TO GOLF UNDER $100

Southwest Florida

For being a storied golf destination, it sure is tough to find an affordable place to golf from November through April every year. That pesky season traffic brings with it golf-cart-loads of people driving up demand for golf — and those people are willing to fork out membership fees or jacked up public course pricing to make it impossible for year-round Southwest Florida residents to golf half the year at an affordable rate. But hey, at least we can golf in the summer when it’s 100 degrees out and it pours rain every other hour.

BEST HEADLINE

The New York Times

This isn’t a Southwest Florida-related “Best,” but it deserves some love all the same thanks to one of our good-natured readers. NYT wins the official awards, so it’s time to give them an unofficial one. This gripping tale, “Strapping On His Cello for a 600-mile Bach Pilgrimage,” details a man’s journey across the Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain while playing Bach’s suites for solo cello in churches along the way.

THE BEST SELF-PROMOTER AS SHERIFF

Carmine Marceno

Carmine Marceno was the face of the Lee County Sheriff’s Office even before he was appointed to replace Mike Scott. He might have promoted himself a little too much. A local woman, Deanna Lynn Williams, filed a paternity suit against him. He has not commented.

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BEST SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CULT LEADER
Cyrus Teed

There isn’t even a runner-up in this category. Long before the first golfer teed up a drive on Southwest Florida’s first golf course, a man named Cyrus Teed established a base in Lee County. He was par for the cult leader course, leading a group of followers in a sect called the Koreshan Unity to Estero in 1894. They believed in a hollow earth and immortality. Well, that didn’t work out, because the last time we checked Mr. Teed was not alive. He died in 1908. His cult eventually evaporated. The site where he established operations 125 years ago is now the Koreshan State Historic Site. Golf courses now proliferate in Southwest Florida. Mr. Teed’s cult is extinct. As is Mr. Teed.

BEST HISTORIC JOURNALISM HOAXES

One can’t turn on TV news today and not hear about Fake News and how terrible it is for any number of reasons. Those reasons likely depend on one’s political take on the topic.

Once there was Fun Fake News.

• The 1957 BBC spaghetti harvest hoax aired on April Fool’s Day and was presented as a legitimate news report. Workers were shown plucking strands of spaghetti off trees.

• Sidd Finch, the French horn-playing, Buddhist monk pitcher with the 168 mph fastball never actually existed. He was the creation of writer George Plimpton for an April Fool’s Day hoax in Sports Illustrated in 1985.

BEST HASHTAGS
#wehaveaproblem

As our tourist industry hit the skids in the midst of the blue-green algae crisis — and our murky water and dead marine life were featured on the national news — some local public relations and marketing professionals got creative with ways to combat the negative publicity. Members of the Southwest Florida chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association started a social media campaign challenging users to photograph positive aspects of our corner of paradise — think sunsets, palm trees, culture and more — and to post the photos on Instagram and Facebook using the hashtag #SouthwestFloridaChallenge. Meanwhile, the Lee County Visitors and Convention Bureau adopted the hashtag #OneLee and did the same, provoking the internet that Southwest Florida has a whole lot more to offer than just a dip in the gulf.

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BEST FULL FRONTAL FLASH
Fort Myers Police Capt. Jay Rodriguez

The internet contains quite the plethora of curiosities, and that's exactly where we found the unedited surveillance tape of Capt. Rodriguez's undercover work from earlier this year when he posed as a customer at a local massage parlor who was offered a happy ending. Alas, we're assuming Capt. Rodriguez didn't realize that when he got up from the massage table to adjust his hidden camera he would be treating viewers to some unmistakably clear footage of his deputy down below, standing at attention.

BEST BAD OLD IDEA
ABOUT TO TURN TOO
Prohibition

Not many people alive today are old enough to remember America's dumbest idea — Prohibition. The 18th Amendment was ratified in 1919 and took effect in 1920. It was known as the Volstead Act, named for a Minnesota moralist congressman named Andrew Volstead. The act prohibited the manufacture, transportation and sale of intoxicating liquors. The 18th Amendment ushered in lawlessness on an unprecedented scale. It was the law of the land until 1933.

BEST BREAKING NEWS STORY
BY A TELEVISION STATION IN
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
Anything that happened in the last six hours.

Bon Appétit

Learning about food, dining out, cooking, taking photos of the food we eat — it's the great American pastime. Every kind of cuisine, offering the Best, freshest ingredients and a wide variety of ambience, can be found here.

BEST PLACE WHERE
THREE'S A CHARM
Club Sushi, Fujiyama, and Harold's Place

"Where should we eat?" It's the quintessential dining question in Naples, but for people who love great food and atmosphere the answer is always Club Sushi, Fujiyama, or Harold's Place. All three restaurants offer something for every palate. Harold's tropical chickee bar serves up some of the BEST burgers in town, while Club Sushi is the go to spot for sushi, and Fujiyama offers the ultimate hibachi table. So grab your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers and head to the BEST hangout in town. Club Sushi: 239-261-4332; naplesclubushi.com. Fujiyama: 239-264-4332; naplesfujiyama.com. Harold's Place: 239-263-7254; www.naplesharoldsplace.com.

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BEST DYNAMIC DUO

Tony Ridgway & Sukie Honeycutt

It was many moons ago that Tony Ridgway and Sukie Honeycutt joined professional forces, and the diners and wine drinkers of Naples are much the better for it. As co-owners of Ridgway Bar & Grill, Tony’s Off Third, Bayside Seafood Grill & Bar, and Sukie’s Wine Shop, and with 90 (gasp!) or so owners of Ridgway Bar, and Sukie’s Wine Shop, and with 90 (gasp!) or so collective years of experience in the restaurant business, these two have time and again demonstrated their expertise. What keeps them going at this stage of their careers, when many would have embraced retirement? Passion. You’d be hard-pressed to find two more dedicated small-business owners, living their dream. 239-262-5500; www.ridgwaybarandgrill.com.

BEST MEAL DILEMMA

Jason’s Deli

Here we are again at Jason’s Deli counter with our old friends the chicken and the egg, posing the eternal dilemma — which came first? The answer is, whichever way you order them. Add a fresh-cracked egg to any item such as the Build Your Own Sandwich menu option with a grilled, 100-percent antibiotic free chicken breast. You might choose an organic ancient grain bun, fresh basil pesto, avocado slices and mozzarella cheese among the categories of choices. Those are just a few of the many “dilemmas” on Jason’s ample menu of wholesome soups, its famous salad bar, pastas and sandwiches and desserts. This is variety at its most delicious, and at its most convenient with Jason’s 24/7 online ordering app. You can use it to build up Deli Dollar Rewards, pick up a meal or have food catered at home, the office, or wherever you need. Choices.

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Pinchers’ location in Naples at Tin City is a fun family atmosphere where you can find this South Florida mainstay’s fresh seafood caught on the company’s own fleet. Work up an appetite — or perhaps later work off a slice of Key lime pie — by perusing the surrounding collection of colorful waterside shops. Their quirky demeanor and open-air ambiance, specializing in local handmade novelties from mood rings to seashells, is the perfect complement to Pinchers’ uniquely South Florida appeal. Naples 239-484-6666; Bonita Springs 239-948-1913; www.pinchersusa.com.

BEST PLACE FOR A STEAKOUT

Shula’s Steak House Naples

At Shula’s Naples, it’s about more than great steaks in chic surroundings for an important lunch, dinner or happy hour. It’s about prime customer service with the highest-quality menus paired with an award-winning wine list and craft cocktails served on crisp white tablecloths. The menu features the famed SHULA CUT® steaks, fresh seafood, and inspired sides served in an atmosphere of warmth and sophistication. It’s also about being a prime place to host events and special occasions that draws business leaders and philanthropists from throughout the community. New menus coming this summer! 239-430-4999; www.ShulasNaples.com.

BEST FIVE VIEWS IN FINE DINING

M Waterfront Grille

M Waterfront Grille has for more than three decades been synonymous with the best fine dining Naples has to offer in a spectacular waterfront location, which only leaves one quandary. How do you choose between five unique Venetian settings? There’s the elegant Main Dining Room overlooking the Bay, Al fresco Waterside...
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Edible Arrangements

Flowers wither and die. Fruit and chocolate nourish and satisfy. Whether you’re sending heartfelt congratulations, appreciation or condolences, the creatively cut, chocolate-dipped and decorated baskets from Edible Arrangements deliver your message in a way nothing else can. Convey your message with heart by giving a delicious gift they can taste and enjoy. Baskets include fresh fruit like strawberries, grapes, cantaloupe, honeydew and banana slices hand-dipped in various chocolate selections. Stop in for one of the healthy choice options. Create your own fresh fruit smoothie, fresh fruit blend frozen yogurt (Froyo), On the Go fruit salads, fruit parfaits, edible pops, chocolate dipped fruit, and more. Naples 239-643-7070; Bonita Springs 239-676-9911; www.EdibleArrangements.com.

BEST PLACE TO GOURMET
Wynn’s Market

Parents are often superheroes as they juggle jobs, soccer practice, piano lessons and doctor appointments and then finish the day preparing a heartful, satisfying family meal. Sometimes they just need a break. And when that time comes, Wynn’s Market is ready, with a variety of wines, baked goods and deli foods as well as fresh, time-saving, easy-to-make (or already prepared) things for dinner. Dash in for ready-made meals or have fun finding all the right ingredients for your special dish. Wynn’s takes the chore out of grocery shopping and helps you makes every meal gourmet. 239-260-7478; www.limoncellonaples.com.

BEST FAMILY COOKING
Old 41 Restaurant

When Tony Backos relocated to Southwest Florida, he brought 40 years of experience in cooking up meals and serving patrons at his restaurants in Philadelphia. After 12 years of running Old 41 Restaurant, Mr. Backos

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Best Place to Come for the Food, Stay for the Sports
Stevie Tomato’s Sports Page

This is one of the original spots in Southwest Florida to check out your favorite game or match while chugging a brew and munching on some wings. What’s really endured, however, is their unbelievable pizza. Head over to one of their three locations (Naples, Fort Myers or Cape Coral), grab a whole pie of Chicago thin crust and let the nostalgia sink in with every bite. Whether it’s the Bears, Giants, Jets or Patriots, you better believe Stevie Tomato’s will have a TV pointed a direction you can see with your favorite team battling for a win. www.StevieTomato.com.

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and his family tradition are now firmly rooted in Bonita Springs. Old 41's popular breakfast and lunch staples, from roasted meats to desserts and pies, are all made in house. The Philly cheesesteak is a standout as is home-cooked turkey and gravy. The menu is pure comfort food: benedicts, omelets, burgers, pancakes, great Belgian waffles, ice cream sundaes and a family-recipe rice pudding. Old 41 is our diner dream of old-fashioned favorites done right. 239-948-4190; www.Old41.com.

BEST RIBBER
Texas Tony's Rib & Brewhouse

The Best Texas-style BBQ from the Lone Star state to the Southern Gulf coast is a product of its "slow and low" treatment with a signature rub and a Sunshine State twist. Smoked with Orange wood, the unique, mild flavor it lends ribs, chicken, pork and brisket is a nod to the Phelan Family's roots. Known for its colorful chain of South Florida seafood eateries called Pinchers, founder "Texas" Tony Phelan long ago came to Florida by way of Texas. The success of his first Texas Tony's in Naples in 2010 led to a second location that opened this year in Cape Coral. The full menu, from collard greens to bread pudding, can also be catered. Naples, 239-732-8392; www.TexasTonys.com.

BEST SURF & TURF WITH SPECTACULAR WATERFRONT VIEWS
T-Michaels Steak & Lobster House

With its curved wall of windows overlooking Venetian Bay, every seat in the house is a great one at T-Michaels, where guests enjoy the laid-back elegance and the USDA Prime steaks, whole Maine lobster and fresh, local seafood specials. Regulars cozy up to the bar they call their “Cheers” and enjoy craft cocktails or wine from an ever-evolving list. Stop by with your friends and loved ones to unwind at day’s end. Order up some of the Best food in Florida. Sit back and enjoy the view at sunset, when resident dolphins tend to make their appearance, and find out why they call this paradise. 261-0622; www.t-michaels.com.

BEST PLACE FOR GOOD TIMES AND GREAT FOOD
Mel's Diner

Diners are a treasured American tradition that has never gone out of style. Mel's exemplifies this ideal, the home cooked, stick-to-your-ribs specials as well as flair: neon and bright metal trim and hometown servers. You can't go wrong with dishes like a hot open face meatloaf sandwich, blue plate specials and mile high chocolate chip pancakes, but that only scratches the surface of a menu as big and generous as the portions. Order up a malted for you and your sweetheart and find a place where those happy days never went away. www.MelsDiners.com.

BEST TASTE OF THE REAL FLORIDA (SEAFOOD & KEY LIME PIE)
Deep Lagoon Seafood & Fish Market in Naples

The real Florida experience comes alive at the Deep Lagoon, from its signature keylime pie to the Deep Lagoon Fish Market where the freshest catches are available. Then there's the delectable menu in the restaurant where black grouper, mahi mahi, shrimp cocktail, lobster tail and more are a diners' delight. Pair it with a creative libation and the phrase “Another Day in Paradise” will absolutely begin to make perfect sense. The new Fort Myers location of Deep Lagoon Seafood & Oyster House is at MarineMax on McGregor Boulevard. This site can be reached by boat and offers floating docks so folks can tie up their boats and then walk to dinner. 239-689-5474. And visit the original Deep Lagoon Seafood & Fish Market in Naples. 239-433-6266. More info on both can be found at www.DeepLagoon.com.
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BEST REVITALIZED LUNCH SPOT
Celebration Park

Whether you’re treating yourself on a weekend or taking the whole office out to lunch, the new food truck park in East Naples is your BEST bet in terms of price, speed and flavor. Celebration Food Park overlooks the water off of Bayshore Drive and boasts nearly a dozen food vendors to choose from any given Tuesday. Try a gyro while your friend samples a chicken curry dish or a pizza. The range of options will keep you coming back time and time again. And the relaxed vibe all coalesces around the open-air bar, where live music is a regular feature.

BEST TASTE OF THE REAL FLORIDA (BEER)
FLA IPA

This is a craft beer to watch on the Southwest Florida market. After appearing last year, Phelan Family’s FLA IPA has quickly and quietly become a local favorite found exclusively at Phelan restaurants that include Pinchers, Deep Lagoon Seafood and Texas Tony’s Rib & Brewhouse. Stay tuned: with its success, the company is looking towards opening Bonehook Brewing Company. For now Phelan’s first craft brew, made in the traditional IPA style with a welcoming hoppy flavor profile, is a true local beer with a distinct Florida taste. www.PhelanBrands.com.

BEST PIZZA PLACE TO GO FOR WINGS
LowBrow Pizza & Beer

It might seem crazy to recommend a pizza place for its wings, but in the case of LowBrow Pizza & Beer, we’re willing to take that chance. Listed as an appetizer on its menu, this basket of dry-rubbed, whole wings arrives in a heaping basket on your table. Dip ’em in creamy ranch or ditch the sauce and enjoy a crispy bite with a slight kick of spice good enough to stand on its own. These wings give all-new meaning to finger-licking good. Of course, we recommend pizza for dessert.

BEST CONVENIENT PICK-ME-UP
Hyppo Gourmet Ice Pops

They come from St. Augustine, but you can buy them for $4 a pop at Hello Coffee in Bonita Springs. Everyone loves a popsicle (especially in this weather), but this isn’t just any popsicle. Hyppo Gourmet Ice Pops are made with natural ingredients, and they’re healthy, too. Just look at the ingredient list — you can actually pronounce the names. Everyone loves a dessert they don’t have to feel guilty about, right? Hello Coffee offers three flavors: Chocolate Sea Salt, Straight-Up Strawberry and Watermelon Hibiscus. You may still be able to find some Key Lime in there as well. You can devour them in your car in the corner of the parking lot when no one’s looking. Or at your desk. But, make sure you close the door and have napkins readily available. You can also hoard them and bring them home for later. We won’t tell anyone.

BEST RESTAURANT THAT HAS LEFT US
Café Lurcat

Cinco de Mayo 2018 was a dark day for fans of the Naples culinary scene. One of Fifth Avenue’s beloved staples for more than 15 years, Café Lurcat, fell victim to rising rents and perceived lack of parking. Fear not, Lurcat fans — an iteration of the restaurant still exists in Minneapolis. Try not to go during the winter.
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BEST NEW VEGGIE RESTAURANT
Vegan Kitchen

For a town that has plenty of room for more good Asian and vegetarian restaurants, the arrival last year of Vegan Kitchen — which fills both needs in one dining room — is a welcome addition to the Naples dining scene. It’s a bit of Far East fusion — Thai, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Japanese, with a ripple of Mexican thrown in for good measure. The food is akin to Asian comfort food, with hearty soups and entrees, proving that even veggie cuisine can be filling.

BEST TREAT, SALTY OR SWEET
BEST Popcorn Company’s every-flavored popcorn

Who said popcorn had to be salty? Get a fix for your sweet tooth too at Best Popcorn Company in Naples, where the name says it all. Get your standard flavors like butter, cheese and caramel or branch out for Apple Pie, Birthday Cake or Blue Raspberry. Or how about Watermelon — Dill Pickle? Order online or visit their brick and mortar shop on Bayshore Drive for more sweet offerings like chocolates, taffy and ice cream. Or get creative at your next event with take-home popcorn favors or have your wedding catered.

BEST CAKE IN THE FORM OF DONUTS
Duck Donuts

Hot and customizable, these donuts are so freshly made you might need to blow on them before taking a bite. Pennsylvania-based Duck Donuts opened a franchise location at Coconut Point in January 2018. Their claim to fame is a menu of toppings that lets you create the donut of your dreams from the cake base to the glaze and the sprinkles, hot fudge, Oreos, coconut — the list goes on — that top them. Of course, they also have a greatest hits list of failsafe favorites. Wash it all down with an iced coffee before you hit the mall. And keep your eyes peeled for a Naples location set to open this year.

BEST CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE
Fit-n-Fuel Café

Fit-n-Fuel Cafe not only has the Best chocolate chip cookie in town, it’s arguably the healthiest…since it’s gluten-free. The cookie has a wondrous texture; crunchy, yet soft, with the perfect amount of sugar to really whet your whistle. A lot of gluten-free baked goods contain nuts; not this cookie. This cookie’s an equal-opportunity sweet tooth fix for all of Southwest Florida.
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Jacob L. Glock, M.D., FACOG
Dr. Jacob L. Glock, is board-certified in obstetrics and gynecology and in reproductive endocrinology and infertility. He offers comprehensive women’s health care, in addition to providing assisted reproductive technology services and male and female infertility evaluation and treatment. He has 25 years of private practice experience in Fort Myers, Naples and Port Charlotte, where he serves as the medical director for Southwest Florida Fertility Center. He has been successful in achieving pregnancy by using IVF in women up to age 46 using their own eggs and up to age 55 using donor eggs. He also has been successful with intrauterine insemination and donor insemination. He has been successful with pre-implantation genetic screening and diagnosis (PGS/PGD) and gender selection for family balancing.

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BEST PLACE TO MEET UP FOR COFFEE WHEN YOUR FRIENDS ARE SPREAD OUT
New Bonita Beach Road Starbucks

We all know the drill, especially in season when traffic is a drag. You want to hang with friends, but everyone’s homes are spread out. Maybe some live near Estero while others are out in Golden Gate Estates. Maybe one lives near San Carlos while another lives out in East Naples. The newly opened Starbucks off I-75 on Bonita Beach Road is a perfect meet-up spot for those who want to zip off the interstate for a quick meet up. Located directly off the exit, the location allows for an easy detour when friends spread far and wide want a little chat time. The Expressway espresso way.

BEST QUICKIE BREAKFAST
Hoot’s

Breafkast is Best when it’s hot, fast and affordable. If it’s delicious, that’s just gravy on your biscuits. Get all four at Hoot’s in the plaza at Tamiami Trail East and Collier Boulevard. Any given morning in season, you’ll find a crowd gathered at the hostess stand. Once inside, the country fried steak, limitless coffee and casual vibe will have you coming back for more. Breakfast at a local diner is the Best way to kick off a day in paradise and specialties like their crunchy French toast or tumbleweed pasta with eggs make it impossible to resist. Check out their Marco Island location if you’re even further south.

BEST BAYSHORE SPOT FOR BEST SMOKER
Table & Tap

The all-solar community of Babcock Ranch at the Charlotte-Lee county line, has just a handful of residents so far, but its restaurant, Table & Tap, has been drawing in food lovers from throughout the region for its inventive food and, increasingly, its smoked meats, fish and vegetables. Chefs Juan Cardona and smoke-master chef John Ianarelli are smoking pork, brisket, ribs and vegetables grown in their gardens and local fish for fish dip and just about anything they can get their hands on to the acclaim and delight of patrons.

BEST REINCARNATION OF A LEE COUNTY RESTAURANT
Leopardi’s

The giant castle-like structure on U.S. 41 just south of Daniels Parkway has been several restaurants — Dwyer’s, Ballyorney’s, Ichabod’s and the Twisted Kilt. None has lasted. Now comes Leopardi’s, a moderately priced Italian restaurant where the food and service are both worth a visit and are likely to bring customers back.
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Jimmy P’s Charred North is now open in Bonita Springs, offering the same high-quality steaks, pork and noteworthy seafood.

Krispy Kreme opened on U.S. 41 in Fort Myers this past October — the first in the area — and we developed a new addiction: hot, just-out-of-the-oven glazed donuts. You can even watch them roll down the assembly line, getting sprayed with liquid sugar. The store sold almost 1 million donuts in its first two weeks. For months, the line of cars backed up on 41. And with a 24-hour drive-through window, you can even get toasty warm donuts at 2 a.m. while wearing your pajamas. Now we know just how Homer Simpson feels when he purrs, “Mmmm. Donuts!”

When it comes to leisure time, we cannot live on beaches and sunsets alone. We need live theater and music, shopping and movies, resorts, museums and galleries, places to take the kids and grandkids and other places to send our houseguests.


Locals breathe a sigh of relief when they see the car carriers loading up. Off-season means less traffic, not waiting for a table at your favorite restaurant and membership in an underground locals-only club. Mercato Sapphire unlocks exclusive benefits at Naples’ shopping, dining and entertainment mecca from June 1-Oct. 15. Discounts at Mercato merchants, pop-up giveaways and entry to win a $500 gift card package are among the perks. You’ll enjoy offers like all-day Happy Hour and discounts on apparel, accessories and more. Add to that the opportunity to score beach chairs, beach towels and other cool merch, and summertime in Southwest Florida is looking pretty sweet. Enroll today: www.MercatoShops.com/BGC.

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**They’ve sailed aboard:** AmaStella, U by Uniworld, Silver Spirit, AmaMagna, Regent Voyager, Crystal Mahler, Regent Explorer, Seabourn Ovation, Symphony of the Seas, Regent Navigator, National Geographic Venture, Crystal Symphony, American Song, Tauck ms Savor, Azamara Quest, Crystal Bach, Seabourn Sojourn; Norwegian Sky, Viking Odin

**Some have experienced:** 12 Apostles Hotel, Cape Town; Leeu House, Franchhoek; Hotel de L’Europe, Amsterdam; Hotel Arts, Barcelona; Splendid Royal Hotel, Rome; The Goring Hotel, London; Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong; Sacher Hotel, Salzburg; Hotel La Bastide de Gordes, Gordes; Four Season Hotel George V, Paris.

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**Community Involvement**

Wilma Boyd and Preferred Travel of Naples believe in supporting the community that supports them. Since 2007, Preferred Travel has hosted a by invitation only travel event for clients with proceeds that benefit a selected charity. Each year a new charity is selected. The February 2019 Travel Show raised $26,100 for The Immmokalee Foundation. To date, a QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS has been raised and donated to local charities for the travel shows alone. As we begin our 35th year in Naples, we will continue to work with and support charities like Guadalupe Center, The Founders Fund, Friends of Foster Children, The Immmokalee Foundation, SWFL Children’s Charities, and many more.

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A Gulfshore Opera performance promises the highest quality opera theater experience, without breaking the bank. Since their inception Gulfshore Opera, SWFL’s regional opera company, has collaborated with many of our respected local venues to present classical voice music from Marco Island to Port Charlotte. GO supports local youth in music through their 6 Harmony Choir chapters. Don’t miss “La Boheme”, “Passionate Puccini” and much more in Season 6! Reviews are in! “no stiff-armed recital posture in this production; it’s refreshing and immersive...thrilling, even for new-comers.” (Naples Daily News) More info: 239-529-3925; GulfshoreOpera.org

BEST PLACE FOR GLAMOUR AND GOOD TIMES
Third Street South

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

BEST THEATRE FOR THE COMMUNITY
The Naples Players

The Naples Players celebrates 66 years as the oldest and premier theatres in Naples, and as a highly-rated theatre of its kind in the nation, with the most exciting season lineup in the company’s his-
tory. In keeping with its mission to provide a superior theater experience, TNP offers year-round dazzling musicals complete with a full orchestra, heartfelt comedies, thoughtful dramas and world premieres. The perfect night out in Naples includes a great show at the Sugden Community Theatre in the heart of Fifth Avenue South’s shopping and dining. Coming up in the 66th anniversary season: Mamma Mia!, The Great Gatsby, Escanaba in Da Moonlight, She Loves Me, Making God Laugh, Silent Sky, Bye Bye Birdie, Becky's New Car, and Calendar Girls. Tickets: 239-263-7990; www.naplesplayers.org.

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SATURDAY: 8:30AM - 5:00PM | SUNDAY: CLOSED
who somehow manage to corral people and take their pictures and names pretty much wherever they go and share them with us just because they can. We’re talking about Ted Epstein, Sue Huff, Bernadette La Paglia, Bob Raymond and Ivan Seligman. Here’s a big shoutout to them all. Florida Weekly’s Society and Networking pages wouldn’t be the same without them. We asked them for pictures of themselves, but…

PLACE TO SAVE MONEY ON RANDOM STUFF
Bonita Springs shopping mall

Tucked in a shopping complex in Bonita, Dixie Liquidation Groceries and Wine is THE place to shop for overstock items ranging from boxed groceries, to beverages, health and beauty items and diverse wines. You never know what you will stumble on in this friendly little shop and the staff has recently added a rear section with overstock home goods, furnishings, linens and other “you-didn’t-know-you-needed-it—until-you-saw-it-so-cheap” items. You can find it at 25141 Chamber of Commerce Drive, Bonita Springs.

BEST VENUE BRINGING IN BANDS YOU THOUGHT HAD BROKEN UP DECADES AGO OR THEIR MEMBERS HAD DIED
Southwest Florida Event Center

It offers private space for rent, too. The center, in Bonita Springs, books groups like Jefferson Starship, the Zombies and Rascals. It offers private space for rent, too. 11515 Bonita Beach Road SE; www.swfleventcenter.com

BEST GLITZIEST FUNDRAISER
Celebrity Martini Glass Auction

About a decade ago, Naples resident Brenda Melton arranged a trip to the film “Sex and the City” with a bunch of gal pals. Keeping in tune with the movies’ zeitgeist, she suggested they all design and bring along a martini glass. That modest beginning has grown into an annual fundraiser where artists design, and celebrities sign, martini glasses that are auctioned off to raise money for area veterans groups. This year the gala drew 300 people at Art-ist Naples, raised more than $600,000 and featured ornate glasses signed by the likes of George and Barbara Bush, John Travolta, Don Shula, actress Betty White, Red Sox pitcher Chris Sale and others.

BEST PLACE TO DANCE YOUR BUTT OFF TO RIGHTEOUS BLUES
Best in Blues while enjoying Tito’s Vodka Bloody Marys. Rocking well into the evening, nationally touring blues bands smoke it up at this free event. Simply Southern BBQ provides the eats and the only problem will be how sore your legs are the next day after dancing 8 hours straight.

BEST PLACE TO JAM IN A DRUM CIRCLE
Centennial Park

You can’t beat the Fort Myers Drum Circle in Centennial Park every Sunday but if the River District is a bit far away, know that Shangri La Springs in Bonita often includes drum circles as part of their Free Community Nights held the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 6-9 p.m. Under the stars with ficus and banyans surrounding you, drummers and percussionists gather for this family friendly jam session. Let the beat ignite your soul.

BEST PUPPIES ON THE RADIO
93X radio’s Sadie

93X radio personality Sadie is known for her infectious enthusiasm on the air, her sparkling smile, and most of all, her puppies. The alternative rock DJ is finding homes for abandoned dogs and cats all over the area with her popular radio feature, Sadie’s Puppies. The animal-loving lady with the effervescent voice works with the Southwest Florida Humane Society, Doghouse Rescue Academy, Lee County Domestic Animal Services and more to find forever homes for furry friends. Sadie interacts with the pets and posts videos of them on the 93X Facebook page and has more than a 90% success rate with adoptions. Sadie uses her voice for good.

PLACE TO DANCE YOUR TAIL OFF TO RIGHTEOUS BLUES
Center Bar

As if Kevin and Jenn Barry don’t do enough to bring blues to the area by organizing the annual Bonita Blues Fest at Riverside Park. They are also the duo behind the monthly Blues and Bloodys concert series held at the Promenade’s Center Bar. The second Sunday of every month, loyal fans gather to listen to the BEST in blues while enjoying Tito’s Vodka Bloody Marys. Rocking well into the evening, nationally touring blues bands smoke it up at this free event. Simply Southern BBQ provides the eats and the only problem will be how sore your legs are the next day after dancing 8 hours straight.

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BEST DRAMA AT A LOCAL THEATER
Robert Cacioppo

Florida Repertory Theatre founder and artistic director Cacioppo was fired after being accused of inappropriate and abusive behavior. He later blamed his actions on a non-malignant brain tumor he was unaware of until passing out in Denver and requiring more than six hours of surgery. He’s on the mend and reports are that he has plans to open a new dinner theater in Fort Myers.

BEST PLACE FOR FIREWORKS
A parking garage

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

BEST NEWCOMER IN A LOCAL COMMERCIAL
Billy Fuccillo

McKinzie Roth picked Roth to become the face of his Kia commercials. She is sexier than Caroline Renfro but lacks the chemistry Fuccillo had with his old sidekick, which was HUUUUUGGGE.

BEST EH, WHAT’S UP DOC?
Sanibel Island author Randy Wayne White, author of the popular Doc Ford series of thrillers, won the Florida Humanities Council 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award for writing. The fictional Doc Ford would be proud of his creator. White was named a co-winner along with historian Raymond Arsenault. White has written more than 20 Doc Ford crime novels that are based around the mysterious Doc Ford, a marine biologist who has other, ah, skills, ones not normally taught in university science courses. Florida Humanities Council judges noted of the two 2019 winners that they are “giants in their respective fields.”

BEST ACTOR
Jeffrey Binder

Binder, the associate artistic director of Gulfshore Playhouse, wowed us with his one-man tour de force in “An Iliad,” a modern retelling of the ancient Greek tale. He played The Poet, a character fated to travel around telling stories of ancient battles, until we finally stop fighting each other. In addition to narrating the tale, he portrayed various characters, such as soldiers, parents, wives, babies and gods. His listing of every war ever fought, up until the present, seemed to go on forever, and brought tears to the audience.
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**BEST EXEC WITH THREE JOBS**

Jim Griffith

He’s played viola for the Naples Philharmonic for 30 years, has run the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center for about 15 years, had parental responsibilities for three decades and husband commitments and manages vacation rentals and built his home from the ground up. A real Renaissance man, his wife, Kara, would say, who admires his quiet and patient determination. A man with a long view, where no small job is beneath him. He also blows leaves, does dishes, installs roofs — the list goes on. Cheers, Jim.

**BEST BUZZ**

**Vibrator play**

Gulfshore Playhouse caused a buzz with its production of Sarah Ruhl’s “In the Next Room or the vibrator play” in February and March. The lead character wondered what that loud buzzing was, coming from her husband’s examining room. And then, well, she found out. (The physician had created a vibrator, which he said provided “therapeutic electrical massage” to “relieve the pressure of … nerves.”) Women especially loved this play about women’s sexual awakening, loneliness and finding one’s place in the world. And while it was risky theater, especially in Naples, there was a definite positive buzz about it.

**BEST LEADING MAN**

Greg Longenhagen

After Florida Repertory Theatre’s founder and producing artistic director Bob Cacioppo was fired for inappropriate behavior, the board of the largest non-profit arts organization in Lee County looked within the theater’s ensemble of artists for the right replacement. Into the spotlight stepped the 52-year-old Longenhagen, a popular actor and director who had been a part of the Florida Rep ensemble since the organization’s start in 1998. Still in his first season as artistic director, Longenhagen is making a name for himself.

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**BEST REVIVAL**

“The Music Man”

“The Music Man” is a dusty old musical that can seem to drag — popular in its time, but not as relatable now. The Asolo Repertory Theatre’s production this season changed all that, with colorblind casting, genderblind casting (actor Matthew McGee played the mayor’s wife) and tons of tap-dancing. The tap dancing added a much-needed zest, and made sense, as Professor Harold Hill (played by Noah Racey) is a con man who sells people with a song and dance. He also tap dances around the truth. It was the liveliest, most exciting production of “The Music Man” we’ve ever seen, simply exhilarating.
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BEST ADRENALINE RUSH
Track days at Sebring International Raceway

Check your tires and brakes. Throw a couple of tools and cooler in the trunk and head out to the Birthplace of American Endurance Racing, aka Sebring. There are several organizations that will let you drive your car on the track with a professional instructor to learn how to go fast. Some say it’s the most fun you can have with your clothes on. Try:

国立 Cuban-American chef Gloria Jordan started her cultural and culinary tours of Cuba in 2016 and has taken nearly 80 tour groups from Southwest Florida to her hometown of Havana, all while continuing to run her popular south Fort Myers restaurant La Trattoria Cafe Napoli. Gloria’s energy is infectious, and these tours are not for those who enjoy lounging around — for four days or seven she treats her guests to a jam-packed schedule that includes food, drink, art, music, history and more. During a recent trip when Prince Charles was visiting Cuba, the future King of England asked Gloria to recommend some local restaurants. Gloria’s tours are a hot ticket to Havana for both commoners and royalty alike.

BEST BREAKING NEWSPAPER NEWS
The News-Press is moving

Since before most of its current employees were born, The News-Press operated at the corner of Fowler Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Not for much longer. The paper no longer needs the sprawling old home it has occupied since 1968. The presses are gone. The paper is now printed in Naples. Like other daily newspapers around the country, its staff has shrunk in the internet age. But the paper is not leaving Fort Myers. It will soon move into a SunTrust building at the corner of Metro Parkway and Colonial Boulevard, a little more than 3 miles away from the old home and within the city limits.

BEST SCHOOL BUS THAT WASN’T
Babcock Ranch

In October, Babcock Ranch began using a self-driving, electric shuttle painted like a school bus to transport children within the development to the Babcock Neighborhood School. The autonomous bus, believed to be the first in the country, followed a predetermined, three-block route.
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Upcoming Events

Mercato Nights Music Series, 6-9pm
May 2 - J.P. Soars and the Red Hots
June 6 - Roots Almighty

Movies on the Lawn @ Dusk
May 21 - Grease
June 18 - Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation

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path, scooped up children from designated spots and dropped them off in front of the school. However, days after the first children were shuttled to school the federal government shut the program down citing several violations.

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Ever dream of packing up an RV and hitting the road, but hesitant to invest in such a huge purchase? Freedom RVing has the perfect solution! This sister company to Freedom Boat Club launched a similar program for the camping world. They buy the RV’s, you join the club, reserve your RV, and go. This team does all the work — they’ll clean and stock their new model RV’s with linens, dishes, etc., so all you need is your food and clothes. With 24-hour concierge service and roadside assistance, you can leave your worries behind and get camping. 866-897-8464; www.freedomrvting.com.

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A red wagon

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Log on to The Jana Caudill Team’s user-friendly website and search for homes on an interactive map, save your favorites, book appointments and maybe even find the home of your dreams. A simple search bar allows buyers to find available homes in the area and sellers to easily determine what their home is worth. Get real time updates and view new listings and price reductions as they happen. It’s a great tool to set your own search criteria and start your home search, along with help from The Jana Caudill Team. “Our” mission is to make a profound and lasting impact on the lives we touch daily, both personally and professionally.

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in business, while maintaining honesty and integrity in all that we do,” Jana Caudill says. “We believe you win in life by helping others, and we would love to help you.” 239-250-9977; luxurynaplesareahomes.com.

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When it comes to vacations, most people think of traveling somewhere far, seeing new things and sharing experiences with the ones around them. What if you didn’t have to travel to feel as though you were on vacation? The team at Inside Out Furniture Direct can help you turn your outdoor space into your dream oasis with the leading brands in fine patio furniture, umbrellas and fire pits. Whether you want to soak up the sun poolside, relax and read a book or have friends and family over for a gourmet cookout, your outdoor space can become a dream destination at a great price. 239-592-1387; www.insideoutfurnituredirect.com.

BEST BUILT LIGHTING & FAN SHOWROOM
Brothers Lighting and Fan Gallery

In 1997, Chuck and Andy Bebber purchased the Lighting Depot. The brothers had been running the business for 7 years and were ready to expand. FGCU began the same year. Both would become leading institutions in the region. Hurricane Charley hit in 2004, the approximate time the brothers purchased property on Colonial Blvd to initiate the design and construction of Brothers Lighting & Fan Gallery.

This South Florida family knew the building must be built to endure powerful storms. Hurricane Irma struck in 2017 but the business never lost power and was up and running the next day! Visit Brothers Lighting’s amazing showroom and discover 3 decades of lighting expertise. Although the largest showroom in the area customers experience personal one on one service. The future looks bright for Brothers. A new generation of family members have joined the company and they are continuing to outshine the competition! 239-277-0333; www.BrothersLighting.net.

BEST DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT LIVING
Prima Luce

Prima Luce means “first light” in Italian, a fitting name for these twin 22-story towers, where every residence looks out across the expansive Caloosahatchee River. Located on First Street in the shopping, dining and cultural heart of Fort Myers, this community offers the superb amenities you might expect from a Macfarlane Group development. The company has also graced the downtown skyline with the Riviera, Beau Rivage and...
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BEST FAMILY-ORIENTED LUXURY REAL ESTATE AGENT
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When it comes to finding the perfect luxury home for your family’s needs or selling your residential property in Southwest Florida, you will find no more seasoned professional than Joe Pavich, Jr. With 15 years of Sunshine State real estate experience and more than $600 million in personal gross sales, Mr. Pavich’s intimate knowledge of local markets, his integrity and enthusiasm for his work make him your family’s most valuable resource in the world of luxury real estate. Across Naples, Bonita Springs, Estero and Fort Myers, his insight and professionalism is a guiding light for home buyers and sellers. 239-910-0304; www.JoePavichJr.com.

BEST PLACES TO DESIGN WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND
Flower Spot

Let your imagination blossom at Flower Spot in Naples. With decades of experience and attention to detail, Lisa and Tess Stanek can design whatever you have in mind whether for your Mother’s Day celebration or your secret crush, a wedding or a funeral, corporate events, private parties, or just because it’s Tuesday. The family-owned and operated boutique has been a go-to source of gorgeous floral arrangements for more than 20 years. Lisa and Tess are committed to client satisfaction with an exceptional approach to floral design, creating unique themes that ensures a truly individual result each time. Located on the West side of U.S. 41 across from Coastland Center Mall, stop by or give them a call about that bouquet, table setting, full-home arrangement or any other floral masterpiece you can dream up. 239-434-2323; www.naplesflowerspot.com.

Best Feeling Good
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Let’s face it, Floridians feel better and look better than folks in most other parts of the country. After all, it was here Juan Ponce de Leon came in search of the fountain of youth. Whether you need treatment for an illness, or seek to brighten your physical appearance, the Best providers are here.

BEST NEW MENTAL HEALTH CONCEPT
Community Counseling Center

The Community Counseling Center opens in August at FGCU. Members of the community will be able to obtain counseling for mental health and behavioral health conditions from second- and third-year grad student interns under the supervision of counseling faculty. The cost: one hour’s pay or $25, whichever is less.

BEST MOVES & SHAKERS
McQuaid & Company Real Estate Services

This boutique real-estate agency is built on knowledge, commitment and results. #TeamMcQuaid likes to get creative in your search for your Southwest Florida dream home or sale, be it a multi-million-dollar mansion or a starter. That might mean hosting a community event or perhaps getting inspiration from the company’s “Realtor Support” French bulldog Westin Brown, who has his own profile on the McQuaid website, along with more than two-dozen other professionals. Each of the Realtors here is also officially Snowbird Certified (an exclusive #TeamMcQuaid certification), specializing in helping northerners relocate to Florida. This team is here for you whatever your dream home may be. 239-300-4880; www.McQuaidCo.com.

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Longevity Performance Center

Welcome to a new age of wellness, at any age, at Longevity Performance Center in Naples. This is the health club of the future, utilizing state-of-the-art smart exercise equipment, DNA testing and artificial intelligence along with health care and wellness professionals to enable you to realize peak performance. Its high-tech resources and personalized approach to nutrition and fitness promise not just a longer life, but a higher quality one in which feeling healthier and more energetic is the norm. Its team of doctors, nurses and nutritionists get you started by analyzing your bio-markers, body composition and DNA. As you continue you’ll discover a new approach to fitness with this holistic program on the leading edge of staying healthy and happy. 239-226-4650, www.longevitypc.com.

Millennium Physician Group

Fort Myers’ Millennium Physician Group has grown into one of the largest comprehensive primary-care practices in the state, also offering specialty care, walk-in centers, imaging centers, and lab services. Millennium is proud to have just been named “Innovator of the Year” by a national healthcare publication thanks to its information technology platform that seamlessly connects its 300,000-plus patients, 450-healthcare providers, and 110-plus offices in 13 Florida counties. Its high-tech resources and personalized approach to nutrition and fitness promise not just a longer life, but a higher quality one in which feeling healthier and more energetic is the norm. Its team of doctors, nurses and nutritionists get you started by analyzing your bio-markers, body composition and DNA. As you continue you’ll discover a new approach to fitness with this holistic program on the leading edge of staying healthy and happy. 239-226-4650, www.longevitypc.com.

Naples Audiology & Hearing Center, LLC

Christine Peacock, is audiologist and owner of Naples Audiology & Hearing Center. Christine completed her clinical fellowship at John H. Stroger Hospital in Chicago, IL. For 10 years she worked at Carle Clinic in Urbana, IL. She performed nearly all diagnostic and treatment aspects of audiology and worked in collaboration with the other audiologists and ear, nose and throat physicians. In addition, she completed hearing testing for soldiers getting ready for combat. The combination of these experiences gave her a vast knowledge of not only audiology, but different patients’ backgrounds, needs and lifestyles. In 2015 Christine moved to Naples and worked for another audiology practice. In August 2017 she purchased an audiology practice and transformed it into Naples Audiology & Hearing Center. Christine is married with two children and her favorite sport is golf. She played collegiate golf at the University of Illinois. 239-434-2434, www.napleshearingcenter.com.

MAY 16 – JUN 15

A sassy R&B-singing plant promises everlasting fame and fortune to meek floral assistant Seymour as long as he keeps feeding it its special diet. Between bites, the plant brings down the house with 1960s style rock and roll, doo-wop, and Motown including the hit Suddenly Seymour.

JUN 20 – AUG 10

The Disney classic about Belle, a young woman in a small town, and a Beast who is really a young prince under a spell. See all your favorite characters including Mrs. Potts, Cogsworth, Lumiere and more! The beloved songs include Be Our Guest, Tale As Old As Time and Beauty and the Beast.
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You can find the superheroes of skin care at Aesthetic Treatment Centers in Naples. Medical director Dr. Kathleen M. Marc and her business partner, CEO Mindy DiPietro, are a formidable duo when it comes to harnessing the most effective, safe and gentle treatments and technologies in the cosmetic and beauty industry. Dr. Marc is a renowned gynecologist and minimally invasive surgeon who specialized in Aesthetic and Regenerative Medicine, while Ms. DiPietro is a leading Med Spa Industry consultant. They are helping patients fall in love with themselves all over again with their personal, individualized approach and leading-edge minimally and non-invasive procedures. Fat reduction, body sculpting, wrinkle reduction, hair removal, IV hydration and feminine rejuvenation are among the options at Naples’ leading medical spa. And that only scratches the surface. Call for a free consultation. 239-322-3790; www.atcnaples.com

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At Frantz EyeCare, they like to say Better Vision... Better Life. And it's true. Better vision really does translate into a better life. You'll enjoy fishing, golfing, playing tennis or spending time with your kids and grandkids even more with improved vision from Frantz EyeCare. Lifestyle Lenses replace your cataract during cataract surgery and are geared toward your unique lifestyle. Lifestyle Lenses eliminate cataracts while also correcting your vision, giving you the opportunity to lose your glasses for good. Dr. Frantz is the No. 1 Cataract Surgeon in Southwest Florida based on 2018 volume reports by AHCA. 239-418-0999; www.bettervision.net.

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Mother knows BEST. And has for a very long time. Mother Earth Natural Foods has provided Southwest Florida with fresh produce, first-rate natural foods, health and nutrition supplements, and more, for more than 40 years. It opened its first store in 1975. Mother Earth now has six Lee County locations, from Estero to Fort Myers to North Fort Myers to Cape Coral. And they all provide the same healthy selection as the original store from long ago. Mother Earth is also growing with the latest items on the market, including the best over-the-counter CBD products available. Each store has its own phone number. Consult the website for the phone number of the one closest to you. www.MotherEarthNats.com.

BEST NEWS FOR YOUR JOINTS
The Joint Care Center at Landmark Hospital

What do you get when you combine a team of the finest surgeons with pristine operating suites just built in 2017 and the most state-of-the-art tools and technologies? Simply, better results at faster speeds with improved safety. The Joint Care Center at Landmark Hospital in Naples combines those features, which is great news for area hips, knees, shoulders, feet, ankles, hands and wrists. Just one example of its technologies includes the Synexis biodefense system, essentially a continuously operating immune system for the entire building, a safe and sustainable natural disinfecting process for the air you breathe. The most advanced imaging camera on the market and a proprietary electronic health record system, along with a gourmet chef on site at the hospital, are a few of the other features of this unique, exemplary Joint Care Center. 239-529-1800; http://thejointcarecenter.com.

BEST ECO-FRIENDLY DENTAL PRACTICE
Oaktree Dentistry

Oak Tree Dentistry is the first eco-friendly dental office in Naples. The Green Guard Certified practice minimizes all waste, is virtually paperless through the use of digital patient charts, digital billing, interoffice communications and cloth sterilization techniques. Oak Tree uses digital imaging which means 75-90% less radiation and eliminates lead waste and toxic chemicals. A special emphasis is placed on air quality, energy and water conservation. All cleaning and sterilization products are nontoxic and conform to the highest environmental and clinical standards. A water purification system ensures all water going into patients’ mouths is free of any impurities. The amount of water used is reduced with a waterless vacuum system, hand sanitizers and dual flush toilets. Along with all other services and procedures, Dr. Sean Carr and Dr. Hillary Frey offer CAD-CAM (same-day crown) technology for digital impressions and crown restorations. This has reduced the need for impression materials and eliminated the laboratory step in manufacturing the crown. The crown is milled by a computer while the patient waits, thus eliminating the second appointment and the temporary crown. 239-596-5771; www.oaktreedentist-rynaples.com.

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Passion for excellence, focus on quality and genuine concern for patients is what drives Dr. Rinando. Her love and dedication for rejuvenating and enhancing smiles is second to none. “I want to change the opinions of those who fear going to the dentist. Your visit can and should be an enjoyable experience where you can relax into the excitement of having an improved smile and health by a truly compassionate team. We have a responsibility to be OUR very best, for YOU.” Since graduating President of her class from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry, followed by 8 years in private practice in the west suburbs of Chicago, Dr. Rinando relocated to Naples to continue providing high-quality comprehensive care. Her goal is to discover and then prioritize your immediate and long-term goals by building trust and having open communication. She will not only ensure your continued dental health, she will relieve pain, correct problems from previous or failing dental treatments, and do everything possible to ensure every member of your family has a functional, healthy, attractive smile. 239-913-6780 www.6thsenseidental.com

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The Sky Family YMCA

The Sky Family YMCA is more than just a gym. It’s one of the nation’s leading nonprofits in improving health, with something for everyone. With programs on cardiac care, diabetes prevention, Parkinson’s, tai chi for better balance, and LIVESTRONG programs for adult cancer survivors, the YMCA is the go-to place for improving overall wellness. In addition to the options to take classes in group exercise or particular sports, the Y offers before/after-school care for children, youth enrichment programs and membership perks such as discounts at local businesses. With seven locations in Southwest Florida, building a healthier future is easier than ever. www.swflymca.org.

BEST MIRACLES OF LIFE
Southwest Florida Fertility Center

When it comes to the miracle of life, Dr. Jacob L. Glock at the Southwest Florida Fertility Center has a front row seat. His decades of ongoing work are a source of real hope for men and women who are struggling to conceive. The Center provides the most state-of-the-art treatments and Assisted Reproductive Technology that can help boost the chances of conception be it in-vitro fertilization, hormonal therapy, surrogacy or any number of male or female reproductive challenges. Dr. Glock and his staff are a valuable resource for their comprehensive knowledge and clinical experience in the field of reproductive endocrinology and infertility. And his patients know they will always be treated with kind, compassionate care. 239-561-3430; www.DrGlock.com.

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BEST FAMILY PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY
Carter Fence Company

A happy 30th anniversary shout out goes to Carter Fence Company this year. Now as ever, owner Ken Carter believes in his employees as more of a family, his company is more of a home away from home than just a place to go to work. That’s the Carter Fence Company, founded in Collier County in 1989. Over the last 30 years, its family of workers has installed nearly every kind of fence or gate you can imagine across Southwest Florida. They offer residential and commercial fences as well as construction fencing, access control gates, custom fabrication and more. “For All Your Fencing Needs.” Indeed. 239-353-4102; www.carter-fence.com.

BEST PLACE TO STAY NEAR AND GO FAR
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Hodges University students can earn the degree or certification they need to start a new career or get that promotion. With accelerated programs and monthly starts, students graduate sooner, yet enjoy the benefit of small class sizes taught by professors with world-class knowledge. Many of Hodges’ bachelor’s degrees are ranked nationally for their excellence and affordability. The job placement rate for Hodges graduates is 93%. Plus, Hodges is ranked gold as military friendly, and is a Federally-designated Hispanic serving institution. In the past five years, students have earned over $31 million in EASE grants, and many programs offer internships, clinical placement or practicum opportunities. All these perks mean that at Hodges, you really can stay near... and go far. www.hodges.edu.

BEST PLACE TO ORCHESTRATE YOUR FAMILY FINANCES
The Wellington Group at Morgan Stanley

Get back to managing your life while these long-time wealth managers keep your finances in perfect tune. The Wellington Group at Morgan Stanley in Naples is the best place to orchestrate your family’s finances and entrust its future for now and generations to come. After nearly a quarter century in business and more than 85 years of combined experience, their comprehensive wealth management know-how meets the aspirations of affluent families, business owners, and retirees alike. Finance Management, Comprehensive Financial Planning, Professional Portfolio Management, and Trust and Estate Management services are all available, services rendered in harmony with your life, however it grows and changes. 239-449-7674; http://fa.morganstanley.com/thewellingtongroup/

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A nonmedical provider of reliable, trustworthy in-home senior care and companionship, Visiting Angels prides itself on personalized excellence. Through the specialized Select Your Caregiver program, you can interview any caregiver referred by the service to make sure it’s the perfect fit. Then give your angel the daily schedule such as getting up and meal times. The company ensures you or your loved one continues to live comfortably at home with dignity, compassion and respect. 239-561-7600; www.VisitingAngels.com/FortMyers.

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Florida may have the third largest population in the country with 21 million residents, but it almost certainly has the most pests in the nation, capable of tormenting humans from north to south. And not just insects but nuisance wildlife pests as well. Fortunately the best pest control company in the state, family-owned Catseye Pest Control, serves the region with skilled and experienced technicians, inspectors and nuisance wildlife specialists. Catseye protects homes or businesses with total coverage that’s safe for people and pets, ethical in the handling of wildlife and both thorough and permanent. Watch for our 35th Anniversary celebration announcement filled with surprises. 239-261-1177; www.preferrednaples.com.

Experience counts when it comes to travel and the Best Travel Experts in SWFL are at Preferred Travel, the area’s largest full-service travel agency. Making dream vacations come true since 1984, Wilma Boyd’s team of more than 50 travel advisors has worldwide connections to help clients see the world in style. Worldwide emergency assistance 24/7, 365 days a year, guarantees a “peace of mind” travel experience. Travel the world the preferred way, through luxury cruises, hosted cultural experiences, culinary tours and adventures of all kinds. Watch for our 35th Anniversary celebration announcement filled with surprises. 239-908-4000; www.CatseyePest.com.

A freshly cleaned home is a peaceful, easy feeling — a weight off your shoulders. It’s a restorative sanctuary. And if you don’t have to do any of the work yourself, well then maybe cleanliness really is next to Godliness, and those MaidPro maids from Southwest Florida are the angels of clean homes sent from heaven. They’re certainly not criminals, in any case, since the company requires background checks, and their reputation precedes them. With 49-point inspection checklists and extensive training, these professionals give homes the deluxe treatment, leaving them refreshed, energized and ready to face whatever is thrown their way. That helps make happy homes and businesses from Marco Island to North Fort Myers. 239-996-5200; www.maidpro.com/naples/.

A philanthropic foundation based in Sarasota made a splashy $5 million donation in October to Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida. Behind the bequest was Baycross Christian Family Foundation’s chairman and entrepreneur-investor Jim Doyle, a long-time supporter of the children’s hospital and colleague of its namesake Tom Golisano. The $5 million gift went to Lee Health Foundation’s Little Red Wagon Fund, named for the classic wagons that nurses use to transport patients at the hospital. Mr. Doyle and Baycross have directed its use to be “unrestricted,” meaning Lee Health can use it however they want to in order to continue developing a hospital so kids in Southwest Florida don’t have to travel for care. The hospital relies on philanthropy because treating kids with the most serious conditions under our Medicaid system is a money losing proposition. Beyond that, a gift of this size provides substantial leverage to help the hospital grow along with the population. It provides support for wide ranging services, from small and specific areas of medical need such as bed wetting or dialysis to big fields of new territory such as neurosurgery and trauma care. Well done, Mr. Doyle.

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BEST WAY TO GET ORGANIZED
All About Closets

Designing a life with less stress starts with your closets and storage spaces. Get those right, and the rest of your life can stay neat, organized and efficient as well. The accomplished experts at All About Closets work with you to design and build the most functional and attractive storage areas for your wardrobe, office, garage and laundry rooms. Transform your clutter into a space you’ll be proud to show off. Most importantly, enjoy the peace of mind that comes with having a closet everywhere’s coordinated exactly the way you need it. Call for a free consultation. 239-303-9829; www.AllAboutClosets.com.

BEST COMEBACK
Clyde Butcher

One of the country’s most accomplished landscape photographers, Clyde Butcher’s powerful black-and-white images raise the idea of how for so many artists, their art can be a means of working through their own inner landscapes, especially struggles, pain and ordeals. After Mr. Butcher had a stroke two years ago in May, he spent months just relearning to write his signature. But during that time, with the help of a walker, he also captured his first post-stroke image in Myakka River State Park. This year he has maintained a full calendar of exhibitions and appearances. He wrote on his website in advance of a lecture in April about his Myakka images, “I have always felt that your best photographs are taken in surroundings near to your heart. When my son was killed by a drunk driver in 1986, I fled into the Big Cypress Preserve. I spent countless hours in the swamp, eventually building our home and gallery within the pristine ecosystem. Spending time in the swamp and capturing its primal beauty restored my soul. After my stroke in 2017, I knew I needed to find that peace once again. I began an exploration of my new backyard searching for the tranquility I had found in Big Cypress. This search would bring me to Myakka.” Visit www.ClydeButcher.com for more information on his work.
BEST WAY TO SEE CLEARLY NOW

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The Southwest Florida lifestyle certainly has its perks, but we have to remember how important it is to protect our homes and businesses from the inevitable storms that plague our summer months. Impact windows from Clear Choice Windows not only look beautiful, they also provide noise reduction, insulation, reduction in energy costs and savings on your insurance bill. The expert team at Clear Choice has been custom-fitting homes with beautiful windows for more than 20 years. That’s why they always do the job right, guaranteed. 239-337-2287; www.SWFLWindows.com.

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Lake Michigan Credit Union of Florida’s 10 full service locations and mortgage offices in Southwest Florida provide a full range of personal banking products and services, from high interest-bearing checking accounts to mortgages, and the very latest in online and mobile banking technologies. LMCU is Michigan’s largest credit union and continues to grow in the Sunshine State. Founded in 1933, LMCU has more than 45,000 members and ATM access that includes the 55,000 worldwide locations of the AllPoint ATM network. Bauer Financial Group awarded LMCU five stars for financial safety and soundness, while Weiss Ratings gives LMCU an A+ for excellent financial strength. www.LMCU.org.

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Cam Plumbing of Florida

If you don’t enjoy calling a plumber to get you out of a jam, call Cam Plumbing the next time you need service. The company prides itself on doing the job right the first time, so you don’t have to do it over. Its comprehensive range of abilities reflects its motto, “If No One Can, Cam Can.” From a malfunctioning well to a full-blown kitchen SNAFU, they offer a complete menu of plumbing services: piping and re-piping, bathroom remodels, garbage disposals, repair and maintenance, water filtration and more. With its 24/7 emergency services and experienced team of technicians, this veteran-owned company keeps Southwest Floridians’ plumbing running smoothly. Lic# CFC1430252. 239-222-3739; www.camplumbingfl.com.

BEST MEDIA IDEA THAT OUGHT TO GO NATIONAL:

There’s never been anything else just like it in American radio — or never anything this consistent, focused and revealing: it’s called “Three-Song Stories,” a weekly product of two WGCU 90.1 FM public radio geniuses — yes, we still use that word when warranted — Mike Kiniry and Richard Chin Quee. Each week they bring a person or two from one corner or the other of American life into the studio to talk about and play three songs that have meant the most to them — of any genre or any time. “Biography through music,” they call it, describing the now 15-month-old show as “an exploration of the power music has to connect us to times, places, people and emotions from our lives.”

That’s the half of it. Kiniry and Quee have created not only biographies of the people themselves — they talk about anything in the course of talking about the music that moved them — but a startling and indelible portrait of this region in this time and place, and the Americans who populate it. The show is easily the equal in value to listeners of the famous (and nationally broadcast) NPR production “This American Life” by Ira Glass. But the music is a lot better. New episodes are released every Friday morning on iTunes, NPR One, the WGCU smartphone app, wherever you get your podcasts, and on the WGCU website, www.WGCU.org.

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A family-owned business with a stellar reputation for excellence, the pros at Wayne Wiles have covered Southwest Florida in the finest flooring for more than 34 years. The company prides itself on guiding clients to the right flooring choice, whether it's vinyl, carpet, wood, tile, stone, rugs or more. Wayne Wiles is the flooring expert in SWFL. Wayne Wiles founded the company in 1985. His son Mark is the president. Check out one of its newly remodeled showrooms and save more than you would at a big-box retailer. 239-482-7600; www.WayneWiles.com.

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- Mary from Dress for Success SWFL
tion and tailoring business has more than 40 years of experience bringing out the BEST in designer suits and wedding gowns, office apparel and leather jackets alike. Its eco-friendly cleaning techniques rid garments of the worst stains, extend the life of your clothes and help keep you image sparkling. 239-936-0665; www.NuImageCleaners.com.

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BEST DISAPPEARING ACT BY A PUBLIC OFFICIAL
Mike Scott

Mike who?
After serving as Lee County sheriff for 14 years — many of them refusing to speak to the daily newspaper, The News-Press — the once ubiquitous Scott stepped down in September, in the middle of his third term. He cited health issues in his family as the reason. He made the news briefly a month later for telling an FGCU class that he supports medical marijuana, but since then is keeping a low profile.

BEST GRADUATE OF THE SCHOOL OF HARD ROCKS
Joey Gaydos Jr.

The actor best known for portraying Jack Black’s guitar-playing prodigy Zack “Zack Attack” Moneyham in the 2003 movie “School of Rock” (he was 12 at the time) — was arrested for stealing, then pawning, three guitars and two amplifiers in Sarasota, Venice and North Port, according to the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office. Now 27, he faces theft and shoplifting accusations in all three cities. In one of his arrest reports, Gaydos blamed his actions on his heroin addiction. As Black’s substitute-teacher character in the movie might have reminded him: Being a former celebrity will test your head and your mind and your brain, too.” Gaydos apparently failed that test.

BEST HUSHING OF CHARLOTTE
Charlotte Russe

Turns out Charlotte Russe, the women’s clothing retailer, was as fragile as the sponge cake, fruit and custard dessert that shares the name. The company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in February, and announced it was closing all of its stores — including outlets in Port Charlotte and Fort Myers. One customer lamented: “I’m so sad Charlotte Russe is closing. It’s my favorite place to get my jeans. I don’t want to go to other stores for sucky ass jeans when Charlotte Russe is so much better and comfy, plus they look nice.”

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BEST ON-AIR PEACE OUT
Chad Oliver, NBC-2

He didn’t drop the microphone after he announced that he was leaving NBC-2 and stepping into a career in public relations for the Collier County school district, but it wouldn’t have been too dramatic. For one, the microphones they use are little lavalier microphones, about the size of a medium-sized bee, and that would have looked silly. Secondly, NBC sent him off with a bunch of highlights from his years of winning Emmys and taking one-tank trips to reporting on hurricanes, sunshine and everything in-between. Hope to see you back in front of a camera one day, Mr. Oliver.

BEST LATE-NIGHT ROAD STOP
Wawa

Take it from the rideshare drivers who congregate at these stations, and not just for the free air machines. The list of benefits is lengthy: clean restrooms, brightly lit patios and pumps, generally friendly cashiers, terrific snack selection including fresh fruits, a good dark roast house coffee (Cuban roast), and usually cheaper gas. Oh: And those subs. Wawa for the win. Multiple locations.

BEST UNKNOWN OLD FLORIDA
Ocean to Lake Hiking Trail

As hiking Florida becomes a thing again, the Ocean to Lake Trail, a 63-mile trek leading from Lake Okeechobee to the ocean at Hobe Sound, is finally getting attention. It’s a spur of the Florida Trail, starts at the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST) in Port Mayaca and winds through several sloughs and wildlife management areas, with a variety of ecosystems representing all of Florida’s wild sides. It takes you over dunes, through scrub and hammocks, cypress swamps and wet prairies. It’s one of the hardest hikes to complete in the state, but the small section leading to Jonathan Dickinson State Park from Hobe Sound is doable for day backpackers. Get the smart tips on it from Jupiter’s James Hoher (www.jupiterhikes.com), who is a pro at this trail. www.floridahikes.com/florida-trail/ocean-to-lake

BEST HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF LITERACY
Little Free Libraries

All around the county — along sidewalks, in yards, and parks — boxes that look like oversized bird feeders on poles are popping up. Filled with books and wearing the sign “Take a book, share a book,” they encourage the free exchange of all kinds of books. These are part of the Little Free Library movement that’s gone worldwide. Anyone can build one (plans are online), and perch it in their yard or neighborhood and map it online. Those interested in “checking out” a book or dropping some off can see it and enjoy the free book swap. We love seeing the double-deckers: Tall ones for adults and short ones for kids.

Anything to get their noses out of the screens, right? www.littlefreelibrary.org.
Fort Mgher drove through a second time, police were waiting.


drug for food. The worker refused, and when Mr. Gallagher arrived, he offered to trade a baggie of marijuana for a McDonald's drive-thru window on Sunday, Dec. 16, and offered to trade a baggie of marijuana for a McDonald's drive-thru window on Sunday, Dec. 16, and offered to trade a baggie of marijuana for food. The worker refused, and when Mr. Gallagher arrived, he offered to trade a baggie of marijuana for a McDonald's drive-thru window on Sunday, Dec. 16, and offered to trade a baggie of marijuana for food. Mr. Gallagher said he was joking. The police weren’t. He was charged with possession of marijuana and DUI.

In July, Jaylen Norwood, 22, of Boynton Beach, was arrested after he posted a Tweet threatening to kill his data structure professor for scheduling an exam at 7 a.m. Deomas, 20, was upset because the exam would mean he had to set his alarm for 5 a.m. to make it to class from his home in Riviera Beach. According to the arrest report, Mr. Deomas tweeted, “Bey I gern f—ing kill dis professor bey this is my confession to a premeditated murder.” Mr. Deomas told police he was just frustrated and meant no real harm.

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In October, Bruce Michael Alexander, 49, was charged with abusive sexual contact after he allegedly groped a female passenger on a Southwest Airlines flight from Houston to Albuquerque. The Tampa resident told authorities that “the president of the United States says it’s OK to grab women by their private parts.”

Deputies said he had been staying in the area with his mom, and frequently walked past the construction site. The company had cameras installed to monitor the project. According to Port St. Lucie police, Anthony Gallagher, 23, showed up at a McDonald's drive-thru window on Sunday, Dec. 16, and offered to trade a baggie of marijuana for a McDonald's drive-thru window on Sunday, Dec. 16, and offered to trade a baggie of marijuana for food. Mr. Gallagher said he was joking. The police weren’t. He was charged with possession of marijuana and DUI.

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BEST GRAFFITI

Mural of Punta Gorda

Ordinarily, defacing public property of this magnitude would earn the offender a stint behind bars and a felony charge under Florida's criminal mischief laws. In Punta Gorda, however, the city celebrates its many years of existence through artist-painted renderings on the sides of walls, bridges and office buildings. There are currently 30 (and counting!) murals throughout the city, depicting the area's colorful (no pun intended) history. The Punta Gorda Mural Society hosts walking tours several times during season to view these masterpieces — but leave your can of spray paint at home.

BEST INAPPROPRIATE MOM

Meredith Masony

Facing her mortality, wife, mother and former Charlotte County schoolteacher Meredith Masony reassessed life and founded the That's Inappropriate community in 2014 (www.thatsinappropriate.com). She shares the realities of motherhood and married life (and literal dirty laundry) with more than 2 million followers. Her most viral comedic video is “What Moms Want for Mother’s Day,” and weekly, she broadcasts “Winesday” live. She’s taking her comedy on the road this summer with the “That’s Inappropriate: The Dirty Laundry Tour.”

BEST SNOWFALL GARDENERS

LOVE TO HATE

Richardia grandiflora plant

During the fall season, most of the continental United States is gearing up for that first snowfall. In South-west Florida, however, it’s not the cold, wet stuff that sends shivers down the spines of the locals, but the invasive and irksome Richardia grandiflora plant — or, as it’s more commonly known, “Florida snow.” Retirees (aka lawn care enthusiasts) are often seen stalking their yards, running to the hardware store to stock up on weed antidotes and developing involuntary eye spasms. But, hey, at least we don’t have to shovel.

BEST FAIRY BLOG-MOTHER

Ruth Soukup

Ruth Soukup turned blogging into a successful empire. The wife and mother is a New York Times bestselling author, podcaster, product creator and CEO of Ruth Soukup Omni-media (www.ruthsoukup.com) — with a community of more than a million women. The Fairy Blog Mother developed Elite Blog Academy to show other bloggers how to amp up their careers. Her Do It Scared brand encourages followers to face their fears to live the life they love. Look for her book, “Do It Scared,” in May.
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